



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

## PARENT AND STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS

*“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*

*Romans 12:4-5*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
June 22, 2015	August 27, 2015	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
C. Marchetti, Coordinator International Languages and Parent/Community Engagement J. Yan, Senior Coordinator, Communications D. Koenig, Superintendent of Education, Curriculum and Accountability		

### 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**

This report provides the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights for external consultation.

## **B. PURPOSE**

The Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights was developed and underwent an internal consultation with CPIC and OAPCE T.O. with the feedback incorporated in the revised draft. The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the external consultation for the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights (Appendix A).

## **C. BACKGROUND**

- a) At the February 27, 2014 Board Meeting the following motion was approved:

“The Board of Trustees approve the formation of a special ad-hoc committee to develop a student/parent charter or bill of rights to report back to Board by August 2014. That this special ad-hoc committee include representation from staff, trustees, parents and students”.

- b) The general Terms of Reference and Composition are outlined in Appendix B. Note that the committee is comprised of five parent representatives, with representation from both the elementary and secondary panel, four student representatives, one Trustee and three TCDSB staff. This charter of rights will provide parents with being able to expect their children’s educational needs to be met by the schools and the right to access school and district administration and information. It is expected that the development and approval of the parent/student charter of rights will increase public confidence in the board and support in the attainment of goals as outlined in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

- a) The Parent/Student Charter of Rights Committee met during the 2014/2015 school year and drafted a Parent and Student Charter of Rights.
- b) Internal consultation for the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights was held on December 8, 2015 with OAPCE T.O. and on December 15, 2015 with CPIC.
- c) The format for the consultation included an overview of the process the committee used to draft the charter. OAPCE T.O. and CPIC members were divided into small focus groups with a facilitator and recorder assigned to each group.
- d) Feedback from the small groups was recorded and, subsequently, compiled into emerging themes and suggestions.
- e) The Committee was provided with the raw data and the compiled feedback for consideration.
- f) A final Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights was developed and approved by the committee for the Board of Trustees to approve for external consultation.

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

This strategic communications and community engagement action plan has been developed to support stakeholder input and ensure maximum engagement regarding the TCDSB's proposed Parent and Student Charter of Rights. The integrated and multi-faceted communications plan will include (but not be limited to) the list outlined in the Who Will Be Consulted and How We Will Consult section below.

The community engagement level of "CONSULT" is being recommended. The definition of CONSULT is: "Obtain input from community members and the general public on proposed Board directions and decisions."

To further enhance direct involvement, there will be an additional opportunity for participants to submit more detailed written suggestions through the creation and launch of a dedicated Parent and Student Charter of Rights Community Consultation webpage with a customized input tool. This communications input tool will ensure the confidentiality of anyone providing feedback or comments.

This practice has been used successfully in the most recent Board community consultations regarding the Board's 2015-16 Budget and Admissions Policy.

Promotion of the proposed Parent and Student Charter of Rights consultation process will be coordinated using all media modalities in the Communications Department inventory. The initial point of communication will be an open invitation letter delivered to all parents in elementary schools, and through a Synervoice broadcast phone message at the secondary level.

The Communications Plan will also be aligned to support the initiative through follow up in the Director's Bulletin Board , Weekly Wrap Up, web (TCDSB's external and internal portal), social media (i.e. Twitter) and E-newsletters, posters to engage and inform internal and external audiences and stakeholders. This will be further sustained through school newsletters and working with the Archdiocese for access via their website and individual parish bulletins.

### **Who Will Be Consulted:**

- Parents and Students
- Student Leaders (CSLIT and ECSLIT)
- Community Leaders and Members (CSPC, TAPCE etc)
- Employees (Teachers/Support Staff)
- Principals & Vice Principals
- Trustees
- Senior Staff (TCDSB)
- Parishioners and Catholic Stakeholders (via Archdiocese)

### **How We Will Consult:**

- Web ([www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org)) hosting of proposed Parent and Student Charter of Rights Report webpage containing all background and supporting documentation, with confidential online consultation submission tool
- Hosting of info and updates on all 201 school websites
- Letter and information sent home with elementary students
- Synervoice broadcast to all secondary students
- Twitter and other social media
- TCDSB E-News
- News Release and Public Service Announcements (PSA)
- Communication to Parishes via Archdiocese with request for a direct link to TCDSB Parent and Student Charter of Rights website and information

### **F. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

For each of the community sector consultations there will be a facilitator and recorder. These notes will be compiled according to emerging themes and suggestions. Once all of the consultations have been completed, the Parent and Student Charter of Rights Committee will reconvene to determine the revisions and edits which are recommended based on the community feedback.

Once completed there will be a report to Board with the final Draft of the Parent and Student Charter of Rights.

