

## OUR 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.

## OUR VISION

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.



# ADDENDUM REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC SESSION

Nancy Crawford, Chair      Markus de Domenico, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

7:00 P.M.

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**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**First Name:**

Daniel

**Last Name:**

Reszczyński

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

Raising of Pro life flag as described by Counselor Del Grande for the period of one month and special anti abortion curriculum on May 9th 2024.

**Key Issue(s):**

Pro life Flag Flying and curriculum day May 9th 2024..



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

### **Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

Counsellor De lGrande proposed the raising of a Prolife flag at all TCDSB schools for the period of one month. In addition , Pro life curriculum be taught on the National March for Life scheduled on May 9.

### **Action Requested:**

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak to Mr. Del Grande's motion regarding flying the pro life flag and Pro life educational opportunities on May 9th 2024 for our students.

I am a retired Catholic teacher beginning my career in 1989 and have retired as of June 2023. I attended Catholic school my whole life beginning in 1966.

Quite frankly, I was insulted to hear about the ongoing attacks on Mr. Del Grande in the Toronto Star. These attacks are unacceptable.

Maybe if Jesus had just towed the line and listened to the Pharisees ...all challenges novel ideas would cease to exist. We need strong advocates of the faith to witness to the truth and Mr. Del Grande does that with determination and courage.

When I attended the M.S.S.B. the teachings of the church were clearly taught to us in Religion classes both at the elementary and secondary level by priests, nuns and teachers.

When I returned to teach for the T.C.D.S.B. I noticed some changes in the school system since my time. Sadly, over the years I witnessed our system become increasingly secular. Ultimately the continuation of Catholic education relies on all employees, parents, students, administration and trustees to continue to be witnesses of the faith . Mr. Del Grande's motion is one opportunity to do so.

Let me provide an example from my experience. When I was teaching civics the Principal of the School mentioned that the MP would like to visit my class. I agreed. She presented herself as a Catholic role model. She proceeded to talk about the Canadian political process which was informative for the students. When it came time for questions I asked her "was she pro life." She answered" the Prime Minister is pro choice and so am I" I pointed out the fact that belief is not found in church teaching .I wanted to witness to pro life in front of my students . I am firmly anti abortion and believe unborn children are people with



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

souls and rights. I went to the principal and reported what occurred. I did not want this individual to visit my class again. I was ignored and that individual spoke at graduation.

Unfortunately, some individuals have embarrassed secular relativism. They have become champions of causes unrelated, and in conflict with the teaching of the church.

The church's teaching on abortion is clear. As Christians we have an obligation to witness those teaching and Mr. Del Grandes' motion is a much needed opportunity to be a beacon of catholic teachings and a light in the world. The teachings around pro life are not open for debate and I am dumbfounded why some Catholic trustees do not support this motion. More religious instruction is needed in this turbulent world to ensure our students make good choices and build their lives on a solid foundation. I conducted a poll with my students in civics class after the visit with the MP and I was very surprised to discover 99% of the students in my class were pro choice. I thought to myself how did this situation arise? This happened because they were not being taught the right values. In the absence of Catholic teachings the default belief system is secular relativism as broadcasted through the media. I ended up having a discussion with the students about abortion, what it is and the position we must take as Catholics.

The pro life movement is not an American movement it is based on catholic values. That was an odd assertion. Trustees should be more worried about who they pose with online. I have seen online a trustee posing with an x president of the US who is pro choice. This was inappropriate.

Why aren't trustees spending time looking into why elementary teachers have started their own Facebook page looking for substitutes to fill in daily openings through direct messaging? This is a cause worth pursuing. Please stop wasting time opposing pro life flag flying and curriculum initiatives proposed for May 9th.

In the end we have to defend our catholic values and teach the students. If there are no defenders of the faith and attempts are not made to assert our values against a rising tide of moral relativism the students will suffer making poor uninformed worldly choices.



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

I look forward to seeing the pro life flag fly high outside our schools on May 9th as a beacon of hope and love we share as Catholics for all of God's creation.

