



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE ON OPENING & CLOSING EXERCISES S.S. 02 POLICY

*Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labour.
Ecclesiastes 5:18*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 11, 2015	May 19, 2015	June 11, 2015
Ann Andrachuk, Chair, Governance and Policy Committee Loretta Notten, Superintendent Governance and Policy		
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.*



Members of the Committee:

Ann Andrachuk, Chair
Angela Kennedy, Vice Chair
Maria Rizzo, Trustee Ward 5
Mike Del Grande, Trustee Ward 7
Gary Tanuan, Trustee Ward 8
Jo-Ann Davis, Trustee Ward 9
Nancy Crawford, Ex-Officio

A. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board approve the revised S.S.02 Opening and Closing Exercises policy with the following amendments:

1. Under Regulations, Paragraph 1, the word “will” be replaced with “shall”.
2. Under Regulation 9, the word “social” be removed.

B. ORIGIN

Board policies must be aligned with changes in Ministry policy and all changes in legislation, and congruent with TCDSB Board approved motions. As part of a review of the TCDSB Policy register, our policy for Opening and Closing Exercises has been revised to reflect recent Ministry policy and legislative requirements and the goals of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The process of commencing each school day in prayer and with the national anthem speaks to our proud Catholic faith tradition and our desire to cultivate strong national pride. The policy for Opening and Closing Exercises was last revised in 2002. In order to be consistent with Board motions regarding the singing of O Canada, Ministry of Education Policy Memorandums in relation to religious accommodation and the development of the TCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan, it was necessary to revise our current policy.

Conversation at Governance revolved around our Denominational Rights and those students who may elect to absent themselves from either the anthem or the prayer. A pastoral approach that considers each individual and their circumstances is how the system best responds, realizing that our denominational rights are “more of a shield than a sword”. This is also consistent with other related (cross-referenced) policy documents. The revised policy passed unanimously.

D. APPENDICES

1. Appendix A: Revised Opening Exercises Policy S.S. 02 – Side by Side Presentation
2. Appendix B: Report to Governance on revised Food and Beverage Policy.

E. MOTIONS

That the board approve the revised S.S. 02 Opening and Closing Exercises policy.

Motion as amended carried.