

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.



REVISED AGENDA ADDENDUM THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SESSION

Garry Tanuan, Chair

Teresa Lubinski, Vice-Chair

Thursday, October 7, 2021

7:00 P.M.

	Pages
10. Delegations	
10.a. Vincent Constantino On Behalf of Elena Krishchuk, representative of Youth Assisting Youth (YAY) regarding Youth Mentorship Program	1 - 5
10.b. Kristina Beintner regarding Advocating to Stop the Reorganization of Classes and Students this Year	6 - 9
10.c. Lina Camargo regarding the French Immersion Program	10 - 12
10.d. Alba Taylor regarding Student Health and Safety and Classroom Reorganizations	13 - 16
10.e. Natalie Bartello, St. Pius X Catholic School Parent Group Representative regarding Class Reorganizations	17 - 21

10.f. *Maryrose Babaran regarding Student Achievement*

22 - 24

17. Staff Reports

17.a. *Return to School 2021-22 (Information)*

25 - 28



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

First Name:

Elena

Last Name:

Krishchuk

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

Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources Committee

Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?

Yes

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

Yes

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:

10-07-2021

Topic of Deputation:

Refer kids to YAY to help them achieve more and feel better with the help of a youth mentor

Key Issue(s):

There is never too much support for a child, so we are sure that every child who is aged 6 to 15 needs a mentor. It will help in the development of their mind, body and character improving their well-being and empowering them to succeed.

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

We want to spread information about our Free One-to-One mentoring Program.

Since 1976 we have provided more than 5000 trained and dedicated young volunteer mentors to:



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

- Help Newcomer kids adapt easier in a Canadian culture
 - Reinforce and encourage positive behaviours of at-risk kids
 - Help all kids improve grades & social skills and build positive friendships
- 98% of the kids in our program graduated from high school and continue education.
Youth Mentors are sensitive to the child's individual needs and respectful to the family's heritage and beliefs.

Action Requested:

Principals, Teachers, Social workers, Parents are encouraged to learn more about Youth Mentoring Program and refer the children to it.

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:

Youth Assisting Youth

Submission Date:

09-17-2021



MENTOR • GROW • SUCCEED

“Youth Assisting Youth” or YAY. You might have also heard our previous name “The Peer Project”

We service **the whole City of Toronto & York Region**. Our Head Office is located in **North York at Finch-Yonge**.

Youth Assisting Youth is a **non-profit community-based charitable** organization.

Our core program is a **peer mentoring service** that we run to **improve life prospects** of Junior Youth **aged 6 – 15** with trained and dedicated **Youth Volunteers, aged 16 – 29**.

YAY is really unique in the world & this is why:

1. **Our impact is bigger.** The majority of mentoring programs help only one vulnerable population - children, who get an adult mentor. Our One-to-One Peer Mentoring Program empowers both the Junior Youth and the Mentoring Youth, so the positive impact for the community is doubled.
2. **Our impact is deeper.** Children more willingly follow the example of their peers than one of adults, so the positive changes are more visual.
3. **Our impact is faster.** Children that build meaningful relationships with mentors try harder to look better in their eyes, so they pick-up good examples faster.
4. **Our work is scrupulous.** We find the best volunteers, screen them, conduct Vulnerable Sector Police Checks, train them, do home assessments, empower them, support them 24/7. So the parents are 100% sure that their children are in good hands.
5. **Our support is integral.** Our volunteers, parents & youth are supported with care, information, supplies, workshops, training, advice, feedback, free tickets for events and more.

Our services will help youth who may be facing **social, emotional, behavioural and/or cultural** adjustment and other barriers. In our program we state that we are focused on **newcomer & at-risk** youth but actually we serve a very wide population. It means that a lot of families who

feel that their child needs a **role-model** to **succeed** in school, become more **resilient, physically & socially active** are willing to request a youth mentor. Mentoring has proven to help the society **empower the leaders of tomorrow**.

Before we required a **referring worker** from a newcomer/youth/health/educational organization to fill in the application form for a Junior Youth. But recently we have added an option for the families to **self-refer** at our website **yay.org** in the section “**request a youth mentor**”.

