



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON THE CREATION PROCESS OF A TCDSB SERVICE ANIMAL POLICY AND PROTOCOL

Will not their livestock, their property, and all their animals be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will live among us.” Gn 34:23

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
April 2, 2019	April 9, 2019	Click here to enter a date.

Linda Maselli-Jackman, Superintendent of Education, Special Services

INFORMATION REPORT

Vision:

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

Mission:

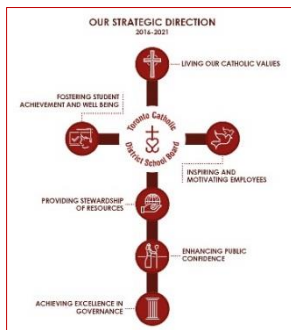
The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

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

This report contains an update on the process that has implemented during the 2018-19 school year for the creation of a TCDSB draft Service Animal Policy and draft Service Animal Protocol.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 2 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. This report will provide a status update on the development of a Service Animal Policy and Protocol, arising out of a parent delegation to the Governance and Policy Committee on January 15, 2019.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Currently there is no protocol or policy regarding the use of service animals in TCDSB schools. Presently there are two (2) service animals in TCDSB schools.
2. During this 2018-19 school year, members of the TCDSB Special Services Department have been working on a draft Service Animal Protocol.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The research conducted by this team has included an environmental scan of the following:
 - a) Ontario school board Service Animal Policies;
 - b) Related provincial and/or federal legislation and/or regulations of professional associations such as:
 - i. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA);
 - ii. Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC);
 - iii. Education Act;
 - iv. Impending provincial legislation pertaining to Service Animals in Schools as announced in October 2018;
 - v. Accreditation by regulated Ontario health professionals;

- vi. Accreditation requirements of professional service animal organizations; and
 - vii. School board risk/liability management considerations.
2. Additional considerations being addressed in the development of this policy and protocol are the following:
- a. Methodology for communication with all stakeholders in the program planning for the exceptional needs of the child:
 - i. School-Based Support Learning Team (interdisciplinary team of school/Board professionals),
 - ii. Parent/Guardian,
 - iii. Medical professional,
 - iv. Member of a professional, accredited service animal agency;
 - b. The procedure for requests for service animal involvement at school;
 - c. Planning and implementation considerations for placing a service animal in a school including the following:
 - i) Safety of students, animal, and staff;
 - ii) Potential impact of the animal on the school community;
 - iii) Animal care/handling requirements;
 - iv) Principal's responsibilities;
 - v) Student and/or handler's responsibilities;
 - vi) Parent/Guardians' responsibilities;
 - vi) Management Plan for the Care of the Service Animal;
 - vii) Transportation of the service animal; and
 - viii) Exclusion of the service animal.
3. Stakeholder consultations are currently in progress and include the following:
- a. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC);
 - b. Parents/Guardians outside of SEAC (Parent Delegate-March 25, and April 16, 2019);
 - c. Principal and Vice Principal school administrators in the elementary and secondary panels;
 - d. Teachers in the elementary and secondary panels; and
 - e. Students through the Board student trustees.
4. Stakeholder consultations will continue through the month of April.

5. The target date for the presentation to GAP of the draft protocol and draft TCDSB policy is the end of May 2019.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Further reporting to the GAP committee will take place late May with the presentation of the draft TCDSB Service Animal Protocol and draft TCDSB Service Animal Policy.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.