REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

SIGNAGE ON OVER-SUBSCRIBED SCHOOLS

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1 | NIV |

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
December 13, 2016	January 19, 2017	Click here to enter a date.

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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 uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a recent 'Action After' item from the December 8, 2016 Corporate Affairs, Strategic Planning and Property Committee, staff were directed to come back to the December 15, 2016 meeting of the Board with a report on signage that could be placed at all over-subscribed schools referencing the Elementary Admissions Policy.

Signage could be developed to reinforce the existing admissions process and inform communities of the existing status of a school's capacity, but there might be unintended consequences for parental expressions of interest in other placement opportunities, which could increase enrolment at other nearby schools.

B. PURPOSE

To provide the Board of Trustees with possible wording for signage intended for oversubscribed schools, referencing the Elementary Admissions Policy.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 18 hours.

C. BACKGROUND

1. On December 8, 2016 Corporate Affairs, Strategic Planning and Property Committee, staff were directed to come back to the December 15, 2016 meeting of the Board with a report providing wording for signage, to be placed at all over-subscribed schools:

   "That staff come back to the December 15, 2016 meeting of the Board with a report stating if signage could be developed for over-subscribed schools outlining the Admission Policy for Elementary Schools."

2. In a staff report to the Regular Board meeting of November 24, 2016, it was noted that 3240 new students have been registered and are attending 47 oversubscribed schools across the system.

3. A protocol currently exists for students who are unsuccessful in gaining admission to their designated home school, or first school of choice. They are given the option of being placed on a waitlist in order of priority, and by time and date of application. The key to student retention is to encourage

personal contact with the parent, typically by the school, and encourage the parent to accept redirection to a nearby Catholic school.

4. In support of these efforts, and to reinforce existing communication, signage on certain school sites could inform families of the current status of the oversubscribed school. However, signage may also discourage parents from contacting the school and discussing alternative placement options.

5. A sign with the following wording could provide the parent community with a brief status of the school capacity, followed by an invitation to make direct contact with school staff or the Admissions Office.

   The Toronto Catholic District School Board makes every effort to accommodate children at their local school. This school is currently operating over capacity. Parents are invited to come in to discuss admission options with school staff.

   For further information, please contact the Admissions Office at:
   (416) 222-8282 Ext. 5320

6. Installation of the new signage will incur production, printing, and labour costs not currently budgeted for and a funding source will need to be identified.

7. More importantly, the communication could have the unintended consequence of discouraging families who may otherwise approach the school directly and become engaged in discussions towards a redirection or become registered at a TCDSB School waitlist.

D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.