



**THE ANGEL**  
**FOUNDATION**  
**FOR LEARNING**

# Annual Report 2020-2021





# Annual Report 2020-2021

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## A Message From Our Chair

Our 2019-2020 Annual Report described a school year like no other. It's safe to say that the 2020-2021 school year was even more unusual.

Despite the many challenges presented by the pandemic, including the lockdowns and the many health restrictions, the Angel Foundation for Learning has never experienced such an active 12 months of sharing and giving. We are pleased to be able to capture many of the highlights outlined in this annual report.

We were truly gratified to see the outpouring of support for students and families struggling with the financial, emotional and physical impact of COVID-related health and safety measures. Due in large part to the incredible compassion and generosity demonstrated by staff, students, families and community members across the City of Toronto, The Foundation was able to respond to the overwhelming needs in the community.

From financial support for school-based community food pantries, and grocery cards to support student nutrition at home, to vouchers for school apparel, and funding for urgent and extreme needs, AFL was able to provide millions of dollars to those who required assistance throughout the school year. For the first time in its history, Foundation staff worked full time into the summer months to extend support to meet the unprecedented needs caused by the ongoing pandemic.

As a not-for-profit organization, the challenges brought on by COVID have resulted in the Foundation restructuring all areas of its operations to "Build Back Better". Major changes were made to our administrative staff and governance models to ensure the Foundation is equipped to meet the needs of the community well into the future.

We are also grateful for the enduring confidence of our corporate sponsors who supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year, despite their own financial challenges. Their unconditional participation and involvement in current and future initiatives is an inspiration to us all.

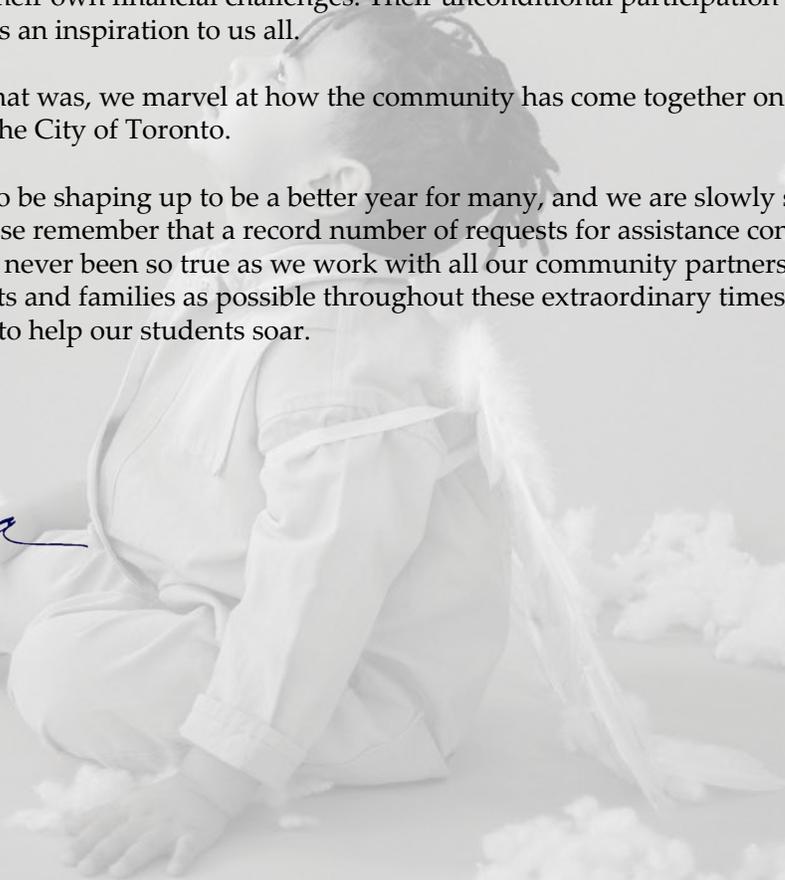
As we look back on the year that was, we marvel at how the community has come together once again to ensure equity for all students across the City of Toronto.

Although 2021-2022 appears to be shaping up to be a better year for many, and we are slowly seeing a return to normal day-to-day activities, please remember that a record number of requests for assistance continue to pour in. The motto "stronger together" has never been so true as we work with all our community partners to meet the extraordinary needs of as many students and families as possible throughout these extraordinary times. Thank you for all that you do to help our students soar.

