

OUR MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Phase One Review and Reflect Stakeholder Consultation Report

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| Stakeholder Group: | Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) |
| Meeting Date: | Wednesday May 19, 2021 8:30-10:30 pm |
| Participants: | 22 participants inc. facilitators and senior staff |
| Format (Zoom): | Opening Presentation Group Discussion & Padlet input Breakout Sessions & Share |



WHAT WE ASKED

Participants were prompted with 3 questions, discussed together as a group (verbally, in the chat function, and through Padlet) and in smaller breakout sessions:

1. *What do you anticipate as significant priorities and challenges for stakeholder groups (students, families, staff, faith community) over the next three-year term of the MYSP?*
2. *Does the current MYSP reflect the characteristics of a good MYSP?*
3. *Does the current MYSP address the priorities and challenges identified in Question 1?*

WHAT WE HEARD

A broad, shared goal that emerged from the discussion was the need for reconnection, recovery, and the importance of rebuilding after the pandemic.

Process

- Some comments discussed challenges around access to information on various Board matters for families, but especially related to special education.
- Other comments discussed how virtual meetings resulted in higher attendance among SEAC members and could be useful to implement post-pandemic.

Structure & Content

- Many comments focused on the importance of students, school, church, and families reconnecting and re-engaging after the pandemic: academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Many comments focused on the importance of well-being, how the well-being of staff, students, and families should be a priority, and how well-being across different stakeholder groups is interconnected.
- Many comments focused on the importance of knowledge and navigation, and the need for more information and collaboration between staff/schools and families.
- Many comments focused on the importance and benefits of outdoor play and activities.
- Many comments focused on the need and desire for staff training to address students who need extra support.
- Some comments focused on the need to create equitable and inclusive learning environments for all students, and to connect this to the Board's mission statement on Inclusion.
- Some comments focused on the need to learn from both 'positive' and 'negative' pandemic experiences (e.g., getting outside, virtual learning challenges and opportunities).
- Some comments focused on the need to make sure that faith is a pillar, and the importance of using faith as a guide.

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WHAT WE HEARD *(continued)*

- Some comments focused on how to identify and assist students who need extra support, particularly after the challenges of COVID-19.
- Some comments focused on fragmentation from the church, and the need for reconnection.
- Some comments focused on the challenges of supporting students from home, including poverty, lack of supports, difficulties with online learning, and fear of widening learning gaps.
- Other comments focused on how senior leadership need the MYSP for budgeting for defining & refining targets.
- Other comments focused on the capacity of staff and having enough staff to address needs.
- Other comments focused on the need to prioritize the health and safety of school buildings.

SELECT PARTICIPANT QUOTES

“If we are to keep students at the centre, we should be able to answer ‘how does this serve the students in front of us?’”

“Fear of more virtual learning for special needs children as without the proper supports, virtual does not work for them.”

“We need to ensure staff well-being is part of the new MYSP. We know that student well-being relies on staff well-being. Staff that are well fosters students that are well.”

“Parents need easy access to service information for their kids especially in the area of special education. They also need to have easily navigable pathways to help for their children in the special education environment of TCDSB.”

“Leverage the learning from the pandemic - Google classroom, parent connections, check and connect with families, tech skills of students.”

“Teachers need to lead the way in feeling safe in the school environment. They need training that will allow them to connect with students on their level.”

“[Need for:] Understanding how [students] have been affected by the pandemic, accepting how they have been affected, learning how to move forward.”

“What connects all in the TCDSB education environment is their faith. A strong sense of that same faith needs to be maintained.”

“Encourage staff to be more inclusive and train them on the skills they need to accommodate a more diverse range of students in their classrooms...”

Did we miss anything? Get in touch: josh@maximumcity.ca

WHAT'S NEXT

June 2021: Update this summary report based on additional feedback from participants

July/August 2021: Analyze & synthesize feedback from stakeholder sessions & other data sources; draft Consultation Plan

September: Report to Board, including analysis of Review and Reflect data collected & draft Consultation Plan for approval

October 2021: Consult with parents, staff, teachers and committees