



ADDENDUM  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
PUBLIC SESSION

Joseph Martino, Chair

Nancy Crawford, Vice Chair

Thursday, May 20, 2021

7:00 P.M.

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## ***School Board***

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*Markus de Domenico  
Trustee Ward 2*

*E-mail: Markus.deDomenico@tcdsb.org*

*Voicemail: 416-512-3402*

**To:** Regular Board Meeting, May 20, 2021

**From:** Markus de Domenico, Trustee Ward 2

**Subject:** Declaration of February 15<sup>th</sup> as Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

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**MOVED BY: Markus de Domenico**, Toronto Catholic District School Board

**WHEREAS:** Despite huge advances in research, cancer is still the number one disease killing Canadian children today; 1 in 5 Canadian children diagnosed with cancer do not survive;

**WHEREAS:** Unlike adult cancers, the causes of most childhood cancers are still unknown and are not related to lifestyle and environmental risk factors;

**WHEREAS:** The incidence of childhood cancer is highest in the first five years of life;

**WHEREAS:** Each year, about 1,700 new cases of childhood cancer are diagnosed in Canada and approximately 400 are in Ontario;

**WHEREAS:** High risk cancers, including those of the central nervous system, certain leukemias, neuroblastomas and bone cancers still have relatively low survival rates, between 7%-31% ;

**WHEREAS:** Childhood cancer claims over 150 young lives each year; those who survive often require ongoing psychosocial, physical, and financial support;

**WHEREAS:** While over 80% of children survive cancer, more than 60% of survivors face late effects of their disease and treatment, including neurocognitive impairments, sterility, and secondary cancers;

**WHEREAS:** There are an estimated 30,000 survivors of childhood cancer living in Canada today, most of whom live with life-long health problems related to the cancer treatments they received as a child;

**WHEREAS:** By the time they turn 45, more than 95% of childhood cancer survivors will have a chronic health problem and 80% will have severe or life-threatening conditions;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Board declare **Childhood Cancer Awareness Day** on February 15th each year or the first school day following the 15th if it falls on a weekend.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Board consider a superhero shirt day (as our warriors are all superheroes) on 15th of February every year starting in 2022. Students can bring in a toonie for Superhero Shirt Day and all the proceeds will go directly to Childhood Cancer Canada Foundation

**Markus de Domenico**  
Trustee, Ward 2



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Bree

**Last Name:**

Ranieri

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

2021-22 School Year In-Person Learning

**Key Issue(s):**

As the 2021-22 school year is being planned, we want highlight important considerations for the health and well being of students in our school.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

Importance of in person learning for children. Staffing levels and procedures for opting in and out of in person or remote learning. Classroom allocation procedures/ budget.

**Action Requested:**

Consideration for stability and prioritize in person learning opportunities.

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC).

**Please provide the name of school and your position:**

Name of School: St. Clement Catholic School

Your Position Co-Chair

**Submission Date:**

05-14-2021

## **Toronto Catholic School Board Delegation**

### **St. Clement CSPC**

May 2021 DRAFT

As the 2021-22 school year is being planned with the continued pandemic in mind, we want to highlight important considerations for the health and well being of students in our school. Medical professionals have recently stressed how the lack of recreation options and in-person school are impacting our children's mental health.

A Sick kids study this past February indicated that there was a significant proportion of otherwise healthy school-aged children who experienced deterioration in a number of mental health domains with a strong association of stress from social isolation and the importance of in-person school, recreation, social activities and milestone events. The Canadian Paediatric Society issued a letter this month urging the government to immediately re-open outdoor recreation and mobilize a plan to get student safely back to school.

We understand that there are currently many levels of government making decisions about learning options, health and safety protocols, and budgets. Our ask is that the options are consider holistically and with student impact at the center given what children have endured over the pandemic. Specifically, we would like to advocate for the following:

1. With the Ontario government requiring the Board to offer online learning as an option in the 2021-2022 school year, there is a need to administer a concurrent in-person and online option without disrupting stability. Early last school year, we experience two reorganizations impacting several students and classrooms, forcing students to switch cohorts and adjust to new teachers.
2. Consider classroom sizes and funding allocation to promote stability, allow for flexibility if learning option changes are requested, and the enablement of reasonable health and safety parameters. Funding should be distributed such that staffing levels and staffing models at ALL schools should at minimum be preserved or improved upon from pre-COVID levels. St. Clement classroom sizes are currently near or at maximum pre-COVID capacity levels. In many years, the allocations are adjusted by the Board

and classroom assignments made prior to the start of the school year are changed weeks into the year forcing students to have to move classrooms after the start of the year.

3. With anticipated budget pressure, we urge you to ensure that decisions to save money take into consideration our medical professionals advice for our children's healthy development. Newer alternatives to learning such as hybrid models and online learning need to be carefully considered as we work our way through the pandemic and plan for post-pandemic.

To conclude - While we appreciate the complexity of balancing pandemic health and safety, budgets, and many levels of government making changes, we ask that you keep our children's short and long term health at the center and allocating funding for the 2021-22 school year accordingly.





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

**First Name:**

MAURICE

**Last Name:**

LELLI

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

International Languages

**Key Issue(s):**

International Languages at St. Francis Xavier - Following policies and procedures



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

To discuss the importance of International Languages and how it benefits children's learning

**Action Requested:**

Maintain the IL program at SFX

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

**Submission Date:**

05-18-2021

Good evening trustees,

My name is Maurice Lelli. I was born in St. Etienne, France and my first language was French.

At the front of my elementary school in France, there was a quote that read:

**“L’ignorance est la plus grande maladie du genre humain”** *Voltaire* (French philosopher)

**“Ignorance is the greatest disease of mankind”**



My father took a picture of this and made sure that my sisters and I understood what this meant. Imagine, he was a coal miner for 16 years and with very little formal education - no fault of his own, and yet he knew how important this was.

From France, we moved to Italy, my parents' hometown, where I learned Italian. After a few years, we moved to Canada where I obviously had to learn English. I am also quite fluent in Spanish, thanks to my knowledge of Italian, being the two most similar Latin-based languages.

I am the president and CEO of a medium-sized nutraceutical company and we do business in the U.S. and in Europe. We manufacture nutraceutical products, mostly in Italy where I am able to utilize - to my advantage, my fluency in Italian. The company V.P. / liaison whom I deal with in Italy, is also French-born and speaks 5 languages. She communicates with me in three different languages because she knows I can understand and makes for a healthy working relationship. In the U.S., they often request English-Spanish labels on our products and most of the key personnel are also fluent in Spanish.

What I would like to point out is that perhaps we shouldn't jump to conclusions when addressing our children's education and most importantly, their future. The policies and procedures for proposing any changes that may impact almost 600 children, needs to be followed accordingly, not as per the existing unsubstantiated direction taken by an individual who is not representing the majority of the families from St. Francis Xavier Catholic School. Also, the current I.L. policy states that a school can only be surveyed every three years and we just completed a survey in January 2019. Parents are tired of being surveyed again and again because of a few parents who claim to represent the entire community.