I'll end with a quote from Mother Teresa

The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left for me to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between.

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

## **Delegation Submission From Daniel Reszczyński for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting**

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak to Mr. DelGrande's motion regarding flying the pro life flag and Pro life educational opportunities on May 9th 2024 for our students.

I am a retired Catholic teacher beginning my career in 1989 and have retired as of June 2023. I attended Catholic school my whole life beginning in 1966.

Quite frankly, I was insulted to hear about the ongoing attacks on Mr. Del Grande in the Toronto Star. These attacks are unacceptable.

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We need strong advocates of the faith to witness to the truth and Mr. Delgrande does that with determination and courage.

When I attended the MSSB the teachings of the church were clearly taught to us in Religion classes both at the elementary and secondary level by priests ,nuns and teachers.

When I returned to teach for the TCDSB I noticed some changes in the school system since my time. Sadly over the years I witnessed our system become increasingly secular. Ultimately the continuation of Catholic education relies on all employees, parents, students, administration and trustees to continue to be witnesses of the faith. Mr. Del Grande's motion is one opportunity to do so.

Let me provide an example from my experience. When I was teaching civics the Principal of the School mentioned that the MP would like to visit my class. I agreed. She presented herself as a Catholic role model. She proceeded to talk about the Canadian political process which was informative for the students. When it came time for questions I asked her "was she pro life." She answered "The Prime Minister is pro choice and so am I" I pointed out the fact that belief is not found in church teaching .I wanted to witness to pro life in front of my students . I am firmly anti abortion and believe unborn children are people with souls and rights. I went to the principal and reported what occurred. I did not want this individual to visit my class again.I was ignored and that individual spoke at graduation.

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did this situation arise? This happened because they were not being taught the right values. In the absence of Catholic teachings the default belief system is secular relativism as broadcasted through the media. I ended up having a discussion with the students about abortion, what it is and the position we must take as Catholics.

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In the end we have to defend our catholic values and teach the students. If there are no defenders of the faith and attempts are not made to assert our values against a rising tide of moral relativism the students will suffer making poor uninformed worldly choices.

I look forward to seeing the pro life flag fly high outside our schools on May 9th as a beacon of hope and love we share as Catholics for all of God's creation.

I'll end with a quote

The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left for me to kill you and you to kill me?  
There is nothing between.

**Mother Teresa**



**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**First Name:**

Magdalena

**Last Name:**

Cardillo

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

Pro-life Flag

**Key Issue(s):**

Pro-Life Flag

Catholic values

Dignity and worth of preborn children.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

To fly the international Pro-Life Flag at every TCDS throughout the month of May.

**Action Requested:**

Vote YES to fly the Pro-Life Flag during the month of May at every TCDS and Board office.

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

## Delegation Submission from Magdalena Cardillo for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting

Good evening everyone,

My name is Magdalena Cardillo and I am here to express my support for the motion to fly the Pro-Life Flag every year throughout the month of May. I am a mother of five children, number five is currently in my belly, growing and developing, taking the necessary time needed to make his/her appearance. My baby already exists in this world, he/she is a human and a person and has worth and dignity. But most importantly, is made in the image of God. As Catholics, we live in a culture that very much goes against our faith.

Our children are introduced to ideologies and concepts that are confusing, false, self destructive and morally wrong. Finally we have an opportunity to showcase something magnificent that truly represents our faith and values and aligns with what God expects from us. Standing up and defending the life of unborn children in the womb is something we need to teach our children. Our children need to know that the baby in the womb, or tummy, is precious and innocent and deserves our protection. This is something that needs to be engraved in the hearts and minds of our children if we want to make a difference in the Pro-Life movement.

Sadly, there are too many Catholics who support abortion laws. I will often hear, “I wouldn’t have one but, if another woman wants one then that’s fine.” No, that is not fine. These Catholics who think this way were failed by their Church, their Catholic schools, and their parents. We have a chance here to make a difference, let’s not waste it. This is not a political issue but a Catholic issue and it needs to be addressed. The hardest thing in life is to do the right thing because it requires some sort of sacrifice. Whether that sacrifice be pleasure, wealth, honour or power.

I pray that you do the right thing and vote yes to flying this beautiful flag that represents the precious life God created. Flying this flag will not only help save the lives of unborn children in the womb but also help save the souls of our children which God has instructed us to do.

Thank you for your time.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Isabel

**Last Name:**

Freedom

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

In favor of the pro life flag being flown during the month of May.

**Key Issue(s):**

Fighting for the unborn, representation of the babies lost and babies were fighting for.

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

My experience in the schools as a recent graduate has shaped my passion for this issue.



**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**Action Requested:**

That I am one of the pro life deputors chosen to give a speech.

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

Hello my name is Isabel, I'm 18 years old and recently just graduated high school. While being a Gen Z and having a large percentage of us being heavily pro choice and against pro life messaging, I am here today to take a stand against that, and publicly declare to you all that I am unapologetically pro life and in favor of this flag being raised during the month of May.

I have very recent first hand experience of what it was like going through what was essentially an "indoctrination camp". From elementary school all the way to high school I witnessed how hard certain agendas (name a few) were pushed on myself and other students. High school was where I was a victim in what became a spiritual battle field because I stood for what I believed in no matter the back lash no matter the severity.

Other groups larked around playing victim and went on about how they're so underrepresented by the board but they actually got representation in pretty much every way possible. These groups were catered to anyone that even hinted at the slightest chance of disagreement with them (like myself) never got a fair word in, no representation and very often punished.

I am quite young and telling you all from a student that has experienced this all very recently that something must change. This is crucial. As a Christian I recognize that I must lead by example, same with others too this also includes Christian organizations (like the Catholic district school board) who are supposed to be teaching truth and righteousness some of the core principals of Christianity.

If Truth and righteousness isn't the centre of what is being taught in these schools (it isn't), what is?

Sticking to our Christian roots and values is what is needed in this time one of those being the love and protection for the unborn. Failure to represent that is not only an injustice to them but also disrespect to the babies lost to abortion. Jeremiah 1:5 says "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you;

I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

The kids in this school board need adults they can count on to do the right thing. Can you be those adults? I know many other students would speak up but lots are afraid of what others would think or say. I am not. Saying yes to the pro life flag being put up during the month of May will serve as a reminder of the babies lost to abortion and the babies many are fighting for. Also representation to liked minded students like myself.

What side of history do you want to be on?

Thank you.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Robert

**Last Name:**

Pella

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

In support of Trustee Del Grande's Consideration of Motion regarding the International Pro-Life Flag.

**Key Issue(s):**

Trustee Del Grande prolife motion.

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

In favour of the flag at all schools for the month of May quotes from saints discussing the merits of prolife catechism quote.



**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**Action Requested:**

Vote in favour of the motion.

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

## Delegation Submission from Robert Pella for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting

Good evening Board:

I am here in support of Trustee Del Grande's Consideration of Motion regarding the International Pro-Life Flag. My hopes this evening is some of the Trustees will set aside your personal politics and simply look at the good and noble importance of this motion of raising the prolife flag for the month of May. Our students are the torchbearers of the future, entrusted with the responsibility to uphold the dignity and value of every human life.

In our journey through life, we encounter numerous challenges and obstacles, but none more significant than the threat to life itself. The Pro-Life movement stands as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the precious gift of life and our duty to protect it.

Saint Mother Teresa once said, "Life is a promise; fulfill it." These words echo the fundamental belief that each life, regardless of its circumstances or condition, is inherently valuable and deserving of protection. Saint John Paul II, in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, emphasized the sacredness of every human life, stating that "human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation."

Mother Teresa also goes on to say:

"Abortion is murder in the womb...A child is a gift of God. If you do not want him, give him to me."

