



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

PARENT AND STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Romans 12:4-5

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
June 22, 2015	August 27, 2015	Click here to enter a date.
C. Marchetti, Coordinator International Languages and Parent/Community Engagement J. Yan, Senior Coordinator, Communications D. Koenig, Superintendent of Education, Curriculum and Accountability		

RECOMMENDATION 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 rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



G. Poole

Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

Angela Gauthier

Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights for external consultation.

B. PURPOSE

The Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights was developed and underwent an internal consultation with CPIC and OAPCE T.O. with the feedback incorporated in the revised draft. The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the external consultation for the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights (Appendix A).

C. BACKGROUND

- a) At the February 27, 2014 Board Meeting the following motion was approved:

“The Board of Trustees approve the formation of a special ad-hoc committee to develop a student/parent charter or bill of rights to report back to Board by August 2014. That this special ad-hoc committee include representation from staff, trustees, parents and students”.

- b) The general Terms of Reference and Composition are outlined in Appendix B. Note that the committee is comprised of five parent representatives, with representation from both the elementary and secondary panel, four student representatives, one Trustee and three TCDSB staff. This charter of rights will provide parents with being able to expect their children’s educational needs to be met by the schools and the right to access school and district administration and information. It is expected that the development and approval of the parent/student charter of rights will increase public confidence in the board and support in the attainment of goals as outlined in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

- a) The Parent/Student Charter of Rights Committee met during the 2014/2015 school year and drafted a Parent and Student Charter of Rights.
- b) Internal consultation for the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights was held on December 8, 2015 with OAPCE T.O. and on December 15, 2015 with CPIC.
- c) The format for the consultation included an overview of the process the committee used to draft the charter. OAPCE T.O. and CPIC members were divided into small focus groups with a facilitator and recorder assigned to each group.
- d) Feedback from the small groups was recorded and, subsequently, compiled into emerging themes and suggestions.
- e) The Committee was provided with the raw data and the compiled feedback for consideration.
- f) A final Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights was developed and approved by the committee for the Board of Trustees to approve for external consultation.

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

This strategic communications and community engagement action plan has been developed to support stakeholder input and ensure maximum engagement regarding the TCDSB's proposed Parent and Student Charter of Rights. The integrated and multi-faceted communications plan will include (but not be limited to) the list outlined in the Who Will Be Consulted and How We Will Consult section below.

The community engagement level of "CONSULT" is being recommended. The definition of CONSULT is: "Obtain input from community members and the general public on proposed Board directions and decisions."

To further enhance direct involvement, there will be an additional opportunity for participants to submit more detailed written suggestions through the creation and launch of a dedicated Parent and Student Charter of Rights Community Consultation webpage with a customized input tool. This communications input tool will ensure the confidentiality of anyone providing feedback or comments.

This practice has been used successfully in the most recent Board community consultations regarding the Board's 2015-16 Budget and Admissions Policy.

Promotion of the proposed Parent and Student Charter of Rights consultation process will be coordinated using all media modalities in the Communications Department inventory. The initial point of communication will be an open invitation letter delivered to all parents in elementary schools, and through a Synervoice broadcast phone message at the secondary level.

The Communications Plan will also be aligned to support the initiative through follow up in the Director's Bulletin Board , Weekly Wrap Up, web (TCDSB's external and internal portal), social media (i.e. Twitter) and E-newsletters, posters to engage and inform internal and external audiences and stakeholders. This will be further sustained through school newsletters and working with the Archdiocese for access via their website and individual parish bulletins.

Who Will Be Consulted:

- Parents and Students
- Student Leaders (CSLIT and ECSLIT)
- Community Leaders and Members (CSPC, TAPCE etc)
- Employees (Teachers/Support Staff)
- Principals & Vice Principals
- Trustees
- Senior Staff (TCDSB)
- Parishioners and Catholic Stakeholders (via Archdiocese)

How We Will Consult:

- Web (www.tcdsb.org) hosting of proposed Parent and Student Charter of Rights Report webpage containing all background and supporting documentation, with confidential online consultation submission tool
- Hosting of info and updates on all 201 school websites
- Letter and information sent home with elementary students
- Synervoice broadcast to all secondary students
- Twitter and other social media
- TCDSB E-News
- News Release and Public Service Announcements (PSA)
- Communication to Parishes via Archdiocese with request for a direct link to TCDSB Parent and Student Charter of Rights website and information

F. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

For each of the community sector consultations there will be a facilitator and recorder. These notes will be compiled according to emerging themes and suggestions. Once all of the consultations have been completed, the Parent and Student Charter of Rights Committee will reconvene to determine the revisions and edits which are recommended based on the community feedback.

Once completed there will be a report to Board with the final Draft of the Parent and Student Charter of Rights.

G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees approve the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights for external consultation.