

REPRESENTING:

Elementary Schools:

Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha	Epiphany of Our Lord
Holy Spirit	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Our Lady of Wisdom	Precious Blood
St. Aidan	St. Albert
St. Gerald	St. Henry
St. Kevin	St. Lawrence
St. Matthias	St. Maximilian Kolbe
St. Sylvester	St. Timothy

Secondary Schools:

Jean Vanier	Mary Ward
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Superintendents of Education:

Gerald Dagenais	Michael McMorrow
Mark Fenwick	

Parishes:

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Epiphany of Our Lord	Holy Spirit
Precious Blood	St. Aidan's
St. Lawrence	St. Maria Goretti
St. Timothy	



John Del Grande

Trustee, Ward 7

Toronto Catholic District School Board

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Spring 2009

A Board Better Off?

After eleven months, the Board continues to be under Ministry of Education Supervision. Supervision's primary purpose is to fix the Board's financial situation and return it to a balanced position.

What has been done so far

- *Trustee expense policies reformed*
- *Non essential purchases tightened or frozen*
- *Staffing and educational models reviewed*
- *This year we are expected to post a small surplus however a multi million dollar stranded debt will carry forward*

Separating Fact from Fiction

The Supervision team on several occasions has said essentially trustees have behaved badly and thus support being removed in their previously advisory capacity. In fact the majority of trustees, despite differences and final votes, continue to work collegially with each other.

The messaging in the media over the past year has painted all trustees with the same brush – in terms of their expenses, voting records, behaviour and actions. I do not hold the position of this collective guilt, in fact I was one of the few trustees who voted against a deficit budget - which ultimately brought on supervision.

I have always behaved in a professional manner and I continue to respect the trust you have put in me. I will continue to make prudent decisions, return your calls and provide assistance to you.

My Observations

Many decisions are being made behind closed doors, which unfortunately doesn't bode well for democracy. Many elements are being directed remotely from the Minister's or Premier's office.

Returning the Board to a democratic position is dependant on two things: Financial viability and public perception. There is no magic bullet and it appears on both fronts, it will take longer than originally planned. The longest supervision run historically was the Toronto District School Board which lasted 15 months.

The reason school boards exist is to have an element of local decision making and authority. It's also to give access to parents and ratepayers to an organization that affects the lives of so many and accounts for a large portion of government spending.

One of the key elements to our Catholic school system is our right to exist as per the Canadian Constitution. I will continue to advocate and push to ensure our denominational rights are respected and any matters that affect Catholic elements are decided by trustees and not the secular Ontario government.

Future Outlook

Parents have told me, although the system wasn't perfect, at least they had access to trustees, who could get information and ultimately make things happen for them – the parents and electorate. Under supervision, many parents and organizations feel disconnected from the decision making chain.

The government is also planning on making changes to the Education Act in the upcoming months to revise school board governance, trustee expectations and student success models.

In any capacity moving forward, I look forward to continuing governance reform, restoring financial health. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic education,



Trustee Report – Spring 2009

General Information

Parents/ratepayers may find the following list of contact telephone numbers helpful:

Admissions

416-222-8282, ext. 5320

Communications

416-222-8282, ext. 5314

Continuing Education

416-222-8282,
ext. 2491/2556

24-hour Information Line

416-222-8282, ext. 2873

Permits

416-222-8282, ext. 4370

Security

416-229-5360

Curriculum and Accountability

416-222-8282, ext. 2490

Special Services

416-222-8282, ext. 2486

Transportation

416-229-5313

Information about programs and services, Board policies and the latest news can also be found on TCDSB's web site at www.tcdsb.org

Supervision Team

& Director's Office

416-222-8282, ext. 2296

The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates close to 90,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in its 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools and serves 474,876 Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto.



Elementary Dress Code

In December 2007, trustees resolved that: 1) the TCDSB uniform policy should be strictly enforced and that the staff and teachers in our schools should be dressed

appropriately as an example to the students. 2) the Uniform Policy/Dress Code for elementary schools be reviewed including consultation with the parents on the impact of requiring all elementary school students to wear school uniforms.

The supervision team, based upon the original resolutions by trustees and further recommendations by staff have put forward the following draft policy changes:

- An Appropriate Dress Code be required in all TCDSB elementary schools. The Dress Code shall consist of a combination of white and navy blue garments
- Schools will have local authority for inclusion and colour of over garments
- 49 schools with an existing Uniform or Appropriate Dress Code be grandfathered
- A Final Report due in May will set the final policy based on final recommendations from parents and committees.

New Trustee – Ward 8

On Monday April 6th, 2009, on a 6-4 vote, the Board ratified Mary Ann Robillard as the replacement trustee for Scarborough Ward 8. Twenty candidates put their name forward to represent Catholic ratepayers, their community and offer their service to the Board until the next election. Mary Ann was a former Scarborough trustee on this board from 1994-2003.

Director Retirement

Les Nemes, newly appointed Director in the summer of 2008, was recently on medical leave and has since announced his official retirement. The Minister of Education and the Supervision team appointed Ms. Ann Peron as Interim Director of Education this year. Ann Perron had previously worked for the TCDSB, was a former Director of Education for the CDSBEO and had a brief sucondment to the Ministry of Education in the areas of Literacy & Numeracy. I thank Mr. Nemes for his years of service to us.

