



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

## MAY 30, 2018 REMOVAL OF ST. CYRIL CROSSING GUARD

*Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.*  
Romans 13:1 (NRSVCE)

### Created, Draft

June 6, 2018

### First Tabling

June 14, 2018

### Review

J. Volek, Acting Comptroller of Planning and Development Services

## 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.*



Rory McGuckin  
Director of Education

D. Koenig  
Associate Director  
of Academic Affairs

T. Robins  
Acting Associate Director  
of Planning and Facilities

L. Noronha  
Executive Superintendent  
of Business Services and  
Chief Financial Officer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On the afternoon of Wednesday, May 30, 2018, the crossing guard for St. Cyril Catholic elementary school was removed by the Toronto Police Service (TPS). The TCDSB was not given formal notice or prior warning.

A 3-day pedestrian traffic study conducted by the TPS indicated that there was not enough pedestrian traffic to warrant a crossing guard.

Due to significant fear and anxiety with members of the St. Cyril school community stemming from the tragic events of the Toronto van attack, which was in close proximity to St. Cyril school, members of the parent community raised concerns with the local Trustee, who, in turn, approached board staff to investigate, insisting that the crossing guard be reinstated.

*This report recommends that staff prepare a letter, signed by the Chair and the Director of Education, to the mayor of the City of Toronto requesting that the St. Cyril crossing guard be reinstated.*

*The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 2 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

Arising out of a Trustee inquiry at Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Real Property Committee, June 6, 2018, a Trustee inquiry was referred to staff to prepare a report about the events surrounding the removal of the crossing guard at St. Cyril and to prepare a letter signed by the Chair and Director of Education to the mayor of the City of Toronto requesting that the St. Cyril crossing guard be reinstated as soon as possible.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On the afternoon of Wednesday, **May 30, 2018**, the crossing guard for St. Cyril Catholic elementary school was removed without prior notice to the TCDSB.

2. The deployment of crossing guards in the City of Toronto is currently under the jurisdiction of the Toronto Police Service (TPS), but that responsibility will transition to the City of Toronto in approximately one year.
3. **May 31, 2018**—Staff contacted the Principal of St. Cyril to gain a better understanding of the situation and to assure the Principal that staff would immediately investigate and advise.
4. **June 1, 2018**—Staff contacted a lead Constable at Toronto Police Service (TPS). The Constable confirmed the crossing guard was removed by TPS on the basis of an apparent lack of pedestrian traffic, as observed over a 3-day period by Toronto police officers. The Constable assured Board staff that their study spanned 3 days to ascertain a reliable average of pedestrian crossings.
5. Staff requested that the TPS provide the Board with the results of the pedestrian traffic study.
6. Furthermore, staff are investigating whether or not there is an appeals process to follow.
7. Due to the tragic events surrounding the Toronto van attack, which was in close proximity to St. Cyril school, there is significant fear and anxiety with the parent community. As such, the parent community is insisting that the TPS reinstate the St. Cyril crossing guard as a public safety measure.

#### **D. RECOMMENDATION**

That staff prepare a letter, signed by the Chair and the Director of Education, to the mayor of the City of Toronto requesting that the St. Cyril crossing guard be reinstated.