Since 1976 we YAY has empowered more than **35 000 young people** with **leadership skills** through mentorship programs.

All our services are **free** for participants and it works! Helping **98% of mentees stay in school** and out of trouble.

All staff at YAY work hard to make it happen.

- 1) Our Recruitment Coordinators **screen** the Youth Volunteers who apply through yay.org, get their vulnerable **police** background **check** & professional **reference** check. Each volunteer goes through a **7-hour training** that covers the topics as Mentorship, Child Behaviour, Mental Health & Learning Challenges, Discrimination, Diversity & Acceptance, Child Abuse.
- 2) The Intake team will process referrals and assign Case Coordinators who during virtual or in-person **home assessment** will get maximum information about each Youth Volunteer & Junior Youth to find a perfect match. We match mentors and mentees who live nearby, have similar interests & background. Same-sex matches are the most common; however, we are able to match a young male child (6 – 10 years of age) with a female Youth Volunteer. The reverse does not apply. Exceptions can be made if requested (for example if a child is from the LGBTQ2S+)
- 3) Then the family meets the Youth Volunteer during a **Match Visit** facilitated by the Case Coordinator. The Match Contract is signed so that everyone understands their **goals, roles & responsibilities**. And then they schedule & plan the fun, active & creative activities for their first outing. Our organization monitors, guides & supervises the match through regular check-in with all the parties & 24/7 emergency phone support.

The families name such benefits of our program: Provided Role-model, Consistent Support, Advice & Feedback, Flexibility, Commitment, Confidentiality.

The Youth Volunteers say that our program helps them gain confidence, volunteer hours, build resumes, become leaders, improve interpersonal skills & have fun. What is more, they can apply for Special scholarships thanks to our organization.

YAY staff supports all the Clients (parents, juniors, volunteers) who have completed home assessment with:

- workshops, fun activities, picnics, sponsored tickets to sports events, movies, Zoo & Aquarium
- Virtual Coffee Chats, Parenting workshops, Trivia & Bingo Nights for Parents
- Virtual One-to-One Tutoring. Junior Youth get help with homework. Volunteers get tutoring/teaching experience.
- Virtual Group Mentoring. Includes Arts & Crafts Club, Young Readers's Club, New French Club
- Virtual Girls & Boys Empowerment Program. Creates a safe, judgement-free space to openly discuss and analyze various thoughts, feelings, influences & take part in creative, stimulating & fun activities.
- The Empowerment Project. Provides civic engagement opportunities for visible minority youth.
- Lifeline for support. For the youth to get quick advice in Zoom about anything that bothers.

As I have already mentioned, the youth commit to spend **3 hours a week together for 1 year minimum** to launch a life transformation cycle.

Some of the matches stay connected for **up to 15 years!** Thanks to our program and his mentor Philip Charlie overcame his learning difficulties, went to college and is **giving back** as a YAY Mentor himself. He is now paired with a mentee named Jeffrey. This heart-warming story of **true friendship, empowerment and success** is so touching that it was even recorded and shown by Global News. And this great story has the potential to **continue forever!**

Please check it out here:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/2851615/young-toronto-man-helped-by-older-mentor-becomes-a-mentor-himself/>

Let's say it without shyness, **we are great.**

Help us spread the word, support us, join us.

Elena Krishchuk Outreach Coordinator

Youth Assisting Youth

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/elenakrish/>

Phone: 416.932.1919 x 240

Toll Free: 1.877.932.1919

Email: ekrishchuk@yay.org

www.youthassistingyouth.com



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

First Name:

Kristina

Last Name:

Beintner

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

Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources Committee

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:

10-07-2021

Topic of Deputation:

Advocating to STOP the reorganization of classes and students this year.



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

Key Issue(s):

In a Covid year, I am advocating on behalf of parents and students to stop the reorganization of classes and the loss of teachers.

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

I will discuss how families are being affected by the reorganization and why it is necessary for the physical and mental health of our children to stop this reorganization.

Action Requested:

I am asking the board and the ministry to STOP the reorganization this year due to Covid.