"The greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion, which is a war against the child. The mother doesn't learn to love but kills to solve her own problems. Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want."

"It is poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

Padre Pio says: "The day that people lose their horror for abortion will be the most terrible day for humanity."

Furthermore, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception." This profound statement reaffirms the inherent dignity of every human being, from the moment of conception until natural death. It underscores our moral obligation to defend the most vulnerable members of society, including the unborn.

As individuals, we have the power to make a difference in the world around us. We can be advocates for life, promoting a culture that cherishes and protects the gift of life at all stages. Let us not be swayed by societal norms or political ideologies but rather guided by the principles of compassion, justice, and respect for human dignity.

In conclusion, I urge each and every one of you to stand up for life. Let the pro-life flag and Catholic teaching be voices for the voiceless and defenders of the innocent. Together, let us build a culture of life where every human being is cherished, valued, and protected.

St. Gerard Majella, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Pope St. John Paul: Pray for us... Thank you.



**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**First Name:**

Robert

**Last Name:**

Mignella

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

Support of Michael del Grande's pro-life flag proposal and curriculum enhancement.

**Key Issue(s):**

I like Mike.



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

Given Archbishop Leo's call for pro-life witness in his January "Kingdom of God" pastoral letter and the Dicastery of Faith's recent "infinite dignity" declaration of the human person, I feel compelled to support Mr. Del Grande's pro-life proposal. That prominent Catholics such as Joe Biden, Justin Trudeau and Emmanuel Macron are all endorsing unrestricted access to the killing of preborn children in contradiction to Church teaching is a shocking and tragic scandal. Supporting the Archbishop's and Vatican urgent appeal shows strong solidarity and communion as Church.

### **Action Requested:**

I support the passing of Micheal del Grande's proposal. I would love to see prolife flags fly throughout the month of May, that the defense and promotion of life be given even more prominence beyond whatever is in place for the "respect for life week" and, that the TCDSB particularly focus its teaching efforts to coincide with National March for Life. (first Thursday in May).

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

## **Delegation Submission from Robert Mignella for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting**

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Given Archbishop Leo's call for pro-life witness in his January "Kingdom of God" pastoral letter and the Dicastery of Faith's recent "infinite dignity" declaration of the human person, I feel compelled to support Mr. Del Grande's pro-life proposal. That prominent Catholics such as Joe Biden, Justin Trudeau and Emmanuel Macron are all endorsing unrestricted access to the killing of preborn children in contradiction to Church teaching is a shocking and tragic scandal. Supporting the Archbishop's and Vatican urgent appeal shows strong solidarity and communion as Church.

Furthermore, with the playoffs underway, I wish to link our meager prolife efforts to those of the Toronto Maple Leafs in the hope of defeating the Boston Bruins and progressing deep into subsequent rounds.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Joe

**Last Name:**

Di Fonzo

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

Yes

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

Trust Del Grande's motion to have all TDCSB Schools fly the pro life flag in the month of May and that teachers be provided with appropriate resources to help educate our youth on this issue.

**Key Issue(s):**

Fulfilling Board's mission in leading children to truth and goodness.

Board has had a history of supporting the pro life cause.

Every child matters, especially the most vulnerable and innocent, the preborn..



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

As a former teacher of the Board (32 years, mostly at the high school level) I can attest to the efforts made by teachers in the Board, with the support of school board administration, in promoting a respect for life and all the issues associated with it. May (the month of Mary) is the perfect month to attest to what we believe in, namely the sanctity of all life. Mary's "yes" to life and our "yes" to life go hand in hand. The Pro Life flag flown in May will speak to this.

### **Action Requested:**

That the motion be passed unanimously.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

## Delegation Submission from Joe Di Fonzo for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting

My name is Joe Di Fonzo.

I am a retired teacher from the TCDSB. I taught for 32 years (7 in elementary and 25 at the secondary level and most of those years teaching Religion and Physical Education). Looking back, I feel very fortunate to have spent those years bringing my students to a fuller understanding and love of the faith we all share and in helping them understand and appreciate the miracle of human life and its fragility.

