

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 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SESSION

Garry Tanuan, Chair

Teresa Lubinski, Vice-Chair

Thursday, October 1, 2020

7:00 P.M.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of our deep respect for Indigenous peoples in Canada, we acknowledge that all Toronto Catholic District School Board properties are situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, the Anishinabek (a-ni-shna-bek) Nation, the Haudenosaunee (hoh-Dee-noh-Shoh-nee) Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. We also recognize the contributions and enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

Nous tenons d'abord à souligner que toutes les écoles du conseil TCDSB se situent sur des territoires traditionnels. Ces territoires comprennent ceux des Wendats, de la Nation Anishinabek, de la Confédération de Haudenosaunees, des Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations. Nous voudrions également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des peuples des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuits sur ces terres en Ontario et partout dans le Canada.



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM
FOR STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING RECORDED

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Delegation No. ____

Public Session

Private Session

Three (3) Minutes

Name	Julie Altomare-Di Nunzio	
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources	
Date of Presentation	10/1/2020	
Topic of Presentation	The Virtual School - St. Anne	
Topic or Issue	Concerns with the program inequities that exist in the Virtual School.	
Details	It is TECT's view that the Board has created an inequitable curriculum delivery model and is disadvantaging teachers and students in the Virtual School.	
Action Requested	That these inequities be remedied at St. Anne's consistent with the TCDSB Mission Statement under Our Catholic Values that states " equity, diversity, accessibility and inclusivity are integral to the Catholic community".	
I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf	No	
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee(CSPC)	No	
I am an official representative of student government	No	
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	Yes Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers	
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14	Yes	
Submittal Date	9/22/2020	



TECT Delegation to the Board of Trustees October 1, 2020

The Board mission statement under the heading Our Catholic Values states *that the Board believes that equity, ... [is] integral to the Catholic community.*

The programme delivery model at St. Anne is inequitable compared to the model for in-school learning.

This inequity has detrimentally impacted the learning conditions of students, and the working conditions of teachers.

If you are a student at St. Anne, unlike the in-school experience:

- There are no English as a Second Language Teachers
- There are no Core French Classes
- There are no Programme Speciality Teachers teaching Health, Physical Education or Music
- There will be no occasional teacher coverage

St. Anne has a student population of over 23, 000 students with only three administrators supporting students, parents and teachers. St. Maria Goretti the largest elementary school, with a population under 1000 students, has the same number of administrators.

There is a very high level of frustration amongst the virtual teaching community given the lack of support, clear direction, and inadequate online resources and technology.

Teachers, students nor parents at St. Anne should be treated as second class.

The Board must address these inequities. There are concrete steps that should be taken to begin treating all students equitably and utilizing teachers appropriately.

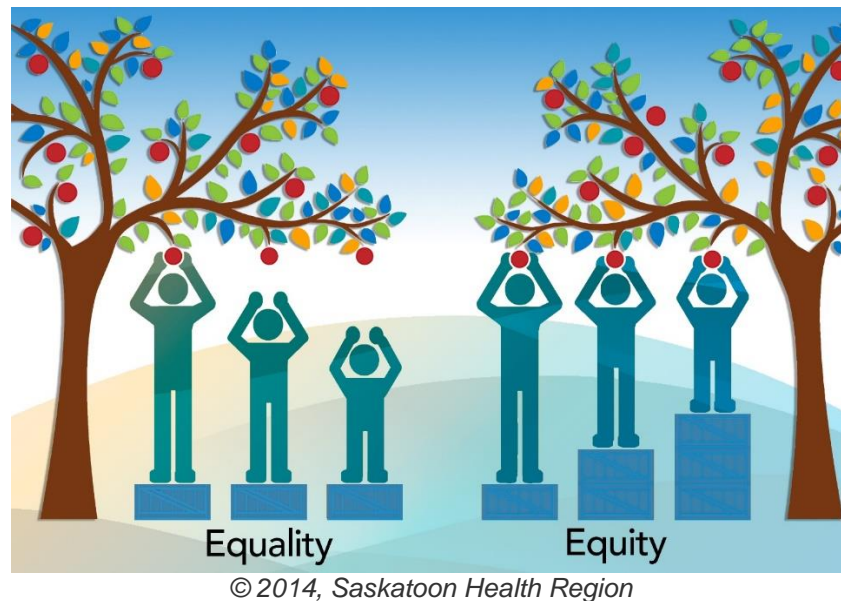
- ESL and FSL programming must be offered at St. Anne.

