



*Maria Rizzo  
Trustee Ward 5*

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**To:** Corporate Services Committee Meeting, March 22, 2023

**From:** Maria Rizzo, Trustee Ward 5

**Subject:** Consideration of Motion – Gender Equity in Sports

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**MOVED BY:** **Maria Rizzo**, Toronto Catholic District School Board, **seconded** by

**WHEREAS:** Fostering gender equality in sports is about creating equal opportunities;

**WHEREAS:** Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) strives to give student athletes equal opportunity to develop to their fullest potential;

**WHEREAS:** The TCDSB seeks to generate a positive environment for the participation of girls, women, and gender diverse people;

**WHEREAS:** 62% of Canadian girls do not participate in any kind of sport;

**WHEREAS:** The Government of Canada adopted an action plan for Reducing Poverty and Improving Health and Well-Being: Moving towards an inclusive sports system by setting a target to achieve gender parity in sports by 2035;

**WHEREAS:** Female students should not have to fight for fair access to sports facilities;

**WHEREAS:** There is a lack of adequate playing facilities available in TCDSB schools making it more difficult for female students to engage in sports;

**WHEREAS:** Inequity stems from the built form (or lack thereof) of sports facilities at schools that are predominantly female;

**WHEREAS:** TCDSB facilities in single gender schools for girls is generally abysmal, inadequate or not as favourable as boys' venues or co-gender schools;

**WHEREAS:** The lack of acceptable sports facilities at single gender schools for girls reflects a lack of fairness and respect for female students;

**WHEREAS:** The sports facilities at Loretto Abbey, Loretto College, St Joseph's College School, Madonna, Notre Dame and even the new St Joseph's Morrow Park Catholic secondary schools are devoid and lack equitable sports facilities and fields compared to other high schools; and

**WHEREAS:** The TCDSB must address the neglect of the sub-standard condition of school sport facilities for female students, girls, women, and gender diverse people.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That School communities (as above) be consulted on how facilities can be revitalized;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That Staff prepare a report on the condition of sports facilities and fields at Loretto Abbey, Loretto College, Madonna, Notte Dame, St Joseph Wellesley and St. Joseph's Morrow Park;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That staff report on short and long term action plans to address the inequities to access equal opportunities for all student athletes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a strategy be developed to resolve the historic neglect of sports facilities at the aforementioned schools to level the playing fields;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That short term efforts be made to flatten fields to ensure safety and use by students (where land is available and possible); and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That indoor space be enhanced by providing additional equipment and improving indoor and outdoor spaces for schools which do not have land for high performance fields or outdoor facilities;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That school communities work with staff to review budget allocations to secure community sites (facilities) outside of the school (e.g. Bussing to community sites, ski hills, tracks, fitness centres etc.);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a reserve fund be created to address inequities in sports facilities across the Board;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That EDCs (Education Development Charges) be considered a funding source for improvements where eligible;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That other funding sources be explored;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That sports facilities and field work be considered in tandem for replacement schools, additions or significant capital renovations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the TCDSB request the province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to consider funding for:

a) capital infrastructure improvements for inadequate and inequitable playing fields and sports facilities; and

b) programs to foster gender equality in sport for the participation of girls, women, and gender diverse people.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the above motion be debated at the next Corporate Services Committee on March 22, 2023.

**Maria Rizzo**  
**Trustee, Ward 5**