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REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

YEAR-LONG LEARNING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PLAN

"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance"
PROVERBS 1:5

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
November 6, 2017	November 16, 2017	Click here to enter a date.

Shawna Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

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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 draft Long-Term Program Plan (LTPP) was approved in principle by the Board of Trustees on October 20, 2016, subject to consultation and gathering feedback. The consultation survey period was initiated on November 16, 2016 and was concluded on January 13, 2017.

Results from this extensive community consultation and feedback process for the LTPP was presented to Trustees at the Regular Board Meeting on February 23, 2017. Trustees approved a number of motions arising from the discussion, including next steps regarding the potential introduction of Elementary and Secondary Year-long Learning Programs.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 12 hours

B. PURPOSE

1. This Report outlines the proposed community engagement and consultation plan specific to the direction outlined in the Trustee motions adopted on February 23, 2017 regarding the LTPP recommendations for Elementary and Secondary Year-long Learning Programs as recorded by Board motion.
 - a) *That the Board of Trustees approve the program recommendations for Elementary Schools contained in the Action section of this report - Recommendation 2(e): Revisit Year Round Elementary programs in 2 years.*
 - b) *That the Board of Trustees approve the program recommendations for Secondary Schools contained in the Action section of this report - Recommendation 3(g): Revisit Year Round Secondary programs in 2 years.*
 - c) *That staff come back with a plan on how we are going to engage staff and parents in investigating a pilot project for elementary and secondary year-long learning.*

C. BACKGROUND

1. Based on the direction outlined in the Trustee motions adopted on February 23, 2017 regarding the LTPP recommendations to revisit the issue of Elementary and Secondary Year-long Learning Programs in 2 years, the community engagement and consultation plan is designed to provide as much information as possible regarding options available regarding the possible introduction of Year-long Learning, in addition to gauging potential interest among parents, students and staff.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The terms “year round schooling” or “year-long learning” is more accurately defined as a “balanced calendar” since the Ministry of Education specifies that funding is provided for 194 mandatory school/instructional days per year.
2. Year round Learning Programs must align with this Ministry regulation, which dictates that these mandatory instructional days are evenly distributed throughout the year. In place of the nine week summer vacation offered in the traditional school calendar, vacations are scheduled in one, two, or three week time frames during October, December, February, and March. Four or five weeks (instead of the traditional 8 weeks) of vacation may also occur through the summer months of July to August depending on the scheduling model adopted. In addition to the formal instructional days, there are schools which offer voluntary, fee-based intersession programs to students during vacation periods for remediation, enhancement, and special-interest learning opportunities
3. Where balanced calendar schools have been implemented in GTA boards (P.D.S.B., Y.R.D.S.B, D.D.S.B.) they have been planned rollouts for new school sites; introduced as balanced calendar projects – not changeover from previous school communities.
4. This evidence is relevant to the proposed community engagement and consultation process, as it involved prospective school community members rather than current members requiring consensus or approval in changing from one model to balanced calendar.

5. In addition, the preliminary evidence and research gathered from the recent LTPP consultation process did not demonstrate significant support for the year-long learning programs. Results from the February 23, 2017 report indicated:

Year Round Elementary and Secondary Programs Survey Summary:

- 36% Agree or Strongly Agree;
 - 49% Disagree or Strongly Disagree;
 - 14% offered no opinion
 - Over 70% of Catholic Ratepayers indicated they disagree or disagree strongly.
6. A new survey will be developed in consultation with the Board's Research Department to address the key evidence themes highlighted in points 3 and 4 as well as ensuring the inclusion of preference factors such as:
 - Availability of student transportation
 - Access to before and after school programming
 - New school build versus school conversion as consideration
 - Condition of building including availability of air conditioning
 - Alignment with specialty programs

E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. This community engagement and consultation plan is designed to comply with the Board's Community Engagement Policy (T.07) to facilitate the need to be inclusive to reflect views of all TCDSB community members by overcoming language, cultural and socio-economic access barriers.
2. The level of community engagement is recommended at the level of "CONSULT" which directs staff "to obtain input from community members and the general public on proposed Board directions and decisions".
3. Online survey hosted on school websites instead of being centrally hosted on the main Board website (as was the case for initial community consultation) for a 3 month period (January 2017 to April 30, 2017).
4. Special letter of invitation to participate in engagement by Director and Chair to all TCDSB community members including CSPC chairs, parents and parent engagement groups (CPIC, OAPCE), students (CSLIT, ECSLIT)

teaching and staff/union partners, Toronto Catholic Stakeholders, Child-Care and Community Agencies providing before and after school programs.

5. Discussion regarding year round schooling pilot programs requires consultation with our elementary and secondary teachers as per collective agreements (TECT Collective Agreement-Appendix K; TSU Collective Agreement-Appendix O).
6. Specific direction to Principals to engage with their respective CSPC Chair and Executive Members to coordinate the submission of at least one completed survey from each school, and to pre-identify schools with significant interest in being a pilot project site for year-long learning.
7. Consult with Toronto Student Transportation Group as student bus transportation providers will need to implement an alternate schedule/calendar will impact transportation costs and sharing of resources where calendars differ.
8. Facilities Department of TCDSB to determine additional cost impacts if any on aspects of alternate calendar requiring staff modifications (custodial, SQS, security services, maintenance, etc.).
9. The broader consultation plan will be supported by the full inventory of communications tools: Director's Bulletin, Weekly Wrap Up, web (TCDSB's external and internal portal), social media (Twitter) and TCDSB E-News, posters to engage and inform internal and external audiences and stakeholders in Church Bulletins (via the Archdiocese). Staff will also communicate face to face with our official parent engagement organizations (CPIC, OAPCE-Toronto).
10. All feedback received through public consultation activities related to the introduction of Year-long learning for elementary and secondary panels will be gathered, tabulated and presented to Trustees at the Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees in May 2018.

F. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. Board Staff recommends the approval of the Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan at the level of "CONSULT".

2. Board Staff will report back on the results at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees in May, 2018.