



CATHOLIC
PARENT
INVOLVEMENT
COMMITTEE



Toronto Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

CEC • 80 Sheppard Avenue East • North York, ON • M2N 6E8 • www.tcdsb.org/cpic

April 22, 2024

Members of the Board of Trustees,

RE: S.M.04 – Fundraising in Schools

Earlier this year, the Governance Committee approved a revised SM04 policy recommended by Staff and subsequently was approved by the full Board.

CPIC was informed about the policy, given its close ties to Catholic Parent School Councils and parental involvement with fundraising, but had not had an opportunity to review it before it was submitted to the Governance Committee. Upon our review, Members expressed concern over some of the provisions changed or struck. We also liaised with various CSPCs and found consensus amongst the parent community who responded.

- *“All purchases using fundraising proceeds shall follow the Boards Purchasing Policy and be mindful of any ongoing costs that could accrue to the Board. Purchases should only be made from Board approved vendors unless approved by Financial Services”*
- We believe to be overreach because as read would include all purchases (large or small). As you know fundraising dollars CSPCs raise is used for a long array of items, one-of purchases and large endeavors. CSPCs would generally agree to use Board approved vendors where it makes sense. For large capital purchases this would be expected to support Board purchasing power, warranties and supplier oversight.
- We further note that the Board does not publish its most common approved vendor list that CSPCs use, unlike the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).
- CPIC recommends to the Board of Trustees **“Regulation 7 be reviewed to provide clarity regarding using Board approved vendors for major purchases (ie: capital, technology) vs. nominal purchases.”**



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- #8: *“When fundraising is a joint project with the local Catholic School Advisory Council and/or Student Council, it is understood that the decision making as to the disbursement of funds is also a joint responsibility.”*
- This provision appears to be completely removed in the revised policy. Our parent community raised considerable concern about assumptions/current practice being made. While we have most school communities with great relationships, we have had some over the years where there has been not as ideal collaboration between administration and CSPCs as we would like. While we do not believe the intention would ever to be to cut parents out of the decision process, parents had expressed that they could rethink their volunteer activities and fundraising support because policy no longer explicitly includes them.
- CPIC recommends to the Board of Trustees **“Regulation 8 that was removed, be reinstated to provide clarity that joint fundraising projects require a supporting motion from the Catholic School Parent Council on funds disbursement.”**

We generally believe in strong policy language that makes it clear for all parties involved and removes ambiguity or assumptions. This was clearly evident in our advocacy and your support years at the time for the policy, S.10 CSPC review and keeping/enhancing key provisions.

We appreciate your consideration of this CPIC motion and ask that you reconsider the policy addressing the two items noted. As a Committee we look forward to positive response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Del Grande".

John Del Grande
CPIC Chair