Please select one of the following options:

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

Submission Date:

10-04-2021

TIMED SPEECH AT 3 MINUTES...

Good evening and thank you kindly for the opportunity to let me speak this evening. My name is Kristina Beintner and I am a member of the Parent Council at St. Gregory School in Etobicoke. I am advocating on behalf of many parents at our school to stop this year's reorganization of students, teachers, and classes.

We as parents feel that in a covid year, in the midst of another wave of outbreaks, restructuring classes to nearly full capacity is unacceptable and quite contrary to our government's narrative of smaller class sizes and increased social distancing.

Many parents were never informed that a reorganization was a possibility in a Covid year. In fact, we were asked to follow a strict decision deadline of August 6 and as we understood, the deadline was specifically so that the board could avoid disrupting classes and cohorts. And so, it has come as quite a shock to many of us that, despite our commitment to this decision deadline, our children are subject to reorganization.

We continue to see our government and our school board tout mental health as a top priority when it comes to our children, but we will no doubt see their mental health affected by losing their teachers and friends well over a month into the school year. Our children have already dealt with so much uncertainty and change because of this pandemic, there should be no need for further disruption.

We have circumstances at our school where entire families are being disrupted by this reorg. My sons, for example are in a split class together. It was because of this split class and small cohort that we decided to send our children back to in-class learning. As a result of this reorg, however, we will be more than doubling our covid exposure and completely disrupting our children's learning experience. Another family in our class has 3 children that are in the exact same situation.

Eileen de Villa, Toronto's medical officer of health has now said this week that school-aged children from 4 to 11 have the highest COVID-19 case rate of any demographic, the first time this has happened during the pandemic. Now is not the time to increase their covid exposure and mix cohorts.

Through my advocacy for this cause in that last couple weeks, I've often heard the term 'right-sizing'. In a regular school year where our children's health is not at risk and mental-health pressures aren't already exasperated, I can understand the need for "right-sizing" in a traditional academic sense. But in a pandemic year, with our children now at most risk for covid infection and with no vaccine eligibility, I'd like to propose that the

“right size” for our children’s classes is the one where they stay in their current cohorts, with their current teachers and peers, and continue with their current academic journey. I implore you to **STOP** the reorganization this year. For the sake of physical health. For the sake of mental health. And for the sake of our children.

Thank you.



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

First Name:

Lina

Last Name:

Camargo

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

Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources Committee

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:

10-07-2021

Topic of Deputation:

French Immersion Program



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

Key Issue(s):

Seniority over French Language skills when placing teachers in the French immersion program.

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

Since my son entered the school, Holy Name, in JK, they had moved perfectly capable french teachers and EC from his class to replace them with non-speaking teachers and EC that have more seniority. Good english teachers with really good intentions to teach French but not qualified to do so, which defeats the whole purpose of french immersion teaching, when the classes are not done in french as it should be for them to be bilingual.

We, as parents, do not understand the politics of the board and the union, in which seniority is a higher ranking to teach a French immersion class than the requirement of French, which for us does not make any sense, as the kids' education should be the main objective of this decision.

Action Requested:

We want to advocate that future decisions on moving teachers around as a consequence of on-line learning and covid is based on the french qualification and not on seniority, so the kids' education is put first and not the negotiation table of the union.

Please select one of the following options:

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

Submission Date:

10-04-2021

DELEGATION

Lina Maria Camargo Orozco

The reason I am joining as delegate for this board meeting is to understand and advocate for the quality of teaching for the French Immersion program. Since my son entered the school at Holy Name in JK, they had moved perfectly capable French teachers and Early Child Educators from his class to replace them with non-speaking teachers and ECE that have more seniority. Good English teachers with really good intentions to teach French but who are not qualified to do so, which defeats the whole purpose of French immersion when the classes are not done in the French Language as it should be for the kids to become bilingual.

We, as parents, do not understand the politics of the board and the union, in which seniority is a higher ranking to teach a French immersion class than the requirement of French, which for us does not make any sense, as the kids' education should be the main objective of this decision.

