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MISSISSAUGA -- Some kids could start the new school year in city libraries and community centres if council agrees to the request by two school boards yesterday.

The Peel District and Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic separate school boards asked a general committee of city council for the space to help them deal with mouldy school portables.

"It's very important we have the (city) space because we have run out" of options, said Janet McDougald, chairman of the Peel District board.

Both boards have had to deal with *Stachybotrys atra* mould in hundreds of portables across the region. The mould has been linked to respiratory ailments, headaches and nausea.

While classes have been moved out of the infected portables and into school libraries and gymnasiums, both McDougald and Kevin O'Connor, superintendent of planning and development for the separate board, said work on the problem will continue through the summer.

Both boards are repairing salvageable portables and renovating school buildings to provide proper classroom spaces. Some of the work will not be completed until late November.

O'Connor said his board has fixed 368 classrooms to date and will have all elementary portables fixed by the start of school in September.

Council passed a resolution to co-operate with the boards and to come to a decision this month so students will know where to attend classes.

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