In the motion being presented tonight, it indicates that the program takes away from the 300-minute day. Teachers do not teach 300 minutes continuously, as no child has that attention span. The day consists of both instruction and independent work, as it should. This is common knowledge.

In the previous meeting we had about two years ago at SFX, I provided various documented studies on the importance of children learning multiple languages from an early age. It was concluded that those who learned multiple languages were able to develop parts of their brain that actually put them at a noticeable advantage well into university and beyond, over children who had learned only one language.

Yes, your children may not come out of this program being fluent in another language, but at least you should be happy to know that according to these studies, they are developing parts of their brain that will improve their cognition, focus, planning, personality, and proper social behavior, just by taking one I.L. program. Imagine!

If we've learned anything from this pandemic, it's that the world has become much smaller. In the corporate world, if you check the **About us** page on most large corporation websites, you will notice multiple head quarters spread around the globe. Your children may ultimately be working for or even running their own international corporation. Why not?

These are just a few examples I can give and trust me, I can go on and on.

In ending, I would like to emphasize that I specifically chose SFX for my daughter because of the IL program. She's now 10 and has made friends, so impossible for me to even remotely consider moving her to another school. Parents who are not happy with this program have the option of moving their children to a non-IL school. I don't see why I should, when I specifically chose this school.

*Thank you for your time.*



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Val

**Last Name:**

Di Gregorio

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

International Language Program

**Key Issue(s):**

The Board Report on International Languages



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

Policy & Procedure

**Action Requested:**

Following the Board Policy

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization.

**Please provide name of the group or organization:**

CUPE Local 3155

**Submission Date:**

05-17-2021

Good Evening Trustees,

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Val Di Gregorio and I am the President of CUPE Local 3155 representing International Languages at the TCDSB. As always I would like to thank the Trustees for their continued support of the International Language program. This evening on the agenda is a board report challenging policy S.P.05 which references the International Language Program. I have spoken to this before and I will continue to advocate for our program and for policy and procedure to be adhered to.

The International Language Elementary (ILE) program is taught to thousands of students annually and has operated for more than forty years at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The cognitive benefits of learning languages include improved memory, critical-thinking, problem solving, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, better listening skills and better performance in other subject areas.

In today's connected world, proficiency in other languages is a vital skill.

Parents, educators and advocates of International language learning know that children need more, not fewer language skills to compete in a global marketplace. In most European countries languages are a pre requisite to graduating and obviously Canada lags behind.

The IL program is an easy target and is often threatened. by those that do not understand the benefits for students and families. Our instructors have lived without the security of the program since the preferred mode of delivery through the extended day was eliminated.

Following that decision, a survey was concluded of all TCDSB schools in January 2019 and as you know the return rate was the highest ever in recorded history - 25,000 families.

We are not saying that no one has the right to be surveyed we are asking that policy be adhered to at this time.

With 26 days to the end of the school year the report is stating that two schools be surveyed because they feel it takes away from the 300 minute day which it does not. This issue was brought forth two weeks ago at a previous meeting through a

notice of motion and it was defeated. I am at a loss why it is on the agenda again today. It should not be.

The review of the current policy is in consultation and began in January 2021 and the process must take its course.

If policies are in place and they ~~be~~ are adhered to; then why are you considering adopting this board report?

The board has policies and committees in place for a reason and the process should be followed. Please respect and comply with your existing policies until such time as the present policy review is complete. It is only fair to do so. Every school community should be treated the same.

Thank you again for your support of the International Language Program.





## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Julia

**Last Name:**

Alphonso

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

June dedicated to the month of the Sacred Heart in the Catholic School community.

**Key Issue(s):**

Promotion of Devotion to the Sacred Heart in schools for the month of June.

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

The Sacred Heart must be promoted in our school communities during the month of June in accordance with the true teachings of the Catholic Church.



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Action Requested:**

For all schools in the TCDSB to promote understanding and devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

### **Submission Date:**

05-18-2021

Good evening, my name is Julia Alphonso, and I have just completed my second year in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Toronto, and I am a past student of the TCDSB. I am here this evening in support of the need to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrate this great feast day, and dedicate the entire month of June to Our Blessed Lord and His Sacred Heart in all Catholic educational institutions, in families, and in our own personal lives.

God, who is Love, has revealed Himself to us through His Sacred Heart made known to St. Margaret Mary Alcoque in the early 1600's. He asked her to promote devotion to His Sacred Heart that was burning with Love for all people. The heart is a cultural and religious symbol of love used to communicate the love we feel for another person. This was inspired by Jesus Himself who has given us His own Sacred Heart to remind us of His unconditional and unending love for us. His images show Him either pointing to or giving His Heart to us. He who loves us so deeply is desiring that we reciprocate His love in return. We do this best through devotion to His Sacred Heart – to the Person of Jesus.

Jesus made us twelve promises specific to this devotion, including peace in our families, comfort in times of trouble, overabundance of blessings and mercies and that He will write the names of those who promote this devotion to others, on His Sacred Heart! Bearing in mind that we obtain all of this and so much more through devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, promoting this devotion in our schools beginning with a daily prayer to the Sacred Heart, enthroning the image in our schools and classrooms or pinning the images on the screen virtually, teaching students about this revelation to St. Alcoque and encouraging them to grow in relationship with Jesus through this devotion, makes perfect sense that should have been done ages ago!

The Eucharist is the “Source and Summit of our Faith” and from Eucharistic Miracles proven to be living human heart tissue – we concluded that it is the Sacred Heart of Jesus whom we receive in the Holy Eucharist – His Real Presence. Therefore, growing in devotion to the Sacred Heart in our schools and in families, we grow in devotion to His Real Presence at the Heart of our Catholic faith. It is His endlessly beating Heart that keeps life going in us now and into eternity. Just as the heart is at the center of our being, so must His be too – in each one of us, our families, our school and faith communities.

God blesses those who are faithful to Him. If we want our Catholic education system here in Toronto to flourish, we must do just that – devote ourselves to Him – and I cannot stress this enough. His Heart must be at the centre of our hearts. We must put Him first before all things and seek to do His will. Let His Heart beat in unison with ours and let us teach the children to listen for His Heart beat saying, I LOVE YOU! YOU ARE MINE!

Thank you for your time and consideration and may God bless you all.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Zephania

**Last Name:**

Gangl

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

June dedicated to the month of the Sacred Heart in the Catholic School community.

**Key Issue(s):**

Promotion of devotion to the Sacred Heart in school for the month of June

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

The Sacred Heart is to be promoted in our school communities during the month of June in line with the traditions of the Catholic Church.



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Action Requested:**

For all schools to promote understanding of and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

### **Submission Date:**

05-18-2021

My name is Marcus, I am 11 years old and I am a student at St. Michael's Choir School.

I would love if every Catholic school in the TCDSB would have a deep love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and display this image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus around the schools especially during the month of June which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart is one of the most beautiful images. It is Jesus' heart crowned with thorns, a symbol of the love that Christ has for us.

I recently listened to my mother read the letter by Cardinal Collins to the faithful talking about the Sacred Heart of Jesus and how valuable that image is to us.

As Cardinal Collins stated in his pastoral letter: The image of the Sacred Heart is a visual sign that helps us to experience the meaning of the love of Jesus. Even in our secular society, the heart is the common sign for love, as we see every Valentine's day. But for a Christian the love signified by the Sacred Heart is Heart Speaks to Heart, not a passing emotion, but the steady, reliable, faithful, life-giving love which we experience in Jesus as we encounter him in the Gospels, in the Sacraments, and in our life of faith. We are called to imitate that faithful love.

The Sacred Heart image shows the heart as wounded, and this reminds us of the scriptural foundation of this devotion, the reference in John 19:34 to the lance piercing the side of Christ on the cross.

The Sacred Heart was painted with a crown of thorns. As with the wound in the heart, the crown of thorns reminds us that real love, faithful love, totally committed love for others, can lead to rejection and suffering.

It also reminds us that whenever people are bullied or rejected in any way, the disciple of Jesus must be with them to care for them with the compassion of Christ. Christians in fact have been doing that for two thousand years, and do so to this day, around the world and, unrecognized, in our own community.

The Sacred Heart is surmounted by a cross, the primary symbol of Christian faith: it draws us to contemplate the sacrificial love of Jesus, as he lays down his life for us on the cross.

Jesus calls on his disciples to show that same generous and sacrificial love, as we take up our cross and follow him each day.

The Sacred Heart is surrounded by flames. These are flames of glory, for the intensity of love represented by the love of Jesus is truly glorious. They are flames that provide light in a world darkened by sin. They are flames of zeal, a sign of the fire that came down upon the disciples at Pentecost, as they were sent out to set the world on fire for Christ, as are we all.

In light of Cardinal Collins letter, I am passionate about promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in all schools in the TCDSB. I would like to promote the celebration of this feast and keep the Sacred Heart at the core of the month of June.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Marcella

**Last Name:**

van Run

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

June dedicated to the month of the Sacred Heart in the Catholic School community

**Key Issue(s):**

Promotion of the devotion to the Sacred Heart in school for the month of June

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

The Sacred Heart is to be promoted in our school communities during the month of June in line with the traditions of the Catholic Church.





## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Action Requested:**

For all schools to promote understanding of and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

### **Submission Date:**

05-18-2021

Hello everyone, trustees, delegates;

I'm currently an undergraduate student, but four short years ago I was a student in the Toronto Catholic school system. I still have siblings in this system, and I care very much about their formation and education.

I was delighted to hear about Trustee Garry Tanuan's proposal for Catholic schools to dedicate the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As Cardinal Collins called for in his letter to the board, our schools have a "responsibility to help their students...to encounter Jesus," and this dedication is a wonderful way to do that. As a prior TCDSB student, I was blessed to have some teachers at my high school who would set up adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel in the mornings. This short time set aside in the morning signified to me that my teachers, the people in charge of my school, cared deeply about me and about our shared faith. They provided a way for me to encounter Jesus at school, and I will always be grateful for that.

I am sure that in dedicating June to the Sacred Heart, this short month set aside to contemplate Our Lord's love for us will signify to students that there is a place for them to turn as Catholics: towards the heart of Jesus. The first novena I ever prayed, which is a series of prayers over the course of 9 days, was Padre Pio's novena to the Sacred Heart. In this novena, we meditate on Jesus' words: "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." This is a message that our students do not hear often enough, because it can never be repeated too many times. To Whom can we turn if not to Christ, Whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits?

What is so beautiful about this prayer, and about dedicating June completely to the Sacred Heart, is that doing so orients our children to seek solace in the Heart of Jesus during these especially stressful times. We need to support students mentally, physically, and spiritually. Letting them know that they can turn to the Sacred Heart without ridicule or hesitation is of utmost importance. I support Trustee Tanuan's proposal because I know from experience the profound peace realized in turning to the Sacred Heart, and I think a decision on behalf of the board to make this turn would signify a depth of understanding about the spiritual needs of our age and of our children. Relying most heavily on the Sacred Heart in June specifically is the perfect way to end this turbulent and, for many, traumatizing

year on a resounding note of hope, which was the theme of Catholic Education Week.

I would love to see this dedication implemented in prayer especially. The novena prayers to the Sacred Heart are especially rich and could provide material to incorporate into celebrating this devotion throughout the month. If possible, providing opportunities for prayer in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament would be ideal. The Cardinal's letter outlines some other practical ways to live out this devotion.

Thank you for your time!



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Daniel

**Last Name:**

Lobo

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

Dedicating the month of June to the Sacred Heart in Catholic Schools across the TCDSB.

**Key Issue(s):**

Promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a popular Catholic devotion, in the month of June.



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

The promotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus devotion in Catholic schools can be carried out in multiple ways, including by prayer (in the morning announcements), narrating the story of the apparitions of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (which started the Sacred Heart devotion), and promoting the practices associated with Sacred Heart devotion (eucharistic adoration on the First Friday of each month).

### **Action Requested:**

That all schools promote understanding and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

Dear TCDSB trustees, parents, and teachers,

I, a former student at the TCDSB, would like to support the motion by Nancy Crawford to both recognize and promote June as Sacred Heart month throughout the TCDSB community.

The devotion of the Sacred Heart is a popular Catholic devotion that arose out of apparitions by Jesus to a French nun, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. It emphasizes Jesus' heart, which thirsts for love from his beloved children. I would argue that now, more than ever, when students are isolated, mental health is at an all time low, and families are forced to confront disagreements they previously avoided, we need devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

As educators, trustees, and parents, you undoubtedly know the crisis that Catholic students face in 21<sup>st</sup> century culture. Given the constraints of the pandemic, children lack face-to-face connection with their teachers, visible encouragement from their peers, and outlets to express themselves (through sports, music, etc). Most importantly, they lack a grounding framework upon which to approach their lives, as they discover who they are. This is where our Catholic faith emerges. We need to emphasize to all students of this board that their identity is not an arbitrary, discardable construct, but that they are first and foremost children of God. If we do not do so, our students will inevitably adopt the standards of the secular world as their metrics of success and self-worth. And, if the mental health crisis has not clarified this enough, these metrics never satisfy. They are grounded in lies about our identity – that we are merely what we do, what we have, or who we know.