I think you all would agree that the TCDSB has as its mission in Christ to educate and form young minds in the love of truth and goodness. Too often in our world today truth has become relative to where each individual is able to choose what their truth is. But we cannot circumvent the fact that objective truth does exist. Case in point. The humanity of life in the womb is a scientific fact. We can choose to ignore this fact and justify it in any number of ways, or we can respect that truth and align ourselves with Sacred Scripture, the Magisterium of the Church and with Christ himself who said, "I am the way the truth and the life".

To lead the young to truth and goodness is indeed a noble mission that I was proud to share in, specifically on this issue. For many years a number of teaching colleagues and I organized for the entire school board a Respect for Life Week during the month of May, always around Mother's Day and as a lead up to the annual March for Life rally held in Ottawa. Information was presented in a positive, life affirming manner modeling itself in how the wonderful Sisters of Life live out their ministry in supporting both mother and child.

This was fully supported by the school board in various ways:

- ...by promoting this week throughout the entire board to all schools
- ...by helping with the printing of material resources which included daily prayers and teaching resources to be used in the classroom.
- ...by helping finance the cost of guest speakers in schools
- ...and by helping finance buses, transporting students to the annual March for Life in Ottawa

These endeavors were well received and very effective in helping students understand, respect and value all human life, born and preborn, disabled and able, the young and elderly and those in their last days of life.

What came of these efforts? The school board administration thought it best to have this teacher-led initiative passed over to their administration. This made sense as it

was indeed a board wide initiative and several of the teachers organizing it, like myself, were soon to be retiring.

I am not certain what has come of this special week. Perhaps it may be the case that with so many other board initiatives to organize and administer, this issue and this special week has been lost. If that is the case, it is a great shame that this has happened. (But, I am open to being corrected on this.)

However, the proposed motion by Trustee Del Grande can move us back to where we should be. May (the month of Mary) is the perfect month to attest to what we believe in, namely the sanctity of all life. Mary's "yes" to life and our "yes" to life go hand in hand.

The Pro Life flag flown in May will speak to this truth....that every child does matter, including the most innocent and vulnerable child in the womb.

As trustees of Catholic Education for this board, you are to lead all stakeholders in this noble mission of educating our youth in truth and goodness.

How appropriate that on this day, Ann Marie D'Amico Day of Kindness and Love that you have an opportunity to show your kindness and love for the preborn through a vote unanimously in support of this motion.

I am open to any questions you may have.



## DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES

**First Name:**

Avery

**Last Name:**

Christian

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

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No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

Motion regarding International Pro-Life Flag, Board Meeting on April 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

**Key Issue(s):**

Unified and civilized educational settings.

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

Trustee Mike Del Grande has put forth a motion that would require TCDSB schools to fly the International Pro-Life flag throughout May. This motion will be voted on at



## **DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER COMMITTEES**

the Board Meeting on April 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. This issue can be used to generate more civilized discussion surrounding this topic within TCDSB environments.

### **Action Requested:**

To make a Deputation before the Board regarding how this topic can unify the people in the TCDSB, and that the councilors vote in favor of the motion.

### **Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

**Delegation Submission from Avery Christian L for the 2024-04-23 Board Meeting.**

Hello,

I am a resident in the City of Toronto, whose municipal vote support goes to the Toronto Catholic District School Board. I was made aware of a motion put forward by Trustee Mike Del Grande, about flying the International Pro-Life Flag at all TCDSB schools throughout May.

I have read the motion. While I am aware that there are numerous individuals with opposite views on this topic within the TCDSB school system, I believe that the flying of the flag would help generate civil dialogue on this topic. Doing such would help facilitate a more peaceful environment within the Catholic school system.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak briefly here today.



