



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*
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January 28, 2020

Joseph Martino, Chair
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Ave., East
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8

Dear Joseph:

We would like to thank you, Vice-Chair Kennedy, Trustees Crawford and Tanuan and Director of Education McGuckin for meeting with ourselves and other representatives of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association. As you know, our January 17, 2020 meeting follows our recent Orientation Session with Toronto Catholic District School Board representatives on the OCSTA Board of Directors. We were very pleased to welcome Trustees Crawford and Tanuan on our Board and look forward to working with them in our shared commitment to publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario.

We very much appreciated the opportunity to hear and discuss with you the issues raised in your December 12, 2019 letter. As we indicated, the unity of Ontario's 29 Catholic District School Boards has resulted in numerous improvements in funding and advancements in publicly funded Catholic Education. As a result of the advocacy work of OCSTA and membership in our association, Toronto and other Catholic District School Boards realize annual savings arising out of our involvement in Access Copyright and our membership in the Ontario School Energy Coalition. Toronto and other boards have as well benefitted from our membership on the Institute for Catholic Education, Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education, and engagement in a number of legal challenges. A recent example of successful advocacy efforts were changes made in Transportation Funding announced in the 2019/2020 Grants for Student Needs.

At our recent January Seminar, OCSTA offered timely presentations on such topics as Gender in Catholic Education, Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, The Role of the Integrity Commissioner and School Board Governance. Like others in attendance, we hope that you and your fellow Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustees found value in the workshops particularly as they relate to the role of the Catholic Trustee. Presentations and handouts are available on the OCSTA website. OCSTA endeavours to provide timely professional development and faith formation opportunities that reflects our members' priorities.

We shared with you the significant challenges and resulting inequities in the recommendation that all 29 Catholic Boards pay the same fee. We were also pleased to discuss OCSTA's unique and dual role of representing the 237 Catholic trustees in our province and protecting and promoting Catholic Education in Ontario.

As agreed, we look forward to future meetings with you to continue discussion with regard to the issues raised in your letter. The Toronto Catholic District School Board has made a significant contribution to the 90-year rich history of the OCSTA. We value your long-standing membership and remain committed to working with you to preserve this important partnership.

Sincerely,



Beverley Eckensweiler
President



Nick Milanetti
Executive Director

cc: A. Kennedy, Vice Chair, TCDSB
N. Crawford, Trustee, TCDSB
G. Tanuan, Trustee, TCDSB
R. McGuckin, Director of Education, TCDSB
M. Griepsma, Vice President, OCSTA
P. Daly, Past President, OCSTA
S. Andrews, Director of Legislative & Political Affairs, OCSTA
Chairs, All CDSBs
OCSTA Directors