



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

RESULTS OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS ON THE DRAFT PARENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND DRAFT STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS

He has told you, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God? Micah 6:8

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
May 8, 2017	May 18, 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

This report summarizes the results of the Board-Wide consultation on the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and Draft Student Charter of Rights. Consultation was conducted in the spring of 2017. The consultation process involved both surveys (available both on-line and in hard copy) and face-to-face meetings with stakeholders.

Overall, the consultation and survey results indicate that the majority want to *keep* the rights as written in both the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights. Stakeholders used the opportunity offered to provide suggested edits and comments.

In consideration of the survey results and the feedback, the original ad hoc committee responsible for creating the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights will be reassembled to consider possible revisions. Once completed, the draft Charters will be reviewed by TCDSB legal counsel to ensure compliance with existing legislation and board policies.

The cumulative staff time required for the preparation of this report was 21 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. This report provides an update on the consultation regarding the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights conducted in the Spring 2017.
2. It outlines next steps for incorporating stakeholder input and producing a final version of a Parent Charter of Rights and a Student Charter of Rights for the consideration of the Board.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **February 27, 2014** - the Board passed a motion directing staff to form an Ad Hoc Committee with representation of Trustees, staff, parents, and students to develop a Parent and Student Charter of Rights.

2. Once struck, this Ad Hoc Committee worked through 2014 and 2015 to develop a Draft Parent and Draft Student Charter of Rights for broader consultation with all stakeholder groups.
3. **August 27, 2015** - the Draft Parent and Draft Student Charter of Rights were approved by the Board for public consultation.
4. **October 13, 2016** - at the Corporate Services Committee meeting, Trustees directed staff to move the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights forward as a priority item.
5. **December 1, 2016** - at the meeting of the Student Achievement and Well-being Committee, the Board approved a motion further directing staff to proceed with the public consultation phase of on the Draft Parent and Draft Student of Charter of Rights.
6. The Consultation Method utilized is described:
 - a. Principals and vice-principals were consulted at a Director's Liaison Meeting held on Monday, February 6, 2017.
 - b. On February 9, 2017, a meeting was held with union presidents to provide:
 - a chronology of the development of the Draft Parent and Draft Student Charter of Rights;
 - an opportunity to review the Draft Parent and Draft Student Charter Rights;
 - an opportunity for input on the consultation process and pose questions.

The input from this meeting informed refinements to the consultation tools.

- c. Notice of the consultation was widely disseminated using all communication tools available to the Board including: a spotlight banner notification on the main page of the TCDSB website, Twitter broadcasts, and Facebook posts.
- d. The consultation survey was available on the TCDSB portal between March 8, 2017 and March 31, 2017.
- e. During this period, feedback was gathered on the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and Draft Student Charter of Rights using Surveys and Community Consultation meetings.

7. For the **online survey**, (which was available both online and in hard copy), for each item of the Charter, respondents were asked to indicate whether to *Keep*, to *Omit*, or to *Edit* charter items. There was also an opportunity to provide suggested edits and comments.
8. For the **Face-to-Face Community Consultations**, two Community Consultation meetings were held:
 - i. March 27 at Bishop Marrocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School
 - ii. March 28 at St. Patricks Catholic Secondary School
9. Following a presentation to provide background information and context, participants were grouped and asked to consider each item on the Draft Student and Draft Parent Charter of Rights. Each table group was asked to record its input and submit a written summary to the consultation facilitators.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. In total, there were **583** responses to the Draft Parent Charter of Right Survey and the Draft Student Charter of Rights Survey. The number of responses by group was as follows:
 - a. Parent-416,
 - b. Staff-106,
 - c. Student-2,
 - d. Ratepayer-25,
 - e. Other-respondents-34

A summary of numerical survey results by charter item for all respondents follows:
All Respondents (n=583)

PARENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS	KEEP	
1. The right to a faith based publicly funded school with education grounded in Catholic doctrine, traditions and teachings for your child.	526	90.2%
2. The right to opportunities for involvement in your child's education.	531	91.1%
3. The right to ensure that your child is learning in a safe, healthy, and caring school, free of discrimination, prejudice, bullying and harassment.	530	90.9%
4. The right to ensure that your child's spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, social and academic needs are appropriately met.	511	87.7%

PARENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS	KEEP	
5. The right to delivery of the curriculum consistent with our Catholic faith and with the provincial requirements.	501	85.9%
6. The right for your child to receive appropriate materials, resources and technologies consistent with the requirements of the curriculum.	516	88.5%
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.	526	90.2%
8. The right to the confidentiality of your child's records in accordance with TCDSB policies and applicable legislation.	550	94.3%
9. The right to access all your child's education records and to meet with TCDSB staff to discuss their progress.	526	90.2%
10. The right to have any special needs assessments addressed by Board designated professionals within the required timelines.	484	83.0%
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.	513	88.0%
12. The right to have TCDSB rules and regulations and individual school policies applied and adhered to with transparency, consistency, fairness and compassion.	539	92.5%

STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS	KEEP	
1. The right to participate in decisions that affect their education and school life, where appropriate.	506	86.8%
2. The right to equity and inclusiveness amongst all students in the Toronto Catholic District School Board.	508	87.1%
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.	519	89.0%
4. The right to have yearly access to available extra- curricular activities.	471	80.8%
5. The right to effective and qualified instruction, including having access to the resources and adequate learning environment necessary for success.	511	87.7%
6. The right to elect student representation.	500	85.8%

STUDENT CHARTER OF RIGHTS	KEEP	
7. The right for students, where legally permitted, to advocate for themselves or to choose another representative without fear of ageism or any other form of discrimination.	486	83.4%
8. The right to make a phone call or communicate with their parents or designated guardian in case of personal distress or emergency.	475	81.5%
9. The right to have school rules and regulations applied and adhered to with consistency, fairness, and compassion.	528	90.6%
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.	511	87.7%

2. These results show that the majority want to *keep* the rights as written in both the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights.
3. Appendix A provides a more complete summary of the data from all respondents and shows responses differentiated by the two largest groups, namely, Parents and Staff.
4. Results from the Face-to-Face Community Consultations were consistent with the survey results.
5. These results show that the majority want to *keep* the rights as written in both the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights.
6. For both the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and the Draft Student Charter of Rights, there were items where edits were suggested and general commentary was offered. A review of the suggested edits and commentary is required.

Overview of Recurring Themes in the Consultation Commentary

Below are high level summaries of the recurring themes provided by the Research department. A PDF file of all stakeholder comments will be sent to Trustees via email in advance of the May 18 Board meeting.

Scope and Implementation

Though there is a high level of support for each item in the Draft Parent Charter of Rights and Draft Student Chart of Rights, some comments raised questions about the expansive scope of many charter provisions, as well as the ability to provide full accountability in delivering on them in a school environment. Additionally, some believe there are rights that already exist based on our Catholic social teachings and the Education Act.

Example of comments:

- Some terms in the rights are too general and may require rewording or clearer definition for it to be interpreted consistently K – 12.
- It is not clear how the rights can be enforced or how implementation can be measured.

Availability of Funding for Resources to Support the Charter of Rights Provisions

Given the Board’s budgetary challenges, some concerns were raised about the Board’s ability to provide proper resources to ensure the provisions in the charters were fully realized.

Example of comments:

- Many rights reflect an ideal state which would be difficult to deliver and maintain with the current levels of staffing.
- Increased Board funding is needed to ensure that all schools across the system have access to the required technology and resources.
- References to “required timelines” in the rights may require a system investment in additional staff allocation.

Ensuing the Infusion of the Catholic Perspective and Maintaining our Catholic Identity

Many comments express the concern over maintaining a uniquely Catholic identity in the context of provincial requirements.

Examples of comments:

- It is important to ensure that these rights are consistent with our Catholic faith.
- Ensure that our Catholic system remains unique and distinct.

The Need to Honour Equity and Diversity

Many comments express the need to ensure that equity and diversity are honoured within the context of our Catholic Faith traditions.

Examples of comments:

- The rights of staff need to be considered when applying these rights to our system.
- Acknowledge the different needs of every student and community.

7. The next steps in the process of finalizing the Parent Charter of Rights and the Student Charter of Rights is as follows:

- i. The Ad Hoc Committee responsible for producing the Draft Parent and Draft Student Charter of Rights will reconvene to consider all stakeholder input including suggested edits to each charter item and general and commentary. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet on May 23, 2017.
- ii. With the assistance of staff the committee will produce a final version of the Parent Charter of Rights and Student Charter of Rights to be presented in a recommendation report to Board in June for the consideration of Trustees.
- iii. Legal counsel will review all Charter items to ensure that none contravenes Board Policy, Ministry Policy Memoranda (PPMs), and Legislation.
- iv. A report on the final version of the Parent Charter of Rights and Student Charter of Rights will be brought to the Board in June 2017 for approval.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. A review of consultation results was completed and the following reports were generated:
 - i. Statistical Analysis (**Appendix A**)
 - ii. Draft Parent Charter of Rights Suggested Edits (**Appendix B**)
 - iii. Draft Student Charter of Rights Suggested Edits (**Appendix C**)

2. Consistent with policy A.33 Guidelines for Trustees, Parents and Staff in Addressing School Related Concerns, issues and concerns will be resolved at the local level with the principal. In the event that a concern is raised with Superintendents, diligent efforts will be made to resolve the issue. These concerns will be recorded and monitored.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board and.