

**Rosa Morphy Delegation on behalf of the Notre Dame CSPC for March 22, 2022 TCDSB Corporate Services Committee Meeting:**

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**Good Evening Mr/Ms. Chair, Trustees, Director of Education, Staff, Parents and Guests,**

Thank you for the opportunity to delegate at today's meeting. My name is Rosa Morphy, and I am the Co-Chair of the Notre Dame CSPC. I would like to thank Trustee Rizzo for submitting the Notice of Motion for Gender Equity in Sports as it is a topic that our school community is very passionate about as we feel that Notre Dame's gymnasium and physical facilities and equipment (both indoor and outdoor) are not appropriate in supporting female students' physical fitness programs, academic achievement and general health and wellness.

It is a known fact that participation in physical activity and extracurricular activities are important in establishing healthy lifestyles and supporting physical and mental health and well being. Girls and women who participate in sports have higher levels of confidence and self-esteem, lower levels of anxiety and depression, a more positive body image, and a higher state of psychological well-being. Participation in such activities also contribute to important social and leadership skills valued in the workforce including teamwork, time management, networking, goal-setting, the pursuit of excellence in performance (reference [\*The Women's Sports Foundation: Benefits – Why Sports participation for Girls and Women\*](#)).

Notre Dame High School is an academic girl's school that promotes leadership and academic excellence. It is the only TCDSB all-girls school in Toronto East and services a large diverse community. Built in 1950 and added to in 1963, with no major infrastructure enhancements – Notre Dame's facilities are inappropriate in supporting the female students' success and health and wellness. Notre Dame's gymnasium and combined stage facilities are not regulation size, require renovation and repurposing of spaces, and are not AODA compliant and therefore not accessible for the diverse physical needs of our students. The school has many competitive sports teams, in addition to award winning drama and dance

teams. The limited facilities are not conducive to optimizing the success of the teams.

Notre Dame does not have an outdoor field or track, and the small gymnasium does not meet regulation standards. Although neighbouring schools and facilities have offered their facilities for practices, the timeslots offered are suboptimal and secondary to the host school's and are not always convenient for the commuting Notre Dame student. Many students cannot accommodate the off-hours and extra commute to the practice facility, and this introduces additional barriers to our female students in participating in sports and extra-curricular activities.

Due to the lack of a regulation size gym and sports facilities, Notre Dame is not able to host any extramural games or tournaments thereby eliminating the excitement and school support that is inherent with being able to host a game or tournament – an important part of high school life.

This inequity in adequate sports facilities is particularly noticeable when comparing Notre Dame's sports facilities with those of neighbouring TCDSB schools – Neil McNeil, St. Patrick and St. John Henry Newman, and particularly the neighbouring TDSB Malvern and Birchmount Collegiate high schools which may be more appealing to the sports-minded student.

Notre Dame's Drama Team and Dance Teams are also extremely competitive and historically have won many awards. However, the success of these teams is also limited by the inadequate stage and dance studio facilities, as well as the fact that they are competing with the sports teams for limited space.

The need for improved facilities at Notre Dame High School have been communicated to the Board at the May 2021 Delegation for the Capital Priorities consideration, as well as via the Capital Funds Supplement Information submitted February 2022 as part of the Capital Priorities submission. The Notre Dame CSPC and parent community thanks the Board administration for considering the needs of Notre Dame. We would like to support the TCDSB in any way possible to ensure a successful outcome. An optimal school facility and infrastructure is a key contributing factor to a student's learning experience and development, as well as the social and extracurricular activities that are so critical during the high school years. The investment in Notre Dame facilities and resources will support student achievement with respect to physical education and creative programs, and will

increase student social engagement, and strengthen Health and Wellness. This will contribute to student success for the many Toronto East students who prefer attending an all-girls school. Ultimately, this will ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of our beloved school.

Thank you.

Rosa Morphy

CSPC Co-Chair, Notre Dame High School