**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**First Name:**

Clare

**Last Name:**

Kavanagh

**Please select the applicable Board, Standing, Statutory, Sub or Ad Hoc Committee at which you are requesting to depute.**

Regular / Special Board

**Do you wish to Delegate by electronic means?**

No

**Do you require assistance from the Recording Secretary's Office?**

No

**Do you wish to make your deputation in private session because the matter involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or Committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil of his or her parent or guardian?**

No

**Date of Deputation:**

04-23-2024

**Topic of Deputation:**

Pro Life Flag Motion from Michael Del Grande

**Key Issue(s):**

The raising of the flag

**Brief Summary of the Topic of Deputation:**

Reasons we should raise the flag.



**DELEGATION REGISTRATION FORM  
FOR BOARD, STANDING OR OTHER  
COMMITTEES**

**Action Requested:**

To speak to the motion.

**Please select one of the following options:**

I am here as a delegation to speak only on my own behalf.

Delegate Submission for Michael Del Grande's Motion for a Pro-life Flag.

Submitted  
Friday morning  
April 19 2024

Dear Members of the Board and Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here tonight to speak to a Motion that is close to my heart. Trustee Michael Del Grande and many faithful Catholics and people of good will see the desperate plight of the precious unborn children in our land.

St John Paul II states in Evangelium Vitae:

*The issue of life and its defence and promotion is not a concern of Christians alone ...this question arises in every human conscience which seeks the truth and which cares about the future of humanity ... The Gospel of Life is for the whole of human society. To be actively pro-life is to contribute to the renewal of society through the promotion of the common good.*

*When the Church declares that unconditional respect for the right of every innocent person – from conception to natural death – is one of the pillars on which every civil society stands, she wants simply to promote a human State....which recognizes the defence of fundamental rights of the human person, especially the weakest, as it primary duty.*

Tragically, in Canada for more than thirty-five years now, since our Supreme Court struck down the law protecting the right to life of unborn children, procured abortion – the deliberate murder of innocent human beings at the very beginning of life – has continued unchecked.

Each day, when we pray the Our Father, we make a commitment to work for God's kingdom of love - "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." We must never become comfortable with the grave injustice that is happening in our land. Christ tells us that whatever we do to the least of these ... we do unto Him.

Today we have an opportunity to be a light and a sign of hope for justice and peace in our land. By raising the Pro-Life Flag, representing the dignity of all human life but especially that of the most vulnerable, we can counter the tsunami of coldness and cruelty targeting the most helpless among us.

The peaceful Pro-Life flag flying above all our schools and Board offices each May, the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, can make a difference for Life. By this act and by joining in the Annual March for Life and related activities, we can model for our children the sometimes difficult road we must travel to be faithful to the life-giving principles of the Gospel.

At the end of our lives, when we meet our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and He asks us what we did for His littlest brothers and sisters and for the children entrusted to us, I pray that we will have something beautiful to say about the action we took tonight by voting unanimously for the raising of the Pro-Life Flag.

I thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Clare Kavanagh





CATHOLIC  
PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT  
COMMITTEE



## RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD FROM THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

*We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. 3 John 1:8*

**Drafted**

**Meeting Date**

April 22, 2024

April 23, 2024

S. Hinds-Barnett – Acting Recording Secretary

### RECOMMENDATION REPORT

**Vision:** *IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.*

**Mission:** *Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.*



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN  
2022 - 2025

*IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope*



Brendan Browne  
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora  
Associate Director of Academic Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce  
Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam  
Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer

## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the Board of Trustees with recommendations from the **CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 0.5 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with the recommendations from the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

1. On 2024-02-26, the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee met.
2. At that meeting, there were recommendations proposed to the Board of Trustees. Refer to **Appendix A** for Letter from John Del Grande, CPIC Chair and **Appendix B** for Fundraising in Schools Policy S.M.04.

## **3. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee met on 2024-02-26 and a motion regarding Agenda Item 12c) Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Policy S.M.04 Recent Changes was unanimously passed as per the Minutes of that meeting included under *Communication* on the Order Page.

