

Delegation Submission From Daniel Reszczyński for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak to Mr. DelGrande's motion regarding flying the pro life flag and Pro life educational opportunities on May 9th 2024 for our students.

I am a retired Catholic teacher beginning my career in 1989 and have retired as of June 2023. I attended Catholic school my whole life beginning in 1966.

Quite frankly, I was insulted to hear about the ongoing attacks on Mr. Del Grande in the Toronto Star. These attacks are unacceptable.

Maybe if Jesus had just towed the line and listened to the Pharisees ...all challenges novel ideas would cease to exist.

We need strong advocates of the faith to witness to the truth and Mr. Delgrande does that with determination and courage.

When I attended the MSSB the teachings of the church were clearly taught to us in Religion classes both at the elementary and secondary level by priests ,nuns and teachers.

When I returned to teach for the TCDSB I noticed some changes in the school system since my time. Sadly over the years I witnessed our system become increasingly secular. Ultimately the continuation of Catholic education relies on all employees, parents, students, administration and trustees to continue to be witnesses of the faith. Mr. Del Grande's motion is one opportunity to do so.

Let me provide an example from my experience. When I was teaching civics the Principal of the School mentioned that the MP would like to visit my class. I agreed. She presented herself as a Catholic role model. She proceeded to talk about the Canadian political process which was informative for the students. When it came time for questions I asked her "was she pro life." She answered "The Prime Minister is pro choice and so am I" I pointed out the fact that belief is not found in church teaching .I wanted to witness to pro life in front of my students . I am firmly anti abortion and believe unborn children are people with souls and rights. I went to the principal and reported what occurred. I did not want this individual to visit my class again.I was ignored and that individual spoke at graduation.

Unfortunately, some individuals have embarrassed secular relativism. They have become champions of causes unrelated, and in conflict with the teaching of the church.The church's teaching on abortion is clear. As christians we have an obligation to witness for those teaching and Mr. Del Grandes' motion is a much needed opportunity to be a beacon of catholic teachings and a light in the world. The teachings around pro life are not open for debate and I am dumbfounded why some Catholic trustees do not support this motion.More religious instruction is needed in this turbulent world to ensure our students make good choices and build their lives on a solid foundation.

I conducted a poll with my students in civics class after the visit with the MP and I was very surprised to discover 99% of the students in my class were pro choice. I thought to myself how

did this situation arise? This happened because they were not being taught the right values. In the absence of Catholic teachings the default belief system is secular relativism as broadcasted through the media. I ended up having a discussion with the students about abortion, what it is and the position we must take as Catholics.

The pro life movement is not an american movement it is based on catholic values. That was an odd assertion. Trustees should be more worried about who they pose with online. I have seen online a trustee posing with an x president of the US who is pro choice. This was inappropriate.

Why aren't trustees spending time looking into why elementary teachers have started their own facebook page looking for substitutes to fill in daily openings through direct messaging? This is a cause worth pursuing. Please stop wasting time opposing pro life flag flying and curriculum initiatives proposed for May 9th.

In the end we have to defend our catholic values and teach the students. If there are no defenders of the faith and attempts are not made to assert our values against a rising tide of moral relativism the students will suffer making poor uninformed worldly choices.

I look forward to seeing the pro life flag fly high outside our schools on May 9th as a beacon of hope and love we share as Catholics for all of God's creation.

I'll end with a quote

The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left for me to kill you and you to kill me?
There is nothing between.

Mother Teresa