

OUR 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.*

OUR VISION

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



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC SESSION HELD MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

PRESENT:

Trustees:

M. Rizzo, Chair
M. Del Grande, Vice- Chair
N. Crawford
F. D'Amico
D. Di Giorgio
N. Di Pasquale
A. Kennedy
I. Li Preti
T. Lubinski
G. Tanuan

Student Trustee:

J. Ndongmi

Staff:

R. McGuckin
D. Koenig
L. Noronha
A. Della Mora
N. D'Avella
P. De Cock
L. Di Marco
L. Maselli-Jackman
J. Shanahan
G. Iuliano Marrello

S. Vlahos

S. Harris, Recording Secretary

S. Tomaz, Assistant Recording Secretary

External Guest: A. Robertson, Parliamentarian

3. Roll Call and Apologies

Apologies were extended on behalf of Trustees de Domenico and Martino, as well as Student Trustee Dallin.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Trustee Di Pasquale, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that the Agenda, as amended to include the Addendum, be approved.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Kennedy
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

6. Report from Private Session

Trustee Del Grande reported that the PRIVATE Session was recessed until such time as to continue discussion on a Facilities report and that in TRIPLE PRIVATE Session a Human Resources matter was discussed.

8. Declarations of Interest

Trustee Kennedy declared an interest in all the Items in the Agenda (10a), 10b), 11a), 11b), 11c), 11d) and 14a), as she has family members who are employees of the Board. Trustee Kennedy indicated that she would neither vote nor participate in discussions regarding the Items.

Trustee Kennedy left the horseshoe at 7:22 pm, due to a Declaration of Interest, as earlier indicated.

Trustee D'Amico joined the meeting via Teleconference at 7:23 pm.

10. Presentations

MOVED by Trustee Di Pasquale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 10a) be adopted as follows:

- 10a) Presentation from Linda Maselli-Jackman, Superintendent of Special Services, and Paul De Cock, Comptroller for Business Services and Finance, regarding Accountability Framework and Special Education Budget received.**

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

- Trustees Crawford
- D'Amico
- Del Grande
- Di Giorgio
- Di Pasquale
- Li Preti
- Lubinski

Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Trustee D'Amico disconnected via Teleconference at 7:46 pm and joined the horseshoe.

MOVED by Trustee Di Pasquale, seconded by Trustee Di Giorgio, that Item 10b) be adopted as follows:

- 10b) Presentation from Sandra Mastronardi, representative for Autism Ontario and member of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), regarding Accountability Framework for Special Education (AFSE) received and referred to staff for a report.**

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that Item 11a) be adopted as follows:

- 11a) Tyler Munro, representative for Integrated Action for Inclusion and member of the SEAC, regarding Accountability Framework** that the Delegate be allowed additional time to complete his delegation.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

Del Grande

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Di Giorgio, seconded by Trustee Li Preti, that the Item be received and referred to staff for a report.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Del Grande, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 11b) be adopted as follows:

11b) Laura DiCredico regarding Accountability Framework and Autism Programs received and referred to staff for a report.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski

Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

MOVED by Trustee Lubinski, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that Item 11c) be adopted as follows:

11c) Irene Stumpf regarding Autism Support received and referred to staff.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Trustee Di Giorgio left the horseshoe at 8:50 pm.

MOVED by Trustee Del Grande, seconded by Trustee Li Preti, that Item 11d) be adopted as follows:

11d) Louis Busch regarding Suggestions for Supporting Students with Autism Transitioning to Schools that the delegate receive additional time to complete his delegation.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Trustee Di Giorgio returned to the horseshoe at 8:55 pm.

MOVED by Trustee Li Preti, seconded by Trustee Lubinski, that the Item be received and referred to staff for a report.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

14. Matters recommended by Statutory Committees of the Board

From February 7, 2019 Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee Meeting

MOVED by Trustee Del Grande, seconded by Trustee Li Preti, that Item 14a) be adopted as follows:

14 a) Accountability Framework for Special Education 2018-19:

Whereas the Provincial Government has recently introduced changes to the Autism Plan in Ontario; and

Whereas this change to the province's autism program will come into effect April 1st and is expected to bring more high-needs children into classrooms full-time; and

Whereas Education Minister Lisa Thompson has announced that the Government will subsidize an additional qualification course for teachers on supporting students with autism and that cannot happen until the next school year; and

Whereas the recent Ministry of Education announcement indicated additional funding for the remaining months in the 2018-19 school year; and

Whereas this funding applies to new students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) entering the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) for the first time; and

Whereas students currently enrolled with TCDSB on a part-time basis and transitioning to full-time will not generate additional funding; and

Whereas the announcement confirms that the province will not be increasing funding for students transitioning from part time to full time; and

Whereas many children currently attend school on a modified schedule, and parents have said cuts in funding will leave them with little choice but to send their children to school more frequently, or full-time; and

Whereas given the ambiguity about the funding formula and the absence of details normally appearing in a Ministry B-Memorandum; and

