



# **OAPCE Toronto 2018/2019 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. OAPCE helps to promote Parent Engagement in the schools, and at the school board level.

### **The Past year's Executive was comprised of:**

President - Annalisa Crudo-Perri

Vice President – Jana Seymour

Secretary – Natalia Marriot

Treasurer – Luisa Polidoro

Three individuals also represented the parents of the TCDSB at the OAPCE Board of Directors table; their responsibility is to bring the parent voice to the provincial discussions. Our OAPCE Directors were:

OAPCE Director East – Jana Seymour

OAPCE Director West – Nick Giovanelli

OAPCE Director Central – Joe Fiorante

We are honoured that Annalisa Crudo-Perri continued in her role as President this past year as the OAPCE Provincial President. Her role positioned 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 had official representatives

2017/2018 - 167 schools had official representatives

2018/2019 - 135 schools had official representatives

This does not include the CSPC Chairs who have taken on the role by default or voluntarily.

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 1,500 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 them 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 2018 –**

At this meeting we had round table discussions about several important policies and information pieces for CSPC (by-laws, treasurer reports, fundraising, new parents etc.).

## **January/February 2019 –**

Presentation from Parent Engagement Department about the role of Treasurer and Financial reporting and fundraising guidelines. Presentation from Conflict Resolution department was provided regarding how to deal with possible conflict resolutions in parent councils and schools.

## **June 2019 –**

Wonderful presentation from Catholic Teachers Centre, Father Obinna Ifeanyi and Superintendent Michael Caccamo presented to parents the “Renewing The Promise” new documents from ICE/Bishops. Great discussion about how to lead as Catholics in our school and community, most importantly as parents in Catholic Education.

## **OAPCE ‘s first petition “Un-Pause the PRO-Grants” –**

OAPCE Toronto initiated the first petition for parents in Toronto and across the province to continue with the very valuable Parent Reaching Out Grants for parents. The petition was very well received and we had almost 1,000 people sign it. The petition was mentioned at sessions at Queen’s Park with copies sent to the Minister of Education. The PRO Grant was reinstated although we have still not received any info about how to apply for them

## **OAPCE Toronto Commissioning and Principal of Excellence Ceremony –**

OAPCE Toronto held its 13th 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 participates and helps to facilitate “Celebrate OAPCE 80 Conference” –**

On April 5 and 6 OAPCE hosted its 80th Annual Conference in conjunction with the TCDSB. The Friday night evening networking event took place at Montecasino Hotel and Event Centre where parents from across the province participated in an informal meet and greet. On Saturday April 6 all day Conference held at Madonna Secondary school began with a wonderful mass led by Cardinal Collins, a commissioning ceremony of OAPCE reps, then the keynote Speaker Greg Rogers on the Catholic Graduate Expectations. All day workshops took place with our famous Vendor mall of over 60 vendors for parents to visit. While the business of the conference was taking place, our President, Chair of Trustees along with several parents boarded a bus to make their way to participate in the Education Rally at Queens Park where our very own A. Crudo-Perri spoke in front of thousands of people.

The Conference wrapped up with our Annual Gala and Awards dinner where we acknowledged several OAPCE partners with awards, including the Gloria Nanne award to Chair Maria Rizzo and the Honorary OAPCE Lifetime Award to Director of Education Rory McGuckin.

Over 100 parents from the TCDSB participated in the two-day event and 300 people in total attended the conference. A true success!

### **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 year as well.

### **Increased Communications via the OAPCE Provincial Newsletter, OAPCE Toronto New Website, Email Updates and Social Media:**

We provide 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 we have launched our new website [toronto.oapce.org](http://toronto.oapce.org). 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 members 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 2018, OAPCE hosted its 79th AGM and Summit in Dufferin Peel at Philip Pocock Secondary School and 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 2019/2020

**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 Chair of Trustees Maria Rizzo and 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 effort thereby reducing financial expenditures and helping to bring forth a clear definition to parents as to who we are and what we do. We have built a strong relationship with current Chair John Del Grande and hope to continue to build on that.
- Continue to sit on any 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.
- Organize our 14<sup>th</sup> 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 2019. This resource we hope will become a valuable tool for parents and CSPP's.

As one of our mandates is to build on current parent representatives and “spread the wealth” of knowledge while continuing to build on our success, we recently held our Executive elections where several new positions have been fulfilled.

The New OAPCE Toronto Executive which will begin its positions in 2020 are:

President - Dave Bennett - also OAPCE Director East

Vice-President - Jana Seymour

Executive Treasurer - Luisa Polidoro

Executive Secretary - Gus Gikas

Joe Fiorante remains OAPCE Director Central

Nick Giovanelli remains OAPCE Director West/Executive Treasurer OAPCE Provincial.

Annalisa Crudo-Perri will take on her new role as OAPCE Toronto Past President and still remains current OAPCE President Provincial.

We truly appreciate that OAPCE has become an integral part of this Board, and look forward 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