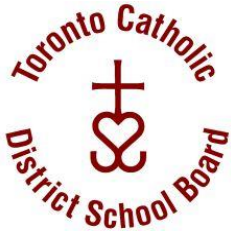
- Programme Speciality Teachers should not be deployed as on-call teachers at schools. They should be providing students at the Virtual School with specialized programming in Music, Health and Physical Education.
- As there is an urgent need for teachers at St. Anne, offer Occasional Teachers permanent positions.
- Restructure the Virtual School so it is sub-divided into smaller groupings according to superintendencies. Utilize some of the retired principals and superintendents that the Board has hired to provide additional support to the Virtual School community.

I appreciate that creating and staffing the Virtual School is a monumental task, that is why on September 17th I advocated to the Trustees that more time was required.

Further, on numerous occasions TECT has offered to work collaboratively with the Board to problem solve and create a more equitable learning experience at St. Anne.

It may not be possible to immediately achieve all objectives. It is, however, possible to begin to improve the learning environment for our students if the Board is willing to genuinely consider and incorporate concrete Association recommendations.





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Public Session

Private Session

Three (3) Minutes

Name	Montserrat Reynolds	
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources	
Date of Presentation	10/1/2020	
Topic of Presentation	Student Safety at St Michael's Choir School	
Topic or Issue	The Bond Hotel shelter and its impact on the safety and well-being of students, staff and the school community.	
Details	Student safety is ultimately the responsibility of the Board. St Michael's Catholic School Parent Council moved that I make a delegation to the Board to alert trustees to the dangerous situation at the Choir School and to request that the Board act to protect these vulnerable students from risk of harm.	
Action Requested	That the Board ask the Mayor's Office and the City Manager to reverse the decision to locate an emergency shelter at the Bond Hotel and to relocate the shelter to another site.	
I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf		
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee(CSPC)	Yes St Michael Choir Chair	
I am an official representative of student government		
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization		
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14		
Submittal Date	9/24/2020	

Good afternoon, my name is Montserrat Reynolds. I am here representing the St Michael's Choir School Parent Council. I am here today as CSPC Chair to ask the trustees and the TCDSB Board to write a letter to the city of Toronto requesting an immediate relocation of the shelter at the Bond Hotel.

I am here on behalf of the parents of St Michael's Choir School. We are all concerned regarding the future health and safety of our sons as students at St Michael's Choir School.

We are so proud and feel so grateful that our sons have been given the opportunity to attend this wonderful school.

We are committed to the Cathedral and our boys enjoy singing every week in the Cathedral. If you have heard them sing, then you would have heard the spirituality and beauty of the boys' voices. Though we feel fortunate that our sons are part of this wonderful learning experience, it does not diminish the serious concerns we have about safety at our school.

I know that you are also committed to the safety of all our children and that none of us want anything to happen to our children who range in age from 7 to 17.

We understand that the clients of the Bond Hotel Shelter are part of a vulnerable population. We understand that people deserve shelter; however, as a community we are worried that these clients of the Bond Hotel present a serious health risk to our children. Syringes and switch blades have been found on school grounds. Our children are often confronted by individuals from the shelter.

Unfortunately, this situation has left our students very vulnerable and unsafe.

This is not a community school, we come from all over the GTA. This is not a petition only for Mr. Di Pasquale, but to all the trustees as Choir School families live under your jurisdiction and care.

