

OUR MISSION

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.
We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

OUR VISION

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world
through witness, faith, innovation and action.*



**AGENDA ADDENDUM
THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

PUBLIC SESSION

Ida Li Preti, Chair

Angela Kennedy, Vice Chair

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

7:00 P.M.

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September 10, 2019

To: Board of Trustees: Governance Committee

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

Dear Committee Members,

It is our understanding that you will be debating the staff proposed revision of CSPC Policy S.10. Hearing from the voices of parents, and especially engaged parents that support our schools through their work within parent councils is critical.

I want to point out that while CPIC and OPACE were presented an opportunity to provide feedback during the survey period at the end of the school year, we have not been officially presented the staff recommendations to comment on before it has come before you.

In hearing the parent voice, it's also important to know what was considered and not considered in the staff report – it would benefit all parties to be provided a copy of the raw survey results collected from stakeholders.

Notwithstanding these facts, we are prepared to provide recommendations on behalf of our respective organizations for your consideration in formulating your policy recommendation to the full Board of Trustees.

(1) Regulation 1

The school council at every school shall use the name Catholic School Parent Council (hereafter the CSPC) and will be guided by Catholic values and doctrine.

Staff are proposing removing the Roman Catholic requirement of a CSPC Chair. The TCDSB is protected under the Constitution and Charter with respect to our denominational rights. Practically only a Roman Catholic can lead a Roman Catholic organization and espouse its values. We recommend this requirement be reinserted. While we have wonderful dedicated non-Catholic parents who are leaders, this can manifest itself through a co-Chair arrangement where at least one Co-Chair is Roman Catholic.



(2) Regulation 4

Our concern is that regulation 4 has been diminished in terms of what the principal shall consult with the CSPC on and replaced with what the Board may solicit by way of the principal. We recommend another regulation be added:

The principal will provide information and solicit the views of CSPC with respect to the following matters:

- i. Student achievement and the School Learning Improvement Plan;
- ii. the school budget including presenting the allocated school block budget and other budgets/fundraising activities conducted within the school.
- iii. school policies and procedures including the code of conduct including school safety protocols
- iv. Establishment and operation of any Student Nutrition Snack or Breakfast programs
- v. Overall needs and challenges faced by the school

CPSCs will be empowered, subject to other Board policies to determine:

- i. CSPC Priorities and budget including use of any annual PIC grants
- ii. Surveying of parents with respect to school climate and other issues of concern of parents.
- iii. School uniform or dress code
- iv. Vendor(s) contracted for student and graduation pictures

(3) Regulation 6

A CSPC may make recommendations to the Board on any matter, and the Board shall consider each recommendation and advise the CSPC of the action taken in response to the recommendation.

An addition or cross-reference needs to explain how a CSPC does this – by way of a delegation by the CSPC or written communication directly to the



Board to the appropriate Committee. A CSPC recommendation should not be required to go via the principal or trustee unless they chose to do so.

(4) Regulation 10

A CSPC may make recommendations to the Board on any matter, and the Board shall consider each recommendation and advise the CSPC of the action taken in response to the recommendation.

This is a well-intended goal however there are numerous CSPCs that struggle to get parents to attend. By Seven (7), being designated as an official CSPC it diminishes the proper recognition of smaller councils. This number should be reduced further to three (3) or five (5) which allows for the principal, Chair and at least one other member.

(5) Regulation 16

All communications from CSPC intended for distribution to parents of children in the school, will be approved by the Principal prior to the communication being sent to the intended recipients.

This has sometimes been interpreted in its extreme that CSPCs cannot communicate with other parents without the principal's cooperation or approval. Indeed, communications to the entire parent community or via the school's messaging system need principal approval, however there should be clarity that CSPCs may communicate with parents indirectly or through their own communication vehicles subject to Board policies and appropriate use.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our initial recommendations and feedback in your deliberations. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional feedback and continue to support the work of Parent Councils in the TCDSB.

John Del Grande
CPIC Chair

Annalisa Crudo-Perri

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OAPCE-Toronto President