



OAPCE Toronto 2017/20178 Year End Report

Submitted to TCDSB Board of Trustees and TCDSB Director of Education

OAPCE is an association, established to respond to and represent the interests and concerns of parents/guardians who have children enrolled in Toronto's publicly funded Catholic schools. Our focus includes all aspects of our children's education: spiritual, academic, health and safety, as well as other issues which may arise out of parent concerns brought to the attention of the organization.

The Executive is comprised of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, the executive members are:

President - Annalisa Crudo-Perri

Vice President - Jana Seymour

Secretary – Natalia Marriot

Treasurer – Luisa Polidoro

Three individuals represent the parents of the TCDSB on the OAPCE Board of Directors table; their responsibility is to bring the parent voice to the provincial discussions. Our OAPCE Directors are:

OAPCE Director East – Jana Seymour

OAPCE Director West – Nick Giovanelli

OAPCE Director Central – Joe Fiorante.

We are honoured that Annalisa Crudo-Perri was elected this year as well as the OAPCE Provincial President. Her new role as president positions her to represent all the parents, both in the TCDSB and across the province.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increasing Membership:

OAPCE Toronto has further increased its membership base over this past year: The numbers represented below are a testament to the connection and value in supporting student achievement and Catholic Education at the local level:

2012/2013 40 schools had official representatives

2016/2017 137 schools have official representatives

2017/18 167 schools have official representatives

This is based on the number of parents identified on our email subscription list, as well in total our distribution list reaches out to over 1,200 parents in the TCDSB.

Our objective has been to reach out to every single TCDSB CSPC to inform them of the legislated requirement for membership and to ask for a representative contact and we thank those Trustees who have assisted us in this process. Our goal is to have a dedicated voting member position as a part of the required School Council membership of which the purpose is to provide a point of contact between the school council and the regional and provincial Association. These OAPCE Liaison Representatives sit as part of our Regional Council and become the conduit through which we share parent's views and concerns with the OAPCE. We have had a marked increase in attendance at our meetings and have had the pleasure of welcoming many new parents at these meetings. Our central mandate

is to share information with and for parents, to have then better informed of TCDSB and Ministry of Education policies. As advocates for Catholic Education, we hope that providing the proper information and resources for parents they can help their children succeed in school, and if all our children succeed, then Catholic Education succeeds.

This part of our mandate was fulfilled through formal and informal presentations at our monthly meetings. Our meetings included a number of outside speakers, informative reports from our own OAPCE Directors and presentations and consultations by TCDSB Staff. We continue to drive the organization forward through positive succession planning by including new members to the Executive and as Directors using transparent methods of accountability.

Presentations, Events and Resource Sharing:

This past year, OAPCE Toronto invited a number of presenters to speak on topics of interest and of concern to TCDSB parents. OAPCE Toronto has had an increase in Trustee and Director of Education presence at all events and we continue to encourage and welcome this presence.

September 2017 – New Director of Education Rory McGuckin welcomed all parents and discussed TCDSB creating new policies in alignment with the Ministry of Education's new Education Equity Plan. At this meeting we had round table discussions about several important policies and information pieces for CSPC's (by-laws, treasurer reports, fundraising, new parents etc.).

December 2017 – Cash Online and Cashless system presentation by L. DiMarco, P. DeCock and D. Bilenduke joined OAPCE Toronto in consulting with many TCDSB parents on the Cash Online system.

OAPCE Toronto's first parent-to-parent survey was created and implemented – all TCDSB parents were asked to participate in it until the end of January. The findings of our survey were presented to the TCDSB on April 19th and OAPCE is looking forward to meeting with members of the Board to discuss the findings as well as future action plans. After correlating the survey we have discovered existing gaps, and have created an action plan to bridge the gaps and hope n working with the TCDSB in implementing them.

The survey presentation is posted on our OAPCE Toronto website.

January 2017 – Special Presentation on TCDSB Partnership and Grants – OAPCE Toronto led an informative session on the many grants that parents can apply for their school communities and how the partnership office can support.

January 2017 – met with Director of Education and Superintendent of Parent Engagement to discuss OAPCE Toronto's role in the TCDSB and in the province and our continued importance relationship as partners in Catholic Education.

February 2017 – TCDSB Safe Schools Department presented valuable workshop to explore the components of resiliency as it relates to family with a focus on active listening skills. Safe Schools Team was also discussed to parents as integral committee at the school in which parent participation is required.

April 2017 – The OAPCE Toronto annual PRO-Grant workshop was held with many veterans and some new to the application process. Ministry of Education representatives attended provided parents with valuable information to apply for the grant. Overall always a benefit to our local CSPC communities.

OAPCE Toronto Commissioning and Principal of Excellence Ceremony:

OAPCE Toronto held its 12th Annual Commissioning and Principal of Excellence Awards in November. This year, we continued with the implementation of the Parent Volunteer of Excellence Award of which 10 parents were recognized for their volunteer work. There was an increase in attendance of participants and we honored some wonderful administrators and dedicated parents in the TCDSB who help to sustain that parent engagement is prevalent at the school level.

OAPCE Toronto Catholic Education Week Celebration:

This year's Catholic Education Week celebration, "Getting Parents in the Know" was co-hosted with CPIC. The event drew in parents and staff alike in the format of a summit with keynote speaker Paul Davis and offered a varied of workshops to parents informing them around items such as Special Education, Jump Math and Mental health awareness for their children, overall well attended and lots of great feedback.

Participation in TCDSB Committees and Delegations:

Throughout the year we have participated in a number of ways to provide value added input to policy changes, consultations and issues at the TCDSB. We have always engaged our parents as best as we can to ensure they are aware of what is going on at the TCDSB, as well as seek their input when needed. We have joined the Nurturing Our Catholic Community committee and always seek opportunities to inform ourselves of any items of importance for parents to share.

OAPCE Toronto attended a Budget consultation with TCDSB Senior Staff and provided a report to Board this past week as well.

Increased Communications via the OAPCE Toronto Newsletter and Social Media:

This publication provides parents with regular updates on how the organization is supporting Catholic Education at our regional and provincial level, as well as sharing with everyone our current and future activities. Each month, there are new resource links for CSPCs and for parents according to trends in parent requests. We continue to build on tools and strategies to best communicate with and for our parents, including updating information on our website, building on communications tools that help us reach out to parents. We are also very active on social media on both Facebook and Twitter, and are currently working on updating our website. We also develop and distribute information packages for our representatives that enable them to share information with their councils.

CSPC Resource and Presentations:

Through our regular and ongoing orientation to all CSPC members we have provided many parents with the tools and strategies to effectively strengthen their council and help them to overcome barriers in supporting student achievement at the local level. Through these presentations, emails, and phone calls, we have provided support to parents and helped them directly or we have connected them with the appropriate staff member in order to resolve issues and concerns that they may have encountered. Our scope has always been to help them reach resolutions that are intact with our Catholic values.

OAPCE Toronto: In the Province:

All three OAPCE Toronto Directors have contributed to the provincial organization in a number of ways. We have attended all of our Director meetings that have taken place over a variety of weekends with our Board of Directors from across the province. In October 2017, OAPCE hosted its 78th Anniversary AGM and Conference in York Region in which many TCDSB parents participated. This two-day event held at St. Joan Of Arc High School and Hilton Garden Inn was a wonderful success drawing parents from across the province. As OAPCE Directors representing Toronto we take this role with great responsibility and have made several recommendations to the Board of Directors to find improvements to eliminate barriers for parents and to ensure financial efficiencies. We are continually sharing our information received from the organization to TCDSB parents, and will continue to advocate for all parents in Toronto in support of Catholic Education.

OUR FOCUS FOR 2018/19:

OAPCE Toronto continues to build on its successes and looks to make improvements for the future, and to find strategies to help implement them:

- Continue to increase membership. Our goal is to have one official OAPCE representative on all our schools.
- Continue to hold informative presentations and meetings for parents. Our current relationship with Director of Education Rory McGuckin is that of mutual respect and we look forward to building this relationship to help continue all of our efforts supporting and nurturing Catholic Education at the TCDSB.
- Increase communication between OAPCE Toronto and CPIC and TCDSB Parent Engagement staff in order to eliminate any duplication of efforts thereby reducing financial expenditures and helping to bring forth a clear definition to parents as to who we are and what we do.

- Continue to sit on TCDSB committees in an effort to build partnerships so as to continue to advise and be consulted and provide valuable input on issues that affect our local parent communities.
- Continue to support succession planning for new executive members.

In The fall of 2018 we will once again host our All Trustee Candidates meeting as we did in previous years.

- Organize our 13th Annual Commissioning Ceremony and Principal of Excellence and Parent Volunteer of Excellence Awards.

We are currently working on our own Parent-to-Parent Engagement Manual that we will launch in the Fall of 2018. This resource we hope will become a valuable tool for parents and CSPC's.

APRIL 2019 – OAPCE Toronto and the TCDSB will host the 80th Annual OAPCE Conference “CELEBRATE OAPCE 80”; this huge milestone will be celebrated in Toronto on April 5 and 6 with His Eminence Cardinal Collins leading us in Holy Mass.

We truly appreciate that OAPCE has become an integral part of this Board, and look forward as always to working together with Staff and Trustees to represent the views of parents and stakeholders at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

OAPCE Toronto is truly honored to represent the many parents and stakeholders in Catholic Education. As President of this amazing organization we appreciate the help, guidance and support given to us by everyone at the TCDSB. We thank you for your time and look forward to another wonderful year as advocates for parents in Catholic Education.

Yours in Catholic Education,

Annalisa Crudo-Perri OAPCE President