I am asking you to take the necessary actions to protect our children. I am here today as CSPC Chair to request the trustees and the TCDSB Board take action to keep our children safe and ensure that our children are not harmed or injured.

The first step is to pass a motion that the Chair of the Board write a letter to the city of Toronto requesting that there be an immediate relocation of the shelter at the Bond Hotel.

Thank You



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Public Session

Private Session

Three (3) Minutes

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Name	Claudia Persichilli Esposito	
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources	
Date of Presentation	10/1/2020	
Topic of Presentation	Student Safety and Well-being at St Michael's Choir School	
Topic or Issue	The Bond Hotel emergency shelter and its serious impact on the safety of students and staff at St Michael's Choir School.	
Details	The Bond Hotel emergency shelter, located less than 50m from St Michael's Choir School, is a serious threat to student and staff safety. I represent a group of more than 200 parents which has sent a letter to Mayor John Tory requesting that the City relocate this shelter to protect vulnerable children and the staff of St Michael's Choir School.	
Action Requested	That the Board ask the Mayor's Office and th City Manager to reverse he decision to locate an emergency shelter at the Bond Hotel and to relocate the shelter to another site immediately for the protection of students and staff.	
I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf		
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee(CSPC)		
I am an official representative of student government		
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	Yes 200+ parent signatories to letter to Mayor requesting relocation of Bond Hotel shelter	
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14		
Submittal Date	9/24/2020	

SUBMISSIONS TO THE TORONTO CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

BY: Claudia Esposito, parent, St. Michael's Choir School

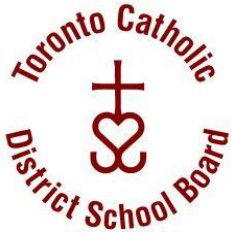
- Thank you for allowing me to present. I am thankful for the chance to address the honourable members of the Board
- By way of introduction, I represent, a group of concerned parents from St. Michael's Choir School on Bond Street
- Our single purpose here is to ask the Board to protect our children, your pupils, from the imminent risk of harm posed by the opening of the Bond Place Hotel homeless shelter less than 50 metres from our school yard
- Our school is the product of a partnership between the Toronto Catholic District School Board and the Archdiocese of Toronto
- Our boys, starting as young as 7 or 8 years old, attend the school to learn under the auspices of the Toronto Catholic District School Board but also to sing and perform as a Choir to serve St. Michael's Cathedral for weekly masses, funerals, weddings and most religious celebrations
- Our school is a unique school and it has existed for 83 years
- It is not a private school
- None of the families are particularly wealthy
- Our school is also a commuter school and there are no school buses
- Our boys travel to Bond Street from all over the greater Toronto area
- Many of the parents work a long distance from the school and many children start taking public transportation at a very young age, often unaccompanied
- The school is also comprised of an academic building on the east side of Bond Street and a Choral Building on the west side of Bond Street. The gym is housed in an area beside the Choral Building and across from the academic side
- During regular school hours, the children cross Bond Street to transition between the academic building and choral building and gym throughout the day
- Recitals and concerts are held in the evenings and mass duties take place on Saturday evenings and early Sunday mornings, therefore outside of regular school hours
- As such, children must, by necessity, be on Bond street, often unaccompanied, during the week and on weekends, and at all hours
- That is why the parent community and the school community were shocked to find out that the Bond Place Hotel homeless shelter was opened by the City of Toronto on August 21, 2020 without any prior consultation with the school community.
- The shelter houses approximately 200 formerly homeless residents, many with serious mental health and addiction issues, and has the capacity to house up to 285 residents. This exceeds our student population at the Choir School. The

stated purpose of the shelter is to allow homeless individuals to have a space in which they can physically distance.

