



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

RESPONSE TO MAY 2020 CPIC MOTIONS

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ."
Galatians 6:3*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
June 9, 2020	June 18, 2020	Click here to enter a date.

John Wujek, Superintendent of Education, Area 5 and Parent Engagement
Steve Camacho, Chief Information Officer

RECOMMENDATION 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

This report is offered as a response to the Board direction to staff at Regular Board on May 21, 2020. The four motions provided by the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) are presented, and additional staff information has been provided. Some of the directions can be implemented, while others, would need further consultation and consideration by staff to valued parent stakeholders.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 18 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) meets monthly and minutes from these meetings receive approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting along with any sanctioned motions. These minutes and bylaws typically appear on the subsequent Regular Board Order Paper for separate consideration. Each motion appears for consideration separately from the CPIC Minutes.
2. At the May 21, 2020 Regular Board meeting, the CPIC minutes and five motions from their April 20 meeting were on the Regular Board Meeting Agenda.
3. Following consideration from the Board of Trustees, four of the motions were directed back to staff for a response through report. The content of this report addresses this directive.

C. BACKGROUND

1. The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) meets monthly and minutes from these meetings receive approval at the next regularly scheduled CPIC meeting along with any sanctioned motions. These minutes and bylaws typically appear on the subsequent Regular Board Order Paper for separate consideration. Each motion appears for consideration separately from the CPIC Minutes.
2. At the May 21, 2020 Regular Board meeting, the CPIC minutes and five motions from their April 20 meeting were placed on the Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

3. Following consideration from the Board of Trustees, four of the motions were directed back to staff for a response through report. The content of this report addresses this directive.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. On May 21st, four motions entitled below were referred back to staff for response and further information:

Motion A: Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application and Allocation Process

1. The PRO Grant Ward and school allocations for 2019-2020 school year be rescinded;
2. The funds be deferred to the 2020-2021 school year (subject to approval by the Ministry of Education); and
3. A revised application process for 2020/21 to come back in June be recommended by Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC).

Motion B: Use of Escribe platform and assistance of board staff

1. Agendas for CPIC be compiled and distributed through Escribe with the support of the TCDSB Recording Secretary;
2. The Chair / Vice-Chair of CPIC to approve the final agenda before distribution consistent with in-force CPIC bylaws; and
3. Recording Secretary support be provided for creation of minutes of CPIC starting September 2020.

Motion C: Use of SOAR to Collect Parent Contact Information on Behalf of CPIC

1. Add appropriate checkbox (s) to the annually collected parent consent/information forms and the online Student Online Application for Registration (SOAR) system to allow parents to consent to receiving communications via email directly from their Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) and CPIC (using only the respective CSPC Chair /CPIC Chair @tcdsb.org accounts); and
2. Setup a working group made up of Board Staff and parent representatives to: implement procedures and tools (both addressing short term and long term) using various systems for the purposes of allowing school councils to effectively and timely communicate with parents of their school community while respecting privacy and unsubscribe requests.

Motion D: Initiate public Broadcasting of CPIC Monthly Meetings similar to Board of Trustee Meetings

1. The Board facilitate broadcasting of virtual meetings of CPIC in a similar fashion to the Board of Trustee meetings or other mutually agreeable publicly accessible format.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The following is the response to the corresponding four motions:

Motion A: Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application and Allocation Process

1. The PRO grant funds were awarded to schools based on the Ministry of Education’s outlined criteria, the staff report entitled “Toronto Catholic District School Board Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Disbursement Report, 2019-2020” and the subsequent Board of Trustees recommendation made at the January 9, 2020 Student Well-being and Achievement Committee Meeting.

Further to the procedure in the report, trustees directed CPIC and staff that the fund distribution of \$41,000 of the PRO Grant funds were disbursed equally to all 12 wards. First application rights were given to Equity Poverty Action Network (EPAN) schools where present in the ward. As well, \$5000 for SEAC events, and \$5000 for Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Education and Community Relations Department events, adhering to the timelines outlined in the report.

2. The motion to carry forward PRO grant funds to 2020-2021 would be subject to Ministry of Education approval, and as such, may not be consistent with CPIC’s intent of developing a new application process which would not be in line with the original prescribed process appearing in the Transfer Payment Agreement.
3. In addition, local CSPCs had previously submitted two applications to comply with the requirements set out in the Board report. The central rescindment of awarded funds without consultation will not take into account potential current, delayed or future plans that schools have made, in accordance with school closures and public safe distancing policies.

Staff does not recommend that the PRO Grant ward and school allocations for 2019-2020 be rescinded. Furthermore, staff recommend waiting and following the direction from the Ministry of Education and in the event of PRO Grant carryover to 2020-21, that the original schools who were allocated such funding be permitted to execute their original or augmented plan.

Motion B: Use of e-Scribe platform and assistance of Board staff:

1. The e-Scribe software structure does not allow for meeting participants or chairs to create and manage an agenda independently. The software assumes that that a formal administrative structure is in place with only a few people able to create and modify the meeting agendas. Currently, for all our public meetings, this responsibility lies with the recording secretary.
2. Staff are recommending that the Board of Trustees adopt this motion with the understanding that CPIC would use the same protocol for eScribe as is used for regular board and committee meetings. This protocol calls for:
 - the agenda to be constructed by the recording secretary in escribe;
 - the agenda to be reviewed by the CPIC Chair and staff prior to being released;
 - and finally, for the agenda to be released to the public and CPIC members a few days before the meeting.
 - A Recording Secretary provide services at monthly CPIC meetings.
3. Additional modifications to the agenda would completed through the recording secretary and issued as an addendum.

Staff are recommending that the Board of Trustees adopt this motion with the described protocol.

Motion C: Use of SOAR to Collect Parent Contact Information on Behalf of CPIC:

1. The TCDSB is bound by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) to ensure that all personal information that is collected, is protected and secured.

2. Whenever the TCDSB collects personal information (e.g. a parent email address), it can only be collected for two reasons:
 - a) It is expressly authorized by law; or
 - b) It is necessary to the proper administration of a legally authorized activity.
3. Even if consent is obtained for a collection of information, if there is no direct or indirect legal authority for the collection, it could not be collected under MFIPPA.
4. The primary reason that the Board collects parent email addresses is to populate the *Office Index Card*, which is an OSR document and therefore expressly authorized by the Education Act. This collection occurs primarily through registration in the Student Online Application for Registration (SOAR).
5. If, in SOAR, an option is added for collecting the private parent information to share with CSPCs, this would constitute a different purpose for the collection, so it would need to be addressed as a separate reason for the collection, other than for its intended use of populating the Office Index Card.
6. The Privacy Commissioner has said that collecting personal information cannot "merely be helpful" to the administration of the activity, it must be necessary.
7. Although the formation of CSPCs and the activities they carry out, is legally authorized by the Education Act in Regulation 612, as for example, to "*consult with parents of pupils enrolled in the school about matters under consideration by the council*", obtaining parent emails would be helpful but not necessary to the administration of these activities, as the principal could disseminate the information on behalf of the CSPC.
8. If the TCDSB proceeds with adding a necessary reason for which CSPCs and CPIC members have access to parent personal information, the following, for example, would need to be put in place to justify disclosure:
 - a) addition of a clause about collecting parent email for this specific purpose;
 - b) secure transmission of the data;

- c) rules for CSPCs/CPIC members that would govern the permitted use of the information; and
 - d) rules on how the information would be confidentially maintained.
9. In addition, the following are some potential privacy and accountability risks to the Board in providing CSPCs/CPIC members with lists with the parent's personal information, as for example:
- a) it would be difficult to monitor and control confidentiality;
 - b) it would be difficult to investigate potential misuse of the information;
 - c) it would be difficult to ensure CSPCs are utilizing current lists, leading to potential misuse of contact information of any parents who have withdrawn consent.
 - d) it could dismiss the intended collaboration between the CSPCs and the principal;
 - e) it would dismiss the potential lack of accountability to school administration who, under TCDSB CSPC policy, are expected to approve communication that is sent to all parents; and
 - f) the Board would have few legal actions it could take to recover the data or transfer liability to a CPSC/CPIC member should a member purposefully or accidentally breached personal data in the Board's custody.

For the reasons above, staff recommends that the motion not be adopted. However, staff will work with CPIC to develop and update protocols for principals and CPSC to ensure timely communication from the CSPC is sent to parents via the school principals when needed.

Motion D: Initiate Public Broadcasting of CPIC Monthly Meetings similar to Board of Trustee Meetings

- a) Staff, want to note to the Board of Trustees that similar requests have been made by other committees such as SEAC. Should this trend to more online and/or meeting broadcasts continue past the COVID-19 epidemic, there will be a need to review a more sustainable staffing model for support evening meetings and, in turn, the need for additional staffing. Broadcast and/or online meeting can use between 3 to 5 ICT Services staff per meeting to support effectively. Some meetings require 6 to 8 hours of support including the setup, video management, and tear down of the meeting.

Staff recommends this motion and, upon approval by the Board of Trustees will work CPIC on a more detailed plan to implement it.

F. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. Parent Engagement Staff will continue to work with CPIC to engage and utilize central resource departments to reduce structural barriers as appropriate for improvement in transparency and communication.

Motion A: Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application and Allocation Process

Carry over the PRO allocations to the appropriate schools for the 2020-21 school year and allow for local self-determined adjustments to the school plan as allowable by any future Ministry of Education PRO Grant guidelines.

Motion B: Use of Escribe platform and assistance of Board staff:

Initiate and implement with the recommended considerations.

Motion C: Use of SOAR to Collect Parent Contact Information on Behalf of CPIC:

Staff require more opportunity to consider appropriate collection and sharing of parent contact information.

Motion D: Initiate Public Broadcasting of CPIC Monthly Meetings similar to Board of Trustee Meetings

Initiate and implement with the recommended considerations.

G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the following:

1. That with respect to **Motion A: Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Application and Allocation Process**, it is recommended to wait and follow the direction from the Ministry of Education and, in the event of PRO Grant

carryover to 2020-21, that the original schools who were allocated such funding be permitted to execute their original or augmented plan.

2. That with respect to **Motion B: Use of Escribe platform and assistance of Board staff**, it is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt this motion with the described protocol.
3. That with respect to **Motion C: Use of SOAR to Collect Parent Contact Information on Behalf of CPIC**, it is recommended that staff work with CPIC to develop and update protocols for principals and CPSC to ensure timely communication from the CSPC is sent to parents via the school principals when needed.
4. That with respect to **Motion D: Initiate Public Broadcasting of CPIC Monthly Meetings similar to Board of Trustee Meetings**, staff recommend approval of this motion, pursuant to a detailed implementation plan.