

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at 53-63 Sheppard Avenue West and 62-68 Bogert Avenue for Improvements to the Schoolyard at St. Edward Catholic School - by Councillor Lily Cheng, seconded by Deputy Mayor Amber Morley

Moved by: Councillor Lily Cheng

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Amber Morley

Summary:

St. Edward Catholic School, located at 1 Botham Road in Willowdale, serves students, families, and the surrounding community as part of the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The schoolyard is an important outdoor space that supports recreation, physical activity, and community connection for students and local residents.

The school has identified significant challenges with the existing schoolyard, including poor drainage and uneven grading, which result in the field becoming waterlogged and unusable following rainfall. These conditions limit safe outdoor activities for students and reduce opportunities for community recreation. St. Edward Catholic School and its Catholic School Parent Council have proposed improvements to create a properly drained, levelled, and multi-use artificial turf field that would provide a safe and accessible space year-round. The school's proposal and partnership request are outlined in **Attachment 1**, dated June 9, 2026.

This motion proposes allocating \$50,000 in Section 37 funds from the development at 53-63 Sheppard Avenue West and 62-68 Bogert Avenue to support capital improvements to the St. Edward Catholic School schoolyard, subject to the Toronto Catholic District School Board entering into a Community Access Agreement with the City of Toronto.

Through this agreement, the improved schoolyard would be available for community use outside of school hours for a period of 20 years, including opportunities for local recreation programming and community activities. This partnership would maximize the use of existing public assets and provide long-term benefits for both students and residents in the surrounding Willowdale neighbourhood.

The City recognizes the importance of working collaboratively with local school boards to improve shared community spaces. Supporting schoolyard improvements is a cost-effective way to expand recreational opportunities, enhance outdoor spaces for children and families, and strengthen connections within the community.

We appreciate the leadership and advocacy of the St. Edward Catholic School community, including Principal Kirsten Kelly and the Parent Council Chair, Nicole Kerr and Co-Chair, Cathy LeBlanc, in advancing this important project. This investment represents an opportunity to transform an underutilized space into a safe, accessible, and valuable community asset.

Reason for Urgency:

This Motion is urgent as the July 29 to 31, 2026 meeting is the last scheduled meeting of City Council before the election period. Approval at this time will provide certainty to the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the St. Edward Catholic School community, enabling the parties to advance discussions on a Community Access Agreement and begin planning for the proposed schoolyard improvements without delay. Deferring consideration would postpone the delivery of a valuable community amenity that will benefit students and Willowdale residents for years to come.

Recommendations:

Councillor Lily Cheng, seconded by Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$50,000 gross, \$0 net, (Cost Centre: NP2161) fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained in the development at 53-63 Sheppard Avenue West and 62-68 Bogert Avenue (Source Account: XR3026-3701425), secured for purposes benefiting the community, for the purpose of providing one-time capital funding to the Toronto Catholic District School Board for capital improvements to the schoolyard at St. Edward Catholic School, subject to the following conditions
 - a. the Toronto Catholic District School Board will enter into an acceptable Community Access Agreement with the City; and
 - b. the design of the improvements will be to the satisfaction of the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, and the General Manager, Parks, and Recreation, in consultation with the Ward Councillor.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, and Recreation, to participate

in the preparation of the Community Access Agreement, in consultation with the Ward Councillor and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, provided acceptable terms can be agreed upon.

3. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to execute on behalf of the Community Access Agreement with the Toronto Catholic District School Board for the capital improvements to the schoolyard at St. Edward Catholic School, for a term of 20 years and on such other terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
4. City Council direct that if a mutually acceptable Community Access Agreement cannot be agreed upon that the funds will not be transferred to the Toronto Catholic District School Board and shall be made available for other community benefits in the community.

Date: July 29-31, 2026