



*Mike Del Grande
Trustee Ward 7*

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To: Corporate Services Committee Meeting, March 22, 2023

From: Mike Del Grande, Trustee Ward 7

Subject: Consideration of Motion - Admission and Placement of Elementary Pupils Policy (S.A.01) be amended such that Christian Orthodox children be permitted to attend TCDSB Elementary Schools

MOVED BY: Mike Del Grande, Toronto Catholic District School Board,
seconded by

WHEREAS: Orthodox students prior to the mid 1980's were admitted in Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)/Metropolitan Separate School Board (MSSB) elementary schools and;

WHEREAS: Orthodox alumni of TCDSB elementary schools have school age children whom they wish the opportunity to experience the Catholic school environment they once had the privilege of being educated in and;

WHEREAS: The Catholic Church and faith has always encouraged evangelization and;

WHEREAS: The Ontario Catholic Bishops wrote to the then TCDSB Chair of the Board in March 2001 regarding their advice on admissions of Orthodox students and;

WHEREAS: Neighbouring GTA Catholic school boards permit Orthodox student admissions to elementary schools with certain provisions and;

WHEREAS: Pope Paul VI was the first Pope since the ninth century to visit the East, labeling the Eastern Churches as sister Churches. They produced the Catholic-

Orthodox Joint declaration of 1965 during the Second Vatican Council. Orthodox students are permitted and welcomed to attend Catholic schools in accordance with the papal encyclical Ut Unum Sint (1995) proclaimed by Pope John Paul II.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Admission and Placement of Elementary Pupils Policy (S.A.01) be amended such that Christian Orthodox children be permitted to attend TCDSB elementary schools provided:

- a) That space remains available in a school after registering/servicing all Catholic students;
- b) That the child(ren) must be baptized in a recognized Christian Orthodox Church affiliated with the sea of Constantinople or Alexandria; and
- c) That the parents provide a request in writing to the Principal and Superintendent requesting their child(ren) be admitted outlining why a Catholic education will best serve the needs of the child(ren) and their agreement to have their child(ren) fully participate in the Catholic curriculum, culture, and practices of the school.

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Trustee, Ward 7