



TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

For Board Use Only

**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM
FOR STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

Delegation No. ____

Public Session

Private Session

Three (3) Minutes

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ALL STANDING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE BEING RECORDED

Name	Joseph Markson
Committee	Student Achievement and Well-Being Catholic Education Human Resources
Date of Presentation	2/4/2021
Topic of Presentation	Opposing Changes to Regulation 10(1) of Student Trustee Policy T.02
Topic or Issue	The importance of faith in the governance of Catholic education.
Details	<p>In the mission and vision statements of the TCDSB, the words “parish”, “rooted in the love of Christ”, “grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity” and “transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action” have deep meaning and tangibly inform the Board’s decision-making. The Catholic values in the mission and vision statements are derived from faith in the love and life of Christ, the gospels, the sacraments and the teachings and guidance of the Church. If the TCDSB believes that the leaders in Catholic education do not need to authentically hold, understand and promote such Catholic values, then the TCDSB should delete its mission and vision statements and also stop saying prayers, holding masses and displaying the Cross because these articles of the Roman Catholic faith may possibly offend or exclude non-Catholics.</p> <p>There is no right to Catholic governance and a Catholic education in a public school board. Equally, there is no right to secular governance and a secular education in a Catholic school board. Leaders in Catholic education are entrusted to affirm, promote and manifest Catholic values in the education of our children. It is unreasonable to expect a leader in Catholic education to affirm, promote and manifest values that he or she does not personally know, understand, believe or may even deny or reject.</p> <p>Being a Student Trustee in a Catholic school board is much more than a positional opportunity to gain civic leadership experience. It carries the responsibility to affirm and promote faith-driven Catholic values in education. Not everyone is inclined or qualified to do so. At a minimum, there should be a faith connection to Catholic values for leaders entrusted to foster Catholic</p>

values in Catholic education.

Fluctuating, transient and often indiscernible social pressures such as political correctness should not be permitted to displace Catholic values “rooted in the love of Christ” and incrementally influence a Catholic school board to stop being so overtly Catholic.

There is a straight line between secularizing Catholic leadership in education and secularizing Catholic education. It strains credulity to read “inclusive learning community” in the mission statement as somehow requiring the exclusion of a faith connection to Catholic values in the Catholic leadership of a Catholic school board.

It should not be surprising or offensive to the non-Catholic parent or student to see a Catholic school board and its Trustees since they prioritize Catholic values and to take reasonable steps to ensure the continuity of its Catholic character and identity. It is simply being true to what it is.

If you remove this requirement, and by logical extension and for the sake of consistency, then go on over time to remove “Roman Catholic” from every requirement in the governance of Catholic education, the TCDSB will slowly but surely transform itself into a public school board. On behalf of the Fr. John Redmond Catholic School Parent Council, to be true to the mission and vision statements of the TCDSB and the future of Catholic education, I respectfully urge you to maintain a faith connection in Catholic governance in education by the TCDSB and to vote against the motion.

Action Requested Dismiss the motion.

I am here as a delegate to speak only on my own behalf No

I am an official representative of the Catholic School Parent Committee(CSPC) Yes
Fr John Redmond Member

I am an official representative of student government

I am here as a spokesperson for another group or organization

I have read, understand and agree to comply with the rules for Delegations as per the TCDSB Delegations Policy T14

Submittal Date 1/31/2021