

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, March 4, 2021

7:00 P.M.

	Pages
10. Delegations	
10.a. <i>Stephanie De Castro regarding June 2021 as Pride Month in all Toronto Catholic District School Board Schools (With Submission)</i>	1 - 3
10.c. <i>Lori Campbell regarding Junior Kindergarten/Senior Kindergarten Mask Mandate (With Submission)</i>	4 - 6
10.d. <i>Karen Ratcliffe regarding Masking of Junior Kindergarten/Senior Kindergarten in Toronto Catholic District School Board (With Submission)</i>	7 - 9
10.e. <i>Jasmine Kordic regarding Masks (With Submission)</i>	10 - 12
10.f. <i>Mikolaj Ostrowski regarding June 2021 as Pride Month in the Toronto Catholic District School Board</i>	13

10.g. *Jody Maillet regarding Maintaining Catholic Teaching in Our Schools*



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM
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For Board Use Only

Delegation No. ____

Public Session

Private Session

Three (3) Minutes

Name	Stephanie De Castro	
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources	
Date of Presentation	3/4/2021	
Topic of Presentation	June 2021 as Pride Month in all TCDSB Schools	
Topic or Issue	Recognition of Pride Month	
Details	I believe that following the TCDSB Equity Action Plan, June 2021 should be recognized as Pride Month. To empower students enrolled in the board, and to represent a more safe and welcoming environment for all students and staff. I feel it is a need to have this inclusivity and representation in our board.	
Action Requested	To recognize June 2021 as Pride Month in our schools.	
I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf < D width="440">Yes		
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		
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14	Yes	
Submittal Date	2/8/2021	

Student Achievement Delegation

March 4th

Stephanie De Castro

Good evening trustees, staff, and attendees. I am truly grateful to be able to express both my opinions and student voice tonight. I would like to first and foremost applaud the actions taken in order to integrate the LGBTQ+ community into our school board. Actions taken such as the LGBTQ+ advisory committee at the board level, the lgbtq+ student-led committee at CSLIT, and the resources found on the TCDSB website that are accessible to our student body. We have witnessed great progress in acceptance and inclusivity within this board and it means so much to see as an ally of this community. Although already impactful and meaningful steps are being taken, this does not mean we should slow down. Acknowledging the past systemic homophobia at this board, we have chosen to take accountability for our mistakes and grow from them. But these actions are not enough, we have to keep the momentum going. We have to realize that there is a greater need for the representation of this community more than ever. When creating a natural environment where students can feel safe, when negative stereotypes are erased and when opening the closed minds can be achieved step by step, what's stopping us from taking a big leap this year. Today we ask that the board sees fit that this June 2021 be recognized in all Toronto Catholic District Schools as Pride month as a step in the right direction to develop solidarity in this fight to end homophobia. To allow students to see representation in their own school walls by allowing the pride flag to be raised sending a clear message that we, as a Catholic community are accepting of others. May we also acknowledge IDAHOT, the international day against homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia in consideration of the past and present members of our school community who have faced hate speech, ignorance, and discrimination in their daily lives.

Doing this will help support our student body into standing up for human rights both online and offline and to raise awareness on these issues that affect our generation every day. Personally combatting against homophobia and transphobia in a school setting, it would only feel appropriate to ask for your support to allow the recognition of pride month board-wide as a response that we do not tolerate discrimination of any kind. It is one thing to say you are not homophobic, but it is another thing to show action. I thank you for your time and hope you see this motion fit in the best interest of our student body.



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Three (3) Minutes

Name	Lori Campbell	
Committee	Student Achievement	
Date of Presentation	3/04/2021	
Topic of Presentation	Jk/SK Mask Mandate	
Topic or Issue	Masks	
Details	Their guidance is now, "for elementary school students, there was a lack of consensus around a masking recommendation, but most agreed that in areas of moderate to high community transmission, NMMs should be recommended in this age group.	
Action Requested	No masks for JK/SK as per sick kids recommendations	
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 br>	
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	2/16/2021	

Trustees,

My child is 4 years old. She started JK this year. I'm sure you all remember JK as being a time when you sang songs, sat in a circle on a carpet on the floor, played games, water play, sand play and sharing -- all of this is GONE. We have taken it all from them.

