



REPORT TO

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY
COMMITTEEREVISION TO POLICY S.10 CATHOLIC
SCHOOL PARENT COUNCILS*Psalm 25:9**He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 26, 2015	November 10, 2015	

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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.*

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 22nd 2015, the Board approved a major revision to Board Policy S.10 (Catholic School Parent Councils) which is attached as Appendix A. The regulation concerning bank accounts and the requirement to bank at the same financial institution is causing considerable confusion at the school and parent level and could also lead to unnecessary expenses.

B. PURPOSE

1. Approximately 70 schools have consolidated the school bank account with their Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC) bank account.
2. The majority are pleased with this arrangement and wish to see it continue.
3. If the CSPC was required to open a separate account, they would potentially be required to incur monthly bank charges and fees to purchase new cheques.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Prior to April 22nd, 2015 the Board had mandated that all CSPC's consolidate their bank accounts with the school's bank account by August 31st, 2015.
2. At the same time, Business Services arranged a no fee corporate account with its bank, CIBC, which all schools could use. Since this is a corporate account arrangement, only one account per school is allowed.
3. Many schools have consolidated accounts based on the above information, and many were consolidated before any direction from the Board.
4. At the Board meeting on April 22nd 2015, Trustees approved amendments to the policy, and consequently, CSPCs and schools were no longer required to consolidate their bank accounts as previously mandated. An amendment was also made requiring schools and CSPC's to bank at the same branch if their accounts are not consolidated.
5. The language used in the amendment stated that the CSPC "**will**" maintain a separate bank account from the school. It is widely interpreted that the language intended to be used was "**may**" maintain a separate bank account from the school. This needs to be clarified to prevent disruption and expense to CSPC's that have chosen to consolidate their accounts.

6. An amendment was made to the policy that stated **“The school and CSPC accounts will be held at the same institution and location.”** There is no evidence that this amendment adds to the security of the accounts or brings them in line with any perceived best practice.
7. The Board has encountered significant resistance from CSPC treasurers due to the cost of changing financial institutions. They have been advised to wait until this report appears before the Board of Trustees.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

Policy S.10 Catholic School Parent Councils Regulation #20 reads as follows:

20. CSPC **will** maintain a bank account, separate from the school account, under the name of the CSPC. **The school and CSPC accounts will be held at the same institution and location.**

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

It is recommended that Policy S.10 Catholic School Parent Councils Regulation #20 be re-worded as follows:

20. CSPC **may** maintain a bank account, separate from the school account, under the name of the CSPC.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Trustees accept the proposed wording for Regulation #20 in Policy S.10 Catholic School Parent Councils as follows: “CSPC may maintain a bank account, separate from the school account, under the name of the CSPC.”