



REPORT TO

## GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

### APPENDIX B GOVERNANCE POLICY T. 20 REPORT.DOCX

*Let every soul be subject to the higher powers. For there is no power but of God:  
the powers that be are ordained of God. Romans 13: 1-7*

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Loretta Notten, Superintendent Governance, Policy and Strategic Planning

#### 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

Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the Board of Trustees considered a proposed plan for effective Governance and resolved that the TCDSB should develop and implement a Governance Policy. Governance provides a framework and a process for the allocation of decision-making powers. At the core, when a board practices good governance, then the larger vision and mission of the system will be served. The governance policy ensures that the structure of the board provides trustees the ability to take ownership of the planning, policy and decisions legislated to them through the *Education Act*. Similarly, it also ensures that the Director of Education, and by extension his or her staff, have responsibility for the implementation of all policy and planning.

## **B. PURPOSE**

Arising from January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 report to Board on the TCDSB Considerations and Proposed Plan for Effective Governance Plan, the following motion was approved:

*Development and implementation of a TCDSB Governance Policy to be referred to the Governance and Policy committee.*

## **C. BACKGROUND/ EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

1. Consistent with our Multi-Year Strategic Plan Strategic Priority of *Excellence in Governance*, the Board of Trustees approved a motion, to develop a Governance Policy, which to this point in time has been absent from our TCDSB Policy register.
2. One of the unique mandates of Catholic School Board Trustees is ensuring that they preserve and promote the distinctive Catholic values, beliefs and practices which are integral to the very fabric of our schools.
3. The Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) promotes the need for good governance, and supports this belief through Trustee Modules on Good Governance for School Boards.

4. Structure has the ability to influence behaviour, and it is important for the TCDSB to operate within a structure that allows for action and decision-making that is reflective, creative and effective, thereby serving the needs of the system.
5. It is the nature of a large system that there can be competing values and interests at play. Clear policy facilitates consistent application of decisions when varying and sometimes opposing interests are involved.
6. Senior staff play a key role in providing expertise and recommendations which inform Board of Trustee decisions.
7. The TCDSB has an established practice of consulting with constituents on significant policy decisions, and it is not limited to those where there is a legislated obligation to do so. In this manner, TCDSB stakeholders are meaningfully engaged and there is accountability back to constituents.
8. The Ministry of Education, through the *Education Act*, provides the legislation and statutory obligations by which school boards must operate. The legislation gives no authority to individual trustees, and thus the Board of Trustees must exercise its authority as a group.
9. It is also notable that the Director of Education has a statutory obligation to bring to the attention of the Board of Trustees any act or omission by the Board of Trustees that may result in or has resulted in a contravention of the Education Act, regulation, guideline or board policy. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, the Director of Education has a further statutory obligation to advise the Deputy Minister of Education.

#### **D. VISION**

<b>VISION</b>	<b>PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>GOALS</b>
TCDSB wishes to lead and model best practices in Board governance.	The Governance Policy aligns with the following Strategic Directions from the Multi-Year Strategic Plan: - Excellence in	The TCDSB will have a clear process and framework for the allocation of decision making powers.

VISION	PRINCIPLES	GOALS
	Governance - Living Our Values - Strengthening Pubic Confidence	Trustees will develop policy and staff will implement policy. Trustees and the Director will fulfil their respective legislated duties and not exceed their legislated powers.

**E. ACTION PLAN**

1. Per the background and analysis material above, trustees are vested with the responsibility of developing, revising, and approving policies consistent with the mission, vision and goals articulated within the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP).
2. Trustees must fulfil their obligations under the *Education Act* and all those outlined as Statutory Responsibilities per Section 169.1 of *The Act*.
3. All policies must be referred to the Governance and Policy committee for review before going forward to the full Board of Trustees for approval.
4. The Board of trustees has the ability to consult with stakeholders and to make decisions informed by that feedback.
5. The Director of Education is responsible for implementing all policies and plans. Further the director must ensure the implementation and monitoring of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and present an annual report to board on the same.

**F. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. The Director of Education and the Board of Trustees have an obligation to respective governance which can be measured by comparison to their corresponding roles as outlined in the *Education Act*.

2. The Board of Trustees shall monitor its own performance and take action to continually improve its governance processes.

#### **G. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. Once the new consolidate Governance Policy is passed, there will be communication to all TCDSB stakeholders.
2. Communication will be supported through the use of the TCDSB website, twitter, e-News and email.

#### **H. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board approve the new policy T. 20 Governance, per Appendix A.

APPENDIX B