There are now new rules such as:

- forward facing rules
- no talk rules
- inappropriate, fear inducing language from teachers about Covid
- fearmongering about children making family/grandma sick
- music classes with watching videos instead of using instruments like drums etc.
- excessive use of videos, TV to keep children quiet
- closing of school play structures
- no regular access to school gym/balls/equipment
- all extra curricular activities canceled, like basketball, chess clubs etc.
- excessive masking of children all ages. Including bus time up to 7 hours with no breaks

Since the last TCDSB meeting, The SickKids Hospital has updated their "Guidance for School Operation during the Pandemic" document. This document is the central pillar for the safe operation of schools in Ontario at this time. As I'm sure you are aware, The SickKids Hospital's Reopening Guidelines were the basis of the government's plans and policies since last summer. **Please note that in this updated document, top doctors from Ontario's major healthcare centres explicitly state that they do not recommend kindergarten children be masked in schools.**

Their guidance is now, "for elementary school students, there was a lack of consensus around a masking recommendation, but most agreed that in areas of moderate to high community transmission, NMMs should be recommended in this age group. **There was agreement that masking should not be mandated in kindergarten.**" This recommendation be found in the section "Considerations for the Safe Continued Operation of Schools", subsection 5.

<https://www.sickkids.ca/en/news/archive/2021/covid19-updated-guidance-school-operation-during-pandemic/>

Please use this opportunity to update the TCDSB's initial masking mandate and remove the expectation for kindergarten students to wear masks in school. It should not be mandatory, but a choice. It is a liability for TCDSB to continue to have these measures in place.

The SickKids guidance document also states, "Children's and youth's social development hinges upon their interactions, facial expressions and body language. Though important for all age groups, this is particularly so for younger children."

The UK has recognized this and the information can be found here:

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/02/24/schools-told-not-punish-pupils-refuse-wear-masks/?WT.mc_id=tmgliveapp_iosshare_AwwNhS4dPyQX&fbclid=IwAR2IKc7ku_vQQ4TaRRqyeTEIs2va_xUUESNZJZBwWg789wli8ugrePUEao

“Children are not under any obligation to wear face masks, the Government said on Wednesday night, telling schools not to send pupils home if they refuse to wear one. . . Throughout this pandemic, we have based our guidance on the latest scientific and medical advice, and we will continue to keep our guidance under review and update it as required.”

https://reaction.life/making-pupils-wear-masks-is-pointless-and-cruel/?fbclid=IwAR2DWRjREQekzdDN_1NMdoVu7Wfr3irwY1VvVBVeTunQ0bGFoh3XvJL96hg

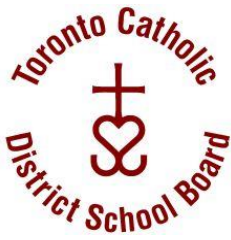
The benefits of mask wearing do not outweigh the risks for children. Medical doctors and specialists have clearly outlined the deleterious consequences of long-term mask use by children, while the virus itself has shown near zero percent mortality rate in children. Forcing children to wear masks that are easily contaminated and misused is a blatant endangerment of their health. Education and psychology experts have raised valid concerns that the inability to see someone’s face impedes confidence, social development, negatively impacts communication and hinders the ability to properly acquire language skills, particularly in young children

Other countries such as Austria, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Switzerland all do not mandate mask wearing in schools.

Please consider the well-being of kindergarten children and the recommendations of Ontario's top doctors and remove the mask mandate for our youngest students. It is causing irreputable harm to these children.

Yours truly,

Lori Campbell



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Public Session

Private Session

Three (3) Minutes

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Name	Karen Ratcliffe	
Committee	Regular / Special Board	
Date of Presentation	2/18/2021	
Topic of Presentation	Masking of JK/SK in TCDSB	
Topic or Issue	Masking of JK/SK in TCDSB schools. Sick Kids have updated their guidance as it relates to School Operation during the Pandemic. Top doctors from Ontario's major healthcare centers explicitly state that they do not recommend kindergarten children be masked in schools.	
Details	<p>The guidance from Sick Kids is now "for elementary school students, there was a lack of consensus around masking recommendation, but most agreed that in areas of moderate to high community transmission, NMMs should be recommended in this age group. There was agreement that masking should not be mandated in kindergarten". This recommendation can be found in the section "Considerations for the Safe Continued Operation of Schools", subsection 5.</p> <p>These guidelines have also been endorsed by Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and The Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC).</p>	
Action Requested	Please use this opportunity to updated TCDSB/s initial masking mandate and remove the expectation for kindergarten students to wear masks in school. The website should be updated and directives to staff should be communicated as soon as practical.	
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	2/17/2021	

Dear Trustees,

I would like to discuss the mandatory masking of school children particularly those at the kindergarten level AGAINST the advice of Canada's leading medical pediatric specialists.¹

TCDSB has always been seen as a leader in education, other school boards look up to TCDSB – why it's even in the motto; “Transforming the world through witness, faith, innovation and action”.

Last August TCDSB made the decision to go above and beyond the call for the masking of children within the school environment. I appreciate that the board made the decision based on the limited information that was available to them at the time. However, I do have questions regarding that decision making process:

As educated professionals, I'm sure that you have reviewed and are able to provide an impact study of masking vs no masks on children prior to enforcing a mask mandate for school children as young as four years old?