So why the devotion to the Sacred Heart in particular? The devotion to the Sacred Heart is the perfect response to what our Generation, Generation Z needs. We believe as Catholics that Jesus has a long-suffering, compassionate love for every soul. They are dear to His heart, and they don't need to achieve anything, or know anyone, or be "anyone" to merit His love. When we (as Gen Zers) compare ourselves to other people, especially through social media, or define ourselves through our achievements, we always emerge inadequate. We cannot let this crisis settle in the hearts of our students. They must know that their souls are beautiful enough that Jesus would die for them, no matter what they have done or what they feel about themselves. No amount of intellectual knowledge can provide that certainty, and I hope as an alumnus that the TCDSB can continue to re-affirm the fundamental identity all students have as children enveloped in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In Christ,  
Daniel Lobo



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Liam

**Last Name:**

Farrer

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

June dedicated to the month of the Sacred Heart in Toronto Catholic Schools

**Key Issue(s):**

Promotion of the Devotion of the Sacred Heart in Catholic Schools during the month of June

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

The Sacred Heart should be promoted in our school communities during the month on June in line with Catholic traditions and the request of our bishop.





## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Action Requested:**

For all schools to promote an understanding of and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

### **Submission Date:**

05-18-2021

Distinguished Trustees,

Thank you for having me. By way of introduction, my name is Liam Farrer. I'm a Ph.D. Candidate in Theological Studies at Regis College, the Jesuit member college of the Toronto School of Theology and the University of Toronto and a theologian in the Catholic tradition. I rise today, albeit virtually, to support Trustee Crawford's motion that the Board focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus this June and every June hereafter.

As someone who, quite literally, studies grace, I would be remiss if I did not bring my delegation by pointing out that I do not think that this motion was Trustee Crawford's idea; I believe she's responding to the grace of the Holy Spirit who inspired and invited her to put this wonderful motion before the Board. I bring this up not to be problematic or facetious but because I genuinely believe that the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit is one of the key elements of Catholic education. Everyone involved in Catholic education must recognize that within the TCDSB, there is one true teacher, The Christ. We are called to let his Holy Spirit guide us in making our schools a place where students can not only learn about him but where everything from Masses to Math can be an encounter with our living God. The ultimate hallmark of Catholic education must be that a student leaves our schools recognizing and appreciating that the fundamental core of their identity is that of a beloved Child of God. This can only be done through a personal encounter with the living God where one responds to his graced invitation and open their hearts to Him.

One way that the Church has traditionally maintained that people may encounter and respond to God's invitation is through the use of prayers and devotions. I believe that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an excellent place to start in our current circumstances. It is again for this reason that I genuinely believe that the Holy Spirit is inviting the Board to make June Sacred Heart Month. The Gospel for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart (Mt 11: 25-30) sees Jesus preaching about how God has taken away things from the wise and given them to the children and how people can cast their burdens on him for he is meek and humble of heart. By placing the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the core of the month of June, the TCDSB can cooperate with our Lord's invitation to us all to find rest in him. This response could be as simple as reminding students daily that as Children they have a special place in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and /or include a daily prayer to the Sacred Heart in the Classroom.

Furthermore, I believe that devoting the month of June to the Sacred Heart will provide an excellent catechetical opportunity for teachers to establish within their classrooms the link between the sacraments and social justice. Teachers can very easily identify the water and blood that poured forth from Jesus' pierced Sacred heart with the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist through which we conform ourselves further to Him while at the same time noting that these Sacraments which bring us closer to Jesus' sacred heart should make our hearts beat and break for the same things that the Sacred Heart breaks for. A particular way to do this might be to reflect on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in June, in light of Red Dress Day in May.

Similarly the reestablishment of June as the traditional month of the Sacred Heart would serve to breathe new life into the concept of the Catholic imagination, which could encourage students to seek a further connection between faith and the arts.

Finally, I believe that the Feast of the Sacred Heart ought to be celebrated liturgically in Catholic Schools each year. The fact that the the Sacred Heart is one of the few solemnities not moved to Sunday and celebrated during the school year would also allow the school family to celebrate a Solemnity together.

The Sacred Heart is an ancient devotion and, due to this fact, I am sure that there are many other valid reasons to honour the Sacred Heart in Catholic Schools. Well I cannot speak to these I can only express my hope that for these reasons, if they are known to you, as well as for the reasons I have outlined above you vote in favour of Trustee Crawford's proposal to make June Sacred Heart Month in the TCDSB.

Sincerely,

Liam A. Farrer, MTh, MA

PhD Candidate, Regis College, Toronto School of Theology / University of Toronto



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

**First Name:**

Shania

**Last Name:**

Fernandes

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

**Topic of Deputation:**

The Catholic school community being dedicated in the month of June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Key Issue(s):**

Promotion of the Sacred Heart Devotion during the month of June

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

In line with the Tradition of the Catholic Church, we wish for the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to be promoted in Catholic schools

**Action Requested:**

For all schools to promote the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

**Submission Date:**

05-18-2021

This is what I intend to say: Thank you trustees for this opportunity to speak with you all today. My name is Shania Fernandes and I received both my elementary and high school education through the TCDSB school system. I am grateful for the Catholic school system as it not only gave me a good education but supplemented and enhanced my faith life. Religious education is a key component Catholic education.

Catholicism is a very rich faith, full of different devotions and traditions. One of the best devotions is the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and usually the month of June is dedicated to His Sacred Heart. This devotion traces back to the 11th century and became widespread thanks to St Margaret Mary Alacoque. This devotion encourages us to more fully immerse ourselves in the very Heart of Christ as he desires his deep love for humanity to be reciprocated.

This devotion will further drive home the whole reason why God created us. We are all created to love, be it our families, friends, neighbours and most importantly above all else God. The goal of Catholic education is to teach kids to love God as well as giving them a solid education. This devotion embodies the reason we were created “to know, love and serve God”. The Board has a duty to promote Catholic education and there is no better way than teaching children how much Jesus loves us all even to the point of death and how he wishes us to love him in such a deep way. We cannot give what we do not have and therefore the secret to loving our neighbour is to allow Christ to love us and for us to return that love to him by loving our neighbour as He has loved us. The children who are part of the school board deserve to know how much Christ loves us and the fullness of our religion and the Catholic faith and that is why I am asking for June to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for your time and attention.

Thank you for your time  
Shania



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Joanna

**Last Name:**

Alphonso

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

05-20-2021

**Topic of Deputation:**

June dedicated to the month of the Sacred Heart in the Catholic School community

**Key Issue(s):**

Promotion of devotion to the Sacred Heart in school for the month of June



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

The Sacred Heart is to be promoted in our school communities during the month of June in line with the traditions of the Catholic Church.

### **Action Requested:**

For all schools to promote understanding of and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

### **Submission Date:**

05-18-2021



Good evening Trustees, students, parents, and fellow delegates. My name is Joanna Alphonso and I just completed my third year of neuroscience at the University of Toronto. I am here today to speak to you this evening about Trustee Crawford's Motion regarding the Celebration of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus this June.