Building Update Primary Class Size & Enrollment Pressures Funding

St. Albert

* Construction of 18 classrooms, 3 rooms of these 18 classrooms will be kindergartens

St. Henry

* Construction of 4 classrooms plus 1 kindergarten room

The kindergarten room projects are subject to additional funding approval to support Full Day Learning. Both schools will be having follow-up meetings to discuss the construction projects and any Summer 2009 work to facilitate the construction of the addition.

CPIC

CPIC stands for Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. The Ministry of Education has mandated a parent involvement committee in each board with a purpose to “establish a direct link with trustees and the director, to provide parent advise and support parent engagement”

Ward representatives serve a two year term for 2009 & 2010. The newly elected Ward 7 representatives are: Jude Coutinho (parent of St. Sylvester) and standby alternate: Teresa Pastore (parent Mary Ward)

Budget Update

One of the biggest portions of the Board's budget is staffing. It accounts for almost 80% of the operating budget. Staffing levels at the board and at schools are primarily driven through student enrollment. For next year our student enrollment in the elementary panel is projected to drop by 1050 students.



You may have heard recent announcements regarding the reduction of 111 elementary teachers. At this time no layoffs are being made. The announcement, subject to the collective agreement deadlines was to advise that some teachers will be redeployed to other schools or other assignments. Some Special Education programs will also be regionalized in order to provide better overall service to students.



School Support

Roman Catholic parents, ratepayers & members of the Eastern Rite in union with the See of Rome, must declare their support for Catholic schools.

School support is used to determine the number of trustees to be elected to each Board to represent the interest of parents and other ratepayers.

A Catholic who is not registered as a separate school supporter would not be allowed to vote in the election of separate school trustees in municipal elections.

School support is one of the indicators the government can use to determine overall support for, and strength of, the publicly funded Catholic school system in Ontario.

Please check your recent Assessment Notice, check with your landlord or call the TCDSB Voter Registration Department 416-222-8282 ext 2666 email: sandra.vitale@tcdsb.org

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School Accommodation Review

CE 19 - Saint Henry, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Saint Sylvester

Over five meetings from March 2008 to September 2008 the school committees put forth the following final recommendations for consideration of the Board:



1. To review the bus routes for CE19 for the purpose of adding a bus route for Saint Maximilian Kolbe without impacting the existing bus routes at Saint Henry and Saint Sylvester
2. That the TCDSB investigate the feasibility of full day Senior Kindergarten in the Saint Henry, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Saint Sylvester school grouping.
3. That the TCDSB investigate the feasibility of year round schooling in the Saint Henry, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Saint Sylvester school grouping.
4. That the TCDSB consider the introduction of programs in the Saint Henry, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Saint Sylvester school grouping such as: a. International Languages b. French Immersion c. English as a Second Language d. Gifted program e. Design and Technology
5. That the TCDSB investigate the possible establishment of a daycare facility at St. Maximilian Kolbe
6. That the TCDSB investigate the reintroduction of a skilled trade program into the CE19 school grouping with consideration to the Government of Ontario is spending \$1.5 billion to build up the skilled trades.
7. That the TCDSB consider a Policy change that would allow the admission of non-Catholic students into elementary schools on the condition that the students participate in the total curriculum.
8. That the TCDSB establish a Policy that requires all schools to make available the Board's official directory of Catholic schools to parents who inquire about registration.

CE16/18 - Annunciation, Our Lady of Wisdom, Precious Blood, St. Isaac Jogues & St. Catherine

Through seven meetings from May 2008 to March 2009 the school committees unanimously agreed on the following final recommendations for further study:



1. Recognizing the important role the five schools have historically played for over forty years in the evolution of the local communities in the development of excellence in Catholic Education, the ARC recommends that all five schools continue to flourish as a place of learning academically and spiritually through service to the community and its constituents. All further recommendations are based on this premise.
2. That the Toronto Catholic District School Board conduct a review of the full catchment areas and bus routes to look at the possibilities to better utilize all five schools with the intention of maximizing the resources of each school in light of the significant residential development occurring in the surrounding community while continuing to allow the element of personal choice for the parents/guardians.
3. In response to the changing needs of the technological advances in the workplace and being on par with neighbouring public schools that made the transition to these current needs, the ARC recommends the development of a cross curricular computer science program into the intermediate division. This program would include all five schools in the ARC where feasible. It would partner with industries like its public school counterpart including communications companies and post secondary institutions. This fiscally responsible approach in turn fulfills the Mission to 'education students to their potential'. As all five are feeder schools to Senator O'Connor, this initiative would support their preparation for students to meet the needs of the secondary school curriculum.
4. That the TCDSB consider the introduction of programs into the Annunciation, Our Lady of Wisdom, Precious Blood, St. Catherine, St. Isaac Jogues school grouping such as:
 - a) International Languages
 - b) Drama – Theatre Arts
 - c) Music
 - d) French Immersion
5. That the Toronto Catholic District School Board request from the Ministry of Education an update on the community study in reference to how to best fund small schools

Thank you to all parents, staff and community members that participated throughout this process!



