

Notice of Motion – Daily Danger at St Michael’s Choir School

To: SEAC, February 9, 2022

MOVED BY: Deborah Nightingale, SEAC representative for ABC Ontario

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS: The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has committed to creating school communities focussed on the success, mental health and well-being of all students, including special education students. The TCDSB is committed to providing safe, healthy and welcoming learning environments for all students;

WHEREAS: Students require, and parents expect a safe learning environment for their children at TCDSB schools;

WHEREAS: There is a large community of special education students, many of them identified as gifted, attending St Michael’s Choir School (Choir School);

WHEREAS: There are unprecedented safety issues at the Choir School since August 2020 when the hotel across the street from the school was converted to a homeless shelter and later added a safe injection site there;

WHEREAS: Grade 3 to Grade 12 students at the Choir School are witnessing drug deals, and injections, assaults and public sex on the steps of their school every day;

WHEREAS: Caretakers and teachers find used needles, human waste and vandalism at the Choir School daily;

WHEREAS: There were 3 very serious incidents involving gunfire in the immediate vicinity of the Choir School in December 2021;

WHEREAS: TCDSB staff have known about this unsafe school environment since August 2020 and nothing effective has been done to protect students at the school; and

WHEREAS: Parents delegated to the TCDSB in October 2020 about this dangerous situation and the harassment is ongoing for students and teachers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC urges and strongly recommends that the TCDSB affirm that it will protect its students at the Choir School and find a solution as soon as possible to safeguard the well-being of these students; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommends that in order to protect these vulnerable students, the TCDSB move the Choir School to a safer location as soon as possible.