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as celebrated in Church Tradition. In the image of the Sacred Heart, we see Jesus pointing at His Sacred Heart. In our culture, the heart is the symbol of love. On top of the heart we see the cross, and surrounding the heart we see the crown of thorns. This is to remind us of the highest form of love that He has for us – sacrificial love. Jesus suffered and died for us during His passion and death. His heart is also pierced with blood flowing out of it, just as it happened after His death. This is to represent His Divine Mercy. Above the heart is a fire – this is to show us that Jesus' heart is on fire with love for us. Just as fire is destructive, reckless, and without bounds, Jesus' love destroys all sin, loves us all recklessly and without bounds. This Most Sacred Heart of His encompasses perfect and True love – a love that is self-giving, sacrificial, and without bounds.

It is essential that the TCDSB school communities and families enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their schools and homes. During this time of lockdown, many families have been suffering and struggling financially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Jesus makes 12 promises to those who are devoted to His Sacred Heart, some of which I will highlight. "I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life; I will give peace in their families and will unite families that are divided; I will console them in all their troubles; I will bless those places wherein an image of my Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honored; I promise you excessive mercy to those who receive communion on the First Friday in nine consecutive months, and they will not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their Sacraments." Families will surely find refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus during this difficult time.

I testify to the fulfillment of these and the rest of the promises in the life of my grandmother. The image of Jesus' Sacred Heart you see behind me was given to her and my grandfather as a gift for their marriage when she lived in India and she brought it with her when she immigrated to Toronto in 2006. They kept Jesus at the center of their marriage. Her *faithful* devotion to Jesus' Sacred Heart during her lifetime was rewarded when she was dying due to cancer last year. She was blessed

with the sacrament of Holy Communion and an apostolic pardon prior to her death, as Jesus promised to His devotees.

In conclusion, I strongly encourage the TCDSB to vote “yes” for celebration of and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the month of June this year and every year hereafter, and to enthrone in every school and home and image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus year-round.



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

## RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."  
Philippians 4:13*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 11, 2021	May 20, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

Sophia Harris, Recording Secretary  
Skeeter Hinds-Barnett, Assistant Recording Secretary

### RECOMMENDATION REPORT

#### Vision:

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

#### 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.*



Brendan Browne, PhD  
Director of Education

D. Koenig  
Associate Director  
of Academic Affairs

D. Boyce  
Associate Director of Facilities,  
Business and Community  
Development

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the Board of Trustees with the recommendation from the Special Education Advisory Committee.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 0.5 hour*

## **B. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with the recommendation from the Special Education Advisory Committee.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On April 21, 2021, the Special Education Advisory Committee met.
2. At that meeting, a recommendation to the Board of Trustees was proposed.

## **D. EVIDENCE**

Arising from the April 21, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting there was a recommendation from the Committee to the Board of Trustees that a policy be developed to meet the requirements of PPM 149 Programs and Services for Special Education needs that are delivered by external agencies and by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

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## **E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Special Education Advisory Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees that the following recommendation outlined in this report be approved:

That a policy be developed to meet the requirements of PPM 149 Programs and Services for Special Education needs that are delivered by external agencies and by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

E-MEETING VIA ZOOM

**HELD MONDAY APRIL 19, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the Meeting to Order at 7:06PM.

YouTube live feed was activated on the Toronto CPIC channel.

Minutes are being captured by the Recording Secretary.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Opening prayer was led by Jennifer Di Francesco.

The Land Acknowledgement was led by Chair, Joe Fiorante.

**3. Roll Call & Apologies**

**Trustees:** Garry Tanuan (W8)  
Norm Di Pasquale (W9)

**Elementary Parent Members:**

Joe Fiorante (W3), Chair  
Jennifer Di Francesco (W1)  
A.J. Hepburn (W4)  
Santhosh Peter Valavi (W5/E)  
Daniel Oliveira (W5/W)  
Gus Gikas (W6)  
Rose-Marie Fraser (W8/E)  
Ivana Calabria-Pantaleo (W10)  
Isabel Starck (W11/S)  
Anthony Antinucci (W12)

**Secondary Parent Members:**

Milva Romano (West)  
Annalisa Crudo-Perri (Central)

**Community Members:**

Katie Piccininni (OAPCE – Toronto)  
Emmy Milne (The Angel Foundation for Learning)  
Alison Canning (Let's Get Together)

**Staff:**

John Wujek (Director Designate)  
Manuela Sequeira (Parent Engagement Coordinator)  
Jessica Dalinda (Communications)  
Sarah Pellegrini (Recording Secretary)

**Guests:**

Derek Chen  
Paul De Cock  
Brandy Doan  
Gina Iuliano-Marrello  
Ryan Peterson  
Bryan Shannon  
Shazia Vlahos

Dan Kajioka (W7) and Charmaine von Vulte (W8/W) sent their regrets.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by Ivana Calabria-Pantaleo, seconded by Gus Gikas, that the Agenda, as amended to include the Addendum, be approved.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**5. Declarations of Interest**

None declared by Members present.

**6. Approval & Signing of the Minutes**

MOVED by Katie Piccininni, seconded by Gus Gikas, that the February 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes, be approved.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**7. Presentations and Reports from Committee Officials**

MOVED by Gus Gikas, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that Item 7a) be adopted as follows:

**7a) Chair – Monthly Report received.**

The Chair shared news, activity & advocacy conducted on behalf of CPIC over the past two months, including clarifying the meeting he attended with the Ministry of Education was with employees of the Ministry and not political leaders.

The Chair also recognized that April is Volunteer Recognition month and thanked all volunteers for their dedication and work.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Daniel Oliveira, seconded by Santhosh Peter Valavi, that Item 7b) be adopted as follows:

**7b) Treasurer – Financial Report as of March 31, 2021 received.**

The Treasurer reviewed the report and noted that the reimbursement from the Limelight Group was received.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**12. Program/Consultation (Committee of the Whole)**

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Isabel Starck, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

**12a) 2021-2022 Budget Consultation received.**

Paul De Cock reviewed the TCDSB budget planning process, including the currently active budget consultations and survey that can be completed.

He indicated that the one-time COVID-19 related funding (provincial and federal) will not continue, and all school boards will no longer receive additional funding for virtual learning modals.

The contingency reserve fund amount is subject to change because it will be dependent on how the 2020-2021 school year ends.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared



CARRIED

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Gus Gikas, that Item 12b) be adopted as follows:

**12b) Acceptable Use Policy** received.

Shazia Vlahos introduced Bryan Shannon, who helped develop the social media guidelines and he explained why and how it was developed.

Shazia reviewed the procedures and expectations for TCDSB-associated social media accounts that must be followed. The proposed guidelines and documents are draft copies, with the expectation that they will be operational in September 2021.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Gus Gikas, that Item 12c) be adopted as follows:

**12c) Presentation: De-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics for September 2021 – Gina Iuliano Marrello, Derek Chen, Ryan Peterson and Brandy Doan** received.

Staff presented the program that will begin September 2021. The goal of the program is a) cultural shift, b) increase educator capacity and c) increase student engagement, achievement and well-being.

