



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

Joseph Martino, Chair

Nancy Crawford, Vice Chair

Thursday, September 16, 2021

7:00 P.M.

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## September Student Trustee Board Report

### Update from the Student Trustees:



- From August 21st to the 22nd, Keith and Stephanie attended the OSTA-AECO Transitions Conference, this event helped them transition within their new roles and gain professional development. They attended this overnight conference in Downtown Toronto, and were able to meet the other members of the OSTA-AECO Executive Council in person.
- On August 24th, Keith and Stephanie attended a meeting with MPP Marit Stiles to discuss upcoming OSTA-AECO projects as well as highlighting recommendations to ensure students are better accommodated throughout the upcoming school year.
- On August 28th, Keith and Stephanie attended their September Executive Council Meeting with OSTA-AECO, at OPSBA's Downtown office. We were able to continue working on our active projects based on student issues, ranging from 2SLGBTQ+ Pride Recognition province-wide to Student Trustee Governance.
- On August 30th, Keith met with Kathleen Wynne to discuss ways in which he can support 2SLGBTQ+ students through his role as Student Trustee and President of OSTA-AECO.
- On September 1st, Keith and Stephanie joined Trustee de Domenico and TCDSB Social Workers at Michael Powers St Joseph to receive a generous donation of backpacks and school supplies from the Toronto Argonauts to donate to students across the board.
- On September 9th, Stephanie was interviewed by the Toronto Star to discuss the Ministry's recent announcement on pausing extracurriculars for the beginning of the school year.
- On September 10, Keith and Stephanie attended a roundtable with the Student Achievement Branch of the Ministry of Education to discuss standardized tests, examinations, learning recovery, mental health supports for the 2021-2022 academic year.

## **CSLIT Executive Council**

### CSLIT and E-CSLIT Dates

We have finalized and scheduled our dates for all of our CSLIT and ECSLIT General Assemblies. We will be holding ECSLIT Assemblies every first Thursday of the month starting October and CSLIT Assemblies every last Tuesday. Meetings start at 4:30 pm.

### **CSLIT DATES**

- Tuesday, September 28, 2021
- Tuesday, October 26, 2021
- Tuesday, November 30, 2021
- Christmas Social TBD
- Tuesday, January 25, 2022
- Tuesday, February 22, 2022
- Tuesday, March 29, 2022
- Tuesday, April 26, 2022
- Tuesday, May 31, 2022
- CSLIT GALA TBD
- CSLIT BBQ TBD

### **E-CSLIT DATES**

- Thursday, October 7, 2021
- Thursday, November 4, 2021
- Thursday, December 2, 2021
- Thursday, January 13, 2021 (2nd Thursday)
- Thursday, February 3, 2022
- Thursday, March 3, 2021<sup>2</sup>
- Thursday, April 7, 2022
- Thursday, May 7, 2022 (no May meeting if Camp Olympia is occurring)
- Thursday, June 2, 2022 - ECSLIT All day retreat

As of right now our GA's will be held online on YouTube or Zoom. We are hoping in the near future, the board gives CSLIT the green light to have in person student

gatherings. After a year and a half of online assemblies, our student leaders are yearning for in person meetings. Our Olypmia leadership camps in the spring and summer were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, as well as all other in person gatherings, so we hope this year we can get back to building inter-school community within a *live* versus virtual setting.

### Pillar Planning

On September 3rd, we met with our CSLIT Executive Council for a pillar planning picnic where we discussed each member's vision for their term and the projects they wished to accomplish. We also facilitated professional development workshops and physically distanced team building activities to get to know each other better.

We are still in the process of finalizing our CSLIT pillars for the year and analyzing the data collected from our 2021 Voices that Challenge conference. The next step is to discuss them with our General Assembly so we can determine which pillars are the most important to our students that should be focused on this year.

### Outreach Planning

We are currently in the works of splitting our 4 Directors of Public Relations to the 8 superintendencies within the TCDSB. Each Director will be responsible for 2 superintendencies, meaning that they will be in charge of ensuring strong CSLIT participation within the schools in their area. They will be planning meetings with school student councils and administration, as well as speaking with students to encourage them to attend CSLIT General Assembly meetings and get more involved Catholic Student Leadership events.

### CSLIT Parent Meeting

We will also be having our annual CSLIT Executive Council parent meeting in the coming week. All parents of our Executive Council are invited. At this meeting, each member will introduce themselves, their role, and the goals they have for the school year. Parents will have the opportunity to meet our teacher moderator Michael Consul from the Catholic Student Leadership department and ask any questions. We want to make sure parents understand the importance of our role as members of CSLIT Exec as well as the additional workload that entails.



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
August 24, 2021	September 16, 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

A. Della Mora  
Associate Director, Academic  
Services and Chief Operating  
Officer

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

R. Putnam  
Chief Financial Officer &  
Treasurer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On June 9, 2021, the Special Education Advisory Committee met.
2. At that meeting, a recommendation to the Board of Trustees was proposed.

## **D. EVIDENCE**

The Special Education Advisory Committee met on June 9, 2021 and a motion regarding Agenda Item 14a) *Consideration of Motion from Deborah Nightingale, SEAC Representative of Association for Bright Children Ontario regarding Grade 4 Assessments, Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) and Placements*, was approved by a majority vote as per the Minutes of that meeting included under *Communication* on the Order Page.

## **E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Special Education Advisory Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees that the following be approved:

**WHEREAS:** The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has committed to creating school communities focused on the success, mental health and well-being of all students, including special education students;

**WHEREAS:** 2020-2021 has been a difficult school year for many students. We agree that we all want to move as quickly as possible to support the recovery and well-being of special education students;

**WHEREAS:** We want all students to be able to start school in the right program and with the necessary supports at the start of 2021-2022; and

**WHEREAS:** TCDSB has not completed some assessments and IPRCs, including those given annually to all Grade 4 students.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Board of Trustees encourage Staff to move as quickly as possible to:

- (1) complete all outstanding OLSAT-8 assessments for all Grade 4 students;
- (2) issue offers of placement for all identified students; and
- (3) allow parents to reply to placement offers at their earliest opportunity.



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The Special Education Advisory Committee met on June 9, 2021 and a motion regarding Agenda Item 17a) *Communication from Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCD SB) to Minister Stephen Lecce in Support for Bill 172, Education Statute Law Amendment Act regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)*, was approved by a majority vote as per the Minutes of that meeting included under *Communication* on the Order Page.

## **E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Special Education Advisory Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees that the following be approved:

That the Board of Trustees send a similar letter to Minister Lecce in support of Bill 172.

## **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**

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through witness, faith, innovation and action.*



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

**HELD WEDNESDAY JUNE 9, 2021**

## **PRESENT:**

### **Trustees:**

N. Crawford  
D. Di Giorgio  
A. Kennedy

### **External Members:**

George Wedge, Chair – In Person  
Melanie Battaglia, Vice Chair  
Geoffrey Feldman  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe  
Lisa McMahon  
Deborah Nightingale  
Wendy Layton

### **Staff:**

D. Koenig  
V. Cocco  
A. Coke  
M. Gendron  
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 Tyler Munro.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

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

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 17b) Communication from Glenn Webster, SEAC representative for Ontario Association of Families with Communication Disorders, regarding Notice of Resignation be added to the Agenda, and reordered after Item 4) Approval of the Agenda.

On the Vote being taken on the Agenda, as amended, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

### **17. Listing of Communications**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 17b) be adopted as follows:

- 17b) Communication from Glenn Webster, SEAC representative for Ontario Association of Families with Communication Disorders, regarding Notice of Resignation received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Geoffrey Feldman joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

**6. Declarations of Interest**

Trustee Kennedy declared an interest in Item 11b) Budget Update (Verbal) – Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services, 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.

**7. Approval and Signing of the Minutes**

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the Minutes of the Meeting held May 19, 2021 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**10. Consent and Review**

The Chair reviewed the Order page and the following Items were held:

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of June 9, 2021 - Trustee Crawford;
- 11b) Budget Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services - Deborah Nightingale;
- 13a) Special Education Superintendent Update – June 2021- Trustee Crawford;
- 14a) From Deborah Nightingale regarding Grade 4 Assessments, Identification Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) and Placements - Deborah Nightingale; and
- 17a) From Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD) to Minister Stephen Lecce in Support for Bill 172, Education Statute Law Amendment Act regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Lori Mastrogiuseppe.

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 June 9, 2021

**11. Annual Calendar**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 11a) be adopted as follows:

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of June 9, 2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy recused herself from the meeting at 7:23 p.m. due to a Declaration of Interest in Item 11b), as earlier indicated.

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Wendy Layton, that Item 11b) be adopted as follows:

- 11b) Budget Update (Verbal) - Maria Meehan, Superintendent of Special Services** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Kennedy returned to the virtual meeting room at 7:46 p.m.

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

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

**13a) Special Education Superintendent Update – June 2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**14. Consideration of Motions for Which Previous Notice Has Been Given**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that Item 14a) be adopted as follows:

**14a) From Deborah Nightingale regarding Grade 4 Assessments, Identification Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) and Placements**

WHEREAS: The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has committed to creating school communities focused on the success, mental health and well-being of all students, including special education students;

WHEREAS: 2020-2021 has been a difficult school year for many students. We agree that we all want to move as quickly as possible to support the recovery and well-being of special education students;

WHEREAS: We want all students to be able to start school in the right program and with the necessary supports at the start of 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS: TCDSB has not completed some assessments and IPRCs, including those given annually to all Grade 4 students.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to Board that the Board of Trustees encourage Staff to move as quickly as possible to:

- (1) complete all outstanding OLSAT-8 assessments for all Grade 4 students;
- (2) complete IPRCs for all identified students as soon as they are assessed;

- (3) issue offers of placement for all identified students; and
- (4) allow parents to reply to placement offers at their earliest opportunity.

