

OAPCE TORONTO

2019/2020 YEAR END ANNUAL REPORT



To: The TCDSB Board of Trustees and TCDSB Director of Education

OAPCE is an association, established to respond to and represent the interests and concerns of parents/guardians who have children enrolled in Toronto's publicly funded Catholic schools. Our focus includes all aspects of our children's education: spiritual, academic, health and safety, as well as other issues which may arise out of parent concerns brought to the attention of the organization. OAPCE helps to promote Parent Engagement in the schools, and at the school board level.



2019/2020 EXECUTIVE

This past year, OAPCE Toronto's Executive was comprised of:

- Executive Director/Past President - Annalisa Crudo-Perri
- Vice President - Jana Seymour
- Executive Secretary - Gus Gikas
- Executive Treasurer - Luisa Polidoro

Three individuals also represented the parents of the TCDSB at the OAPCE Board of Directors table; their responsibility is to bring the parent voice to the provincial discussions. Our OAPCE Directors were:

- OAPCE Director East - Dave Bennett
- OAPCE Director West - Nick Giovanelli
- OAPCE Director Central (as well as CPIC OAPCE Toronto Rep) - Katie Piccininni

We are honoured that Annalisa Crudo-Perri was appointed in January of 2020 as the new Executive Director of OAPCE to represent all the parents, both in the TCDSB and across the province.



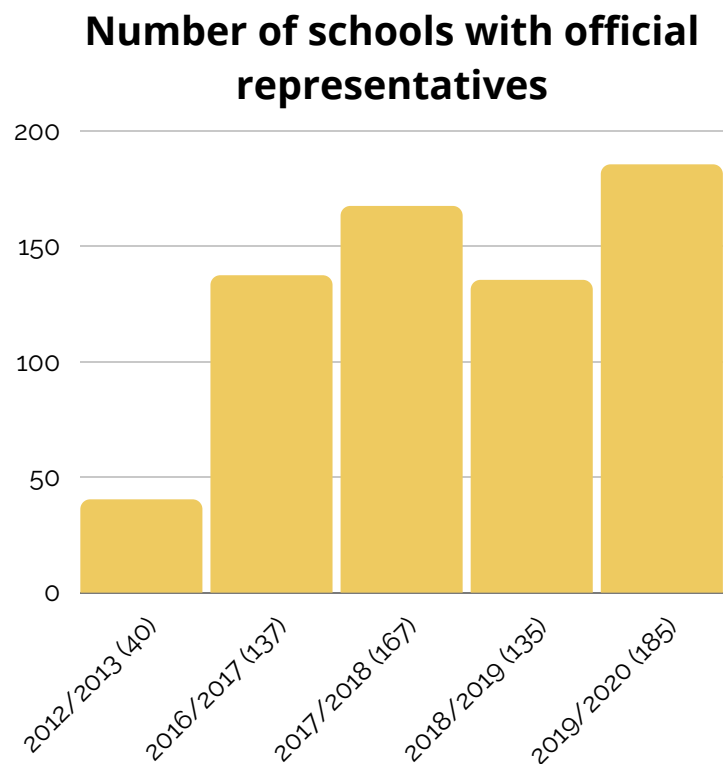
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Importance of Achieving our Mandate through Membership:

Our central mandate is to share information with, and for parents, to have them better informed of TCDSB and Ministry of Education policies. As advocates for Catholic Education, we hope that providing the proper information and resources for parents, they can help their children succeed in school, and if all our children succeed, then Catholic Education succeeds.

This part of our mandate was fulfilled through formal and informal presentations at our monthly meetings. Our meetings included a number of outside speakers, informative reports from our own OAPCE Directors and presentations and consultations by TCDSB Staff. We continue to drive the organization forward through positive succession planning by including new members to the Executive and as Directors using transparent methods of accountability.

It is integral that the OAPCE Liaison representatives are appointed or elected at the school parent council and that we are able to connect with them. It has been our mission to further increase our membership base which is evident over the years: The graph on the right is a true testament to the connection and value in supporting student achievement and Catholic Education at the local level:



This does not include the CSPC Chairs who have taken on the role by default or voluntarily. This is based on the number of parents identified on our email subscription list, as well in total our distribution list reaches out to over 2,000 parents in the TCDSB.

Our objective has been to reach out to every single TCDSB CSPC to inform them of the legislated requirement for membership and to ask for a representative contact and we thank those Trustees who have assisted us in this process.

Our goal is to have a dedicated voting member position as a part of the required School Council membership of which the purpose is to provide a point of contact between the school council and the regional and provincial Association.

These OAPCE Liaison Representatives sit as part of our Regional Council OAPCE Toronto and become the conduit through which we share parent's views and concerns with the OAPCE. We have had a marked increase in attendance at our meetings and have had the pleasure of welcoming many new parents at these meetings.



Events, Meetings, Presentations and Resource Sharing

This past year, OAPCE Toronto invited a number of presenters to speak on topics of interest and of concern to TCDSB parents. OAPCE Toronto has had an increase in Trustee and Director of Education presence at all events and we continue to encourage and welcome this presence. Our meetings and events are always well attended and provide a great opportunity for parents to engage, connect, inform themselves on a variety of topics and talk about best practices.