A follow-up survey will be sent to all members following the April meeting.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Alison Canning, seconded by Ivana Calabria-Pantaleo, that Item 12d) be adopted as follows:

**12d) Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant** received.

The Chair reminded members that at the February 22, 2021 meeting, it was decided to extend the submission deadline. 83 applications have been received and 76 were approved.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**13. Subcommittee & Special Committee Reports**

MOVED by Gus Gikas, seconded by A.J. Hepburn, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

**13a) Equity Poverty Action Network (EPAN), Equity and Accessibility** received.

Alison Canning provided an update of the committee meeting, where they met with Superintendent Derek Chen to better understand EPAN schools and what/how the committee can help. The meeting was intended to establish a baseline.

The action item from the meeting is to create a welcome package.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**15. Reports from TCDSB Board Officials**

MOVED by Milva Romano, seconded by Ivana Calabria-Pantaleo, that Item 15a) be adopted as follows:

**15a) Director-Designate for CPIC – John Wujek – Monthly Update** received.

Superintendent Wujek provided an update from reports that were presented to the Board/Committees. He recommended that members review the Return to School Update report. There will be report presented in May regarding academic programming over the summer.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**16. Reports from Trustee or Trustee Alternate**

MOVED by Milva Romano, seconded by Anthony Antinucci, that Item 16a) be adopted as follows:

**16a) Verbal Update – Garry Tanuan, Trustee and Norm Di Pasquale, Trustee Alternate** received.

Trustee Tanuan informed the committee that the OCSTA AMG is May 1 via zoom.

Trustee Di Pasquale provided an update of a notice of motion that was presented at the Student Achievement meeting and that educational staff can get vaccinated in hot spot locations.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**17. Parent Member & Community Member Reports**

MOVED by Alison Canning, seconded by Isabel Stack, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

**17a) OAPCE Toronto Update (Verbal) – Katie Piccininni, OAPCE Toronto Representative** received.

Katie Piccininni provided an update on OAPCE business, including they will be holding webinar series in March and a parent conference in May.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**20. Adjournment**

MOVED by Katie Picininni, seconded by Isabel Starck, that the meeting be adjourned.

By Unanimous consent, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

The Meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.

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CPIC SECRETARY

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CPIC CHAIR

## 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.*



# **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION**

**HELD WEDNESDAY APRIL 21, 2021**

## **PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** N. Crawford  
D. Di Giorgio  
A. Kennedy

**Non-Voting Trustees:** I. Li Preti  
M. Rizzo

**External Members:** George Wedge, Chair – In Person  
Geoffrey Feldman  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe  
Tyler Munro  
Deborah Nightingale  
Mary Pugh  
Wendy Layton

**Staff:** D. Koenig  
S. Camacho  
D. Chen  
V. Cocco  
P. de Cock  
A. Della Mora  
B. Doan  
M. Gendron  
G. Iuliano Marrello  
R. Macchia  
M. Meehan

J. Mirabella  
D. Reid  
P. Stachiw

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

**3. Roll Call & Apologies**

Apologies were extended on behalf of Melanie Battaglia, Lisa McMahon and Glenn Webster.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Agenda be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**6. Declarations of Interest**

Trustee Kennedy declared and interest in Item 9b) 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions and Pressures – Steve Camacho, Acting Chief Financial Officer, as she has family members who are employees of the Board.

Trustee Kennedy indicated that she would not vote nor participate in discussions regarding that Item.

Trustee Di Giorgio joined the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

## 7. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Minutes of the Meeting held March 24, 2021 be approved with the following amendments:

- 1) Page 4, Item 9b) - Delete *Provincial Information* and insert *The Board's Consultation Process, Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies, Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings and Parent Guide to Special Education* after *Group*.
- 2) Page 4, Item 16a) – Insert *Roles and Responsibilities* after *Provincial Information*
- 3) Page 5 - Delete Item 12c) which was listed twice; and
- 4) Page 6, Item 17a – Include *from* after *Communication*.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## 9. Presentations

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

- 9a) **De-Streamed Grade 9 Mathematics For September 2021-**  
**Superintendents Gina Iuliano Marrello, Student Success; Derek Chen, Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education & Community Relations; Ryan Peterson, Area 8-ELEM and Brandy Doan, Research Associate**  
 received.



Trustee Rizzo joined the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Trustee Li Preti joined the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy recused herself from the virtual room at 8:28 p.m. due to a Declaration of Interest in Item 9b) below, as earlier indicated.

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Mary Pugh, that Item 9b) be adopted as follows:

- 9b) 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions and Pressures - Steve Camacho, Acting Chief Financial Officer** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## **10. Annual Calendar**

Trustee Kennedy returned to the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 10a) be adopted as follows:

- 10a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of April 21, 2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 10b) be adopted as follows:

- 10b) Special Education Plan Review - Input from Special Education Advisory Committee Informal Working Group (Staff Development, Educational and Other Assessments, Coordination of Services with other Ministries or Agencies and Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for provision of services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Services Professionals, and Paraprofessionals (PPM 149) posted on School Board's website)** received and referred to Staff the input from the Special Education Plan Informal Working Group on the sections Staff Development, Educational and Other Assessments, Coordination of Services with Other Ministries and Agencies, and Protocol for Partnership with External Agencies and a suggested revision priority listing; and

That SEAC recommend to Board that a policy be developed to meet the requirements of PPM 149 Programs and Services for Special Education needs that are delivered by external agencies and by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB).

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 10c) be adopted as follows:

**10c) Special Education Student Count as of March 31, 2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 10d) be adopted as follows:

**10d) Special Education Programs for 2021-2022 Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

The Chair declared a 10-minute recess.

**PRESENT:** (following recess)

**Trustees:** N. Crawford  
D. Di Giorgio  
A. Kennedy

**External Members:** George Wedge, Chair – In Person  
Geoffrey Feldman  
Tyler Munro  
Deborah Nightingale  
Wendy Layton

**12) Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

**12a) Special Education Superintendent Update – April 2021 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

**CARRIED**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 12b) be adopted as follows:

**12b) Graduation Statistics for Students with Special Education Needs 2019-2020 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

#### **14. Consent and Review**

The Chair reviewed the Order page and the following Item was held:

- 16a) Delegation from Deborah Nightingale regarding Special Education: Completion of all Tests/Assessments, Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRC) and Placement Offers - Deborah Nightingale

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy that the Item not held be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

#### **ITEM NOT HELD AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION**

- 20a) Pending List as at April 21, 2021

#### **16. Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 16a) be adopted as follows:

- 16a) Delegation from Deborah Nightingale regarding Special Education: Completion of all Tests/Assessments, Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRC) and Placement Offers received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**21. Adjournment**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR

# Special Education Superintendent Update

April 2021



In March the Transition Team in partnership with Surrey Place ran two parent workshops via Zoom.

The first parent workshop was held on Tuesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm focusing on parents of students with Autism preparing to enter Secondary School who will be on the credit earning pathway. Parents were provided with a link to the Google site, Transition to High School for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) on the Credit Earning Pathway, which includes the resources discussed and the presentation.

