

OUR MISSION

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

OUR VISION

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION**

HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

PRESENT:

Trustees:

F. D'Amico
A. Kennedy

External Members:

G. Wedge, Chair
G. Feldman, Vice Chair
M. Cousins - Virtual
R. De Belchior – Virtual
J. Di Francesco - Virtual
L. Mastrogiuseppe - Virtual
T. Munro - Virtual
I. Novak - Virtual
M. Seymour - Virtual

Staff:

A. Della Mora
C. Fernandes
N. Adragna
M. Meehan
M. Caccamo
V. Cocco
A. Coke
D. Comacchio
O. De Figueiredo
K. Dixon
M. Gendron

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

External Guest:

A. Robertson, Parliamentarian

3. Roll Call and Apologies

An apology was extended on behalf of Lisa Mason. Trustee Rizzo, Deborah Nightingale and Ashley Pabon were absent.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Agenda be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes

MOVED by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that the Minutes of the Meeting held December 6, 2023 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

8. Presentations

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Trustee Kennedy that Item 8a) be adopted as follows:

- 8a) **Mathematics Achievement Action Plan 2023 - K. Dixon, Superintendent of Mathematics Curriculum and Innovation** received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Trustee Kennedy that Item 8b) be adopted as follows:

- 8b) **Annual Safe Schools Report 2022-2023 - M. Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools and Continuing Education** received.

Trustee Kennedy left the horseshoe at 7:44 p.m. and returned at 7:46 p.m.

MOVED IN AMENDMENT by Trustee Kennedy, seconded by Richelle De Belchior, that SEAC recommend to Board that the Annual Safe Schools Report 2022-2023 be shared with the Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) Chairs.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

9. **Notices of Motion**

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 9a) be adopted as follows:

- 9a) **From Jennifer Di Francesco, representative of Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC), regarding October Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder** that this item be considered at the February 7, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting:

WHEREAS: ADHD is a chronic, highly hereditary neurodevelopmental disorder that affects approximately 5%-9% of children. It is the most common neurodevelopmental disorder in children and impacts children from all ethnicities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

WHEREAS: Children with ADHD can have at least one additional mental health condition, anxiety disorder or a mood disorder, which can affect their mental health, well being and learning.

WHEREAS: Early intervention is shown to prevent further mental health disorders such as anxiety, depression, and substance use disorders. This is why inclusion and recognition at the Board is vital.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: It is recommended that the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) recognize and include the month of October as ADHD Awareness Month, as it is in the rest of Canada, by multiple ADHD organizations including CADDAC and notably the mental health organization The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: It is recommended that the TCDSB send schools and parents information about what ADHD is, what role the school plays, Board policies surrounding ADHD and resources for children.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: It is recommended that the Board devise and implement ongoing ADHD education from reputable and knowledgeable science-based organizations.

MOVED by Richelle De Belchior, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Agenda be reopened to facilitate additional questions on Item 8b) Annual Safe Schools Report 2022-2023 - M. Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools and Continuing Education.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

The Chair declared a five-minute break.

The meeting resumed with George Wedge in the Chair. The attendance list remained unchanged.

8. **Presentations**

MOVED by Richelle de Belchior, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 8b) be adopted as follows:

- 8b) **Annual Safe Schools Report 2022-2023 - M. Caccamo, Superintendent of Nurturing our Catholic Community, Safe Schools and Continuing Education (cont'd)** that the questions be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

10. **Consent and Review**

The Chair reviewed the Order Page and the following Items were held:

- 12a) Special Services Superintendent Update - January 2024 – Trustee Kennedy; and
 17a) Introduction to Centre for Attention Deficit Hyperactively Disorder (ADHD) Awareness, Canada (CADDAC) – Jennifer Di Francesco.

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that the Item not held be received.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

ITEM NOT HELD AS CAPTURED IN ABOVE MOTION

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of January 17, 2024.

12. Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Tyler Munro, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

- 12a) **Special Services Superintendent Update – January 2024** received.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

17. Association Reports

MOVED by Jennifer Di Francesco, seconded by Geoffrey Feldman, that Item 17a) be adopted as follows:

- 17a) **Introduction to Centre for Attention Deficit Hyperactively Disorder (ADHD) Awareness, Canada (CADDAC)** received and referred to Staff.

On the vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

20. Adjournment

MOVED by Geoffrey Feldman, seconded by Jennifer Di Francesco, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

SECRETARY

CHAIR