



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

"Greater love has no one than this; that he lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:13

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| August 29, 2016 | September 22, 2016 | Click here to enter a date. |

John W. Yan, Senior Coordinator, Communications, Public and Media Relations
John Wujek, Superintendent of Schools, Community Relations
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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 rooted in the love of Christ. We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity



R. McGuckin

Associate Director of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

C. Jackson

Executive Superintendent of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer

Angela Gauthier

Director of Education

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Annual Report highlights the key Board-wide Community Engagement initiatives (see Appendix A) and Community Learning and Cultural Engagement activities (see Appendix B) undertaken by Board staff during the 2015-2016 school year (September 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016).

B. PURPOSE

As mandated in the Board Policy Register for T.07. Community Engagement, this Annual Standing Report is submitted to fulfil the requirement prescribed in the policy which stipulates under Evaluation and Metrics (Regulation 4):

- 4. A report of the community engagement process as reported by staff is to be reviewed by the Board annually.*

The report outlines the initiatives and best practices utilized by the TCDSB (see Appendix A) to provide community engagement opportunities that are open, honest, transparent and accessible to all, and that value the input obtained in our decision making. In addition, the report overviews the major activities that highlight the Board's ongoing commitment to community and parent engagement achieved through community learning and cultural events (see Appendix B).

C. BACKGROUND

At the September 10, 2015 meeting of the Board, Trustees instructed that future Community Engagement Annual Reports be restructured in two parts:

1. Community Engagement Report to include description levels, purpose and outcome (see Appendix A).
2. A separate listing of Learning Opportunities and Cultural Events (see Appendix B).

Both report summaries highlight best practices and are part of a “continuous improvement” philosophy with regards to the Board's community engagement activities.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Community engagement at the TCDSB engages community members and the general public in meaningful ways on matters in the purview of the Board to allow deeper conversations about values, beliefs and concerns, to emphasize the desired future, appreciate the positives and build on past successes and create effective networks.
2. The consideration of the views of community members in making policy decisions is achieved by supporting an ongoing exchange of information and feedback between the TCDSB, its parent and stakeholder communities. In the 2015-2016 academic year, staff were able to generate high levels of Board-wide community engagement on major policy deliberations related to: the Multi-Year Recovery Plan (MYRP), the revised 2016-2021 Multi-Year Strategic Plan; and the 2016-2017 Budget Consultations.
3. Best practices and innovative web-based strategies (Virtual Town Hall and live Chats) will continue to be used to widen involvement. In addition, Communications staff will utilize social media, in particular using Twitter for potential virtual meetings such as Twitter-based Town Halls (as an example)
4. The following key principles formed the foundation of effective engagements: commitment, evaluation, timing, inclusiveness, accessibility, location, clarity, respect, accountability and transparency. As well, community engagement activities in 2015-2016 addressed all six (6) pillars of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Staff strives to enhance effective ongoing communication and consultation strategies which are central to the stated goal of “continuous improvement” in community engagement.
5. Community engagement initiatives are designed to support the goal of ensuring our Catholic schools and the TCDSB are accessible and welcoming to parents and other community members. Our activities facilitate the need of community members and the general public for open access to information and to enrich the understanding of educational policies, programs and services. The TCDSB recognizes that its half-million ratepayers and community members have both the right and the responsibility to be involved in decisions made on their behalf.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Impact and accountability summaries for each community engagement initiative are summarized in Appendix A and provide both quantitative and qualitative input received during community engagement. The Communications staff will continue to work with the Research Department go beyond numbers in terms of participation to ensure community engagement is measured by quality rather than quantity during any review of the key contributions to policy decisions.
2. The guiding principle for community engagement at the TCDSB is to use our new web-based tools to be as inclusive as possible to reflect the views of all TCDSB community members. Overcoming language, cultural and socio-economic access barriers are a priority by ensuring all essentials documents are made available online in their language of choice. The Board will utilize Google Translator to ensure these outcomes are met.
3. The summary and results contained in the 2015-2016 Annual Report will serve to inform 2016-2017 communication engagement strategies. Specifically, identifying sustainable opportunities for greater coordination and collaboration with the Archdiocese of Toronto during the TCDSB's "Year of the Parish".

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.