



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

UPDATE MULTI-LANGUAGE SCHOOL

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord." Jeremiah 17:7

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
September 18, 2017	September 21, 2017	Click here to enter a date.
D. Koenig, Associate Director, Academic Affairs		
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.



Rory McGuckin

Director of Education

D. Koenig

Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio

Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

T.B.D.

Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the course of planning for the proposed Multi Language elementary school to be located at St. Rene Goupil Catholic elementary school, the Director of Education sent to the Deputy Minister of Education proposed draft curriculum schedules. The Deputy Minister responded that, in developing and offering any new program, boards are subject to legislative requirements in the Education Act as well as any policy and collective agreement requirements. (**Appendix A**).

The message further reminded the Director that languages of instruction in publicly-funded schools are English and French, and while there is authority for the Minister to make regulations prescribing other languages of instruction, the Ministry does not at this time intend to propose regulations that would prescribe other languages of instruction (e.g. Mandarin, Spanish, etc...).

On July 25, 2017, the Minister of Education wrote to the Director of Education and reinforced that the only authorized language of instruction other than English is French. The letter further stated that at this time, the Ministry of Education has no plans to change the Education Act or regulations prescribing the language in which any subject or subjects shall be taught in any year of the primary, junior, intermediate, or senior division. (**Appendix B**)

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 3 hours.

B. PURPOSE

1. At the Governance and Policy Committee held on September 12, 2017, a previous motion to investigate whether Board policy S.P. 05 International Languages Program (Elementary) needed to be amended due to the proposed Multi-Language School, was not dealt with given receipt of the Minister's letter.
2. The Committee members directed staff to bring a status update on the proposed Multi Language elementary school that was to be implemented at the current St. Rene Goupil CS.

C. BACKGROUND

1. **June 11, 2015** - A report was presented at Regular Board regarding the feasibility of establishing a Multi-Language school to be located in North Scarborough.
2. The Board of Trustees approved the following recommendation: “That staff continues to pursue the study of various components necessary for the recommendations for approval and successful implementation of any multi-language school for September, 2016.”
3. Staff began the process of investigating the possibility of creating a multi-language school and determining the structure and components of the program, but the work was subsequently delayed due to the prolonged period of local collective bargaining with OECTA-TECT.
4. Details specific to the development of the program were discussed with our union partners through the 2016-2017 school year. The decision to proceed with the process and determine the commitment from parents for enrolment into the program was finalized in April 2017.
5. **February 2017** - Staff contacted the Ministry of Education to provide some sample schedules incorporating the additional languages of Mandarin and Spanish and to gauge the interest of the Ministry of Education in moving forward with the concept of a Multi-Language school.
6. **March 10, 2017** – The Director of Director received a message from the Deputy Minister of Education in respect of the work completed on the implementation of a Multi-Language school. In that message, the Director was reminded that the languages of instruction in publicly-funded schools are English and French, and while there is authority for the Minister to make regulations prescribing other languages of instruction, the Ministry does not at this time intend to propose regulations that would prescribe other languages of instruction (e.g. Mandarin, Spanish, etc...). A number of resources were also provided.
7. Despite implementing a registration process through SOAR for the Multi-Language school, low numbers of student registrations proved prohibitive to implement the Kindergarten program at St. Rene Goupil.

8. July 25, 2017 – The Minister of Education wrote to the Director of Education and stated, *“Under paragraph 8(1) 25 of the Education Act, the only authorized language of instruction other than English is French. At this time the Ministry of Education has no plans to change the Education Act or regulations prescribing the language in which any subject or subjects shall be taught in any year of the primary, junior, intermediate, or senior division.”*

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Based on the direction provided in the letter from the Minister of Education, it was determined that a report should go back to the Board of Trustees informing them of the direction from the Ministry of Education based on the legislation for this particular type of model for a multi-language day school.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.