### **G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Trustees approve the Draft Parent and Student Charter of Rights for external consultation.



## Appendix A

### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## CHARTER OF RIGHTS

**The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) 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.**

**Our vision of Catholic education invites each one of us—students, parents, TCDSB staff, and other community members—to work together as a community of believers committed to putting the values of our faith into practice in the daily life of the school, the home, the parish and in all of society.**

**As parents in the TCDSB, you can expect your child to receive a quality education based on the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in an appropriate learning environment, recognizing the diversity of students and their needs.**

**Guided by the principles of respect, equity, integrity, trust, accountability and transparency the TCDSB ensures the rights of both parents and students as enshrined in the Parent/Student Charter of Rights.**

#### **Definitions:**

- a) **Parent/Guardian:** As defined by the Ontario Education Act: A person who has the lawful custody of a child, other than the parent of the child; includes anyone who has received into his or her home a person, other than his or her own child, of compulsory school age and that person resides with him or her or is in his or her care
- b) **TCDSB:** those individuals that are employed or are stakeholders within the Toronto District School Board

## **PARENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS**

- 1. The right to a faith based publically funded school with education grounded in Catholic doctrine, traditions and teachings for your child.**
- 2. The right to opportunities for involvement in your child's education.**
- 3. The right to ensure that your child is learning in a safe, healthy, and caring school, free of discrimination, prejudice, bullying and harassment.**
- 4. The right to ensure that your child's spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, social and academic needs are appropriately met.**
- 5. The right to delivery of the curriculum consistent with our Catholic faith and with the provincial requirements.**
- 6. The right for your child to receive appropriate materials, resources and technologies consistent with the requirements of the curriculum.**
- 7. The right to communicate, to comment, to raise concern(s), or to register complaint(s) in a respectful manner to TCDSB staff, and to the Board of Trustees without fear of unjust repercussions and have your question, concern or complaint acknowledged with a response within a reasonable time in a respectful manner.**
- 8. The right to the confidentiality of your child's records in accordance with TCDSB policies and applicable legislation.**
- 9. The right to access all your child's education records and to meet with TCDSB staff to discuss their progress.**
- 10. The right to have any special needs assessments addressed by Board designated professionals within the required timelines.**
- 11. The right to access and understand available information, consistent with Privacy Laws, about your child's school, school board, teachers, administrators, facilities, policies, procedures, and programs within a reasonable time.**
- 12. The right to have TCDSB rules and regulations and individual school policies applied and adhered to with transparency, consistency, fairness and compassion.**

## **STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS**

- 1. The right to participate in decisions that affect their education and school life, where appropriate.**
- 2. The right to equity and inclusiveness amongst all students in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.**
- 3. The right to spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically safe, and positive school climate where one is respected and treated in a manner consistent with our Catholic values and teachings.**
- 4. The right to have yearly access to available extra-curricular activities.**
- 5. The right to effective and qualified instruction, including having access to the resources and adequate learning environment necessary for success.**
- 6. The right to elect student representation.**
- 7. The right for students, where legally permitted, to advocate for themselves or to choose another representative without a fear of ageism or any other form of discrimination.**
- 8. The right to make a phone call or communicate with their parents or designated guardian in case of personal distress or emergency.**
- 9. The right to have school rules and regulations applied and adhered to with consistency, fairness, and compassion.**
- 10. The right to engage in a respectful dialogue with the school Principal and staff, raising comments and concerns as well as to have them addressed.**



## TCDSB Parent Charter or Bill of Rights Committee

## Terms of Reference and Composition 2013-2014

The Parent/Student Charter or Bill of Rights Committee will meet 2 times in the 2013/2014 school year to draft a Parent/Student Charter or Bill of Rights. Any additional meetings will be at the discretion of majority vote of the committee. The various stakeholder group representatives can bring forth information and advice related to the articles which should be included in this charter for consideration of the committee.

Meetings will occur on June 18<sup>th</sup> & June 24<sup>th</sup> from 7-9p.m.

All meetings will take place at the Catholic Education Center, 80 Sheppard Ave. E. (Yonge and Sheppard) and in the Large Committee Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

Free parking is available in the underground parking lot, accessible from the east side of the building.

1. The Parent/Student Charter or Bill of Rights Committee is a special Ad Hoc Committee with the mandate to draft a Parent/Student Charter or Bill of Rights. This charter or bill of rights will provide parents with being able to expect their children's educational needs to be met by the schools and the right to access school and district administration and information. It is expected that the development and approval of the parent/student charter or bill of rights will increase public confidence in the board and support in the attainment of goals as outlined in the Multi Year Strategic Plan.
2. Representatives from the following groups will comprise the committee:
  - Trustees
  - Staff
  - Parents
  - Students