Trustee Di Giorgio joined the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The Chair declared a 10 -minute recess.

The meeting resumed with George Wedge in the Chair and no change to the Attendance list.

Geoffrey Feldman requested that the Question be split.

On the Vote being taken, Resolution #1 was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, Resolution #2 was declared

LOST ON A TIE

On the Vote being taken, Resolution #3 was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, Resolution #4 was declared

CARRIED

Melanie Battaglia joined the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

**17. List of Communications**

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

- 17a) From Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD) to Minister Stephen Lecce in Support for Bill 172, Education Statute Law Amendment Act regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) received.**

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that SEAC recommend to Board that the Board of Trustees send a similar letter to Minister Lecce in support of Bill 172.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

**21. Adjournment**

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Trustee Crawford, 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

June 2021



Surrey Place offered the following webinars on the June 4<sup>th</sup> PA Day.

## Self-Regulation and Autism Spectrum Disorders Module 1

This half hour module will introduce participants to the concepts of self-regulation and co-regulation. The module will identify how anxiety and stress impact self-regulation in students with an ASD. By the end of the session, participants will begin to identify skill gaps in their students that will facilitate teaching of self-regulation skills and tools.

## Self-Regulation and Autism Spectrum Disorders Module 2

This presentation is the second module in the Self-Regulation series, which is geared towards Elementary school staff supporting students with ASD in ISP classrooms. This half hour module will take a closer look at the environmental strategies that were introduced at the end of the first module.

## Self-Regulation and Autism Spectrum Disorders Module 3

This is the final Module in the Self-Regulation in Students with ASD series. Focus will be on when to intervene with the strategies previously discussed in Modules 1 and 2. The use of a “break” strategy will also be introduced along with some examples of modifying both “The Zones of Regulation” and the “5 Point Scale” for elementary and ISP classrooms.



The Social Work Department welcomed Olympian Sarah Wells to share her *Believe Initiative* program in order to recruit student leaders. Sarah also provided an inspiring and uplifting talk to encourage staff in their role.



The Social Work Department engaged in professional development from Wellspring and the FCJ Refugee Centre, two centers offering a variety of services for those who qualify.

 **wellspring**





Social Work, Psychology and Mental Health staff continue to plan and support Focus On Youth Summer Camp planning. We are providing training and support around Mental Health education and promotion to student leaders and camp coordinators every Monday and look forward to rolling out additional supports for all those engaged in summer learning.




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

- The mental health professionals who support our secondary schools facilitated mental health workshops for students and staff in schools. This year, they have facilitated 32 mental health workshops in 19 high schools, reaching over 4000 students and 500 staff members overall on topics such as *Tips for Stress Management, Gratitude, Strength and Hope*, etc.
- Facilitated a workshop for elementary Support Staff on Creating *Mentally-Healthy Classrooms*.
- Shared a Pride Month Infographic for *Mentally-Healthy Conversations in Supporting our 2SLGBTQ+ students and families* for staff.
- *Self-Directed Suicide Awareness Course* offered to 50 School Administrators followed by a webinar on TCDSB Suicide Guidelines to allow support staff to be better prepared to support students who may present with suicidal ideation.
- In collaboration with Safe Schools, 112 Social Workers and Psychology staff members received a workshop on *Cannabis and Youth* by Dr. Abby Goldstein from OISE.
- Facilitated Staff Well-Being presentations on *How to Foster our Own Well-Being during COVID-19* to Secondary School Vice-Principals Association team members.
- Share the monthly system-wide Staff-Well-Being messaging focused on *Kindness* with embedded videos and activities for staff as well as activities for the classroom.
- **Mental Health Awareness Week** was celebrated from May 3-7 across the system by inviting educators to practice social-emotional skills in their classrooms with their students:








## Get Real About How You Feel!



**Mental Health  
MATTERS**

### Mental Health Awareness Week May 3rd -7th

Monday May 3rd	Tuesday May 4th	Wednesday May 5th	Thursday May 6th	Friday May 7th
<a href="#">Morning Announcement</a> <a href="#">Bible Quote</a> <a href="#">Read Aloud Lesson: The Thing You Couldn't Do</a> - Elem. <a href="#">Feelings Charades</a> - Elem. <a href="#">Managing Stress</a> - Sec.  <a href="#">TCDSB Culturally Responsive Virtual Library</a>	<a href="#">Morning Announcement</a> <a href="#">Bible Quote</a> <a href="#">Name it to Tame it!</a> - Elem. <a href="#">Conversation Jamboard</a> - Sec.  <a href="#">School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO)</a> <a href="#">Student Mental Health Action Kit: Educators</a> <a href="#">SMHO Students</a> <a href="#">SMHO Parents</a>	<a href="#">Morning Announcement</a> <a href="#">Bible Quote</a> <a href="#">Breathing Strategies - Pr.</a> <a href="#">Breathing Strategies - Jr.</a> <a href="#">Breathing Strategies - Int.</a> <a href="#">Breathing Strategies - Sr.</a> <a href="#">What Comforts You?</a> - All 	<a href="#">Morning Announcement</a> <a href="#">Bible Quote</a> <a href="#">Tense and Relax</a> - Elem. <a href="#">Healthy Sleep</a> - Sec. <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Win a prize by sharing activities on social media, <u>using the hashtag below</u>, to show how your class is getting real about how they feel!</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: green;">#TCDSBMHW2021</p> </div>	<a href="#">Morning Announcement</a> <a href="#">Bible Quote</a> <a href="#">How Do You Feel?</a> - Elem. <a href="#">Get Real About How You Feel</a> - Sec.  <a href="#">Mental Health Week Canada</a>

- Parents were also invited to celebrate **Mental Health Awareness Week** by engaging in mental wellness activities with their children and youth through this Special Edition Newsletter:



*A Special Edition TCDSB Mental Health Newsletter in celebration of...*

## **Mental Health Awareness Week: May 3 – 9, 2021**

Good mental health isn't about being happy all the time. It is important that we acknowledge the full range of emotions we feel, even the uncomfortable ones. When we can identify and name our emotions we can better understand, process, and cope with them, allowing us to ultimately feel better ([CMHA](#)).

We encourage you to use the following resources to help with continued learning at home. These family-friendly strategies are meant to benefit everyone. Remember, children are more likely to learn and develop good habits when they see adults practicing them.

### **Activities for School-Aged Children:**

- **EMOTION CHARADES:** On slips of paper write or draw different emotions. Family members take turn pulling slips from a bowl and acting out the emotions for others to guess.
- **DEEP BREATHING** can help to relax the body and mind and can be done anywhere. Help your child to practice this skill using the [Kids Help Phone Breathing Balloon](#).
- **PRAYER** can be a healing act in times of difficulty. Teach your child the [Pope Francis Five Finger Prayer](#).
- **WALK AND TALK.** Physical activity releases feel-good chemicals into our bodies which can improve our mood. Walking with your child provides opportunity for candid conversations, with the added benefit of connection time which is so important for our mental health.
- Visit the School Mental Health Ontario website for more [SIMPLE MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICES](#) that will help your family to cope with stress.

### **Activities for Youth and Teenagers:**

Try these **CONVERSATION STARTERS**:

- How are you feeling about (school, friends, stay-at-home order, etc.) lately?
- How does your body and mind feel when you're feeling anxious due to stress?
- What helps you calm your body when you are feeling anxious due to stress?
- Learn with your child about how **MINDFULNESS** can support identification and acceptance of emotions [here](#).
- If your child struggles with sleep, this [video](#) provides some great tips for good sleep hygiene and how to create a good **SLEEP ROUTINE**.
- At times, **DISTRACTION** can be a good way to cope with intense emotions. [50 Ways to Take a Break](#) may offer your child some inspiration.
- Check out the [COVID-19 Youth Mental Health Resource Hub](#) and [Anxiety Canada: How to Chill](#) for **MORE STRESS MANAGEMENT IDEAS**.

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*This newsletter is brought to you by the TCDSB Mental Health Team. Feel free to contact us with any comments, questions or suggestions at 416-222-8282*

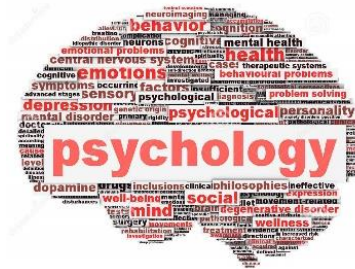




SPECIAL SERVICES



Our Assessment and Programing Teachers (APTS) and our Programing and Assessment Teachers (PATs) have been completing INTAKES for new students to our school board. They are welcoming new students as they speak with their families and help the school prepare to welcome the students.



The Psychology Department continues to serve students, families and the school community. This includes the focus on in-person psychoeducational assessments, as well as ongoing counselling and mental health supports, school team consultation, and psychology education for school staff and community.

The Psychology Department continues to support school staff through professional development in June. Offerings include continuing presentations of the *Trauma-Informed Classroom*. A new webinar, *Helping Youth Co-Regulate Intense Feelings*, introduces the practice of Emotion Coaching: a set of tools and skills to assist staff in supporting students (and one another) in navigating strong emotions, such as anger, sadness, and anxiety.

