



REPORT TO

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

BLESSED ARCHBISHOP ROMERO CATHOLIC SCHOOL NAME CHANGE

"If we are worth anything, it is not because we have more money or more talent, or more human qualities. Insofar as we are worth anything, it is because we are grafted onto Christ's life, his cross and resurrection.

This is a person's measure."

Oscar Romero

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
September 25, 2018	October 4, 2018	Click here to enter a date.

P. Keyes, Superintendent Area 2

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

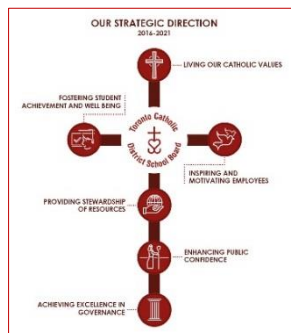
Vision:

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

Blessed Óscar Romero, in full **Óscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez**, (born August 15, 1917, Ciudad Barrios, El Salvador—died March 24, 1980, San Salvador; beatified May 23, 2015) (15 August 1917 – 24 March 1980) was a prelate of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador , who served as the fourth Archbishop of El Salvador. He spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture. In 1980, Romero was martyred while offering Mass in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence.

Archbishop Oscar Romero will be canonized on October 14, 2018 at the Vatican along with Pope Paul VI.

In 1989, Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School opened its doors welcoming into its community students from diverse backgrounds. The school remains committed to meeting the varying needs of each student while nurturing the whole child academically, physically and spiritually. The school aspires to celebrate and embrace the vision of Archbishop Oscar Romero as an example of Catholic teachings in action. The school is located at 99 York Humber Boulevard and serves the old City of York community. Blessed Archbishop Romero is currently located in Ward 5.

The TCDSB and the Blessed Archbishop Romero school community are requesting an official name change to coincide with the canonization of Archbishop Romero on October 14, 2018.

Staff recommends changing the name of the school from “Blessed Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School” to “Saint Oscar Romero Catholic High School”.

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

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to request an official name change for the school from ‘Blessed Oscar Romero Catholic Secondary School’ to ‘Saint Oscar Romero Catholic Secondary School’ in accordance with Board Policy S. 07.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Upon the announcement earlier this year that Pope Francis would be canonizing Blessed Archbishop Oscar Romero, consultations began within the school community regarding the consideration of the name change of the school. The supporting documentation from the school community is found in **Appendix A**. The local parish and Catholic School Parent Council are endorsing the suggested name change.
2. On July 25, 2018, correspondence was sent from the Board to the Office of the Cardinal, Archdiocese of Toronto approving of the name change following the canonization. We have received an email assurance from the Archdiocese office that approval will be forthcoming (**Appendix B**).
3. In anticipation of this occasion the school is planning a celebration of the official name change on October 16, 2018

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. It is a consistent practice that we change the name of our schools when the Church further recognizes religious figures from our Faith.
2. The process of Beatification and Canonization is an important sign by the Church to proclaim to the world the holiness of people of faith as witnesses to Christ.
3. Our schools who are named after such individuals become signs to the community of Catholic Faith. The namesake of schools inspires the students and staff and fosters spiritual growth consistent with our Pastoral Plan.
4. The celebration of the life of Blessed Oscar Romero's life will underline our Catholic mission and vision and will offer uplift for the spiritual development of the school community.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. This celebration of the school's namesake will be an additional feature to 'We Belong' as part of our Pastoral Plan.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees support the staff recommendation for an official name change of the school from 'Blessed Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School' to 'Saint Oscar Romero Secondary Catholic School'.