Situations like this, is deterring parents instead of attracting them, to opt for French Immersion as the stream of education for their children. Additionally, it is also putting in the minds of those, like us, who have theirs already enrolled, to look for an alternative that provides a consistent and higher quality education for their Children.

Therefore, future decisions on moving teachers around as a consequence of on-line learning, retirement, covid among other reasons; should have as an essential element for the French Immersion Program the French qualification of teachers and not only their seniority. Education should be always put as a first priority on the agenda of the board and not the negotiation table of the union.



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

First Name:

Alba

Last Name:

Taylor

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

Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources Committee

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:

10-07-2021

Topic of Deputation:

Student Health & Safety and Classroom Reorganizations

Key Issue(s):

Extensive classroom reorganizations are underway. These threaten the health and safety of existing cohorts and learning continuity - 6 weeks into an already uncertain school year.



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

I am asking that Committee ask the Board to immediately stop classroom reorganizations underway. That parents, schools, the Board and the Province work together to find a way to keep existing cohorts and class sizes intact, to provide safety, security and continuity for our kids.

Action Requested:

Immediate motion directing TCDSB administration and staff to pause existing reorganizations, to find opportunities to minimize effects and/or find additional funding to help protect our students.

Please select one of the following options:

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

Submission Date:

10-05-2021

Standing Committee on Student Achievement

Delegation – Alba Sandre Taylor

October 8 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I am here to ask that this Committee ask the Board to **help us stop the classroom reorganizations** currently underway. Classroom reorganizations now threaten what little safety and stability cohorts may have finally established. They introduce more risk and uncertainty and stress on our kids. They are not safe. Not now.

My son attends Father Serra Catholic School in Etobicoke. Last year Father Serra was a ‘hot spot’ school and set up smaller class sizes and plexiglass desk dividers on top of all the other pandemic public health requirements. These measures worked to keep kids safe and Father Serra had about 3 covid cases over the school year.

As of September 26, 2021 Father Serra has had 5 covid cases resulting in 4 classes and 1 school bus in isolation. That’s 5 cases in the 4 weeks since schools opened – **affecting at least 120+ kids and their families** – or 20% of the student population. All while the kids have been cohorting and not participating in extracurricular activities. But classes are back up to regular size, and plexiglass dividers are not consistently in use.

Now we have been told a **significant classroom reorganization** is underway – threatening the stability of existing cohorts, expanding class sizes, and throwing learning continuity into the lurch. Ironically the current caseload has granted us a temporary reprieve until Friday -just in time for Thanksgiving. Yet another family event we’ll have to miss to keep our kids safe.

As of the date of this statement, **we have not been provided with any information on current enrollment, class sizes, how many kids will be affected, and in what grades.**

We as parents have no ability to assess this risk and its impact to our kids mental and physical health. We also apparently have no say in the process.

Why isn’t there more transparency? And why can’t we stop this now? We’re told these reorganizations happen every year. But this is not like every year. It’s not even like last year!

Everywhere we ask about this we are redirected. The school says they must complete the reorgs. The Board says there’s no funding for more teachers. The Province says we gave the Board funding. The Board’s budget was set in June but that was well before the Delta variant now threatening our unvaccinated kids.

We’re told enrollment is very low – changing dramatically in August/September. No wonder with rates going up at that time, and no additional safety measures, many parents changed their mind. But for those of us who stuck it out the plan is to make school even more unsafe. Even more uncertain. And to what end? To push us online or to the private system? To further erode enrollment going forward?

Why can't we work together to make this stop, to reassess, to consider risks and community contexts, and put a pause on more change and uncertainty for our kids – the ones we can't protect with vaccines just yet.

Please help us support existing cohorts, help us support certainty and stability for our kids for the school year. Help us protect our kids mental and physical health and wellbeing. And help us protect student achievement based on continuity for the rest of this year.



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

First Name:

Natalie

Last Name:

Bartello

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

Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources Committee

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:

10-07-2021

Topic of Deputation:

Class reorganizaitons

Key Issue(s):

Financial and Health and Safety



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

Respectfully requesting that you put a pause on increasing class sizes and dissolving cohorts.

Action Requested:

1. pause the reorganization until a satisfactory public health plan is presented that specifically deals with mitigating covid risk involved in the dissolving of cohorts and mixing of students
2. make vaccination mandatory for all teachers and staff working in the TCDSB
3. consider the actual ability of students to physically distance - particularly in older school buildings - when removing teachers and staff from schools

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:

St. Pius X parents

Submission Date:

10-05-2021

I am coming to you today to respectfully request that you put a pause on increasing class sizes, dissolving cohorts, and in effect tearing apart our schools during the 4th wave of the covid 19 pandemic, the most dangerous wave to unvaccinated children under the age of 12 years old.

Our parents have gone to considerable lengths to get to the bottom of the logic for this decision and its incredible ill-timing. Responses from numerous different stakeholders have been unclear and, at times, contradictory:

1. We have been told that the board must fill classes to the maximum cap and that these mandated numbers meet the objectives of public health and more specifically the directive from the CMOH, and that all the board is doing is adjusting the system to what public health has said is ok. However on Tuesday morning the CMOH said that any reorganizations must be done in consultation with TPH and must take into consideration the risk of increasing class sizes and mixing cohorts. Information from the science table and recommendations from the Hospital for Sick Children assert that smaller class sizes are vital to protect our unvaccinated children.
2. Then we are told that Boards need to reconcile student enrolment and staffing alongside the Union rules and collective agreement, but in our exploration of this issue I have yet to encounter an educational professional who would be against a smaller class size, nor have I heard of any schools that will be gaining staff or adding classrooms and receiving relief on class size. So where are all of these teachers going and how is it saving any money?

We are not seeing logic or problem-solving. When we have staff going on the record and saying that there is no scientific proof that smaller class sizes mitigate Covid spread, we know our board is in absolute chaos. And how are we to have any faith in their decision-making? How do you explain to a child that it is safe to sit less than 20cm apart, in a room of 100% unvaccinated children from up to 30 different households and eat lunch?

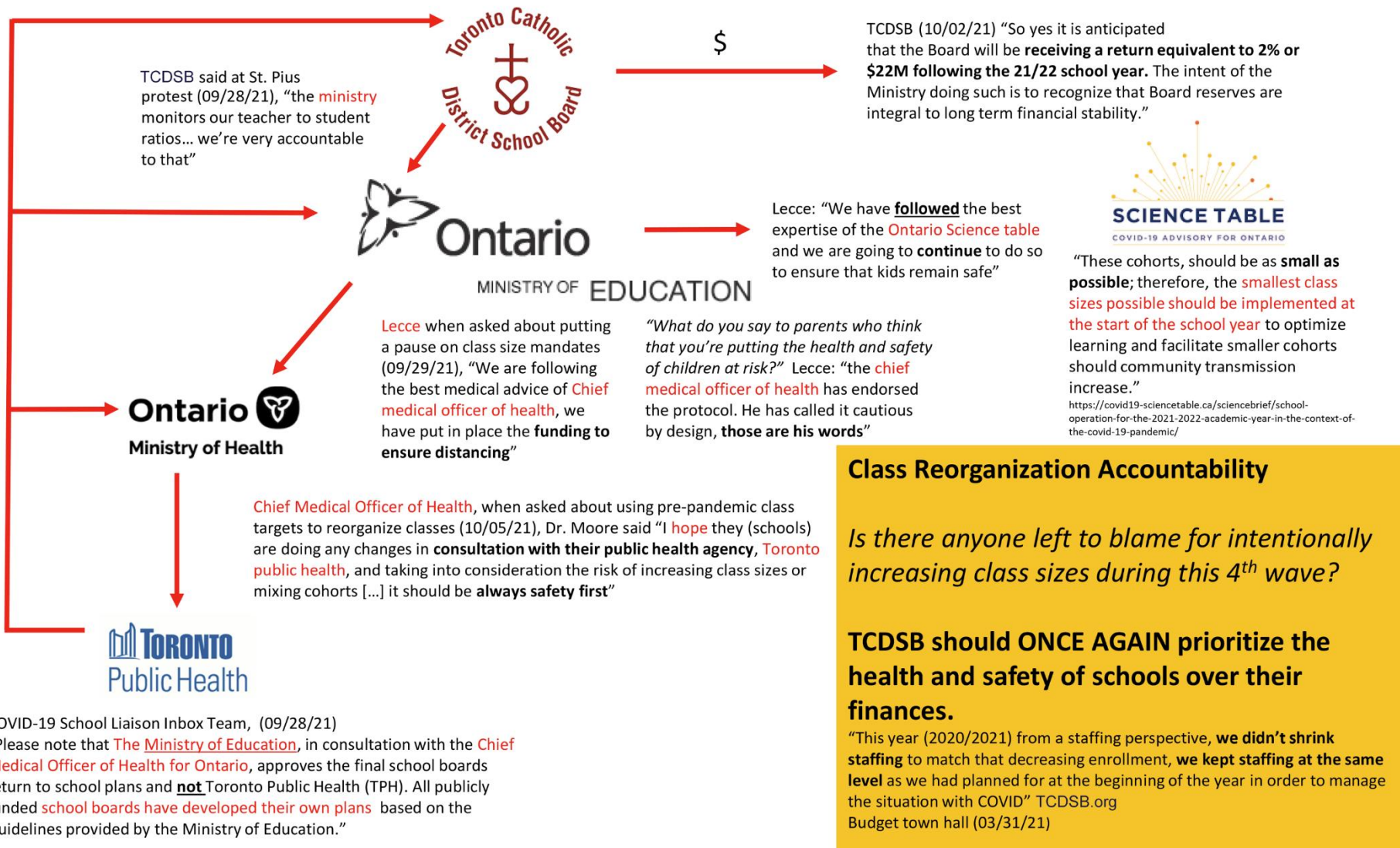
Board staff assert that even if more funding were to come from the provincial government they would still proceed with the reorganization exercise with the primary objective being to align with pre-pandemic algorithms used to set class size, and use the Covid relief funds from the provincial government to repay the contingency reserve fund at the Board.

