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To: Corporate Services Committee Meeting, March 12, 2020

From: Maria Rizzo, Trustee Ward 5

Subject: Consideration of Motion – Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

MOVED BY: Maria Rizzo, Toronto Catholic District School Board

SECONDED BY: Ida Li Preti, Toronto Catholic District School Board

WHEREAS: COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus; and

WHEREAS: There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: Stopping the transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy; and

WHEREAS: TCDSB needs to be prepared for the possibility of school community outbreaks; and

WHEREAS: TCDSB must be ready in the event COVID-19 appears in school communities; and

WHEREAS: TCDSB can take steps to help stop or slow the spread of respiratory infectious diseases, including COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: Virus transmission in a school/childcare setting widens as students/children may be less compliant with effective hand hygiene; and

WHEREAS: Students socialize with their peers in a way that may increase transmission;

WHEREAS: TCDSB must prepare to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff, should Toronto Public Health identify such a need;

WHEREAS: Keeping the school community informed with accurate information can counter the spread of misinformation and reduce the potential for fear and stigma; and

WHEREAS: TCDSB engages in many regular and special school masses, assemblies and events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That The Director of Education be directed to implement emergency operation plans in collaboration with Toronto Public Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Director of Education design plans to minimize disruption to teaching and learning and protect the health of students and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB establish preventive plans and actions to be taken to contain the spread of germs in schools/childcare centres and in work places that include staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and washing hands often etc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans with Toronto Public health and other health organizations to help protect school communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB (in collaboration with Toronto Public Health) disseminate DIRECT information to school communities about respiratory viruses and its potential transmission to students and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB institute enhanced cleaning disinfecting procedures in schools, child care centres and offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, desks, computers) be disinfected on a daily basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That disposable wipes be provided and available to school communities so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, shelves, lockers, cubbies) can be wiped down by students and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That in addition to existing sinks that hand sanitizing stations be installed (e.g. wall mounted hand sanitizer dispensers) and provide individual bottles of sanitizers, tissues, latex disposable gloves, masks, waste receptacles to school communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB provide information on hand washing strategies including washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB develop a communication plan to regularly provide accurate and timely information to school communities including parents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB strongly discourage "no food sharing" in school/childcare settings to support the efforts of reducing virus transmission between students/ children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That TCDSB work with the Archdiocese of Toronto to introduce strategies to control the spread of respiratory viruses at school masses that may include replacing handshakes with other appropriate gestures eg. the peace sign, nodding, or bowing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada be requested to cover the additional costs associated with preventing the spread of COVID-19 in TCDSB board/school communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That if funds are unavailable from other sources that reserve funds be used in an amount not to exceed \$1 million dollars in this school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Director of Education prepare on going update reports to Board outlining actions taken and any recommendations for consideration as required; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That due to the urgent nature of this matter that the above noted notice of motion to prevent the spread of COVID-19 be dealt with at the next Corporate Services Committee or Board.