October 2019

As this is our first meeting of the school year we always offer training for the OAPCE Liaison representative role, as well as conduct round table discussions about several important policies and information pieces for CSPC (by-laws, treasurer reports, fundraising, new parents etc.).

December 2019

OAPCE Toronto Commissioning and Parent Volunteer of Excellence Ceremony

We held our 14th Annual Commissioning and Parent Volunteer of Excellence Award Ceremony of which 10 parents were recognized for their volunteer work as we honored some dedicated parents in the TCDSB who help to sustain that parent engagement that is prevalent at the school level. After the ceremony we also partnered with CPIC to host a consultation with all parents in regards to the revised S.10 CSPC Parent council policy. This evening was very well attended by parents and schools across the TCDSB.



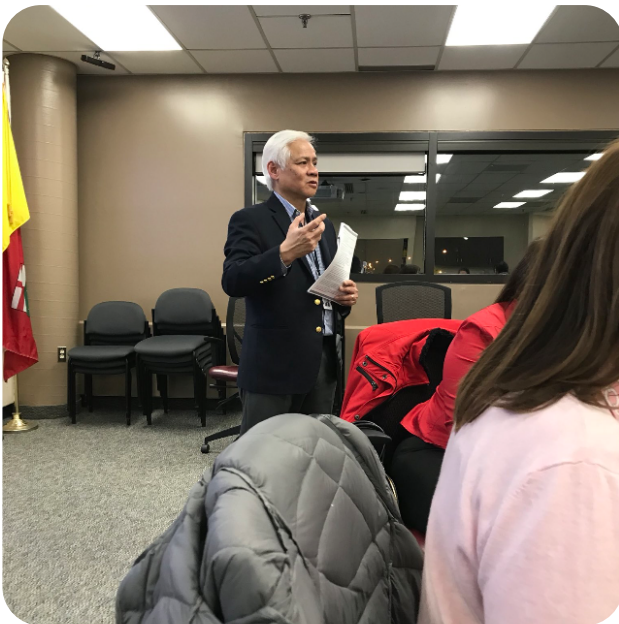
Events, Meetings, Presentations and Resource Sharing

January 2020

Presentation from Director Rory McGuckin joined us to discuss the new TCDSB Code of Conduct policy. Discussion of new Code of Conduct with members as well as Round Table Discussions on open items.

February 2020

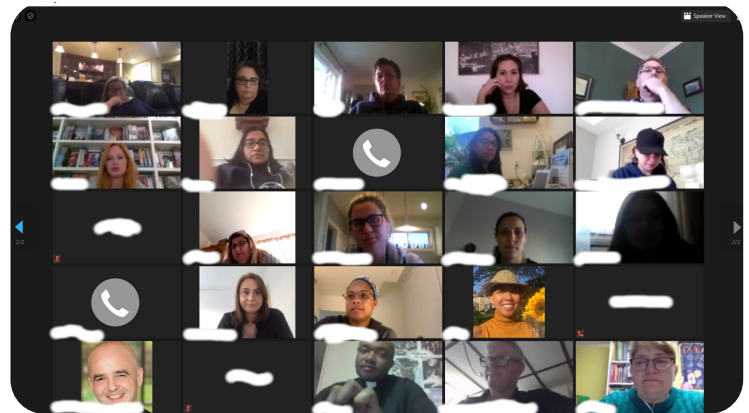
Presentation from Executive Director of Angel Foundation John Yan on the importance of the organization. Presentation from Safe Schools Department with Superintendent Michael Caccamo and other staff members on Safe and Accepting Schools Team as well as Progressive Discipline Policy.



Events, Meetings, Presentations and Resource Sharing

May 2020

Presentation from Director Rory McGuckin regarding the Long Distance Learning. Special guests Father Obinna Ifeanyi and Superintendent Michael Caccamo provided support and guidance during lockdown. Presentation from Paul DeCock with regards to TCDSB Budget Consultation.



August 2020

OAPCE Toronto hosted a ZOOM Webinar on Wednesday August 12th, 2020 - this Webinar allowed parents to have their questions answered regarding the TCDSB's Return to School Plans. It provided an opportunity for parents to get key questions and concerns addressed and help to inform their decisions on whether to send their children back to the face-to-face school learning or online home on a virtual platform. decide if you will be sending your child(ren) to school in September, or staying home for Distance Learning. It was a very well attended webinar with over 850 participants on the Zoom.

Participation in TCDSB Committees and Delegations:

Throughout the year we have participated in a number of ways to provide value added input to policy changes, consultations and issues at the TCDSB. We have always engaged our parents as best as we can to ensure they are aware of what is going on at the TCDSB, as well as seek their input when needed.

We continue to serve on the Nurturing Our Catholic Community committee and always seek opportunities to inform ourselves of any items of importance for parents to share. We have established a greater connection to the Angel Foundation through the new Executive Director John Yan a longtime friend of OAPCE Toronto and hope to strengthen the relationship with more active involvement in the AFL.