The very clear message that the TCDSB is sending to parents is that money is more important than student health, safety, education, mental health and stability, and that refilling the contingency reserve fund is of the highest priority.

At this time we are asking you to:

- pause the reorganization until a satisfactory public health plan is presented that specifically deals with mitigating covid risk involved in the dissolving of cohorts and mixing of students
- make vaccination mandatory for all teachers and staff working in the TCDSB
- consider the actual ability of students to physically distance - particularly in older school buildings - when removing teachers and staff from schools

This is the **WRONG** time to “Right-size” the system. There is too much at stake and everyone in this room must take personal responsibility for the negligence this will result in. You have access to the funds, you need to step up and do the right thing. Our children’s health depends on it.





DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

First Name:

Maryrose

Last Name:

Babaran

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

Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources Committee

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:

10-07-2021

Topic of Deputation:

student achievement

Key Issue(s):

class sizes

student cap

social distanci



DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

Why is it that class sizes go up when we're in the same pandemic as last year?

Action Requested:

Keep classes the same.

Please select one of the following options:

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

Submission Date:

10-05-2021

How will we learn if the student CAP is lifted?

One on one learning will be limited.

Teacher's can't mark everyone precisely.

Our goals won't do so nicely.

Those goals will be taken by others.

And those below won't have druthers.

For there won't be any room to grow.

When your class so big, but feel all alone.

You won't get that second chance.

You won't get to enhance.

For you will be overlooked.

How will you learn in a class that's practically overbooked?



REPORT TO

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

RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021-22

*"The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous."
Psalm 146:8*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 6, 2021	October 7, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

Barbara Leporati, Senior Coordinator, Planning Services
 Shawna Campbell, Executive Field Superintendent, Area 3 & Early Years Programs
 John Wujek, Superintendent of Schools, Area 5
 Corrado Maltese, Coordinator, Occupational Health and Safety Department
 Shazia Vlahos, Chief of Communications and Government Relations
 Martin Farrell, Superintendent, Environmental Support Services
 Michael Loberto, Superintendent, Planning and Development Services
 Steve Camacho, Executive Superintendent of Information Technology

INFORMATION 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 of Academic
 Affairs and Chief Operating
 Officer

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

R. Putnam
 Chief Financial Officer &
 Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TCDSB Reopening Action Plan was presented and posted as of the August 19, 2021 board meeting. This report provides updates in key areas pertinent to the Reopening Action Plan.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 5 hours

B. PURPOSE

To provide the Board with information regarding the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan.

