



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY
COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY FEEDBACK

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry – James 1:19

Drafted

May 23, 2023

Meeting Date

June 6, 2023

Shazia Vlahos – Chief of Communications & Government Relations

Brandy Doan – Chief of Educational Research

Shara Singh – Supervisor, Corporate Communications

INFORMATION REPORT

Vision: *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

Mission: *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic
Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

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Associate Director of Corporate
Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The [Community Engagement Policy T.07](#) and [Community Engagement Handbook](#) were first developed in December 2012. The Board relies on these documents to conduct meaningful community engagement initiatives. As per the policy review cycle, this policy was up for review and the proposed revisions were presented for feedback to the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, (CPIC) Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE), and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). A survey was shared with these groups as well as Advisory Committees, Catholic School Parent Councils, and school administrators. This report summarizes the feedback received.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 6 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report provides an overview of the engagement undertaken and summarizes the input received on the proposed revisions to the Community Engagement Policy.

C. BACKGROUND

1. As part of the regular policy review schedule, proposed revisions to the [Community Engagement Policy T.07](#) and its related [Community Engagement Handbook](#) were presented to the Governance and Policy Committee (GAP) on December 6, 2022. At this meeting, the Board motioned that: “this policy be referred back to Staff for consultation with the following groups: CSPCs, CPIC, OAPCE, Special Education Advisory Committee and Board Advisory Committees; and that the community groups be engaged at all levels, Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower, as appropriate.”
2. On January 16, 2023, staff attended the CPIC meeting to present the proposed revisions to the policy and handbook, answered questions and received feedback. Members indicated concerns with proposed changes, definitions for levels of engagement and wording. One member asked that the survey be open for months. There was also a keen interest to make the policy more accessible for parents/guardians.
3. On January 30, 2023, staff attended the OAPCE meeting to present the proposed revisions to the policy and handbook, answered questions and received feedback. Members indicated concerns that the proposed revisions

were reducing parent/guardian voice, definitions for levels of engagement and the language was too vague.

4. On February 8, 2023, staff attended the SEAC meeting to present the proposed revisions to the policy and handbook, answered questions and received feedback. SEAC indicated the importance of including language clearly defining the opportunities for parents/guardians and key stakeholders to provide input at the community level and to engage historically marginalized families. One member raised concern about choice of wording/revisions to the policy.
5. Following these engagements, a survey was shared with CSPC Chairs, CPIC, OAPCE, SEAC, Board Advisory Committees and school administrators on February 13, 2023.
6. A survey was disseminated for input from February 13-April 28, 2023.
7. On April 11, 2023, GAP meeting, 5 delegates (1 CSPC representative & 1 OAPCE representative) indicated they were not in favour of the proposed revisions.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. There were 813 responses collected in the survey prior to the data being cleaned of blank responses and inappropriate language. 251 blank responses were removed due to no data. 351 individuals logged onto the survey and chose their role (e.g., parent/guardian, staff, student, CSPC member, etc), but did not answer any of the questions. 158 viable survey responses were left with responses from CPIC, CSPCs, OAPCE, SEAC, Advisory Committees and members who selected that they represent multiple groups.
2. There were 110 comments in favour of keeping the current community engagement policy in place. Examples of reasons given for not adopting the proposed revised policy include condensed policy, engagement opportunities for parents may be reduced; changes to definitions for levels of engagement and removal of consensus; and the current policy is fine as is.
3. There were 35 comments that were in favour of adopting the proposed revised policy. Examples of reasons given for adopting the proposed revised policy include more inclusive language, more concise, simpler, written with less jargon and more efficient.
4. There were 77 viable comments that were in favour of keeping the 18-page Handbook in place. Examples of reasons given for not adopting the 2-page revised Guideline include the handbook contained clear information on processes and highlighted the importance of parent/community voice. There were also 7 comments that were in favour of keeping both the 18-page

Handbook and 2-page revised Guidelines so parents and communities could have both a comprehensive and shortened version.

5. There were 13 comments that liked both the current and proposed revised policy. This group also included comments that were unrelated to the survey. Examples of reasons given for liking both policies include proposed revised policy was concise but suggested adding the concept of consensus. Others stated caution that the policy may be misinterpreted by some.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board of Trustees.