



CSPC NEWSLETTER

May 2015 Volume IX

TOPICS OF THE MONTH A YEAR IN REVIEW PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

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It's hard to believe that we are already looking at the end of the school year. As we move into the month of May it is a good time to look at all that has been accomplished as a school council and begin the planning process for the new school year.

When completing the annual review process it is helpful to focus on the provincial mandate for school council (Reg. 612), which states:

The purpose of school councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with this regulation to the principal of the school and the board that established the council.

Sometimes it may be difficult to see how the work of your school CSPC has aligned with the above mandate; however, there are many ways that a council works to improve student achievement. These include:

- reviewing the school improvement plan with the Principal and providing input from the parent perspective as to the academic goals of the various grade levels. This exercise also provides an opportunity to determine if the school council can work to support the improvement plan by providing resources or engaging speakers or presenters that will address the curriculum i.e. scientists in the school.

- information sessions for parents to assist them in supporting their children at home and at school in various areas, leads to increased achievement at school.
- Providing input to the school principal on traffic and play area safety leads to improvements that make the school a great place for students to learn.
- The work to involve more parents in school directly results in improved student achievement whether in the classroom, library or the school council as the research is clear that children do better when the parents are engaged in school.

Before completing the annual review report, to provide to the school community, review all the minutes from your meetings this year. Using some of the explanations above go through the minutes and make notes about the ways that your council has supported student achievement at your school. Making this list, not only prepares you to complete the annual report, it is a way to come together and celebrate the difference you have made for your child and all of the children in the school.

The annual report should also indicate the number of meetings held during the school year as well as the names of the members of the council.

Annual Financial Report

When preparing your annual financial report and making final spending decisions you should be aware that as part of a charitable school board a council should not carry forward more than 20% of their total income.

The exception to this rule would be funds that have been set aside for a long-term project such as playground upgrades or purchase. These should be accounted for separately on the financial statement so that it is transparent to the school community why these funds are being reserved.

Catholic School Parent Councils

We need your input - please do a quick survey at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSACfeedback

Planning for the New school year

To assist the parents that will form the CSPC next year it is helpful to create a binder that contains the current, and past, year's agendas and minutes. This will provide a history for the new council to begin their planning in the new school year.

Year-end activities are excellent times to have a CSPC presence at the school and have members speak to parents to encourage their participation in the council next year. It is a time to reflect on why you became a CSPC member in the beginning and what the experience has meant to you. Use this experience to attract new members to the council. When you speak to parents directly, instead of just sending out letters or materials, they can understand your enthusiasm and it will go a long way to encouraging them to take part next year.

Focus on what the council has achieved and identify the challenges that can be addressed by the CSPC next year.

Even if there is only one thing that you can point to as an achievement – **CELEBRATE THAT SUCCESS!!**

If your CSPC has created a three-year plan in alignment with the school plan, the end of the year is the time to review and update this plan. This is an excellent tool for the council in the new school year. They can use this as a starting point and refine it to suit the members of the new council.

If you have not prepared a plan you may consider visiting the TCDSB website under School Council Resources and review the document on 3 year planning as a reference for planning next year.

It may be that some of the current executive members may not be returning next year, identifying and mentoring parents who may wish to take on those roles is helpful in keeping the CSPC strong year after year.

Reconnecting with why our Catholic Parent get Involved!!

OUR CHILDREN LIVE THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATION EXPECTATIONS EVERYDAY

A DISCERNING BELIEVER		I AM A BELIEVER
AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR		I HAVE A VOICE
A REFLECTIVE, CREATIVE AND HOLISTIC THINKER		I HAVE IDEAS
A SELF-DIRECTED, RESPONSIBLE, LIFELONG LEARNER		I AM A LEARNER FOR LIFE
A COLLABORATIVE CONTRIBUTOR		I AM A TEAM PLAYER
A CARING FAMILY MEMBER		I CARE
A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN		I HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Major changes to TCDSB Policy S.10

1. Operational Procedures Protocol, #6b) to read "The Chair or at least one of the co-chairs of the Catholic School Parent Council must be Roman Catholic.

This allows for a more inclusive Council in both the elementary and secondary panel while at the same time ensuring that the CSPC is lead in our Catholic Faith.

2. Policy Cross References will now include:

H.M.14 – Harassment and Discrimination Policy and The Respectful Workplace

H.M.19 – Conflict Resolution Policy

The inclusion of these policies in the amended S.10 provides guidelines for council member conduct and process for resolving conflicts that may arise between council members (including the Principal and staff)

3. The minimum number of council members is 7 and parents must form the majority.

3. Cont.

This change will require a minimum of four parent members where there is a Principal, Teaching staff and Non-Teaching staff as required by Reg. 612.

For the business of the CSPC to be conducted there must be a majority of parents to vote in any decision.

4. Schools and CSPC's will maintain separate bank accounts, at the same banking institution.

While there is no longer a requirement that CSPC's merge their bank accounts with the school account, they must be kept at the same bank.

If accounts have been merged and the council is satisfied with this arrangement there is no requirement to split them at this point.

Still to be drafted and approved is a Clause that provides a process for the governance of the CSPC and its affairs.

CSPC Chairs and Principals will be notified when this section of the policy has been finalized.



CELEBRATE

CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
WEEK

with special guest

His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins

THURSDAY MAY 7, 2015

St. Conrad Catholic Elementary School
5 Exbury Rd.

6:30PM Registration

7:00PM Mass with Cardinal

8:00PM Resource Fair for all parents from
TCDSB departments

REGISTER HERE:

oapcetoronto.ca

OR

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OAPCEMay>

Light refreshments will be served after mass.

SPECIAL THANKS TO



/OAPCETORONTO



Toronto
Catholic
District
School Board



ST. PHILIP NERI PARISH



Archdiocese
of Toronto



@OAPCETORONTO

You are cordially invited to our Celebrate Catholic Education Week Event with Cardinal Collins. After our wonderful mass there will be a resource fair for all participants highlighting the various departments of the TCDSB and what they contribute to our Catholic Education. Some of the departments confirmed are 21st Century Learning, Special Education, Safe Schools, Math, Literacy and many more!

A special blessing will be given to all OAPCE Toronto Representatives. Please go to our website to register, or respond to this email.

Hope to see you there as we celebrate the gift of Catholic Education! All are welcome to attend!

Annalisa Crudo-Perri, President, OAPCE Toronto

Jump Start to Literacy

An Event hosted by a 15 school PRO Partnership



Fathers
Getting
Involved.



A Principal makes the event special for the families!!



The Principals/Vice with planning volunteers that made the evening a success!

CSAC TRAINING

May
workshop
By-Laws
Election
Procedures
Is being
Rescheduled.
Notice will be sent
with the new date.

Hail Mary

Hail **Mary** full of Grace, the **Lord** is with thee.
Blessed are thou among women and blessed
Is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy **Mary**
Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death Amen.



*An Invitation to all
TCDSB parents!*

The Toronto Parent
Involvement
Committee invites
you to join their next
meeting scheduled
for May 11, 2015 at
7:00 pm. This
meeting will take
place at the CEC on
the 3rd floor meeting
room.

*Come and meet
your CPIC
representative!!*

TCDSB Parent Engagement Team

John Shain,
Superintendent of
Community Relations
John.shain@tcdsb.org

Carla Marchetti
Coordinator of
Community Relations
Carla.marchetti@tcdsb.org

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2014-2015

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	416-512-3406
7. Michael Del Grande, Chair	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	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford, Vice-Chair	416-512-3412
Christopher MacDonald, Student Trustee	416-512-3417
Hannah McGroarty, Student Trustee	416-512-3413

