



REPORT TO

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CSPC SCHOOL MESSENGER REPORT

Though I command languages both human and angelic -- if I speak without love, I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing 1Corinthians 13

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
September 20, 2021	September 27, 2021	Click here to enter a date.
John Wujek, Superintendent, Parent Engagement Steve Camacho, Executive Superintendent, Technology, Data and Strategic Transformation Manuela Sequeira, Coordinator, Parent Engagement		
INFORMATION REPORT		

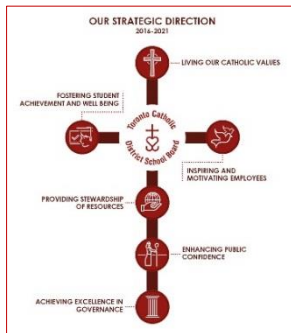
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides for information to CPIC in consideration of a Notice of Motion from the June 14, 2021, Committee meeting. Staff were asked to provide further information to provide mechanism for CSPCs to access School Messenger in order to distribute principal-approved messages.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 11 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. This report is a response to a notice of motion.
2. The motion was presented with the intention of improving the communication capabilities of CSPCs directly with school community parents.
3. There are privacy and access to information considerations related to data and information that cannot be freely given to CSPC members through the Board as an agent.

C. BACKGROUND

1. CPIC Motion June 14, 2021:

TCDSB CSPCs be given appropriate access to School Messenger so that they can create communications to go out to the School Community in the similar respect that CSPCs have access to School Cash Online. The process should (like School Cash Online) allow the CPSC to create the communication and then be reviewed by the administration before it is sent out.

2. In a previous report from staff, key information has been offered regarding the obligations school boards have in maintaining private parent information including email addresses as per Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)
3. The TDSB has initiated the process of appropriating training of CSPC Chairs to use School Messenger.

4. TCDSB has begun to reach out to TDSB for further information regarding their progress regarding maintaining privacy, allowing CSPC Chair access to the platform and invoking a training plan

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. In speaking with TDSB colleagues, we have learned that the TDSB is providing controlled email access to parent councils via the School Messenger System. Parent councils are able to send emails to school communities after the message is reviewed by the school principal. Email addresses are not shared with the school councils directly. The use of School Messenger by TDSB parent councils is governed by their school messenger [protocol](#) and enforced by various policies.
2. The specific technical details on how TDSB has implemented access to school messengers are not known.
3. Staff can explore providing similar access to TCDSB's School Messenger to CSPC; however, such access could only be provided if, in the providing the access, no personal contact information of parents is revealed to CSPC members.
4. If controlled access is technically feasible, staff would also develop a protocol, similar to the TDSB's protocol, that would govern the use of School Messenger by CSPCs.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Improvement of CSPC communication to school parent community is a priority for CPIC and staff.
2. Maintaining privacy within MFIPPA Guidelines must be maintained by the Board.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Staff remains committed to work with parents and representative parent governance structures to improve communication using tools at hand.