<https://sites.google.com/tcdsb.ca/transitiontohighschoolasd/home>

The second parent workshop was held on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. focusing on parents of students with Autism preparing to enter Secondary School Multiple Exceptionalities/Developmental Disability (ME/DD) ISP classes. Parents were provided with a link to the Google site, Transition to High School Support for Parents of ME/DD ISP Students, which includes the resources discussed and the presentation.

<https://sites.google.com/tcdsb.ca/meddtransitiontohighschool/home>

The Transition Team in partnership with Surrey Place ran two teacher workshops via Zoom. The workshops invited Elementary and Secondary ME/DD Teachers who have a student(s) transitioning to high school in September. The focus was transition planning for individual students, sharing practical strategies and reviewing available resources.

For April 2<sup>nd</sup>, World Autism Awareness Day, the Autism Programs and Services Department invited classes to participate in a Board wide dance recognizing this day. Beginning with a prayer from Fr. Lehman, classes both in-person and virtual participated in the dance.

[We Are Stars Video 2021](#)

Director, Dr. Brendan Browne, shared his World Autism Awareness Day message to the TCDSB community on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HQq-VI0-ms>



The social work department continues engaging students and families throughout a variety of individual and group counseling interventions.

Professional development and community partnerships in the area of addressing systemic inequities continues with a focus on Anti-Black Racism.

The department is actively participating in the planning for Focus On Youth Summer program as we build wellness and positive supports into the camp experience. Our focus on reaching students and families during this challenging time is strong and ongoing as we make every effort to creatively and meaningfully reach those we are called to serve.

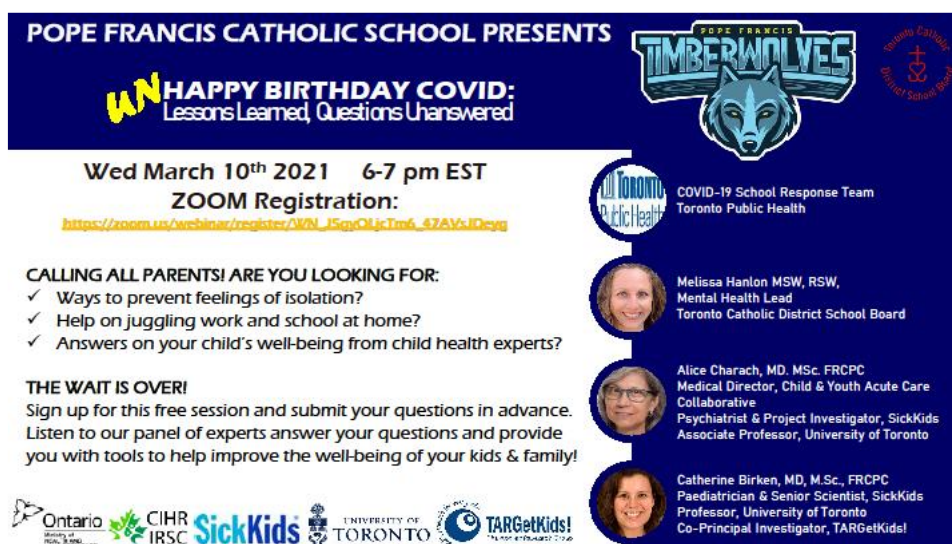






In the month of March, the Mental Health team engaged in the following activities to support the mental health and well-being of students and staff across the system:

- During the week of March 1-5, we marked Black Mental Health Week through system messaging that outlined our continued commitment to removing systemic barriers to racism. The messaging emphasized the foundational basis of good mental health for ALL and the importance of nurturing mentally-healthy classrooms in which ALL students feel safe, welcome, and experience a sense of belonging. As such, we invited educators to reflect on how they can ensure Black children/youth feel represented, heard, seen, understood in our classrooms and schools. We shared the School Mental Health Ontario Tip Sheet on [Supporting Mentally-Healthy Conversations About Anti-Black Racism with Students](#). Collaboration in this area continues across different departments at the board.
- Suicide Intervention Training of Social Workers, Psychologists and Guidance Counselors was completed to ensure more clinicians and guidance counselors are able to intervene locally with students in cases of suicidal ideation. Also, facilitated self-directed Suicide Awareness course for our Chaplains this month.
- On March 10, a panel presentation: [Unhappy Birthday COVID](#) organized by Pope Francis Catholic School was delivered to 140 parents from across the system. Panel of experts included Melissa Hanlon, TCDSB Mental Health Lead, Dr. Birken, Pediatrician and Researcher at Sick Kids and Dr. Charach, Psychiatrist and Researcher at Sick Kids.



**POPE FRANCIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY COVID:**  
Lessons Learned, Questions Unanswered

**Wed March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 6-7 pm EST**  
**ZOOM Registration:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/838196187>

**CALLING ALL PARENTS! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR:**

- ✓ Ways to prevent feelings of isolation?
- ✓ Help on juggling work and school at home?
- ✓ Answers on your child's well-being from child health experts?

**THE WAIT IS OVER!**  
Sign up for this free session and submit your questions in advance. Listen to our panel of experts answer your questions and provide you with tools to help improve the well-being of your kids & family!

**COVID-19 School Response Team**  
Toronto Public Health

**Melissa Hanlon MSW, RSW,**  
Mental Health Lead  
Toronto Catholic District School Board

**Alice Charach, MD, MSc, FRCPC**  
Medical Director, Child & Youth Acute Care  
Collaborative  
Psychiatrist & Project Investigator, SickKids  
Associate Professor, University of Toronto

**Catherine Birken, MD, MSc., FRCPC**  
Paediatrician & Senior Scientist, SickKids  
Professor, University of Toronto  
Co-Principal Investigator, TARGeT Kids!

Ontario  
CIHR  
SickKids  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
TARGeT Kids!

- On March 11, for COVID's anniversary, messaging sent to the system around [tips for parents to support children and youth through COVID-19 anniversary period](#) and [for educators to support the mental health of students during a pandemic](#).
- Monthly system-wide email on Staff Well-Being around Resilience with embedded videos and activities including classroom activities for educators to help foster resiliency among students.
- Parent presentation to Area 1 secondary school parent communities: [Building Resilience in Youth During Pandemic](#) organized by Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic School attended by 22 parents and staff members.



- Lunch & Learn session on Staff Well-Being delivered to staff members at Bishop Marrocco-Thomas Merton Catholic School.
- The Mental Health Professionals who support our secondary schools continued facilitating student mental health workshops for students. In March, they delivered 8 workshops to over 900 students across 5 secondary schools on Tips for Stress Management.
- Informed all school administrators of new Virtual Field Trips, a series of lessons plans to support the development of stress management and healthy coping skills from School Mental Health Ontario in an effort to encourage use of these Social-Emotional Learning tools in the classroom. So far, there are lesson plans for Breathing, Muscle Relaxation, Visualization and Distraction Strategies.
- The virtual Stop The Stigma Symposium this year took place on March 24 for elementary students (Grades 7-9) with over 60 classrooms and 1 400 students participating and on March 25 for secondary students with over 20 secondary teams participating. Our theme was *We Become COMPASSIONATE*. Three keynote speakers at each panel empowered students with positive messages of resiliency, self-compassion and empathy for others.



Wonderful news! The 2021-22 Kindergarten Language Program (KLP) referral process began the week of March 29<sup>th</sup>. KLP staff remains committed to supporting Kindergarten teams (especially those new to Kindergarten) throughout the referral process.

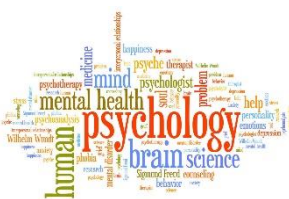
Kindergarten Language Program teachers and Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) offered a professional development (PD) session for Kindergarten educators in virtual and brick-and-mortar schools on April 8<sup>th</sup>. In this PD session, Kindergarten teams learned about how KLP supports kindergarten students with significant oral language and related early literacy needs. They also learned how to identify appropriate program candidates as well as how to complete and submit the referral paperwork.

This PD session was truly a team effort. KLP staff worked collaboratively with department SLPs and the Early Years Resource Lead teacher to develop the webinar.

The KLP Referrals PD was well received by all educators who attended the session. It is estimated that 42% of attendees are new to kindergarten and 23% of attendees have only been in the kindergarten classrooms for up to 3 years.

A recorded version of this PD is available to Kindergarten teachers and DECEs who were unable to attend the live session.

KLP teachers and Speech-Language Pathologists look forward to providing intense oral language intervention programming to a new student cohort in the 2021-22 academic year.



Psychology staff continue to offer *Positive Parenting*, the popular weekly webinar series presented virtually for parents in our school community. Specific topics vary from week to week, but all have a focus on supporting the education and wellness needs of students, and their families, while at home during the pandemic.

The Psychology Department continues to serve students with psychoeducational assessments, counselling and mental health supports, providing consultation with parents and school staff, and psychology education for school staff and the community.



May 18, 2021

To: Trustees and Student Trustees  
Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)

Dear Trustees and Student Trustees,

I am Vincent Pham, a University of Toronto undergraduate student, recently completed second-year of studies, and pursuing a double-major in Ethics, Society and Law, Philosophy as well as a minor in Christianity and Culture. I am proud alumnus of the TCDSB, from Chaminade College School (class of 2019). In response to Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto's pastoral letter, *Heart Speaks to Heart*, dated April 18, 2021 as well as after much prayer and discernment, I am writing this letter to convey my support for a motion that June shall be dedicated and proclaimed the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in all TCDSB schools.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 11:28-29) Every one of us are called to come to the Heart of Jesus in both the ups and downs of life. As Cardinal Collins recognized in his pastoral letter, this is ever so true particularly during this time of pandemic (HSH 1). It is by being close and having an encounter with this Heart that we come to imitate and learn from the One whom we call Teacher, Messiah, Son of God, Jesus Christ – true God and true Man.

In well developed countries such as Canada or the United States, people are being driven ever so quickly to materialism and consumerism. Social media, particularly, creates for society an image of a life that is so materialistic, that chases after 'likes,' views or heart emojis. However, for Catholics, for believers and followers of Jesus Christ, we know that earthly materials do not bring us a true "rest." We are restless because as St. Augustine has said in his Confessions, "[God], you made us for yourself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in you." Society looks for a sense of rest in materialism, but that never totally satisfies one. It is only when one truly finds refuge in Jesus Christ, by His heart that we find a totally sense of peace, a peace that many saints who once chased after materialism or personal glory like St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ignatius of Loyola experienced.

These two points lay the foundation to why the TCDSB should proclaim June to be the month of Sacred Heart. Not only is the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart celebrated on the Friday after the Solemnity of Corpus Christi which happens to fall in June, but more so to emphasize two things. First, our identity as a Catholic School. Being a Catholic School or Catholic Board should not merely be a title. In a world where a relativistic culture seems to challenge the Church's views and teachings, we know that the Catholic Church follows only one morality, one truth and that is in Jesus Christ, whom we believe to be the Way, Truth and Life (cf. Jn 14:6) To proclaim June as the month of the Sacred Heart distinguishes us from the secular world – it shows that our schools and board are under one banner, and that is the banner of Jesus' heart, the heart

filled with love and mercy for every single person, no matter who they are, even if they are seemingly excluded from society. This concept of inclusivity I noticed, have been a topic of great concern for members of the TCDSB, and thus, the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the most perfect devotion that speaks to inclusivity, this universality of God's great love for everyone.

Secondly, to proclaim the month of June as the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus provides an opportunity for application of Church devotion into the lives of students in Catholic schools. The Sacred Heart is not merely a title, a devotion in the Church, but it is something living in the Church that requires of us to open our own hearts to have this encounter with our Lord. How often in Religion courses do students merely learn about the Catechism but are not able to apply it into their own lives? Catholic Theology must not be a regurgitation of facts from the Catechism, but it is a living faith. Since it is a living faith, we encounter then, a living person, Jesus Christ whose heart we are called to conform to. This encounter with the Lord Jesus is the most important thing in Catholic schools, and unfortunately this is ever so often forgotten.

The true encounter and warmth of the heart of Jesus is not something of warm fuzzy feelings. No, it is not about feelings as today's society sees it. "Mom buys me the newest iPhone – I feel mom's love, I feel God's love." But when a newer iPhone comes out, that love fades away, but instead an urge to follow the newest phone takes its place. Yet, Jesus' heart never goes out of date. This living story of 2000-years shows that a true encounter with Jesus is not one of feelings, but one of an objective way, an objective truth to the point of suffering, self-giving. It is in the little sacrifices, that giving of one's own wants and desires for the good of another is when we have a true living encounter with the Lord Jesus. This in itself is an extension of the Eucharistic Celebration that we have in Catholic schools and every day in churches all over the world – that mystery of bread and wine transubstantiated into the body and blood of Christ, a living being who shed His blood for the salvation of all through His passion so that we might have life. The Sacred Heart of Jesus sums all of this up beautifully, providing a platform for people to truly reflect on what it means to have an encounter with Jesus.

The TCDSB has many cultural heritage months, celebrating the diversity of staff and students in our Catholic schools. While that is beautiful, what would even more beautiful and much more meaningful is to culminate all of this in the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose love encompasses every one of God's children. To celebrate the Sacred Heart of Jesus is to once again remind us of who we really are as Catholics – we are a people of sacrifice, we are a people of encounter, we are a people who bear on ourselves that mark of salvation – this path alone do we follow, because we know that in Jesus Christ alone is our only hope (cf. Tit 2:11-14), and this is what we want to exemplify and be the model for our Catholic schools.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Vincent Pham