



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### REVISED PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW GUIDELINES/COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES – MINISTRY CONSULTATION PROCESS

*“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”, Galatians 6:9*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 30, 2017	November 9, 2017	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>

B. Leporati, Sr. Mgr. Planning and Admissions  
J. Volek, Acting Comptroller, Planning and Development Services  
M. Puccetti, Superintendent of Facilities  
All Superintendents, Student Achievement and Well-Being

#### RECOMMENDATION REPORT

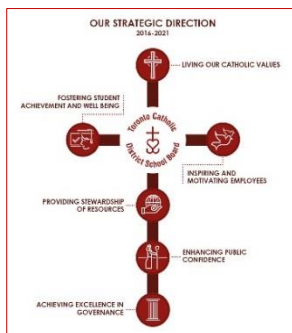
#### Vision:

*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 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**

The Ministry of Education issued memorandum 2017:B09 – *Plan to Strengthen Rural and Northern Education* on June 28, 2017. The memo is primarily focused on a provision of funding to allow rural and northern boards to maintain, operate, equip and staff small and/or underutilized schools. As the TCDSB and TDSB are urban school boards, they will not be eligible to receive this stream of funding.

The Ministry intends to revise their current Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG) and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines (CPPG). Ministry Consultation on the proposed revisions is underway. This report makes recommendations for consideration by TCDSB in response to very specific questions provided by the Ministry.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 10 hours*

## **B. PURPOSE**

This report will provide staff recommendations to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in response to the consultation process for revisions to the PARG and CPPG.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. At their meeting of October, 19, 2017, the Board received a communication from the Ministry of Education to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) outlining the consultation process pertaining to revision of the PARG/CPPG policies and requesting feedback. The following motion was referred to staff:

*“1. That the Communication be referred to staff and a report come back by the November 9, 2017 Corporate Services meeting outlining staff recommendation on the input which the Board should provide to the Ministry regarding proposed changes to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline.”*

2. The Ministry has sought and are seeking input on a revised version of its PARG. Feedback was collected during the government's rural engagement in spring of 2017 and will continue throughout the fall of 2017, in two phases:
  - **Phase 1:** Discussion Questions – focus on collecting feedback on the areas of change first identified in the spring 2017, as well as other proposed changes to the PARG and CPPG. This phase will run from October 12 to December 6, 2017.
  - **Phase 2:** Revisions and Editing – The Ministry will post a draft of the revised PARG and CPPG for further public feedback in January 2018.
3. The Ministry is proposing revisions to the current PARG/CPPG in order to create a stronger, more collaborative process which promotes the well-being of students and addresses the impact of school closures on communities. The Ministry proposed revisions along with current Board practice is described in *Appendix 'A'*.
4. Proposed amendments to the PARG/CPPG include longer timelines, more recommended pupil accommodation options, clearer roles for Trustees and municipal governments, and an increased student voice. Upon release of the new guidelines, the Board must revise the Pupil Accommodation Review and Community Planning and Partnership policies to reflect the latest guidelines.
5. The Ministry has requested responses to the following discussion questions in Phase 1 of the consultation process.
  - *Do you think the ministry's proposed revisions to the PARG will create a stronger, more collaborative process?*

Staff Response:

Staff are supportive of the proposed revisions as they are listed in the communication. In our experience, the community involvement process could be further enhanced by returning to the practice of allowing the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee to create and submit their own account/report of the process and their own recommendations to the Director at the Interim Reporting stage, including presenting their recommendations and sharing their concerns at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Many communities have expressed a dissatisfaction with the current practice of simply including comments and feedback in the staff report.

Staff also echo the Ministry proposition of greater inclusion of a student voice on secondary school PAR committees. Students provide a unique insight from a perspective of academic achievement and well-being.

- *Do you think the above (included in Appendix 'A') measures to support improved coordination of community infrastructure planning will work to promote sustainable use of school space in communities?*

Staff Response:

Staff are supportive of improved coordination of community infrastructure planning. Utilization of surplus school space is beneficial to both municipalities, the Province and individual school communities—where there is demand for various community services. Increased coordination of financial resources to support the long-term operation of these community partnerships is required going forward. The financial burden of operating costs, maintenance and renewal should be equally shared amongst the partners.

- *When making decisions about school infrastructure within communities, what measures could be conducive to fostering collaboration and cooperation between municipalities and school boards?*

Staff Response:

School communities are more engaged and invested in a process that results in enhanced/new facilities, including partnerships with community agencies. A targeted stream of funding to make Capital improvements to existing facilities or to create new facilities is imperative to the process and to ensure a higher degree of community support for consolidation.

Staff support continued dialog with our Municipal partners in an effort to find solutions that expedite the site plan approval process.

## **D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

That the responses detailed in the body of this report be submitted to the Ministry of Education as part of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines consultation process.