Sincerely,



**Nancy Murdocca**  
Chair of the Board



## Meet Our New Team...Ready to Serve

By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, The Angel Foundation for Learning had a new team of dedicated professionals in place to support the needs of our school communities. Meet the members of our team:



**John Yan**  
Executive Director



**Iris Martinez**  
Manager, Operations  
and Programs



**Emmy Szekeres Milne**  
Manager, Communications,  
Fundraising and Events



**Rosemary Ejiofor**  
Finance and Accounting  
Officer



**Angela Olmstead**  
Student Nutrition  
Program Coordinator



**Emma Iscaro**  
Communications and  
Outreach Officer



**Sherry-Anne Pearson**  
Student Nutrition  
Program Officer



**Tashian Licorish**  
Student Nutrition  
Program Officer

## What We Do

### *Feeding Children and Helping Families*

The Angel Foundation for Learning typically feeds more than 60,000 students daily through school-based student nutrition programs. Since the past year was far from being typical, AFL continued with the practice of distributing grocery cards to families to assist them with providing healthy meals and snacks for children who were learning remotely. During the period of September 2020 through to June 2021, AFL distributed approximately \$1.7 million in grocery cards, including support for summer programs (4,000 cards for Focus on Youth program counsellors and campers, 8,000 for students in the grade 8 to 9 summer transition programs, 9,000 for students in summer school, 500 for students in the MEDD summer programs and 8,000 to support requests from individual schools). We also distributed \$170,126 for emergency needs, extreme needs and camp funds.



### *Help With School Apparel*

A new equity initiative launched in the spring of 2021 was a school apparel voucher system. Driven by student leaders who identified the cost of uniforms and school apparel as a barrier for many families, and thanks to a generous donation from McCarthy Uniforms, we were able to provide support of up to \$150 to each student

who needed assistance. From March through to the end of August, we distributed more than \$21,000 in vouchers to families. This was in addition to the traditional support provided locally by our secondary schools, and directly through McCarthy.



Stephanie



Keith

## Removing Barriers to Post-Secondary Education

Our student leaders also identified the rising cost of applying to universities and colleges as a barrier for some families. In an effort to ensure that these fees do not discourage students from applying for post-secondary studies, The Angel Foundation for Learning is launching The Peggy Project in the fall of 2021.

Funded through estate bequests of former MSSB and TCDSB employees and a \$10,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Toronto, this initiative will subsidize the cost of application fees for eligible students.



With the support of the Guidance team and other system leaders at the Board, this pilot project is hoped to further expand to include a mentorship component, linking students with professionals in the field who can provide youth with guidance and insight into the post-secondary

studies, as well as potentially open doors to future co-op or permanent job placement opportunities. More information on this exciting new venture will be shared in our next report.

## Student Leadership

AFL continues to connect with youth across the Board by participating in leadership events like Camp Olympia and iLITE, and we welcome the input received from our student trustees at AFL board meetings, and members of the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team. Students are not only being supported by The Angel Foundation, they are also providing a much needed voice as to what additional supports would be helpful for students and their families.

The Angel Foundation for Learning extends a warm welcome to Stephanie De Castro from Senator O'Connor, newly elected student trustee for 2021-23.

We look forward to working with her and continuing to work with Keith Baybayon as we look for new ways to engage students to get involved with The Angel Foundation for Learning and continue to respond to the needs of students.

We extend our appreciation to outgoing student trustee **Kathy Nguyen**

(right) for all that she has done throughout her term to support her peers, advocate for their needs and give voice to their concerns. We valued her input at AFL board meetings as well as at the TCDSB Board and committee meetings. We wish her every success in her future studies and pursuit of a career in social work. Her compassion and commitment will serve her well.



We also congratulate Keith Baybayon for being elected as president of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. With a commitment to equity for all students, we know that he will be a passionate voice for his peers across the province.

He met with Minister of Education Stephen Lecce in the summer to begin discussions around the concerns that students have about health and safety and the quality of education in the year ahead.

Wishing you much success in this important new role, Keith!