As educated professionals I'm sure that you have completed and are able to provide a risk benefit analysis that has an accurate assessment of potential drawbacks of mandatory masks, including physical, psychological, developmental as well as defined outcome metrics / expectations (what you expected vs what actually happened)?

As educated professionals I'm sure that you are aware that informed consent is a necessary part of any medical intervention? And providing that information to parents is part of your duty as educators.

As educated professionals I'm sure that you are aware that if you don't have any of the above, then you could in fact be opening yourself up to negligence and liability through the medical experimentation of children?

It is now 6 months after the initial decision to mask children and we have a large volume of data when it comes to the impacts of this virus on children. If you do not have any of the points outlines above, now is the time to re-evaluate. There is an immense amount of data on the minimal impact mask mandates provide on transmission. There is also at hand information on the HARMS of masks particularly as it relates to children and especially young children such as those in Junior and Senior kindergarten.^{2,3,4} It is time to re-evaluate the decision to mandate masks for all children, particularly those at the kindergarten level.

We now know that the effects of masking children, far out weighs the benefit – this is no longer a debate. It is time for TCDSB to ask themselves if masking healthy kindergarten children is ethical and really how the school board would like to be remembered. It is time for TCDSB to be a leader and take action to remove the mandatory mask mandate for healthy children.

Sincerely,

Karen Ratcliffe

¹<https://www.sickkids.ca/.../covid19-updated-guidance.../>

²[German children suffer from psychological issues in pandemic researchers Children Children Children Families | The Independent](#)

³[Corona children studies "Co-Ki": First results of a Germany-wide registry on mouth and nose covering \(mask\) in children | Research Square](#)

⁴[Share Mask-Related Health Incidents Here - NO MASKS FOR KIDS!](#)



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Three (3) Minutes

Name	jasmine kordic	
Committee	Student Achievement	
Date of Presentation	3/04/2021	
Topic of Presentation	no masks for children jk to grade 3 and no masks while playing and doing physical activity	
Topic or Issue	Masks,	
Details	The Who top health experts do not recommend masks for children under 5. All children should not be wearing masks while playing or doing physical activity it compromises their breathing, this is also stated by the Who.	
Action Requested	We must protect our children from compromising their health and follow recommendations from The Who. According to Sick Kids hospital, our children are suffering more from Covid 19 mental health symptoms. Kids who are infected typically don't become very sick. they don't need masks, they need to wash their hands and top touching their faces with masks on!	
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)		
I am an official representative of student government		
I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization	jasmine kordic	
I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14	Yes	
Submittal Date	2/17/2021	

Hello TCDSB members, I am a concerned mother of two young children ages 3 and 7 that are being forced to wear masks for 6 and half hours a day, while trying to get a proper education in an emotionally healthy environment . We have finally reached a point now in the pandemic where we scientific and factually know that, "young children don't get as sick from Covid 19 and don't pass it on as well as others". This is a direct quote from B.C's Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. Data from around the world support her statement! Masks have not been studied for their safety in children and there is no data to support the masks in an educational environment are beneficial. There are however countless documented physical, mental and emotional harms associated with children wearing masks. You cannot claim to be concerned about health and safety of your students while failing to acknowledge that face masks are threatening to physical and social health and impede normal social interaction between student and peers / teachers. Is there any scientific data or proof that a face mask on my child all day will not in fact cause irreversible adverse side effects? Will children be more susceptible to the virus from touching their faces all day adjusting their masks? And should there be long term irreversible effects who will be made accountable? Please confirm with me the answer? Parents will join together and consider notices of liability to those responsible for implementing policy that is harmful to children and not recommended by the highest of scientific organizations such as the Who. Remember that 3 times more Canadian kids have died or been hospitalized by the flu in past seasons than by Covid 19 and we didn't force them all to wear masks for protection? Please reconsider your mask mandates for children, it's time to listen to the Science and protect the well-being of our children in every way!

Thank you

Jasmine Kordic



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- Public Session
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Name	Mikolaj Ostrowski	
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources	
Date of Presentation	3/4/2021	
Topic of Presentation	June 2021 as Pride Month in the TCDSB	
Topic or Issue	June 2021 as Pride Month	
Details	Pride Month and the importance of radical equality in Christian teaching	
Action Requested	No action	
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)		
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	3/3/2021	



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Name	Jody Maillet	
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources	
Date of Presentation	3/4/2021	
Topic of Presentation	Maintaining Catholic Teaching in our schools	
Topic or Issue	Maintaining Catholic Teaching in our schools	
Details	Maintaining Catholic Teaching in our schools on pride flag and pride month.	
Action Requested	To be a delegate	
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	3/4/2021	