

This is what I intend to say: Thank you trustees for this opportunity to speak with you all today. My name is Shania Fernandes and I received both my elementary and high school education through the TCDSB school system. I am grateful for the Catholic school system as it not only gave me a good education but supplemented and enhanced my faith life. Religious education is a key component Catholic education.

Catholicism is a very rich faith, full of different devotions and traditions. One of the best devotions is the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and usually the month of June is dedicated to His Sacred Heart. This devotion traces back to the 11th century and became widespread thanks to St Margaret Mary Alacoque. This devotion encourages us to more fully immerse ourselves in the very Heart of Christ as he desires his deep love for humanity to be reciprocated.

This devotion will further drive home the whole reason why God created us. We are all created to love, be it our families, friends, neighbours and most importantly above all else God. The goal of Catholic education is to teach kids to love God as well as giving them a solid education. This devotion embodies the reason we were created “to know, love and serve God”. The Board has a duty to promote Catholic education and there is no better way than teaching children how much Jesus loves us all even to the point of death and how he wishes us to love him in such a deep way. We cannot give what we do not have and therefore the secret to loving our neighbour is to allow Christ to love us and for us to return that love to him by loving our neighbour as He has loved us. The children who are part of the school board deserve to know how much Christ loves us and the fullness of our religion and the Catholic faith and that is why I am asking for June to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for your time and attention.

Thank you for your time
Shania