



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY 2015-2016

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James 1:6

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First Tabling

January 14, 2016

Review

[Click here to enter a date.](#)

D. Koenig, Superintendent Curriculum and Accountability

INFORMATION 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



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Education has amended Ontario Regulation 304 “School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days” to provide for one additional Professional Activity Day during the academic year commencing in 2015-2016 school year. This report outlines the considerations for selection of the date for the additional PA Day for the 2015-2016 school year. Also, it outlines the content for the additional P.A. Day as prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

B. PURPOSE

1. The Ministry of Education submitted a memo on December 18, 2015, to the Directors of Education related to the 2015-2016 Professional Activity Day and the School Year Calendar (Appendix A).
2. With the amendment to Regulation 304 as set out in Ontario Regulation 364/15 (Appendix B), the Board is to increase the number of PA Days during the 2015-2016 school year from 6 to 7.
3. The date for the additional PA Day must be submitted to the Ministry by January 16, 2016.

C. BACKGROUND

1. The memo from the Ministry of Education directs Boards to schedule the additional PA Day on or before April 15, 2016.
2. The Academic/Business Advisory Committee (ACBAC) which is composed of representatives from all federation and association groups makes recommendations on the scheduling of Professional Activity Days. A meeting is scheduled with this committee to gather their input regarding the additional PA Day before the imposed January 16, 2016 deadline. Short timelines related to the required submission to the Ministry has limited the scope of consultation with other stakeholders regarding the scheduling of this day.
3. The Ministry has determined the content for this PA Day to be as follows: ½ day will be occupational health and safety training for all teachers. ½ of day for FDK teachers and ECE teams will be inquiry-based learning and pedagogical assessment document strategies. Grade 1-12 teachers will

spend the other ½ of the day on topics to be decided by Board/Federation PD committees and be aligned with Ministry priorities.

4. There are a number of considerations in the selection of this particular PA Day for it to occur on or before April 15, 2016. There is currently a PA Day on January 22, 2016 (elementary schools) and on February 12, 2016 for all schools of the Board. There are a number of system wide scheduled activities already organized and placed within the TCDSB system-wide calendar. Dates for March Break and Holy Week are also part of the considerations in the selection of the date as they fall before the April 15th deadline.
5. The following dates are options for the 2015-16 additional PA Day:
 - February 22,
 - February 26,
 - April 1, and
 - April 13.
6. We are consulting with the Toronto District School Board regarding the scheduling of this day to limit any additional cost resulting from the loss of joint transportation services.
7. Parents, pupils, and the school community will be made aware of the Board's updated 2015-2016 school year calendar, via the Board and/or school web sites and by all other appropriate modes of communication upon submission to the Ministry.

D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.