



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF NOV.11, 2015

FOR GOD, WHO SAID, "LIGHT SHALL SHINE OUT OF DARKNESS," IS THE ONE WHO HAS SHONE IN OUR HEARTS TO GIVE THE LIGHT OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE FACE OF CHRIST - 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
December 7, 2015	December 10, 2015	Click here to enter a date.
Cristina Fernandes, Superintendent of Special Services Paul Matthews, General Legal Counsel		
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.



G. Poole
Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio
Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

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Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides information to the Board as per its request on November 19, 2015 in regard to the requests made by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on November 11, 2015.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report endeavours to provide responses to the Board approved motion to answer questions arising out of the November 2015 Special Education Advisory Committee.
2. The November 15, 2015 Board approved motion requested staff to respond to the following inquiries:
 - A. SEAC recommends to the Board to ask the director to submit a report to advise on the appropriate process to permit SEAC membership on to Mental Health and Safe Schools Committees.
 - B. SEAC recommends to the board that policy A.23 Special Education Advisory Committee be amended to comply with the Ontario Regulation 464/97 Special Education Advisory Committees.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Arising out of the minutes of the SEAC meeting on November 11, 2015, SEAC requested an answer to two questions as listed in part B.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

Responses are provided to the Board motion.

- A. Membership on the mental health and safe school committees will be treated separately as both have separate terms of reference.
 1. The Ontario Regulation 464/97 (January 1, 1998) does not define the role of SEAC with regards to participation on other Board committees.
 2. While SEAC is a statutory committee, both the Mental Health Advisory Committee and the Safe Schools Advisory Committee are Staff and Trustee

Committees that serve as community advisories. Decisions on the composition of the committees are defined by the terms of reference of the committee.

3. Mental Health Advisory Committee

The Mental Health Committee's terms of reference include the following items:

- a) The Mental Health Advisory Committee is an Advisory Council of TCDSB providing input and advice on Ministry of Education policy and strategies, as well as TCDSB guidelines and strategies pertaining to student mental health.
- b) The Committee receives presentations on a variety of Student Mental health topics, and reviews metrics for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of board policies, procedures, and strategies.
- c) Various employee and stakeholder group representatives can bring forth information related to Student mental health for consideration.
- d) The composition of the Committee includes representatives from parents, students, teachers, support staff, principals, and vice principals, community members, and trustees.
- e) Representatives serve on the committee for a school year (one year) term.

4. Based on the terms of reference of the Mental Health Advisory Committee, there is nothing that prevents the Board of Trustees from approving that SEAC appoint one of its members to the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Safe Schools Advisory Committee

5. The terms of reference for the Safe Schools Advisory Committee includes the following items:
- i. As school boards continue to develop and implement policies and programs to meet Ministry requirements in support of the provincial safe schools strategy, it is expected they will consult with different stakeholders.

- ii. The Safe Schools Advisory Committee is an Advisory Committee of the Board providing input and advice on Ministry of Education legislation and policy/Program Memoranda, TCDSB Safe Schools policies, as well as resources, procedures and protocols utilized at TCDSB. The committee also reviews metrics for monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of board policies and procedures.
 - iii. Presently, representatives from the following groups comprise the committee:
 - Association of Professional Student Services Personnel (APSSP)
 - Catholic Student Leadership Impact Team (CSLIT)
 - CUPE 1280
 - CUPE 1328
 - Elementary Principals Association (TCVPA)
 - Elementary Vice Principals Association (TCPVA)
 - Parent
 - Secondary Principals Association (SSPA)
 - Secondary Vice Principals Association (SSVPA)
 - Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers-OECTA
 - Toronto Secondary Unit-OECTA
 - Trustee
6. Based on the terms of reference of the Safe Schools Advisory Committee, there is nothing that prevents the Board of Trustees from approving that SEAC appoint one of its members to the Safe School Advisory Committee.
7. Representation by SEAC members on these committees is acceptable, should SEAC so desire, recommended with the following considerations:
 - a) A process is to be developed by SEAC to identify a participating member to attend the Mental Health and Safe School committee.
 - b) The SEAC appointment to the two Committees will be for one school year.
 - c) SEAC members attending other committees will participate according to the terms of reference of the particular committee and the mandate that SEAC bestows on their representative member.

- iv. SEAC members participating in other committees will report back to SEAC at its monthly meetings items that impact on students with special needs.

B. SEAC recommended that the Board align the Special Education Policy, A23 with Ministry regulation 464/97.

1. Regulation 464/97 (January 1, 1998) identifies the process for selecting a Chair and Vice-Chair in section 9, subsection 3 of the regulation as bolded below:

9. (1) A majority of the members of a special education advisory committee is a quorum, and a vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting is necessary to bind the committee.

(2) Every member present at a meeting, or his or her alternate when attending the meeting in his or her place, is entitled to one vote.

(3) **The members of the committee shall, at their first meeting, elect one of their members as chair and one of their members as vice-chair.**

2. TCDSB Policy A23 on Special Education Advisory Committee presently identifies an alternate process for determining a vice-chair in section 9 of the policy as written below:

9. That the Chair of the Committee shall be a non-Trustee member and a **Roman Catholic and the Vice-Chair of the Committee shall be Trustee member.**

3. Legally, Ministry Regulation takes precedence over the TCDSB Policy, it is recommended that Ministry Regulation be upheld. As such it is recommended that the TCSB Policy be revised to reflect the regulation.
4. The recommended revision would read as follows:

That the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee shall be a member of the committee.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Staff recommends that SEAC representation be permitted on the Mental Health and Safe Schools Advisory Committees, if SEAC wishes to do so.
2. Staff recommends that the TCDSB A23 Policy on the Special Education Advisory Committee be updated as outlined in comment B#4 to reflect alignment with the ministry regulation.