

MOVED BY: Jo-Ann Davis **Toronto Catholic District School Board**

TOPIC: **Making the TCDSB a “net zero” energy school board**

WHEREAS: TCDSB’s vision is “At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.”

WHEREAS: In Pope’s Francis’s *Laudato Si* he asks us all, “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”

WHEREAS: Combatting climate change is one of the most pressing global issues facing all of God’s creation, and is a stated priority for both the provincial and federal governments.

WHEREAS: Buildings are major energy users and contributors to climate change. Globally buildings accounting for about 33% of final energy demand and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS: The International Energy Agency (IEA) calculates that, to stabilize global temperatures at safe levels, emissions from the building sector must decrease 77% to 80% below business as usual (BAU) projections by 2050.

WHEREAS: Ontario has set a mid-term greenhouse gas pollution reduction target of 15% below 1990 levels by 2020, and 37% below 1990 levels by 2030.

WHEREAS: The Ontario government’s recently released *Climate Strategy* commits to developing a coordinated approach to reduce emissions from new and existing buildings. A “net-zero energy” building is a highly energy-efficient building that uses renewable technology to produce as much energy as it consumes.

WHEREAS: In addition to combatting climate change – a demonstration of our faith in action – being a “net-zero energy” school board would provide direct and ongoing financial benefits to the TCDSB with substantial energy cost savings, as well as providing a potential new revenue source by selling surplus energy back to the grid.

WHEREAS: Achieving this objective would allow us to increase our budget in areas which support student success and well being.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Chair to write the Minister of Education and both the provincial and federal Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change, on behalf of the board of trustees, of our objective to be a “net zero” energy school board and our request for financial support in doing so.

Staff to work with the ministries of Environment and Climate Change to determine how we might partner to make the TCDSB a “net zero” school board – supporting our common goal of environmental and financial sustainability.

Staff to report back to the board of trustees on progress as it occurs.