## **4. CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees that the following be approved:

That Regulation 7 be reviewed to provide clarity regarding using Board approved vendors for major purchases (i.e. capital, technology) vs. nominal purchases; and

That Regulation 8 that was removed, be-reinstated to provide clarity that joint fundraising projects require a supporting motion from the Catholic School Parent Council on funds disbursement.

**(Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Policy S.M.04 Recent Changes)**



CATHOLIC  
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INVOLVEMENT  
COMMITTEE



Toronto Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

CEC • 80 Sheppard Avenue East • North York, ON • M2N 6E8 • [www.tcdsb.org/cpic](http://www.tcdsb.org/cpic)

April 22, 2024

Members of the Board of Trustees,

RE: S.M.04 – Fundraising in Schools

Earlier this year, the Governance Committee approved a revised SM04 policy recommended by Staff and subsequently was approved by the full Board.

CPIC was informed about the policy, given its close ties to Catholic Parent School Councils and parental involvement with fundraising, but had not had an opportunity to review it before it was submitted to the Governance Committee. Upon our review, Members expressed concern over some of the provisions changed or struck. We also liaised with various CSPCs and found consensus amongst the parent community who responded.

- *“All purchases using fundraising proceeds shall follow the Boards Purchasing Policy and be mindful of any ongoing costs that could accrue to the Board. Purchases should only be made from Board approved vendors unless approved by Financial Services”*
- We believe to be overreach because as read would include all purchases (large or small). As you know fundraising dollars CSPCs raise is used for a long array of items, one-of purchases and large endeavors. CSPCs would generally agree to use Board approved vendors where it makes sense. For large capital purchases this would be expected to support Board purchasing power, warranties and supplier oversight.
- We further note that the Board does not publish its most common approved vendor list that CSPCs use, unlike the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).
- CPIC recommends to the Board of Trustees **“Regulation 7 be reviewed to provide clarity regarding using Board approved vendors for major purchases (ie: capital, technology) vs. nominal purchases.”**



CATHOLIC  
PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT  
COMMITTEE



- #8: *“When fundraising is a joint project with the local Catholic School Advisory Council and/or Student Council, it is understood that the decision making as to the disbursement of funds is also a joint responsibility.”*
- This provision appears to be completely removed in the revised policy. Our parent community raised considerable concern about assumptions/current practice being made. While we have most school communities with great relationships, we have had some over the years where there has been not as ideal collaboration between administration and CSPCs as we would like. While we do not believe the intention would ever to be to cut parents out of the decision process, parents had expressed that they could rethink their volunteer activities and fundraising support because policy no longer explicitly includes them.
- CPIC recommends to the Board of Trustees **“Regulation 8 that was removed, be reinstated to provide clarity that joint fundraising projects require a supporting motion from the Catholic School Parent Council on funds disbursement.”**

We generally believe in strong policy language that makes it clear for all parties involved and removes ambiguity or assumptions. This was clearly evident in our advocacy and your support years at the time for the policy, S.10 CSPC review and keeping/enhancing key provisions.

We appreciate your consideration of this CPIC motion and ask that you reconsider the policy addressing the two items noted. As a Committee we look forward to positive response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Del Grande".

John Del Grande  
CPIC Chair



**POLICY SECTION:** **STUDENTS-FINANCE**  
**SUB-SECTION:** **MISCELLANEOUS**  
**POLICY NAME:** **Fundraising in Schools**  
**POLICY NO:** **S.M.04**

<b>Date Approved:</b> December 11, 2006	<b>Date of Next Review:</b> <b>2029</b>	<b>Dates of Amendments:</b> <b>January 2024</b>
<b>Cross References:</b> O.Reg. 612, School Councils S.10 Catholic School Advisory <b>Parent</b> Councils <b>A.09 Board Recognized Charitable Foundations</b> <b>F.P.01 Purchasing Policy</b>		

**Purpose:**

**This policy establishes clear guidelines and lines of authority regarding fundarising in the name of the school and/or the Board.**

**Scope and Responsibility:**

**This policy applies to the entire TCDSB community. The Director of Education is responsible for this policy with the assistance of the Financial Services Department.**

**Alignment with MYSP:**

**Learning – Growing in Knowledge**

**Continue to develop a Christ-centered learning organization in pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and responsiveness.**

**Equity – Growing in Knowledge with Justice**



**POLICY SECTION:** ~~STUDENTS-FINANCE~~  
**SUB-SECTION:** ~~MISCELLANEOUS~~  
**POLICY NAME:** Fundraising in Schools  
**POLICY NO:** S.M.04

Apply Catholic social justice to nurture a community focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression.

### **Well-Being – Growing in Knowledge With Justice and Hope**

Strengthen an environment rooted in Gospel values that nurtures hope and well-being.

#### **Policy:**

The Toronto Catholic District School Board permits fundraising to be undertaken by its schools. All fundraising activities whether for the school or for an approved organization shall be related to charitable, humanitarian, educational, or service activities consistent with the tenets of Catholicism.

#### **Regulations:**

1. All fundraising shall be carried out under the jurisdiction and supervision of the school principal and may be a joint project with the local Catholic School ~~Advisory~~ **Parent** Council and/or Student Council.
2. Participation of students in fundraising in schools shall be voluntary and consideration shall be given to factors such as the age and safety of the students. Fundraising activities shall not interfere unduly with the learning experiences in the curriculum.



POLICY SECTION: ~~STUDENTS-FINANCE~~  
SUB-SECTION: MISCELLANEOUS  
POLICY NAME: Fundraising in Schools  
POLICY NO: S.M.04

3. The school principal must approve the content, and/or posting on school property, of any advertising materials, or the distribution of notices dealing with school fundraising events.
4. Individuals and organizations, ~~approved under policy S.13, Approved Access to Schools by Individuals and Organizations,~~ who wish to raise funds on school property and/or with the assistance of school staff and students, must do so in accordance with the fundraising policy and ~~its regulations~~ **only with prior principal consent.**
5. Funds raised under this policy shall not be used to purchase textbooks, learning materials and resources for regular classroom programs which would normally be funded through Board and school-based budgets.
6. **Funds raised for capital or technology related projects must be pre-approved by the Principal in consultation with Financial Services and the applicable Superintendent.**
7. **All purchases using fundraising proceeds shall follow the Boards Purchasing Policy and be mindful of any ongoing costs that could accrue to the Board. Purchases should only be made from Board approved vendors unless approved by Financial Services.**
8. ~~When fundraising is a joint project with the local Catholic School Advisory Council and/or Student Council, it is understood that the decision making as to the disbursement of funds is also a joint responsibility. The following shall be~~



**POLICY SECTION:** ~~STUDENTS~~ **FINANCE**  
**SUB-SECTION:** **MISCELLANEOUS**  
**POLICY NAME:** **Fundraising in Schools**  
**POLICY NO:** **S.M.04**

~~authorized to sign cheques (one person from each of groups (a) and (b) shall sign each cheque payment):~~

- ~~(a) two parent/student representatives on the Executive Committee of the Catholic School Advisory Council/Student Council—usually the Treasurer and the Chair;~~
- ~~(b) two representatives from the school namely the Principal, Vice Principal or Superintendent (where no Vice Principal exists) and~~
- ~~(c) the signature of the Treasurer of TCDSB will be required only under exceptional circumstances such as suspected misappropriation of funds.~~

~~9. The school Principal shall sign all cheques and only in the absence of the Principal will the Vice Principal or Superintendent sign.~~

#### **Evaluation and Metrics:**

- ~~• 8. Appropriate record-keeping procedures for all funds raised shall be maintained in accordance with those prescribed by the Treasurer of the Board.~~
- ~~• 9. An annual financial summary of all fundraising activities conducted during the school year shall be **made available** prepared and presented to the **school** community. at the Annual General Meeting in the Fall. The statement should be kept on file at the school.~~