



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

2019-04-03 PARTISAN ACTIVITIES AND CAMPAIGNING.DOCX

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

Draft	First Tabling	Review
March 18, 2019	April 9, 2019	April 4, 2019

Shazia Vlahos, Chief of Communications and Government Relations

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

L. Noronha
Associate Director of Facilities,
Business and Community
Development, and
Chief Financial Officer



A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After a review of Board policies, and in light of the upcoming Federal Election the Board is silent on rules to govern and regulate election activities and use of Board resources during an election period (pre-writ and during the writ period). The Board requires a policy that addresses partisan activities and campaigning at TCDSB schools during municipal, provincial and federal elections.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 2.0 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. Staff recommend that a new policy is considered by the Board to ensure fulfilment of achieving excellence in governance and by enhancing public confidence.

C. BACKGROUND

1. In the lead up to the 2019 Federal Election, we can expect a number of requests by candidates to hold partisan events at TCDSB schools. If we remain status quo, Our Board may be vulnerable when granting permits or making school visit accommodations for a person seeking candidacy, a candidate or an elected official, leading up to and during an election, whether municipal, provincial or federal. Granting access to one candidate may be seen as an endorsement or a candidate or political party. A policy is also needed to ensure clarity for all TCDSB staff around access during pre-writ and writ periods.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Currently a number of English Public school boards have a policy including: Toronto DSB and York Region DSB. Four English Catholic school boards have a policy including Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB, CDSB of Eastern Ontario, Simcoe Muskoka CDSB and Waterloo CDSB.
2. It is prudent for TCDSB to develop a policy whereby the school system acts in an ethical and impartial manner toward all candidates and political parties

seeking office, and to address any matters that may arise during an election process.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That a policy be developed and presented at the May 7, 2019 GAP meeting.