



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

2020-2021 BUDGET CONSULTATION SURVEY RESULTS

Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. - Corinthians 9:10

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 12, 2020	May 21, 2020	Click here to enter a date.

Shazia Vlahos, Chief of Communications and Government Relations

INFORMATION REPORT

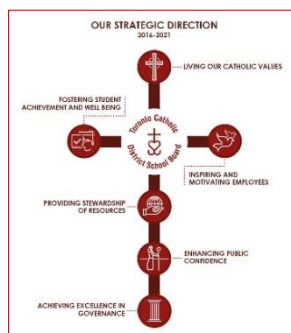
Vision:

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

The 2020-2021 budget consultation launched on April 8, 2020, and included an enhanced webpage with supporting documents and tools to share information and engage the public in the budget consultation process.

Targeted stakeholder consultations with the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC), Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE-Toronto), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT), Elementary Student Catholic Leadership Impact Team (ESCLIT) and union and association representatives started in April and are ongoing. A virtual town hall was held on April 28, 2020.

The budget consultation plan reflects the compassion and care dictated by applying the Catholic lens when considering how best to support students. Emphasizing the importance of parent and community voice in these consultations underscores the Board's commitment to maintaining public confidence as per the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan to ensure feedback is considered while complying with the Ministry of Education's directive to submit a balanced budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 8 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report provides the Board of Trustees with feedback received from the budget survey and virtual town hall to inform 2020-2021 budget considerations.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **April 8, 2020:** The TCDSB budget consultation process launched.
2. **April 8 to May 7, 2020:** The budget survey was made available to all stakeholder.
3. **April 20:** Finance staff attended the CPIC meeting to present budget considerations, gather input and seek advice on how best to engage parents in future budget consultations.

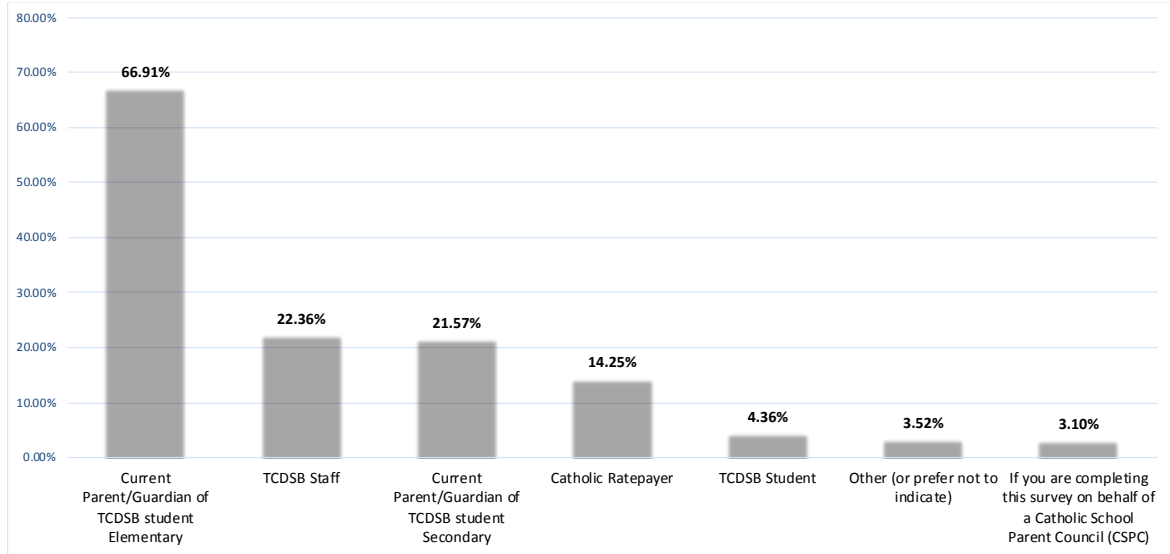
4. **April 22:** Finance staff attended the SEAC meeting to present budget considerations and gather input.
5. **April 28:** Finance staff met with CSLIT.
6. **April 28:** Received written submission from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Toronto regarding support for the continuation of the elementary school international language program.
7. **April 28:** Virtual Town Hall was held.
8. **May 4:** Finance staff met with OAPCE-Toronto.
9. **May 6:** Finance staff met with TECT, TSU and ETFO Representatives.
10. **May 8:** Finance staff met with all CUPE groups and the Association for Professional Student Services Personnel (APSSP) representatives.
11. **May 11:** Message to all families with updated budget Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) was sent via School Messenger.
12. Meeting date with ESCLIT and Management, Administrative and Professionals Association (MAPA) to be determined.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

BUDGET SURVEY SUMMARY

The 2020-2021 budget survey was administered to stakeholders between April 8 and May 7, 2020.