**School Year
Calendar
2009-2010**

Joint Panel PA Day s
September 2-3, 2009

Labour Day
September 7, 2009

Thanksgiving
October 12, 2009

Elementary PA Day
November 13, 2009

Christmas Break
December 21, 2009 to
January 1, 2010

Joint Panel PA Day
February 13, 2009

Elementary PA Day
December 4, 2009

Family Day
February 15, 2010

Secondary PA Day
February 12, 2010

Elementary PA Day
March 5, 2010

Mid-Winter Break
March 15-19, 2010

Good Friday
April 2, 2010

Easter Monday
April 5, 2010

Victoria Day
May 24, 2010

Last day of classes for
elementary students
June 29, 2010

Joint Panel PA Day s
June 30, 2010

Trustee Report – Spring 2009

New Superintendent

Mark Fenwick has replaced Frank Piddisi as school superintendent for various Scarborough Schools. Mr. Fenwick was previously heading up Curriculum & Accountability Division at the Board. Mr. Piddisi has taken over for Special Education & Parent Involvement.

Registration for summer school

The Summer School Gedit Programs will run from: Monday June 29 to Friday July 24.

Local area schools facilitating summer school:
Mary Ward CSS Senator O'Connor CSS
Brebeuf College CSS Pope John II CSS

For more information please contact Alex Mazzucco, Coordinator Continuing Education at 416-222-8282, Ext. 2556.

Expense Disclosure

Trustee Expenses are now posted quarterly as opposed to yearly. The Board works on a September to August accounting cycle.

My expenses for the 2008/09 school year:

	Q1 (Sep-Nov)	Q2 (Dec-Feb)
Telephony	\$300.62	\$661.07
Support Srv	\$640.80	\$43.17

Telephony categories cover phone/cell/internet and Support Services include newsletters & printing expenses. My total budget used to date is 21.7%

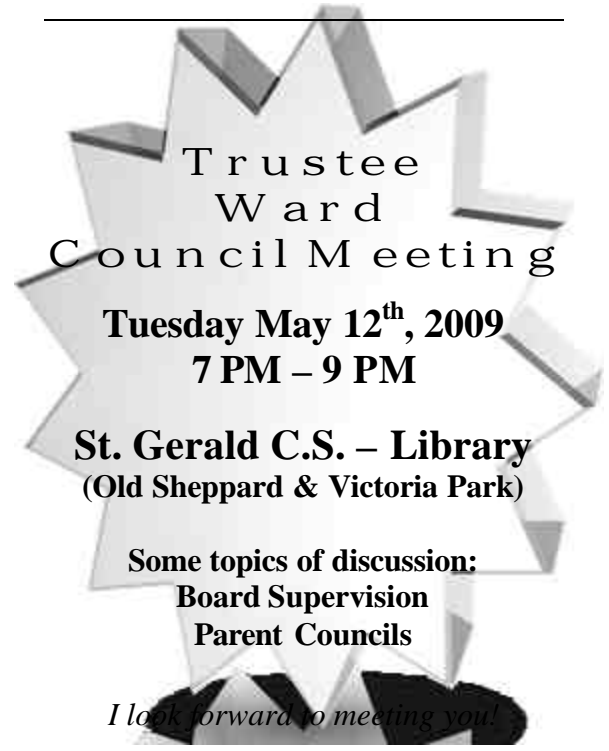
www.tcdsb.org/trustees/Trustee%20Expenses/trusteeexpenses.htm

Parental Concerns

Local school concerns should first be directed to the teacher then to the Principal or Vice-Principal. If a situation can not be resolved at the local level, the issue should be brought to the attention of the area Superintendent. The local parent council is also responsible for working with school administration to understand/address school wide issues. Please bring to my attention issues that pertain to Board policies or when you need further assistance on any issue/topic.

Issue or Topic: Be Heard

The next board meeting is April 29, 2009. To be heard as a public delegation please call the Recording Secretary at 416-222-8282 x2293



Upcoming Events & Conferences

4TH ANNUAL SCARBOROUGH PARENT CONFERENCE

Mission: Working together to support and inform parents and guardians in our school communities.

Location: Scarborough Civic Centre TDSB Building 140 Borough Drive, Scarborough.

Date: Saturday April 25, 2009 8:30am-3:30pm

Cost: FREE

Information/Sign Up: <http://www.tcdsb.org/spc>

OAPCE 70TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Mission: Networking & Learning with parents throughout the province

Location: Fr. John Redmond Catholic School

Date: Fri May 22nd – Sun May 24th, 2009

Cost: \$180 incl Saturday banquet

Information/Sign Up: <http://www.oapce.on.ca>

ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mission: Parent Forums focused on “Discipline, Learning & Playing” with Cultural Performances [Tamil Community]

Location: Epiphany of Our Lord C.S

Date: Saturday, May 23, 2009 9:30 am-12 pm

Cost: FREE

Information/Sign Up: 416-393-5770