## Inspiring School Communities to Share All That They Do

Still a work in progress due to delays attributed to the global pandemic and resulting restrictions, The Angel Foundation for Learning is preparing to launch the Angel Team (or A-Team) concept very soon. The idea is simple. Each school will be encouraged to initiate a local A-Team, who would

lead students and staff in raising awareness, raising funds and doing good work in the school and in the community. Although the hope is that these local A-Teams would embrace AFL Toronto as one of their charities of choice, we also hope that these teams will take the lead with sharing the news about all the acts of kindness and sharing that the school is engaged in to help make the world a more compassionate and caring place for everyone. They would serve as a liaison for all the other teams (Safe Schools, EcoTeam, Stop the Stigma, Chaplaincy etc) in place at the school who are working to nurture more caring, inclusive, and compassionate communities.



## Making an Impact on Social Media

Throughout the past school year, the new team at The Angel Foundation made a concerted effort to increase the profile of the Foundation on all social media platforms. This included various contests and promotions, as well as sharing of information that would be helpful for students and families. One example was this Instagram giveaway which asked



folks to follow us and tag others for a chance to win some Toronto Blue Jays socks courtesy of Major League socks.

The results have been incredible, with more people being aware of the work of AFL Toronto.

Followers have grown from 1685 on Twitter to 1818, from 571 to 594 followers on Facebook and from 313 to 487 followers on Instagram. Donations have also increased considerably over the past year, although the requests for support were also on the rise due to the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown measures.

## Recognizing Excellence

Six outstanding students were recognized by The Angel Foundation for Learning in June 2021 for academic excellence, community service, and contributions to their local schools through AFLToronto's annual award and bursary program.

Kairra Clemente (Francis Libermann CSS) and Kavishka Gomes (Neil McNeil CSS) are the winners of the 2021 Tom Leon Bursaries.



Since 2004, the Tom Leon Charitable Foundation has been awarding student bursaries to deserving students who require financial assistance in order to pursue studies at a post-secondary institution.

Other 2021 Award and Bursary winners included:

- Bacchelli Family Bursary – Faith Omosefe Asemota, St. Joseph Morrow Park
- Exceptional Student Bursary – Shaleena Singh, Msgr. Fraser College, Isabella
- Mary Jane McKeen Bursary – Paula Alcantara, James Cardinal McGuigan CSS
- Murdocca Family Literacy Bursary – Yvvana Duku, Msgr. Fraser College, Isabella
- TANDIA Bursary – Cailean Valdez Cruzada, Notre Dame CSS

AFL was also pleased to provide the following schools with funds to support literacy programs and library resources: Our Lady of Peace (below left), St. Benedict (below right) and St. Roch (bottom).



## Where Are They Now?

The Angel Foundation is always delighted to hear from recent graduates and former recipients of the Tom Leon Student Bursary Award. Joseph Magnoli told us that after completing his Bachelor's of Civil Engineering at Ryerson University last year, and a 15-month internship program with Tridel, he was hired full-time in on-site construction management.

“While it’s been a challenging year, it gives me great pride to be able to complete my degree and move towards the next stage in my life,” says Joseph. “I’d like to thank The Angel Foundation (as well as Connie Leon) for the support you’ve offered. You have afforded me an opportunity to not only gain an education, but to expand my skillset and network outside of the standard curriculum.”

Joseph is justifiably proud of all that he has been able to accomplish while completing his studies, including: FEAS First-Year Engineering Office, Ryerson Engineering Orientation (Frosh) Week, Ryerson Engineering Student Society, Ryerson Engineering Concrete Toboggan Team (Waterloo), Ryerson Society for Civil Engineering, Conference on Sustainability in Engineering (Prince George, BC), Ryerson Engineering Competition (Toronto), Ontario Engineering Competition (Guelph), TimberFever Design-Build Competition (Toronto), Cooperative Internship Program, Tridel.

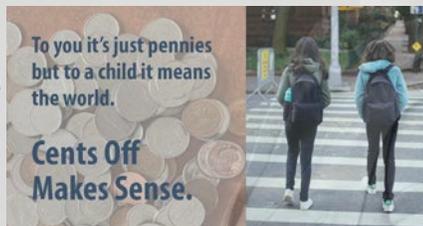


“These are experiences that have shaped me as both a young professional and as an individual, and that I know will serve me well in the years to come,” Joseph added.

For details about awards and bursaries see <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/bursaries-awards/>.

## Exploring A Variety of Options to Make Giving Easy

The Angel Foundation for Learning continues to provide opportunities for everyone to make a difference in the lives of students and families. Staff across the Toronto Catholic District School Board are always encouraged to sign up (or stay signed up) for Cents Off their pay cheques. For less than the price of a cup of coffee per month, this donation of a few cents from each pay cheque helps to support the work of the Foundation. If all staff participated in this program, we would have close to \$7,000 more per month to give back to students and families in need.



New in 2020-2021, AFLToronto signed on to iHiveLIVE. By signing up, anyone who shops online through the AFL hive at many major online stores including Amazon, Indigo, Foot Locker and more, will be able to designate a charity to receive a few cents from each purchase made. There is no cost to the consumer, just an added few seconds to do the additional log in before visiting your favourite online vendors. Once again, those few cents or dollars from each person who signs up will go a long way to providing a small revenue stream for AFL Toronto year round.



In the spring of 2020, the Foundation met with the founders of GiveRise, an online buy and sell marketplace that supports local charities. The concept is that sellers on this new

marketplace site will be able to designate a portion of their sales to go to the charity of their choice. We will have a further update on this in the next report. <https://giverise.ca/>

## Events and Promotions

### A Different Approach to Marlies Day

Although the much-anticipated TCDSB Marlies Day at CocaCola Coliseum had to be cancelled this year due to COVID restrictions, the Board declared March 29, 2021 as Blue & White Day to show support for the Toronto Marlies and Maple Leafs.

Schools were encouraged to consider participating by wearing blue and white, or their Leafs or Marlies gear and share photos on social media of the class or the family at home wearing their team colours or enjoying a game of ball hockey. A draw was held with prizes of gift certificates for pizza courtesy of Domino’s and

Travis Dermott bobbleheads awarded to the winning classes/families. Through this board-wide civvies day, and an auction of signed Leafs jerseys donated by MLSE, we raised close to \$3,000.



## May the 4th Be With You

Despite the continued school closure, many students and staff got into the Star Wars spirit, dressing up at home, creating themed artwork and donating to The Angel Foundation on May 4th. This board-wide civvies day has been an annual event for many years, and is a great reminder that our TCDSB community is truly out of this world.



were also included in the ticket price. With the largest number of participants ever, we were able to raise more than \$45,000 for urgent student needs through ticket sales, sponsorships and our online auction.

Whether a golfer or not, everyone was also invited to participate in a social media contest to coincide with the golf tournament, sharing their wildest or wackiest golf attire, or best or silliest putts, drives or pitches. Fun prizes were awarded to those with the most likes and shares thanks to our sponsors: Toronto Popcorn Company and The Keg.

## Flowers for Mother's Day

A big shout out to Thornhill Florist for partnering with us in advance of Mother's Day. They donated 20% of all sales received through The Angel Foundation back to us, helping to raise close to \$300 for urgent needs. Thanks to all who participated and ordered flowers for their moms and other loved ones.

## Give and Get Back

A new approach to encouraging donations, our give and get back promotions in the spring were a huge hit. Thanks to a donation from the Toronto Marlies, 150 hockey fans received signed Leafs posters and Travis Dermott bobbleheads in May, bringing in \$1,600, while a donation of coupons for large pizzas from Domino's, brought in \$3,600 in June.



## Father's Day Auction

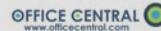
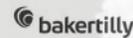
For the first time ever, AFL held an auction of gifts for dads in honour of Father's Day. Themed baskets focusing on hockey, golf, coffee and barbecue were among the items up for bids. Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated and helped us raise \$1,220 through this initiative. A huge shout out to the Toronto Marlies, Major League Socks and Indigo Yorkdale for donating items for the gift baskets.

## Charity Golf Tournament

Our annual golf tournament was a huge success thanks to the generosity of Lebovic Golf Club and our other generous sponsors and supporters.

Although the format had to be changed in order to comply with health and safety restrictions, many were attracted to the opportunity to play at the exclusive golf course in Aurora, with the option to return on two additional occasions for a round of golf on the house. Delicious food and beverages throughout the day

We appreciate the support of everyone who joined us on one or both tournament dates and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



## Bequests

The Foundation is deeply appreciative of the work of our Honorary Treasurer Mary-Eileen Donovan for assisting in completing the bequest of \$144,484.07 from the estate of former MSSB Director of Education Norm Forma. We also received notice on August 31, 2021 from lawyers for the Estate of Mary Augustine Lynch finalizing the bequest of \$117,000 to the AFL. This outpouring of generosity will go a long way to supporting the work of the Foundation throughout the years ahead. Email [angel.foundation@tcdsb.org](mailto:angel.foundation@tcdsb.org) for more information about making a bequest.

## Celebrating the Many Angels Among Us

### Panther Pantry

There are many Angels among us, and the staff at St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough are living examples.

When Jill Forester, the school Chaplain, started hearing from staff about students who were not eating lunch, or who admitted that they did not have enough food at home, she sprang into action. Together with Debbie Richards-Broomfield, Child and Youth Worker and Vera Mawhinney, Attendance Secretary, they launched the Panther Pantry in the fall of 2019 with the full support of the Principal and the administrative team, custodial staff and other members of the SJPII community.

Together with Debbie Richards-Broomfield, Child and Youth Worker and Vera Mawhinney, Attendance Secretary, they launched the Panther Pantry in the fall of 2019 with the full support of the Principal and the administrative team, custodial staff and other members of the SJPII community.



Families were asked to come forward and self-identify if they needed some assistance, and they were invited to specify their general preferences for the types of non-perishable items they would typically stock at home if they could.

Funding for the Panther Pantry comes primarily from private sources. Individual donations, funding from The Angel Foundation for Learning, and donations of food items from local businesses and families have kept the initiative going. A major contribution of more than \$3,000 came directly from parents of grade 12 students at the school who opted to direct their \$50 refund from student fees to the Panther Pantry.



Read the full story on our website: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/panther-pantry/>

### Food Hampers for Families

St. Mother Teresa Catholic Academy in Scarborough is responding to the needs in the community by providing food hampers to families in need. In partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School, Toronto District School Board and Muslim Welfare



Canada, 60 food hampers were delivered in May and June containing flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, pasta and pasta sauce, chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils, hand sanitizer and fruit salad as well as 8kg bags of rice.

Principal Jose Flores also provided 6 hampers to each of the feeder schools in the area to ensure that more families in the Malvern neighbourhood could benefit. Discussions are underway about how to keep the project going in the 2021-2022 school year.

### Special Gift for School Chapel

An original piece of artwork depicting the last supper now graces the wall of the chapel at the newly rebuilt St. Joseph Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School in North York. The sculpted wood piece was commissioned by the late Tom A. Leon many years ago, and was donated to the school by his widow Connie Leon. According to Connie, the family has a strong connection to SJMP as Tom's two daughters and three granddaughters all attended school there, and she feels that the artwork has come to its second home.



On hand for the blessing and dedication were (left to right): Catherine Moynihan, Vice-Principal at St. Joseph Morrow Park, Patricia Coburn, Principal, John Yan, Executive Director of The Angel Foundation for Learning, Connie Leon, Norm Di Pasquale, Toronto Catholic District School Board Trustee for Ward 9, Anne Marie Selvaggi Lacaria, school Chaplain and Fr Ed Murphy, Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish.

The Angel Foundation for Learning is grateful for the ongoing support of Connie Leon and the Leon family, most notably through the Tom Leon Student Bursary, which provides \$5,000 for each recipient to help defray the cost of post-secondary school education for TCDSB students that require financial assistance. Full story: <https://angelfoundationforlearning.org/special-gift/>

## Student Led Initiatives

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team for all they do to support the work of AFL. Students initiated a campaign to send personalized Easter postcards to seniors and shut ins who were feeling lonely and isolated. The cards were delivered on Easter Saturday to Chartwell Lansing Retirement Home. We are so proud of their kindness and compassion. They truly exemplify our Catholic Graduate Expectations, and serve as wonderful role models for all.

Under the leadership of Marcos Fonseca and the Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team, a group of eager volunteers coordinated the sale of Easter Baskets to help raise money for students and families in need.



Seeing an opportunity for families to send gifts to their loved ones at a time when we were not able to physically get together, they arranged for the assembly and delivery of various sizes of gift baskets across the city and beyond. Through their creativity and hard work, and with the support of many in the TCDSB community, they raised more than \$1,200 for The Angel Foundation for Learning. Our students rock!

## Invisalign and MLSE Partner to Help Students

Last spring, thanks to Toronto Raptor Kyle Lowry and the MLSE Foundation, three TCDSB students were provided with the opportunity to benefit from orthodontic treatment courtesy of Invisalign. The Angel Foundation for Learning helped connect the organizations to eligible students. We look forward to seeing their winning smiles when their treatment is completed.

## Catholic Teachers Give Back

The Angel Foundation for Learning is grateful to TECT (Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers) for their continued support. From sponsoring major events such as the golf tournament, to making large donations for special occasions such as Christmas, their members exemplify the caring and compassion of the many professionals hard at work in our school communities.



Patricia Minnan-Wong presents John Yan with a cheque just in time for Christmas.

## Profile of a Frequent Donor

There are so many amazing people in our TCDSB community helping out as best they can, and most, like our featured angel here, do so quietly and without any fanfare. Premila De Silva reluctantly agreed to sharing her story of giving simply in the hope that she could be an inspiration to others.

"I know that communities are in need, and I just feel this is the least I can do for those who are struggling to make ends meet in this very difficult and trying time of the pandemic", says Premila, who became one of our most frequent donors.



"I usually try to show my appreciation for my friends, colleagues and family on their special days with good wishes, prayers and a small gift," she explains. "Sharing what I have, by donating has always been important to me. By giving to AFL, I felt it was a more thoughtful way of showing appreciation for friends and family by honouring them (with a tribute donation) and helping to meet the need in the community as well," she adds.

Thank you to Premila, and all the Angels Among Us!

# The Financial Picture

## The Angel Foundation for Learning

### Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets For the year ended August 31, 2021

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
<b>Revenue</b>				
Grants	8,305,795	-	8,305,795	5,698,146
Donations	620,108	162,756	782,864	566,769
Fundraising events	72,279	-	72,279	141,502
Interest	122	-	122	20,035
	<u>\$ 8,998,304</u>	<u>\$ 162,756</u>	<u>\$ 9,161,060</u>	<u>\$ 6,426,452</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Program	5,848,187	-	5,848,187	5,521,412
Fundraising	4,464	-	4,464	57,291
Office	6,155	-	6,155	(2,150)
Salaries and benefits	416,792	-	416,792	327,733
Professional fees	49,005	-	49,005	10,790
	<u>\$ 6,324,603</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 6,324,603</u>	<u>\$ 5,915,076</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ 2,673,701</b>	<b>\$ 162,756</b>	<b>\$ 2,836,457</b>	<b>\$ 511,376</b>
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net assets, beginning of year</b>	<b>635,033</b>	<b>747,394</b>	<b>1,382,427</b>	<b>871,051</b>
<b>Net assets, end of year</b>	<b>3,308,734</b>	<b>910,150</b>	<b>4,218,884</b>	<b>1,382,427</b>

# AFL Board of Directors

Our thanks to our Board of Directors for their ongoing commitment to The Angel Foundation for Learning:



**Nancy Murdocca**  
Chair



**John Yan**  
Executive Director



**Markus Di Domenico**  
Trustee Ward 2



**Norm Di Pasquale**  
Trustee Ward 9



**Mary-Eileen Donovan**  
Honourary Treasurer



**Keith Baybayon**  
Student Trustee



**Stephanie De Castro**  
Student Trustee



**Patricia Coburn**  
TCSSPA



**Caroline D'Souza**  
TCPVA



**Tony Pucci**  
TCPVA



**Julie Mazzucca-Peter**  
Speech and Language



**Jeanine Amaral**  
CUPE1328



**Odette Fernandes**  
Social Work



**Carmela Giardini**  
Community Member



**Liz Gabbott**  
Community Member



**Raffi Guluyan**  
MAPA



**Shawna Campbell**  
Executive  
Superintendent



**Gabriella Zazzarino**  
APSSP



**Gabriella Figliano**  
TECT

TBA  
TECT

Julissa Perez  
Nicole Boye  
CSLIT



**THE ANGEL  
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