



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

## RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. 3 John 1:8*

### Drafted

May 22, 2025

S. Harris – Recording Secretary

S. Adaikpoh – Assistant Recording Secretary

### Meeting Date

June 12, 2025

## RECOMMENDATION 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

Derek Boyce  
Associate Director of Corporate  
Services and Chief Commercial  
Officer

Ryan Putnam  
Chief Financial Officer and  
Treasurer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the Board of Trustees with a recommendation from the **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 0.5 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with a recommendation from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On 2025-05-21, the Special Education Advisory Committee met.
2. At that meeting, there was a recommendation proposed to the Board of Trustees.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

The Special Education Advisory Committee met on 2025-05-21 and a motion regarding Agenda Item 15c) Consideration of Motion from Jennifer Di Francesco, representative of Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada (CADDAC), regarding Motion to Reform Disciplinary Practices for Students with Learning Differences (Disabilities) and Special Education Needs was approved by majority vote.

## **E. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Special Education Advisory Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees that the following be approved:

WHEREAS: Students with learning disabilities and special education needs, including Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, and

other neurodivergent conditions, often face disciplinary actions that do not align with their educational and developmental needs;

WHEREAS: punitive measures such as withholding recess, detentions, and exclusion from classroom activities disproportionately impact these students and do not address the root causes of behavioral challenges;

WHEREAS: Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics and educational psychologists highlights that recess and movement are essential for self-regulation, focus, and emotional well-being, particularly for students with ADHD and other learning differences; and

WHEREAS: Traditional punitive approaches often exacerbate behavioral challenges rather than support students in developing self-management skills. A shift toward positive, inclusive discipline aligns with human rights laws, Ontario's Education Act, and best practices in special education.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees that the policy prohibits the removal of recess and other physical activity as a form of punishment for students with learning disabilities or special education needs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees that staff are training on trauma-informed and neurodiversity-affirming disciplinary approaches;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees that the policy encourages restorative practices, including conflict resolution and behavioral support strategies tailored to individual student needs;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees that the policy Implements a review system to track and assess disciplinary actions taken against students with special education needs to ensure compliance with equitable practices;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees that a Positive Discipline Policy is adopted and ensures all schools within its jurisdiction implement the outlined practices by September 2025 for the new school year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees the policy prohibit the use of regulation-based supports — such as scheduled breaks, sensory room access, or movement opportunities, etc. — as contingent rewards. Resources that these children need to self-regulate should never be taken away because of not completing work or behavior discipline;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board of Trustees that all school-based staff are training on trauma-informed and neurodiversity-affirming disciplinary approaches; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC further recommend to the Board of Trustees that the adoption and implementation of preventative, strength-based strategies that foster emotional regulation, connection, and engagement. These proactive approaches minimize the need for reactive disciplinary measures and contribute to more inclusive, supportive learning environments for all students.