- Bond Street is a short street, and it is less than 250 metres long between Dundas and Shuter. As such, Shelter residents do not have a lot of space to move and wonder and naturally gravitate toward the school campus on a daily basis. Trespassing on school property, injecting drugs on school steps, drug trafficking and sex-for-hire interactions in plain sight are daily occurrences at the school now. Needles, feces and used condoms are routinely found on school property. Staff and children are harassed and insulted. Staff are scared to go to work. Both the Choral Buildings have had trespassers and the Choral Building was broken into twice since the Bond shelter opened.
- Many of the Choir School parents only found out about the shelter's opening thorough media outlets the week before school was set to open. Many others found out only at the online information meeting hosted by the school the Friday evening before classes began, and way after we were required to make decisions about online vs. in person learning
- On September 10th I listened to the first and only Community Information Session on the Bond Place shelter. The meeting participants were asked whether any consideration was given to the presence of the Choir school mere metres from the Bond Hotel when the decision to open the shelter was made. The response by the presenters was to the effect that the presence of the school was overlooked and that this was an oversight in the site selection process.
- The shelter operator also explained that the shelter does not keep a record of its residents. It is a no "barriers shelter". No questions are asked of the residents. No background checks are conducted. Names are not recorded. As such, the operators do not even know if the residents have a criminal history or are sex offenders
- On September 13, 2020, I wrote a letter to two elected officials at the City of Toronto and copied it to officials within the Toronto Catholic School Board expressing my concerns. In 48 hours, approximately close to 200 parents asked me to add their signature to my letter.
- It has been 3 weeks since the Community Information Session and 2 weeks since I wrote my letter. During this time, the City representatives and the shelter operators have not taken any concrete steps to address the serious hazard created to the school community by the shelter residents. The situation has been getting more dangerous and precarious every day
- Placing a sizeable population of individuals who have significant addiction and mental health issues next to a school in a limited geographical space creates obvious social and security hazards,
- The day before school started, I drove on Bond on observed with my own eyes a group of 5 or 6 residents on the shelter steps, grouped together with no social distancing in sight, clearly high, sharing an oversized bong and in plain view of the shelter's yellow-vested Community Safety Team a few feet away. No masks

were in sight. I should add that the Covid Assessment Centre lineup from St. Michael's hospital has been seen stretching north on Victoria Lane, east on Dundas and south on Bond, directly in front of the shelter. Our kids must either walk from Queen Station, directly in front of the Covid Assessment Centre Lineups, or south on Bond from Dundas, directly in front of the shelter doors

- The stated purpose of the shelter is to allow for physical distancing and to prevent the spread of Covid in the homeless population. The shelter is doing nothing to achieve this goal, while posing an incalculable risk to vulnerable and innocent children
- While we understand that homelessness is a serious problem, we cannot ask our children, already traumatized by the pandemic climate, to cope with having to view commercial exchanges of drugs and sex, and being exposed to serious safety risks posed by armed and unstable residents while exercising their right to education
- The homeless are vulnerable, but so are school aged children
- My request to you today is for the Board to Support our efforts to have the Bond Hotel shelter immediately relocated to a more suitable location that does not endanger children entrusted in your care
- The question is not whether a child might be hurt. The question is that a child will be hurt if the Board and City fail to act.



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- Public Session
- Private Session
- Three (3) Minutes

Name	Oleksii Mamonov
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources
Date of Presentation	10/01/2020
Topic of Presentation	Mandatory masks for JK-Grade3 students issue
Topic or Issue	Masks have a number of drawbacks for children, especially the youngest, with very questionable benefits. They should not be mandated for elementary students.
Details	<p>I along with a number of other parents, doctors of SickKids, the Ontario Government are very concerned about mandatory masks for younger students (JK-Grade3). There are a number of drawbacks, clearly described in SickKids recommendations for schools reopening.</p> <p>Toronto Public Health - which is referenced in the board decision - DO NOT recommend MANDATING masks for JK-Grade3 and clearly says: "Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 should be strongly recommended to wear masks in indoor spaces." Which is completely different from mandating face masks/coverings.</p> <p>With all my respect, I do not think the board has more expertise in this issue than doctors of the most renowned kids hospital in Canada, who are strongly against mandating masks. That is why I am asking you to get back to consistency with at least caution recommendation of Toronto Public Health and vote for OPTIONAL face masks/coverings for JT-Grade 3 students.</p>
Action Requested	Vote for OPTIONAL face masks/coverings for JT-Grade 3 students

I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf	Yes
I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee(CSPC)	No
I am an official representative of student government	No
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	No
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14	Yes

Submittal Date	9/25/2020
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Children, especially younger, should NOT wear a mask in school.

The issue I am bringing back up is the mask policy for JK-Grade3 students. I along with a lot of other parents I know were not aware of what was happening: nobody asked us, nobody told us in advance that this issue was to be even discussed. We were shocked by the board's "last hour" change in masking policy for elementary students.

The most renowned kids hospital in Canada issued the document named "SickKids Recommendations for school reopening". It has three pages of fine print, dedicated to why mask-wearing in schools should not be applied even for secondary students and they strictly deny any benefit in comparison to drawbacks for elementary students. That is what doctors, who spent all their lives healing kids, say. I don't think there could be any more respected expert opinion in this issue.

The Ontario plan, while neglecting recommendations for secondary students, still says without hesitations that mandating masks should not be applied to elementary students. I assume they consulted a number of specialists while preparing it.

The ground of the board's decision says: "according to The Public Health Recommendations". Though, Toronto Public Health didn't recommend it this way. They issued a caution wording of "strongly recommended", which is not similar to "mandatory".

There also was some reference to the "Toronto masks bylaw" which in fact is applied to public places only. And schools are not a public place, according to the definition. Moreover, the Toronto bylaw explicitly excludes schools in item 7a. So the reference to Toronto bylaw is completely irrelevant in this case.

I cannot avoid the discrimination issue here as hypothetical exemption from wearing a mask for a kid in school is in fact impossible to arrange. Schools make the process as unclear as possible, send every request to The Public Health and finally the process never ends. Children, who are medically exempt, are forced to wear a mask as their parents simply have no choice - the policy was changed two weeks before schools start and the problems with exemptions arose even later. It is a huge issue and for me it doesn't look like we are still in Canada with equal rights and caring about disabled children.

One more issue is that a mask MUST be used properly. First of all, it should never be touched. Rare adult uses a mask properly. Who could expect from a 4-year old to never touch a mask for 8 hours?! Moreover, a 4-year old cannot really understand when he/she feels not good, if it is mask-related or not. And even when they know, many kids stay silent and silently obey, just because they are kids and not that many of them have enough courage.

The next one is the lack of oxygen, which harms even adults, yet for children it is a times more important issue. Their muscles, their brain slows development and could result in significant damage over time. So-called experts say that a mask doesn't reduce the oxygen. One doesn't have to be an expert to just pun on a mask and FEEL that it is not the same. Newton physics gives us similar results - any barrier reduces the flow, even a mosquito net. I

suggest a simple experiment: hold a mask and use a hair-dryer on it. If all the air goes through it - the mask won't move... but it does.

That is why I urge the board to vote and change masks policy to OPTIONAL for elementary students.

A mask is not “just a piece of cloth”, but a barrier for kids to express, to communicate, to feel, to learn. It brings a NUMBER of negative effects, including many kinds of dermatology problems and an even higher chance to be infected as well as other health, developmental and psychological issues. And for what purpose?! To avoid some extremely low possibility of asymptomatic transmission to some probable elderly person somewhere far away from school? That looks like a deceptive ground to me. The virus does not harm kids at all and no significant transmission by kids has never been observed. Then why do we do this?! Throughout all our history, people prioritized caring about children and after that about others. And now we prioritize some “just in case” situation over real and tangible harm to them. I simply cannot understand this approach. Children are the future. The future of Mankind. If we are sacrificing the future for just a probability to save A life, we are already dead as a human race. Not mentioning that this potential risk is just a mind game.

P.S. The pictures of brand new masks after a few hours in school - it is just dirt and that is what kids breath for hours:

