

### OUR 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.*

### OUR VISION

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



## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

### **PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** N. Crawford – Virtual  
A. Kennedy – Virtual

**Non-Voting  
Trustee:** M. Rizzo– Virtual

**External Members:** George Wedge, Chair  
Geoffrey Feldman, Vice-Chair - Virtual  
M. Battaglia - Virtual  
M. Da Costa - Virtual  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe – Virtual  
Lisa McMahon - Virtual  
Tyler Munro - Virtual  
Deborah Nightingale - Virtual  
Mary Pugh - Virtual

**Staff:** C. Fernandes  
F. Cifelli  
A. Coke  
V. Cocco  
M. Gendron  
M. Meehan  
R. Macchia  
J. Mirabella  
D. Reid

P. Stachiw

S. Pellegrini, Acting Recording Secretary

**External Guest:** A. Robertson, Parliamentarian

**3. Roll Call and Apologies**

Trustee Di Giorgio sent his regrets. Wendy Layton was absent.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Agenda, as amended to include the Addendum, be approved.

Mary Pugh joined the virtual meeting at 7:19 pm.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Mary Pugh did not respond/vote.

**5. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

Lisa McMahon joined the virtual meeting at 7:22 pm.

## 6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that the Minutes of the Meeting held January 19, 2022 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

## 9. Notices of Motion

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

- 9a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative for Bright Children Ontario Special Education regarding Daily Danger at St. Michael's Choir School** will be considered at the March 9, 2022 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting.

**WHEREAS:** The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) has committed to creating school communities focused 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 three 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 urge and strongly recommend 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 recommend that in order to protect these vulnerable students, the TCDSB move the Choir School to a safer location as soon as possible.

## **10. Consent and Review**

The Chair reviewed the Order Page and the following Items were held:

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of February 9, 2022 – Deborah Nightingale;
- 11b) Special Education Plan Review - Update from Informal Working Group – Trustee Crawford;
- 12a) Annual Report on the Accessibility Standards Policy (A.35) – Geoffrey Feldman;

- 12b) Mental Health and Well-Being Report 2020-2021 (Information) – Geoffrey Feldman; and
- 12c) Special Education Superintendent Update – February 2022 – Deborah Nightingale

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Item not held be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

**ITEM NOT HELD AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION**

- 19a) Pending List as at February 9, 2022

**11. Annual Calendar Items**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that Item 11a) be adopted as follows:

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar as of February 9, 2022** received.

Trustee Rizzo joined the virtual meeting at 7:35 pm.

The Chair declared a five-minute recess.

The meeting resumed with George Wedge in the Chair, with a change to the attendance list as follows:

**PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** N. Crawford – Virtual  
A. Kennedy – Virtual

**Non-Voting  
Trustee:** M. Rizzo - Virtual

**External Members:** George Wedge, Chair  
Geoffrey Feldman, Vice-Chair - Virtual  
M. Battaglia - Virtual  
M. Da Costa - Virtual  
Lori Mastrogiuseppe – Virtual  
Tyler Munro - Virtual  
Deborah Nightingale - Virtual  
Mary Pugh - Virtual

**11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar as of February 9, 2022 (continued)**

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Mary Pugh, that SEAC's annual goals be listed each month in the Agenda on the same page as the SEAC Terms of Reference; and

That review of the SEAC annual goals be scheduled in the annual calendar three times a year in addition to goal setting exercise in September.

MOVED in AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT by Mary Pugh, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that the following wording be added “*usually December, March, June,*” so that the second paragraph amendment reads as follows:

That review of the SEAC annual goals be scheduled in the annual calendar three times a year, usually December, March, June, in addition to goal setting exercise in September.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Lisa McMahon joined the virtual meeting at 8:09 pm.

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 11b) be adopted as follows:

**11b) Special Education Plan Review - Update from Informal Working Group** received.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that SEAC approve the recommendations from the Special Education Informal Working Group and that the recommendations be referred to Staff.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

Time for business expired and was extended by 15 minutes, as per Article 12.6 of the By-law, to complete the debate on the Item and as per the will of the majority of the Assembly:

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

**12. Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees**

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

**12a) Annual Report on the Accessibility Standards Policy (A.35) received.**

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Staff bring back the survey questions for SEAC Working Group feedback.



On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

Mary Pugh left the virtual meeting at 9:04 p.m.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 12b) be adopted as follows:

**12b) Mental Health and Well-Being Report 2020-2021** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 12c) be adopted as follows:

**12c) Special Education Superintendent Update – February 2022** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

Melanie Battaglia did not respond/vote.

## **21. Adjournment**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR