REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

"Rouse one another to love and good works" Hebrews 10 24-5

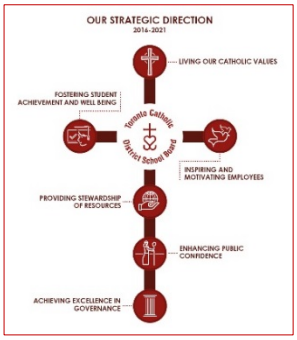
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November 30, 2021	December 2, 2021	Click here to enter a date.

J. Wujek, Superintendent of Schools (Area 5) & Parent Engagement
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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.



Brendan Browne, PhD
Director of Education

A. Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic Affairs and
Chief Operating Officer

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Facilities, Business and Community Development

R. Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information for the Board of Trustees in response to the November 18, 2021 notice of motion pertaining to parent/guardian volunteer access in TCDSB schools.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 15 hours

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to trustees and guidance to principals when considering parent/guardian volunteer access to school buildings and sites in alignment with guidance from public health and the provincial government.

B. BACKGROUND

1. We recognize that parent engagement makes our schools better, supports student learning, and creates a more cohesive community. The presence and inclusion of parent/guardian volunteers within the school setting is one way our schools will continue to regain the richness they enjoyed before the pandemic. Outdoor and virtual activities remain the preferred method of delivery.
2. On September 1, 2021 the Ministry of Education released a guideline to support safer schools for Ontario's students and staff; set out a provincially consistent approach to COVID-19 immunization disclosure policies in schools; and to optimize COVID-19 vaccination rates in school. The document also provided a data collection framework for vaccination rates.
3. On September 7, 2021, instructions from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health provided specific directives for school boards that applies to all individuals including parents who frequently work or visit a school or other board site.
4. On November 15, 2021, Toronto Public Health updated their guidance related to volunteers and visitors in schools and recommended that school volunteers/visitors are fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine as an additional layer of protection, conduct daily screening, wear a medical mask and appropriate PPE as needed and practice physical distancing.
5. On November 18, 2021, the provincial government updated guidance to indicate that any visitor to a school is required to self-screen and to wear a medical mask (for example, surgical/procedural) while on school premises. A

medical mask will be provided by the school if needed and at the advice of the local public health unit, school boards may be asked to restrict visitor access.

C. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Based on the above guidance documents, staff have prepared *TCDSB's Guidance for School Volunteers During the Pandemic*, *Appendix A*.
2. The best defence against COVID-19 continues to be vaccination and based on the above guidance, parent/guardian volunteers must show proof of full vaccination to the school principal or designate prior to entry into the school. In addition, volunteers will conduct screening, wear a medical mask, appropriate PPE as needed and practice physical distancing.
3. Where possible, it is recommended that non-essential activities be conducted virtually.
4. The Principal in consultation with the Field Superintendent determines access to the school. Local decisions must consider the operationalization of monitoring of health and safety protocols, and specific community and site circumstances.
5. TCDSB policies continue to be applied including (but not limited to):
    a. Access to Students in Schools, S.S. 04, where a Principal may engage volunteers in the school to assist with school activities.

D. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Principals and senior staff continue to monitor the impact parent/guardian volunteers have in support of school and community opportunities and activities as a benefit to students, staff, and community, through the lens of health and safety and risk management during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.
2. *Appendix A – Guidance for School Volunteers During the Pandemic* will continue to be updated to reflect best practices, public health recommendations and health and safety guidance from staff, Toronto Public Health and the Province of Ontario.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.

Guidance for School Volunteers During the Pandemic

The pandemic has changed the way we interact with one another and has significantly minimized the experiences and opportunities our school communities are accustomed to. This document is intended to provide our principals guidance to support safe engagement in our schools.

We appreciate the vital role our parent volunteers play in strengthening our school communities. Parent volunteerism in schools should continue to be encouraged with adherence to the safety protocols and guidance offered by the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)'s Health and Safety Department, the Province of Ontario and Toronto Public Health.

In consultation with his/her field superintendent, the principal will continue to determine the local factors of each community and school site in consideration and support of parent volunteer partnerships which may be part of the daily life of the school. All visitors will follow established protocols for entering school buildings.

Proof of Vaccination & Safety Measures

School volunteers/visitors will show proof of full vaccination upon entry to the school to the Principal or designated staff.

Additional Safety Measures include:

- TPH Screening Tool. – for Staff/Visitors
- COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Staff and Visitors
- TCDSB COVID-19 Sign-in, Sign-out and Screening Record
- Wearing a medical mask and appropriate PPE as needed
- Practicing physical distancing measures

Volunteer Activities for Consideration

Examples of parent volunteer activities for consideration *may include but are not limited to*:

- Faith development initiatives
- Safety programs including Kiss and Ride
- Food and nutrition programs, including pizza days, lunch/breakfast programs
- Seasonal celebrations, fairs, outdoor activities or indoor events aligned with TPH guidance.

Faith Development Initiatives

The faith development of students continues to be a priority in our schools. As schools may take part in local day trips, enhancements to the faith journey including day/half day retreats shall be considered.

Nutrition Programs

Nutrition/third party food programs and non-instructional food events are permitted to operate if food handlers use adequate food handling and safety practices.

- Grab-and go-formats are preferred. For example, food items can be put together in one container (e.g. paper or plastic bag) for each student, or each item can be available for students to take from its own bin/tray.

Pizza/Special Lunch Day

Food should be individually packaged and remain sealed until delivered to each classroom.

Community Events – Outdoors

Each community and school site is unique and decisions about potential events or activities need to be considered through the lens of TPH's guidance and best practices in partnership with the school principal, superintendent, parent volunteers, and the board's health and safety officer.

- Events taking place after 6 pm or on weekends shall require coordination of a permit through the Board's permit department.
- Coordination with staff and parent volunteers is required to set up structures to maintain attendance below maximum numbers and limit inside school access for washrooms.