

Paolo De Buono, Catholic
Teacher Delegation
September 15, 2021

Making the Safe Schools Report Safer

Please note that I am a TCDSB teacher. I am making this delegation on my own initiation and on my own behalf.

The Safe Schools Annual Report 2020-2021 omits information regarding bullying in relation to students' sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The Province through the Education Act places much emphasis on Safe Schools. The Education Act clearly places a priority on anti-bullying in the areas of homophobia and transphobia. TCDSB teachers and principals individually, and together in Safe Schools school teams, need related information to address bullying in schools. Therefore, the omission of information regarding students' sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (presumably because students were not asked questions regarding related bullying) puts TCDSB professionals at a planning disadvantage and places its students at risk of bullying related to homophobia and transphobia.

This is the action I am requesting from the TCDSB:

1. Review why the TCDSB excluded questions related specifically to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (or, in the alternative, if the questions were asked, why the information related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression were excluded from this Safe Schools report); and
2. Ensure that the 2021-2022 Safe Schools report reports clearly on questions to students related to sexual orientation, gender identity and

gender expression.

Thank you for considering my delegation. I invite questions for clarification including on the following related issues, which I list in the form of questions for your convenience:

1. How specifically does the omission of information noted above put TCDSB professionals at a planning disadvantage?
2. How specifically does the omission of information noted above put TCDSB students at risk of bullying related to homophobia and transphobia?
3. Is this an example of systemic homophobia and/or systemic transphobia? (I can answer this question delicately, understanding that the term systemic homophobia and systemic transphobia (like systemic racism) have been a debated hot topic at public meetings of the Board of Trustees).
4. This information is in a TCDSB report to SEAC. How do your concerns about the Safe Schools Annual Report 2020-2021 relate to special education?