

### OUR MISSION

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.  
We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

### OUR VISION

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



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

### PUBLIC SESSION

Garry Tanuan, Chair

Teresa Lubinski, Vice-Chair

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

7:00 P.M.

---

	Pages
<b>10. Delegations</b>	
10.a. <i>Paolo De Buono regarding Celebrating Women's History Month in the Toronto Catholic District School Board</i>	1 - 4
10.b. <i>Kerri Shaw regarding Exiting Phase 3</i>	5 - 8



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

### Response Summary:

First Name:

Paolo

Last Name:

De Buono

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:

11-03-2021

Topic of Deputation:

Celebrating Women's History Month in the TCDSB



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

### **Key Issue(s):**

Women's History Month is formally celebrated by the Government of Canada and by many Ontario school boards. Women's History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the achievement of women in and beyond Canada. Women's History Month is also an opportunity to bring attention to equity issues women continue to experience in Canada.

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

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has intermittently recognized October as Women's History Month. The TCDSB did not in October 2021, for example, but did in October 2020. TCDSB educators have a tendency to recognize and emphasize in their schools and classrooms what the TCDSB formally recognizes. Not formally recognizing October as Women's History Month in any upcoming year, like in 2021, is a missed opportunity for the TCDSB to celebrate the achievement of women and to improve equity for women within the broader TCDSB community.

### **Action Requested:**

That the Toronto Catholic District School Board:

1. Recognize October 2022 and every October thereafter as Women's History Month;
2. Recognize March 8, 2022 and every March 8 thereafter as International Women's Day (where another specific school day will be emphasized should March 8 be a non-school day); and
3. Establish a Women's Advisory Committee to support Women's History Month and International Women's Day activities and other related equity activities in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Please select one of the following options:

I am an employee of the Board.

Submission Date:

10-29-2021

# Celebrating Women's History Month in the TCDSB

Women's History Month is formally celebrated by the Government of Canada and by many Ontario school boards. Women's History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the achievement of women in and beyond Canada. Women's History Month is also an opportunity to bring attention to equity issues women continue to experience in Canada.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has intermittently recognized October as Women's History Month. The TCDSB did not in October 2021, for example, but did in October 2020. TCDSB educators have a tendency to recognize and emphasize in their schools and classrooms what the TCDSB formally recognizes. Not formally recognizing October as Women's History Month in any upcoming year, such as in 2021, is a missed opportunity for the TCDSB to celebrate the achievement of women and to improve equity for women within the broader TCDSB community.

Bill 13 (the Accepting Schools Act of 2012) amended the Education Act to include a specific emphasis in four key equity areas, including promoting gender equity. Celebrating Women's History Month and International Women's Day is consistent with the equity goals of the Education Act (as amended by the Accepting Schools Act) and consistent with the equity goals of the TCDSB's Equity Action Plan. The formal annual recognition of Women's History Month and International Women's Day do not solve all gender equity issues in the TCDSB, but it would be an important positive part of the effort to promote gender equity.

I am requesting that the Toronto Catholic District School Board:

1. Recognize October 2022 and every October thereafter as Women's History Month;
  2. Recognize March 8, 2022 and every March 8 thereafter as International Women's Day (where another specific school day will be emphasized should March 8 be a non-school day);
- and

3. Establish a Women’s Advisory Committee to support Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day activities and other related equity activities in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Thank you for considering my delegation. I invite questions for clarification including on the following related issues, which I list in the form of questions for time and your convenience:

1. Why do you believe that celebrating only International Women’s Day and not Women’s History Month is insufficient in focusing on the promotion of gender equity?
2. How does the official board recognition of an event like Women’s History Month impact teachers in their classrooms in planning for the promotion of gender equity?
3. You wrote above the following: “TCDSB educators have a tendency to recognize and emphasize in their schools and classrooms what the TCDSB formally recognizes.” Can you elaborate on this?
4. You referred to how the Education Act (through the Accepting Schools Act, 2012, amendments) promotes three equity areas other than gender equity. What are these three equity areas and which events can promote improvements in those three equity areas?
5. Why is it an incorrect assumption that the TCDSB is not challenged by gender equity issues and therefore does not require the formal recognition of events such as Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day to promote gender equity?



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

### Response Summary:

First Name:

Kerri

Last Name:

Shaw

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:

11-03-2021

Topic of Deputation:

The importance of getting back to normal in school now we are exiting phase 3

Key Issue(s):

- Cold weather is coming. Kids can't eat/take breaks outside comfortably.
- We are exiting phase 3 - return to normalcy needs to be considered. e.g. we need to plan graduations/proms etc. safely.



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

Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:

I would like to support the students in being more proactive around returning to normal in secondary schools. We can go to sports venues, eat in restaurants etc. yet in schools are kids are forced to remain in cohorts and can not socialize. How do you cohort kids and allow them to eat in the cafeteria by grade?

Action Requested:

Time on the agenda. Support to TPH around driving more normalcy in secondary schools where student are vaccinated. We need to be proactive in preventing mental health vs. reactive in provide support after the fact.

Please select one of the following options:

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

Submission Date:

10-20-2021

I am here today to request that the TCDSB take a more proactive vs. reactive approach to Mental Health. While I appreciate all the support the TCDSB is providing to students who are experiencing mental health challenges I believe more can and should be done to prevent it.

Ontario has now moved passed stage 3 and have significantly reduced the number of COVID 19 restrictions yet the secondary schools where most students are vaccinated are lagging. Kids are s not able to use their lockers, eat with their friends, or participate in many activities that promote socialization and human interaction. When the weather was nice, kids could meet their friends outside, however, that is no longer practical. This is detrimental to students. My daughters attend Notre Dame, and their friends are not local. School is really the only place that they can see their friends in person easily, yet there are locked away in their 2<sup>nd</sup> person class forced to eat lunch separated from their friends. My daughters are in grade 12 and have not really had a high school experience, while the past 18 months needed to cohort and limit interaction to keep kids safe that is no longer the case.

If you draw parallel with what is happening outside of the school system, kids who are vaccinated should be able to eat in common areas with their friends. Kids should not have to sit in cold classrooms. Kids should be able to use their lockers. Kids should be able to start getting back to normal.

I know you will say we are following TPH guidelines, but I think the school board should be advocating, and challenging on behalf the students. It is our responsibility to make sure that students are all given the same tools and have the same opportunities to be successful regardless of income. Covid does not discriminate. As a parent, I am very concerned with what I am seeing, the science does not support the restrictions that are still in place, and they need to change.

You may also argue that not everyone is vaccinated. My answer, why punish everyone for a few kids that aren't vaccinated? That's a choice and I respect that choice, but it should not impact people that have chosen too. Further, regardless, the school and the school board could make more effort to come up with innovative solutions they are there you just need to look.

I am hopeful, that the school board will start to look forward. I don't want any excuses on why they can't plan in-person graduations and other important events that make high school fun. High school is more than academics, and right now all the fun is sucked out.



I will leave you with this. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. Continue to focus on treatment but shift your energy to prevention and show the kids you care and have their backs.