Whereas the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) impact is based on funding formula assumptions and estimates regarding the number of potential new students entering TCDSB schools during the months of April, May and June 2019; and

Whereas the funding is not nearly sufficient to provide all of the additional resources students need; and

Whereas as per the 2018-19 Revised Budget Estimates, Special Education Programs & Services totals as follows:

Revenues \$137.7M

Expenses \$159.6M

Expenses in excess of Revenues is \$21.9M; and

Whereas the TCDSB has identified 1,789 Special Education Need Students (based on predominant exceptionality) with Autism this school year; and

Whereas as of April 1st, the school year is 70% completed and an additional influx of students will cause confusion for existing students, new students, families and school communities; and

Whereas the proposed funding to help with the transition of students with autism into the school setting does not extend beyond this school year; and

Whereas school Boards, principals, teachers and support staff will face huge challenges with the arrival of students on April 1st especially since teachers and front line staff cannot perform the roles of professional therapists; and

Whereas school Boards will not have supports or resources in place for April 1st to allow for the transition of students from therapy to school.

Therefore, be it resolved that the TCDSB request that the Provincial Government delay changes to the Autism Plan in Ontario until the new school year in order to accommodate and transition the entrance of students into the education system; and

Further be it resolved that the Provincial Government be requested to fully fund additional supports for new and partial students entering the school system as a result of changes to the Autism Plan in Ontario; and

Further be it resolved that the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association (OCSTA) be requested to distribute this motion to all member Boards; and

Further be it resolved that the TCDSB send this motion to all school Boards across the province for endorsement.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Di Pasquale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that:

Whereas the TCDSB does not have a policy regarding refusing to admit special education students and students with complex needs: and

Whereas the TCDSB should not refuse to admit special need students with disabilities on the basis that staff believe they cannot accommodate the student's needs, e.g. due to staff absences; and

Whereas the TCDSB may ask or direct that a student not attend school; or that a student only attend school for part of the regular school day and that the student be removed from school in writing; and

Whereas the TCDSB may excuse students from school who are suspended, expelled or for public health purposes according to legislation; and

Whereas a refusal to admit students should only be imposed when necessary to protect health and safety; and

Whereas indefinite exclusions of students are not in the best interest of students; and

Whereas the TCDSB should set out fair procedures that must be followed when refusing to admit a student.

Therefore be it resolved that the TCDSB establish a comprehensive policy regarding the refusal to admit special education students and those with special needs and disabilities to school; and

Be it further resolved that a refusal to admit policy should depend on the TCDSB ensuring that students excluded from attending school are provided an equivalent educational program; and

Be it further resolved that students should not be excused unless it can be demonstrated that the student presents an imminent risk to health or safety; and

Be it further resolved that the policy include:

- a) Circumstances when a refusal to admit is permitted, and when it is not permitted;
- b) Procedures that must be followed when refusing to admit a student;
- c) Timelines dictating the maximum number of consecutive days a student can be excused from school;
- d) An appeal process; and

e) Data documentation and process for reporting to SEAC and Board.

Be it further resolved that the policy should include where the TCDSB refuses to accommodate students with special education disabilities in regular classrooms without needed supports or services, the principal be required to provide written notice and rationale of this to the family and that the Superintendent be copied; and

Be it further resolved that a refusal to admit policy be referred to the Governance and Policy Committee; and

Be it further resolved that staff prepare a comprehensive report on the implementation of a refusal to report policy; and

Be it further resolved that this motion take effect immediately.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Del Grande left the horseshoe due to a Declaration of Interest in the following motion:

MOVED by Trustee Di Pasquale, seconded by Trustee Li Preti, that:

Whereas, many issues exist for parents of special education children associated with learning and school settings; and

Whereas, understanding the concerns and perspectives of parents is essential to working effectively as partners; and

Whereas there is often a rift in communication between educators and parents who have special needs children (autism, learning disabilities, gifted, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), mild intellectual profiles, sensory, anxiety, behavioural); and

Whereas, education specialists may speak in professional jargon that parents don't always understand; and

Whereas professional advocates/counsellors that are specifically trained and designated to act as advocates for children with special needs and their parents in an intricate and often intimidating educational bureaucracy are required; and

Whereas not every issue will apply to every student and every student's family, therefore, Special Education Student/Family Advocates must be trained in special education, advocacy, counselling, conflict resolution mediation etc.

1) Therefore, be it resolved that the TCDSB consider establishing three new positions of Special Education Student/Family advocates that will assist parents to navigate the system with the following:

- Advocacy, complaint and appeal processes;
- School communication and school Board processes;
- Transitioning from grade to grade, from elementary to secondary;
- Parent meetings/conferences with teachers, principals, special education

professionals;

- Provide child and adolescent mental health information, community programs and services referrals;
- Impart Ontario Education Policy and research information;
- Prepare, produce, maintain and furnish information about knowing rights as a parent and child's rights in the school system; and
- Accommodate Special Education process assistance (Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)); and

2) Therefore, be it further resolved that approvals from the Ministry of Education be requested to establish and/or fund these positions; and

3) Therefore, be it further resolved that funds be included in the budget for consideration; and

4) Therefore, be it further resolved that staff report on available staffing resources that may be able to fill the new roles of Special Education Student/Family Advocates; and

Be it further resolved that this motion take effect immediately.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that *three* new positions of Special Education Student/Family Advocates be replaced with *two* new positions.

