

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## TCDSB Approves Balanced Budget; Eliminates Accumulated Deficit a Year Ahead of Schedule

The Toronto Catholic District School Board, at the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee, approved a balanced budget estimated at \$1.113 billion for 2017-2018. The budget reflects an \$11.2 million surplus, eliminating the Board's accumulated deficit a full one year ahead of schedule.

"This is tremendous news for our Board, and everyone involved, should be commended for their efforts in making this balanced budget possible," says Vice-Chair Frank D'Amico. "It has been a difficult two years getting to this point, as we worked through more than \$44 million in reductions. Those tough decisions have had long-term positive results, which will allow us now to reinvest in areas of greatest need."

As an example of that investment, the Board is adding 21 new staff, 14 of which will be new teaching positions for the 5th Block Literacy Program, which has proven results in improving student achievement in the early grades. To ensure the continued sustainability and success of TCDSB, strategic investments are also being proposed in key areas such as an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Information Technology, and Program Resources.

"Once again we turn to our parents, staff and members of the community to provide some input into the budget, and we appreciate their thoughtful and insightful suggestions," says Director of Education Angela Gauthier. "It was a very different consultation this year as we knew we were looking at a balanced budget without the need to make any further reductions. The focus turned to sustainability and supporting the goals of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan through reinvesting in areas that will have positive outcomes for our students and our staff."

The budget also reflects the expansion of the French Immersion program to five additional sites, the addition of a multi-language program at one school, investments in computer technology and religion program materials.

With an annual budget of more than \$1 billion, the TCDSB is one of Toronto's largest employers, with over 14,000 employees who are responsible for the daily education of close to 92,000 students in 201 schools.

### TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2015-2016

#### Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Ann Andrachuk	416-512-3402
3. Sal Piccininni	416-512-3403
4. Patrizia Bottoni	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair	416-512-3406
7. Michael Del Grande	416-512-3407
8. Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9. Jo-Ann Davis	416-512-3409
10. Barbara Poplawski	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy, Chair	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
Karina Dubrovskaya, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
Allison Gacad, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education  
@TCDSB\_AGauthier

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 92,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, serving close to half-a-million Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto. As the world's largest publicly funded Catholic school system, we educate students in an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ, where they are challenged to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

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