



## Director's Monthly Report

January 2022

Since the last board meeting, we have celebrated the birth of our Lord over the Christmas season, and spent time with family, albeit in reduced capacities congruent with our on-going public health realities. We are hopeful that despite the impositions on our regular gatherings over the holidays, that it provided the opportunity to be present with those closest to us, with an optimistic look toward the future.

The rapid rise in the Omicron variant resulted in yet another “pivot” into remote learning for staff and students. We recognize that information moved quickly and decisions around the extension of the Christmas break turned into extended remote learning at the beginning of the month. These realities challenged our resiliency and impacted our social, emotional, academic, and mental-health and wellness. We are tremendously grateful to all staff for their service, sacrifice, and support for students and families during this difficult time, and to our parents and community members for their support and partnership.

Looking forward to a return to in-person learning, we have been focused on continuing to create the safest spaces possible for our students and staff. We have made tremendous investments in ventilation upgrades since the summer and continue to ensure that staff and students have access to appropriate masks and access to rapid antigen tests. Our partnership with Public Health has resulted in hosting numerous vaccination clinics throughout our board to increase access and remove barriers for students, staff, and families. Though the provincial direction has moved from Public Health contact tracing and public reporting, the TCSDB has committed to providing parents information as it disclosed to them regarding COVID-19 in our schools, and we continue to post such information we receive publicly. Daily absences are being reported provincially and can be accessed daily in the spirit of transparency for our communities.

As we dig ourselves out from one of the largest snowfalls in recent memory which impacted all schools and communities, we remain optimistic about returning to pre-pandemic realities, recognizing the importance of being able to gather in communities of faith. We are grateful for the ways our parents and caregivers continue to support our shared commitments as we recognize the impact and importance of partnership on our schools and communities.

### Highlights from January include:

- Celebrating **Courage as the Virtue of the Month** and recognizing important observances such as: Tamil Heritage Month, New Year's Day, Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother, World Peace Day, Epiphany, Eastern Rite Christmas, Baptism of the Lord, Eastern Rite New Year, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day, International Day of Education, Bell Let's Talk Day, Family Literacy Day, and International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Kindergarten Registration also begins this month.

- **Engaging with media** on behalf of the TCSDB and education in Ontario on CBC Metro Morning, CBC Ontario Today, CTV, CP24, The Star, and the Globe and Mail. We continue to embrace opportunities to positively position TCSDB and the important work happening throughout the system
- Connecting with our TCDSB Community through our monthly “**Lunch with the Director**” series live streamed on Facebook and YouTube where we discussed questions focused on mental health, pandemic responses, and even the snow day from the TCDSB community on **Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**
- Contributing to on-going provincial conversations regarding **Streamlining the Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP)** with the Ministry and a group of Director’s from across Ontario. The BIEP sets out province-wide goals and performance indicators under four educational priority areas, 1) Achievement; 2) Human Rights and Equity; 3) Mental Health, Well-Being, and Engagement; and 4) Transitions and Pathways
- Along with Trustees, participating in the **OCSTA 2022 Virtual Catholic Trustee Conference**
- Delivering opening remarks at the **Pastoral Day of Care** along with Principals, Chaplains, and school TSU representatives with this year’s focus on Technology Use and Mental Health
- Along with the Chair attending the **Annual Meeting of the Chairs and Directors of Education** of the Catholic School Boards within the **Archdiocese of Toronto with Cardinal Collins**
- Connecting with and encouraging leadership candidates who are discerning school leadership at the **CPCO Principal’s Qualification Program Part 2 session**
- Participating in the upcoming virtual **CODE Annual Business Meeting** and keynote speakers between January 26 and January 28
- Participating in monthly **Ripple Effect Circle** Meetings - Ripple Effect Circle - an action-oriented alliance of individuals of influence across multiple sectors (private, public, non-profit) in Canada created to take action and work towards combatting systemic racism in Black communities
- On-going engagement with **Toronto Public Health** with vaccination and **booster** strategies in Toronto, and public health recommendations from TPH that impact and influence TCDSB staff and students
- Continuing **important connections throughout the pandemic with the Deputy Minister of Education, Toronto Public Health, and the Ministry of Health** in support of provincial and local initiatives to keep students, staff, and families safe and healthy during this current COVID-19 pandemic
- Participating on and contributing to **provincial leadership conversations** with **Directors of Education and Health Officials** from across the province in support of TCSDB staff, students, and families, and to influence public policy decisions in support of education and health care