Total number of survey responses is 4,549, including 83 that were submitted by Catholic School Parent Councils (CSPC). *Appendix A* includes a list of CSPC participation. The majority of respondents identified as either parents (3,794) or staff (959). Student responses were 187.



The following themes represent questions in the survey:

- Programs and Services - Elementary Schools
- Programs and Services - Secondary Schools
- Re-investments in Programs/ Services - Elementary Schools
- Re-investments in Programs/ Services - Secondary Schools
- Environmental Responsibility

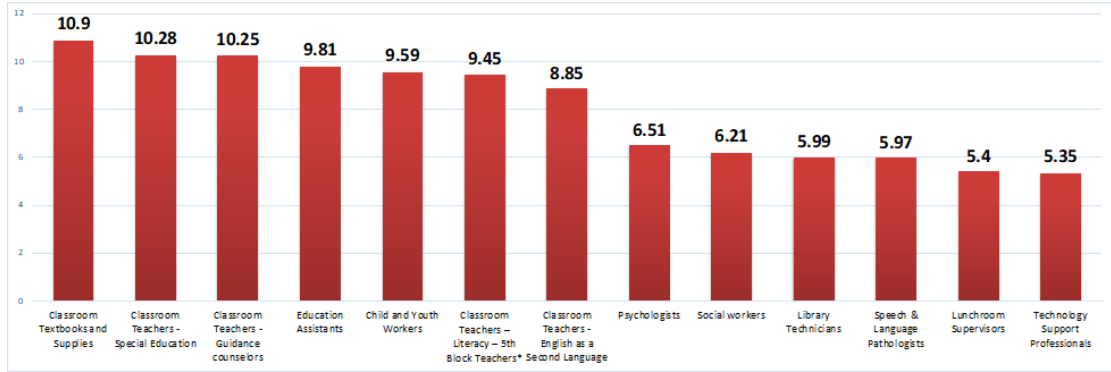
Respondents also had an opportunity to provide comments regarding considerations in making strategic investments in the classroom to support students, and ideas to be fiscally efficient. Given there was a significant number of comments for these two questions, this information has been distributed to Trustees for their perusal.

DETAILED BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS BY QUESTION

Elementary Schools

1. Of the cost areas related to Elementary Schools listed below (in alphabetical order), please provide a score from 1 to 13. One being the most important from your perspective and thirteen being less important.

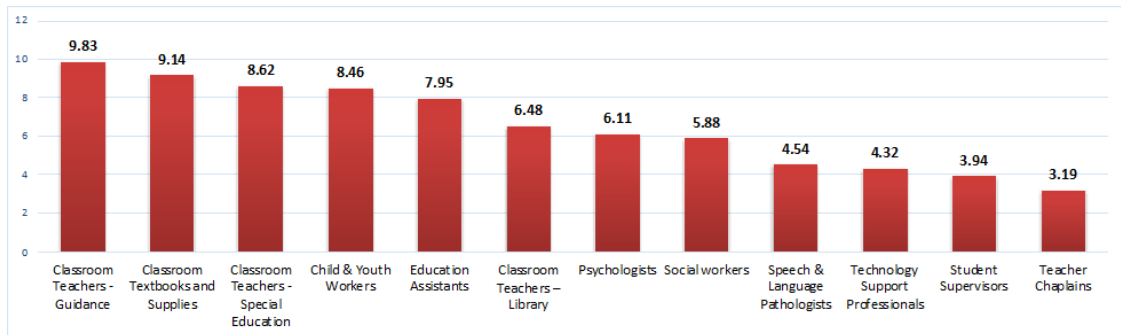
Results Summary: Support for classroom textbooks and supplies was ranked the highest followed by special education teachers and guidance counsellors.



Secondary Schools

- Of the cost areas related to Secondary Schools listed below (in alphabetical order), please provide a score from 1 to 12. One being the most important from your perspective and twelve being less important.

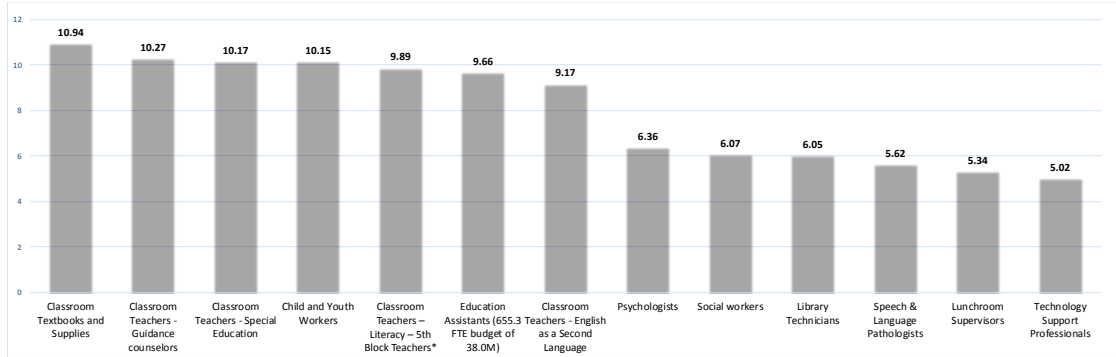
Results Summary: Classroom guidance teachers were ranked the highest followed by textbooks and supplies, and special education teachers.



Elementary Re-investments

- If additional funds are received for the cost areas related to Elementary Schools listed below (in alphabetical order), please provide a score from 1 to 13. One being most important for re-investments and thirteen being least important for re-investments.

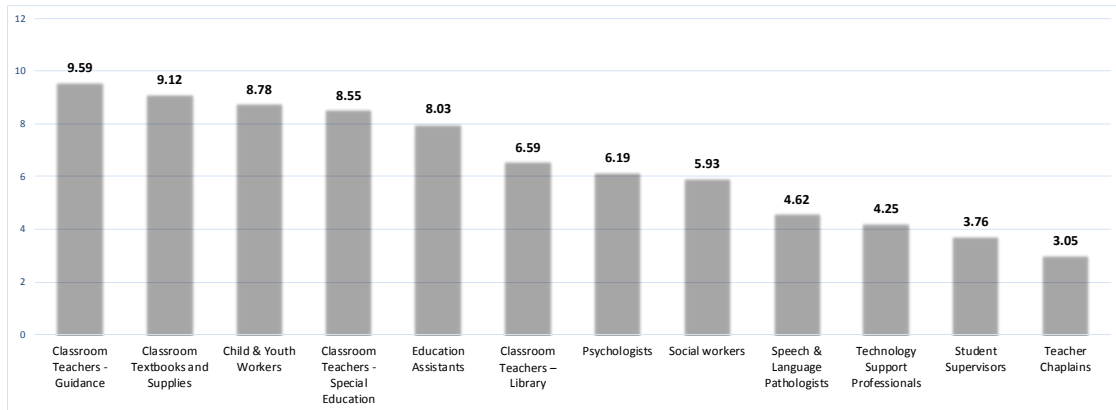
Results Summary: Classroom textbooks and supplies were ranked the highest for re-investments followed by classroom guidance counsellors, and special education teachers.



Secondary Re-investments

4. If additional funds are received for the cost areas related to Secondary Schools listed below (in alphabetical order), please provide a score from 1 to 12. One being most important for re-investments and twelve being least important for re-investments.

Results Summary: Classroom guidance teachers were ranked the highest for re-investments followed by textbooks and supplies, and special education teachers.

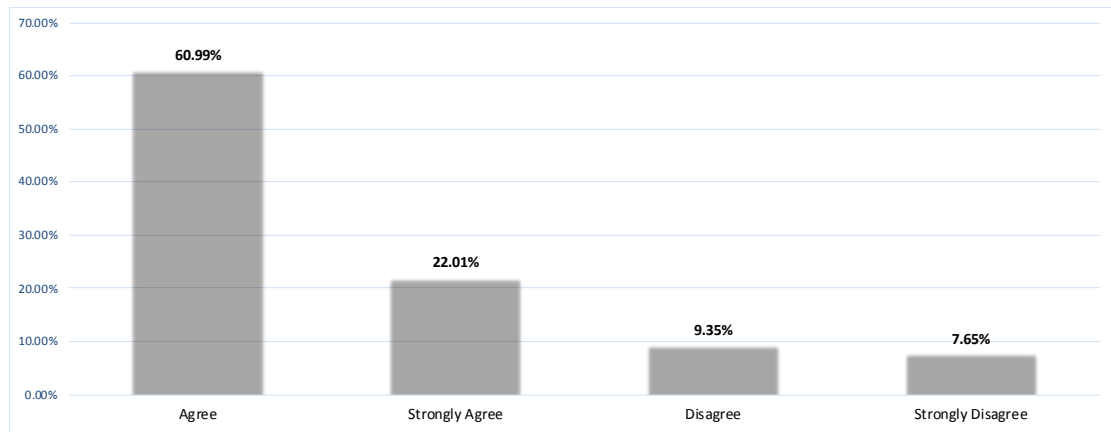


Environmental Responsibility

5. The Toronto Catholic District School Board believes in the critical role that our Catholic schools and facilities play in promoting environmental responsibility and providing leadership and direction for the protection and conservation of the environment, including the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In order to achieve an eventual goal of net zero emissions, annual investments in measures to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in our schools should be made, recognizing that the payback on

these investments may take several years. Participants were asked if they strongly agree, agree, strongly disagree or disagree.

Results Summary: Approximately 83% of respondents indicated support for annual investments in measures to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in our schools.



Strategic Investments (open-ended question)

6. What additional strategic investments should TCDSB consider making in the classroom to support student success?

Results summary: Overall, comments reflect student learning and support as a top priority. Majority of comments included increased access to technology (in light of COVID-19), special education and mental health supports (in light of COVID-19), literacy, and increasing staff and professional development opportunities. Other comments that did not fit into the major themes included smaller class sizes, increased school security measures, school facility improvements, and access to school supplies and textbooks.

Comments varied between preference for increased online textbooks and increased access to physical textbooks. Comments also varied in regard to increasing support for EAs, CYWs, social workers, mental health supports and guidance counsellors in the classroom and school-wide. Some commentary on calls for increased “practical skills” learning ie. cooking, gardening, financial management, etc.

Efficiencies

7. The Board is always looking for ways to be more fiscally efficient. Please share your top two suggestions.

Results summary: Most commonly referenced themes include staff positions and salary, increased use of online formats for learning, school administration, the gifted program and international languages program. Other comments that did not fit into the major themes included transportation, selling/leasing excess Board property and the elimination of paper use.

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

On April 28, 2020, a Virtual Town Hall was held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and 326 participants attended (310 on zoom and 16 on the phone). Senior staff responded to approximately 40 questions. Responses to outstanding questions were posted on the Budget webpage and shared with families. Questions posed addressed:

- Staffing
- COVID-19 Impacts
- Construction and Facilities
- Programs and Services (Special Education, Fifth Block, International languages program)
- E-learning

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The budget consultation process was promoted using a number of different means including:

1. Invitations to everyone on exchange including CPIC, OAPCE, CSPC Chairs and SEAC.
2. All TCDSB families received information about the budget process and survey via School Messenger as well as updated budget FAQs.
3. Outreach to the Archdiocese of Toronto for distribution in local parishes.

4. Posters with information about the budget survey and virtual town hall were shared on social media channels including twitter, Facebook and Instagram, the weekly wrap-up, Director’s Bulletin Board, e-news and school newsletters.
5. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) were monitored and regularly updated on the budget webpage.
6. A designated budget email address (budget@tcdsb.org) was created to receive additional questions/submissions and all emails were responded to in a timely fashion.
7. In addition to promoting the budget survey to student leaders, a digital paid social media campaign was implemented to increase student participation. Promotion through TCDSB Facebook and Instagram accounts targeted individuals between the ages of 13-20 located in Toronto. The seven-day campaign resulted in an audience reach of 7,314, with 291 clicks to the budget survey resulting in a total 4.36% student participation rate. Prior to the paid advertising campaign, the student participation rate was at 3%.
8. In light of COVID-19 and considerations for public safety, this year there was no CEC public consultation. However, survey results this year compared to last year were significantly higher as well as turnout at the virtual town hall.

2019	2020
Survey responses: 1,942	Survey Responses: 4,549
Virtual town hall attendees: 60	Virtual town hall attendees: 326

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Input received from the budget consultation survey and virtual townhall is being provided in advance of the release of grants for student needs. Perspectives offered

through the consultation feedback will be reconciled in the Preliminary Budget Estimate Reports dealing with budget considerations.

This report is for the consideration of the Board.