Results of the Vote taken on the Amendment, as follows:

In Favour

Trustees Crawford
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski

Opposed

D'Amico

Rizzo
Tanuan

The Amendment was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Tanuan, seconded by Trustee Lubinski, that *Advocates* be replaced with *Communication Coordinators*.

Results of the Vote taken on the Amendment, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Amendment was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Trustee Crawford requested that the Question be split.

Results of the Vote taken on Part 1 of the Motion, as amended, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees D'Amico

Crawford

Di Giorgio

Di Pasquale

Li Preti

Lubinski

Rizzo

Tanuan

Part 1 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Results of the Vote taken on Part 2 of the Motion, as amended, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees D'Amico

Crawford

Di Giorgio

Di Pasquale

Li Preti

Lubinski

Rizzo

Tanuan

Part 2 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Results of the Vote taken on Part 3 of the Motion, as amended, as follows:

In Favour

Trustees Di Pasquale
Rizzo

Opposed

Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Li Preti
Lubinski
Tanuan

Part 3 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

FAILED

Results of the Vote taken on Part 4 of the Motion, as follows:

In Favour

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

Opposed

Part 4 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Li Preti, seconded by Trustee Di Pasquale, that:

Whereas families with children who have special need children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are being asked to pick up children early, start their school day later or keep children at home for indefinite periods of time; and

Whereas families with special need children may not have the flexibility or the financial means to leave their employment and pick up children from school - sometimes on a daily basis; and

Whereas asking parents to alter regular school hours for special need students is a further obstacle to many families and causes undue hardship for the child and the family; and

Whereas it is recognized that some students may present challenges and one of the common causes of excusing students from school may be due in part to behavioural issues; and

Whereas the TCDSB school personnel may not have the resources available to them to resolve issues regarding classroom management; and

Whereas it is not in the best interest of the school community if a student poses a safety concern; and

Whereas the practice of excusing special need students may deny some students inclusive educational opportunities; and

Whereas TCDSB does not formally track soft exclusions at the present time; and

Whereas the provision in the Education Act to exclude children from school is outdated and may violate the rights of children to an inclusive education; and

Whereas it is recognized that some students may present challenges, alternatives to exclusion should be available to students and families first; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the TCDSB create an emergency plan for accommodating special education disability students and/ or students with a physical disability that may be excused from regular hours of school; and

Further be it resolved than a central on call service be available to principals on an emergency basis when the parent(s) are not available to pick up their child; and

Further be it resolved that staff prepare a report on the implementation of an Emergency Plan for Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs and projected costs; and

Further be it resolved that staff bring this motion to next SEAC meeting for discussion, review and further recommendation (s).

Further be it resolved that staff review deploying existing staff on an on call basis and investigate other possible contract/part time resources to accommodate an Emergency Plan for Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs; and

Further be it resolved that funding for Emergency Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs be added to the budget and considered during budget deliberations; and

Further be it resolved that the Ministry of Education be requested to fund the Emergency Special Education Disability Accommodation Needs

Be it further resolved that this motion take effect immediately.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

Crawford

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

MOVED by Trustee Li Preti, seconded by Trustee Di Pasquale, that:

To ensure that gym equipment, playground equipment and other like equipment and facilities are accessible for students with disabilities, that the TCDSB:

- 1) Conduct an inventory of the accessibility of existing gym and playground equipment;
- 2) Adopt a policy on specific requirements to ensure accessibility for new gym or playground equipment, in consultation with SEAC, and widely with families of students with disabilities; and
- 3) Require that all playgrounds be fenced and gates closed during the school day if possible; and

Be it further resolved that this motion take effect immediately.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee D'Amico, that going forward that all playground structures and outdoor equipment be reviewed for accessibility for students with special needs before purchase.

Results of the Vote taken on the Amendment, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Amendment was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Trustee Di Giorgio requested that the Question be split.

Results of the Vote taken on Part 1 of the Motion, as amended, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Rizzo

Di Giorgio
Lubinski
Tanuan

Part 1 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Results of the Vote taken on Part 2 of the Motion, as amended, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

Part 2 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Results of the Vote taken on Part 3 of the Motion, as amended, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Di Giorgio

Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

Part 3 of the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ndongmi wished to be recorded as voted in favour.

Trustee Del Grande returned to the horseshoe at 10:30 pm.

MOVED by Trustee Di Pasquale, seconded by Trustee Tanuan, that the meeting resolve back into PRIVATE Session.

Results of the Vote taken, as follows:

In Favour

Opposed

Trustees Crawford
D'Amico
Del Grande
Di Giorgio
Di Pasquale
Li Preti
Lubinski
Rizzo
Tanuan

The Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR