



POLICY SECTION: TRUSTEES  
 SUB-SECTION:  
 POLICY NAME: DELEGATIONS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
 POLICY NO: T.14

<b>Date Approved:</b> November 10, 2010- Board	<b>Date of Next Review:</b> <del>August 2021</del> <b>January 2025</b>	<b>Dates of Amendments:</b> November 24, 2011- Board December 13, 2012- Board August 25, 2016- Board
<b>Cross References:</b> TCDSB Code of Conduct Policy, S.S.09 TCDSB Operating By-Law Number 175		
<b>Appendix:</b> Delegation Registration Form		

**Purpose:**

This Policy affirms and promotes the process by which students, parents and community members can present their views and concerns to the Trustees of the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

**Scope and Responsibility:**

The policy extends to students, parents and community members making deputations to the Board or its committees, **including public Statutory Committees, Standing Committees, Ad-Hoc Committees and Sub-Committees (“Committee(s)”) in accordance with the TCDSB By-Laws.** The Director of Education, with the assistance of the Recording Secretary, is responsible for this policy.

**Alignment with MYSP:**

- Living Our Catholic Values
- Strengthening **Enhancing** Public Confidence
- Achieving Excellence in Governance



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### Policy:

The TCDSB is committed to advocacy for students, parents, and communities. In recognition of the need to hear the concerns of the TCDSB community and of individuals to have a voice in the decision-making process, **delegations delegates** may be heard at **any** meetings of the Board of Trustees or **Standing Committees**, as stipulated in, and limited by, the regulations outlined below. **This Policy is subject to and will be interpreted in accordance with TCDSB By-Law Number 175, as amended from time to time.**

### Regulations:

#### *Appropriate Forums for **Delegates***

1. Given the current division of work between **the** Board meetings and Committee meetings, **delegations delegates** will be accepted at the discretion of the Director and Chair of the Board at **public** regular Board **meetings** only if:
  - a) ~~A new item/report or new information has been placed on the agenda that has not been dealt with at a Standing committees.~~  
**a) in exceptional circumstances; or**
  - b) **if** the matter is deemed to be time sensitive.

~~Delegations will **may** be heard at **public** Standing Committees of the Board concerning matters within its terms of reference. The topic of the deputation will determine at which Standing Committee the delegation will be heard. **The Director of Education, in consultation with the Committee's Chair, retains discretion to reasonably determine whether or not a delegate will be received.**~~



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2. **Delegations Delegates** may be heard at **public** Special Board meetings at the discretion of the Director and Chair of the Board.
3. **Delegations Delegates** will **may** be heard at **public** Standing Committees of the Board concerning matters within **it's the Committee's** terms of reference. The topic of the deputation will determine at which Standing Committee the **delegation delegate** will be heard. **The Board or Committee Chair, in consultation with the Director, retains discretion to reasonably determine whether or not a delegate will be received.**

~~Given the current division of work between the Board meetings and Committee meetings, delegations will be accepted at the discretion of the Director and Chair of the Board at **public** regular Board **meetings and** only if:~~

- a) ~~A new item/report or new information has been placed on the agenda that has not been dealt with at a Standing committees.~~
- c) in exceptional circumstances; or**
- d) **if** ~~the matter is deemed to be time sensitive.~~

~~Delegations heard at regular Board meetings may be the subject only of a motion for receipt, or a motion of referral to the appropriate Committee or to Staff, or a motion of both receipt and referral to the appropriate Committee or to Staff. (By-Laws Section 10.9.11)~~

4. **Delegations Delegates** heard at regular Board meetings may be the subject only of a motion for receipt, or a motion of referral to the appropriate Committee or to Staff, or a motion of both receipt and referral to the appropriate Committee or to Staff. (By-Laws Section 10.9.11)



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**5. Delegates may not be received from employees on matters over which their union or association has jurisdiction (see Regulation 26).**

*Procedure for Making a Deputation*

6. Those wishing to make a deputation can **receive obtain** further information and details on the delegation protocol by contacting the Recording Secretary at 416-222-8282 ext. 2293, or by visiting the TCDSB portal site at [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org).

7. **Delegations Delegates** are to register with the Recording Secretary of the Board no later than 11:00 a.m. on the day of the ~~Standing~~ Committee meeting by **completing and** submitting the Delegation Registration Form to the Recording Secretary and the local Trustee will be notified immediately, **if the matter is Ward specific.**

**8. Delegates are requested to provide a written copy of their intended delegation in full by 11am on the day of the meeting.**

**9. Delegates are expected to present their remarks as submitted through the application process.**

10. Where the Board has initiated community engagement with respect to any matter, **delegations delegates** will be referred to that consultation process and may not be registered to appear before a ~~Standing~~ Committee meeting.

11. A Delegate may only speak once at a particular meeting.

12. There may be up to a maximum of ten (10) deputations per meeting.

13. **Delegations Delegates** will be listed on the agenda of the meeting or in an



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addendum, and their topic and point of view, **subject to the following**, shall be included in the documentation.

a. **Any visual or written presentation or materials a delegate intends to provide or project on screen during the deputation must be provided 72 hours in advance of the meeting to the Recording Secretary of the Board. The Board reserves the right to accept, reject or modify such materials, with notice of same provided to the delegate at least 24 hours before the meeting. Personal or private information included in the delegate's materials will be removed.**

b. **When there are several delegates registered to speak on the same topic affecting the same school, and there are other delegates registered or wishing to register to speak to different topics on the agenda or of a time-sensitive nature, the Director and the Chair of the Committee may restrict the number of delegates on the same topic affecting the same school to three delegates.**

14. First priority will be given to **delegations delegates** speaking to a specific item on the meeting's agenda and those who have not yet spoken to the issue. Next priority will be given to **delegations delegates** speaking to time-sensitive topics. **A delegate who has already made a deputation on a specific matter or topic may not be permitted to delegate again on the same matter, without the permission of the Committee's Chair in consultation with the Director.**

~~10. Delegates who want to show their deputation on the screen in the Boardroom must provide an electronic copy before the meeting.~~

13. **Delegations Delegates who are from** TCDSB employees shall verbally disclose this information at the time of registration and at the beginning of



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their deputation.

*Time Parameters*

14. Delegates who have registered by the specified time deadline may speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes.

~~15. Delegations who have not registered by the specified time may speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes if approved by 2/3 votes of the members of the Board or Standing Committee. The chair shall put the question at the conclusion of the registered delegate. The question will be put immediately without any debate.~~

Up to two delegates who have not registered by the deadline may speak in special circumstances for a maximum of three minutes if approved by 2/3 of all members of the Board or Committee. The delegate must also complete the Registration Form.

16. The deputation Delegation period shall be limited to a maximum of 60 minutes at the discretion of the Chair. The maximum time limit may be amended by 2/3 majority present and eligible to vote of all members of the Board or Committee.

17. If the Chair determines that the number of expected delegates delegations far exceeds ten, he/she may recommend to the Director to call a Special Board meeting to hear all delegates delegations.

18. Delegates may also opt to depute delegate to the Board remotely, or via written deputation delegation, to be read out by staff.

19. Each Trustees may ask questions of the delegation delegate. for a maximum A



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total of not more than 3 minutes will be allocated to address both the Trustee's questions and the delegate's answers to same.

20. Questions asked by Trustees are limited to clarifying questions only. No questions of staff shall be permitted.

*Format & Content of Deputations*

21. ~~Delegations~~ Delegates will are requested to:

- a) present concerns in a positive and constructive manner;
- b) maintain a level of decorum which will allow meetings to proceed effectively; and
- c) refrain from the use of abusive or derogatory language.

22. During a deputation in public session of a regular or special Board meeting, ~~or Standing Committee meeting~~, should the delegate use the name/title/position of any person in a negative, critical or derogatory fashion, directly or indirectly, the Chair of the meeting shall advise the ~~delegation delegate~~ to limit comments to non-personal references. Should personal references continue to be made, the Chair has the authority to stop the ~~delegation delegate~~ from proceeding.

23. The Board may decide to move a public deputation to a private session.

During a deputation in a private session of a regular or special Board meeting, ~~or Standing Committee meeting~~, should a situation arise where a delegate intends to refer to someone in a negative way then the following will apply:

- a) ~~Delegations Delegates~~ intending to use the name/title/position of any person in a negative, ~~or~~ critical ~~or derogatory~~ fashion must indicate this intention at the time of registration, and, prior to presenting, the ~~delegate~~ will be requested to address the ~~Standing Committee~~ ~~or Board~~ in private session.



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b) The Board shall inform staff if a **delegation delegate** intends to speak of them at a ~~Standing~~ Committee **or Board** meeting, in a negative, **or** critical **or derogatory** fashion. The staff member has the right to be present during the deputation and be represented by the agent of their choice.

24. The Chair of the meeting may expel or exclude **a delegate** from ~~any the~~ meeting **should they engage in** ~~any person who engages in~~ conduct contrary to the TCDSB Code of Conduct, ~~or~~ Respectful Workplace Guidelines, **or fail to comply with this Policy.**

**25. No one may display signs or placards, applaud debating participants or engage in conversations or other behaviour that may disrupt a meeting.**

26. **If a gross misrepresentation on a factual issue is made by a delegate during their deputation, the Chair of the Committee or Chair of the Board, as applicable, may correct the record from a factual perspective at the meeting where the misrepresentation is made. If the Chair is absent when the gross misrepresentation is made or should the Chair be the subject of the gross misrepresentation, then the Vice-Chair of the Committee or the Vice-Chair of the Board may correct the record, as per above. The Chair or Vice-Chair may request the delegate to apologize in the moment.**

27. **If it is not readily apparent to the Chair or Vice-Chair, as the case may be, whether or not a comment is a gross misrepresentation of the facts, the Chair or Vice-Chair and the Director of Education will determine whether an investigation should be conducted. If an investigation is conducted and the investigation determines that a gross misrepresentation was made, the Chair or Vice-Chair may correct the record from a factual perspective at the next meeting. A delegate who**





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**makes a public and misleading statement against a Trustee and refuses to apologize shall not be allowed to delegate until such time as a public apology is made.**

28. In respect of TCDSB employees delegating **deputing** to **a** the Standing Committee where the topic:

- a) is personal to the speaker, the restrictions are the same as any **delegation delegate**.
- b) is or may be dealt with under a Collective Agreement to which the Board is a party, such submission shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of such Collective Agreement.

29. The public session of ~~Standing Committee~~, Board and Special Board meetings are recorded and broadcast live. The recording is retained as a public record of the proceedings. **Other Committees may be recorded. Delegations Delegates** that are part of ~~the~~ recorded proceedings are so advised and consent to being recorded.

30. At the conclusion of the deputation the Chair will advise the delegate as to how the matter will be processed.

31. Where an item has been referred to staff, staff will communicate follow-up actions to the **delegations delegate**.

**Definitions:**

**Delegation**

A ~~delegation~~ may include: (1) an individual speaking on his or her own behalf;

(2) an official representative of a TCDSB committee; (3) an official representative



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of student government; or (4) a spokesperson for another group or organization.

### Deputation

A formal talk made to the whole Board or **Standing** Committee or in a private session of the Board or **Standing** Committee relating to a specific issue or concern.

### Evaluation and Metrics:

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following:

1. Trustees and the Director shall review the process of delegation every three (3) years to ensure that it was fair, equitable and supported the goals of the TCDSB the Multi Year Strategic Plan
- ~~2. Staff will develop an assessment tool to determine the efficacy of the policy and administer it after the first year of policy implementation to evaluate the policy.~~