C. BACKGROUND

1. *Several communications and updates have been received since the release, August 19, 2021, of the TCDBS Reopening Action Plan.* Updates are relayed to school administrative staff as they become available. This will continue throughout the school year.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

COVID-19 Case Counts

2. *COVID-19 Case Counts are reported and updated on the Board's dashboard on a daily basis; [Confirmed ACTIVE COVID-19 Cases in TCDB Schools](#).*

Screening Tool

3. *As the 2021-22 school year continues, the Ministry provided recent updates made to the [COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool](#).*

Key changes are focused on providing clarity to users and individuals, and do not represent policy changes. Updates to the screening tools include:

- **Symptoms** - Clarifying that staff, students and children should stay home from school and childcare if they are unwell, even if they do not have symptoms that are most associated with COVID-19 and monitor before returning to school.
- **Testing** - Clarifying that rapid antigen tests are not for use on individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or on high-risk close contacts.

- **Vaccination and Immunization Status** – Revisions were made to the structure of the vaccination status and COVID-19 case history question to clarify that the individual could be vaccinated or had previously tested positive within the last 90 days.
 - **Personal Health Information and Immunization Status** - Clarifying that the purpose of asking if an individual is fully vaccinated or was previously positive with COVID-19 in the past 90 days is for providing correct isolation requirements. A reminder has been added to note that no public health information is being collected when individuals complete the screening tool.
 - **International Travel** – the international travel question has been revised to provide better clarity about who can and cannot attend school after travelling. While unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine based on vaccination status, they may not attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements; travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or childcare.
4. *Copies of the new screener are available for download [here](#).* Like the 2020-21 school year, the downloadable screening tool will be made available in multiple languages.

September Enrolment and Reorganization Update

5. *Each September involves a re-organization of elementary staff across the system as our projections are reconciled with the actual number of students enrolled.* While disruptive, it is an important annual process that allows us to align our resources to meet the needs of students. *Funding is based on actual enrolment* and our staffing is tightly aligned with how many students are enrolled and where they are enrolled. The result is that some of our schools are “overstaffed” as there are less students than projected in March. When projections were approved in March, it was assumed that all students would return “in person” for the start of school in September. Re-alignment and reorganization is therefore necessary.
6. *Reorganizations are never easy, and this year’s process is compounded by the significant number of elementary students that have not actually shown up to school and thus remain in a pre-registered designation.* Preliminary enrolment information was shared with Trustees earlier this week. We are

looking at the big picture in terms of impact, contractual and Ministry compliance requirements, and ways to mitigate concerns. Mitigation strategies include:

- Having our school admin follow up directly with families that are still in the pre-registration phase to provide support and encouragement to have their child attend school.
 - We have initiated a targeted social media campaign to encourage our Kindergarteners to start school.
 - Analyzing the impact to some of our most marginalized communities to lessen the burden on schools that have been and continue to be the hardest hit by this pandemic.
 - Considering schools who might be losing multiple staff members to see how we might be able to lessen the impact
7. *While we anticipate being able to absorb some costs and hopefully access some additional Ministry funding specific to the situation here in Toronto, some elementary schools have been impacted and experienced disruption.* We recognize and appreciate the heightened anxieties and sensitivities with this year's reorganization due to the pandemic. We thank our staff and parents for their partnership and understanding as we operationalize this intricate process.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. *Our school communities continue to be informed by the [TCDSB Return to School](#) web page and regular communications via School Messenger.* This page is updated with relevant information and provides FAQs for ease of reference.
2. *The TCDSB partnership with Toronto Public Health is ongoing and has continued since the start of the pandemic.* Toronto Boards meet regularly with TPH to discuss direction and guidance to keep our schools safe.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.