We have had several discussions with Senior staff on a number of areas of interest and or concern to name a few

- CSPC S.10 Policy
- Draft Social Media Policy
- Playground approval committees for various wards.



Participation in TCDSB Committees and Delegations:

Delegations:

OAPCE Toronto always, as its mandate, delegates to the TCDSB Board of Trustees on issues or concerns arising out of items at the board and at schools. This past year we participated in more delegations as we partnered with CPIC Chair John DelGrande to advocate for parents on issues relating to the Long Distance Learning and Return to School Plan as we all Uniform Policy.

Delegation Dates:

November 2019

April 2020

May 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020 (twice.)



Increased Communications via the OAPCE Provincial Newsletter, OAPCE Toronto New Website, Email Updates and Social Media:

We provide parents with regular updates on how the organization is supporting Catholic Education at our regional and provincial level, as well as sharing with everyone our current and future activities. Each month, there are new resource links for CSPCs and for parents according to trends in parent requests.

We continue to build on tools and strategies to best communicate with and for our parents, including updating information on our website, building on communications tools that help us reach out to parents. We are also very active on social media on both Facebook and Twitter, and we have launched our new website toronto.oapce.org. We also develop and distribute information packages for our representatives that enable them to share information with their councils.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OAPCEToronto/>



<https://twitter.com/OAPCEToronto>



<https://toronto.oapce.org/>

CSPC Resources and Support:

Through our regular and ongoing orientation to all CSPC members we have provided many parents with the tools and strategies to effectively strengthen their council and help them to overcome barriers in supporting student achievement at the local level. Through these presentations, emails, and phone calls, we have provided support to parents and helped them directly or we have connected them with the appropriate staff members in order to resolve issues and concerns that they may have encountered. Our scope has always been to help them reach resolutions that are intact with our Catholic values

Throughout the year we have worked on the draft S.10 CSPC Policy with our partner CPIC in ensuring that the by-laws, procedures and policies were representative of the regulation as well as the parents' concerns.



OAPCE Toronto - In the Province:

All three OAPCE Toronto Directors have contributed to the provincial organization in a number of ways. We have attended all of our Director meetings that have taken place over a variety of weekends with our Board of Directors from across the province. As OAPCE Directors representing Toronto we take this role with great responsibility and have made several recommendations to the Board of Directors to find improvements to eliminate barriers for parents and to ensure financial efficiencies. We are continually sharing our information received from the organization to TCDSB parents, and will continue to advocate for all parents in Toronto in support of Catholic Education.



OUR FOCUS FOR 2020/2021

OAPCE Toronto continues to build on its successes and looks to make improvements for the future, and to find strategies to help implement them:



ONGOING COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR REPS:

- Continue to increase membership.
Our goal is to have one official OAPCE representative in all our schools.
- Continue to hold informative presentations and meetings for parents by utilizing webinars through our provincial organization as well as in Toronto.
- Organize our 15th Annual Commissioning Ceremony, Principal and Parent Volunteer of Excellence Awards.



ONGOING INVOLVEMENT IN THE TCDSB:

- Continue to build on the relationship between OAPCE Toronto and CPIC and TCDSB Parent Engagement staff in order to eliminate any duplication of effort - thereby reducing financial expenditures and helping to bring forth a clear definition to parents as to who we are and what we do.
- Continue to sit on any TCDSB committees in an effort to build partnerships so as to continue to advise and be consulted and provide valuable input on issues that affect our local parent communities.



ONGOING ADVOCACY:

We would not be the advocates that we are if we did not include that we feel that we are at a very critical point in Catholic Education, not only due to the pandemic but also due to the many issues that have been brought to the forefront, - the positive aspect is that with all these changes and issues there has been an increase in parent engagement.

- Continue to further support implementation of S.10 Policy, helping to ensure that there is more accountability with the policy and its implementation of it.
- Continue to advocate for two key components for parents: Communication and Consultation. Through the many delegations, emails, conversations that we have participated in, these two components are issues that can be improved upon - Parents need support to support their Children - to understand the ins and outs of our new system is needed, and needed now.
- Parents need the right information, given to them from the right source, in a timely manner.
- More emphasis on reaching out to our diverse community
- Not everyone is on social media, posting items on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook only does not reach out to all
- Parents that English is not their first language, need translated materials
- Parents that do not have the resources at home, such as technology
- Providing parents with simple, understandable tools like one pagers, different resources for different grade levels, etc. as well.

We need to respect that we are obviously in unprecedented times and with that, there needs to be more patience, guidance and support - it is times like these when we need to support one another as fellow Christians and truly embody our Catholic values.

We truly appreciate that OAPCE has become an integral part of this Board, and look forward to working together with Staff and Trustees to represent the views of parents and stakeholders at the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

OAPCE Toronto is honored to represent the many parents and stakeholders in Catholic Education - as an executive we appreciate the help, guidance and support given to us by everyone at the TCDSB.

We thank you for your time and look forward to another wonderful year as advocates for parents in Catholic Education.

Yours in Catholic Education,

OAPCE Toronto Team

