



For Immediate Release- November 11, 2019

OAPCE Toronto Supports the TCDSB's New Policy S.S. 09 Code of Conduct

Toronto, ON – The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Toronto supports the TCDSB Board of Trustees decision to create a Code of Conduct with recommendations from the Archdiocese of Toronto.

OAPCE Toronto, is the voice of parents with children enrolled in Catholic Education in the TCDSB and as such was obligated to represent their views regarding revisions to the Board's Code of Conduct Policy at the November 7 Student Achievement and Well-Being and Catholic Education Committee Meeting.

OAPCE Toronto also questioned the role of the "Catholic Education and Living Our Catholic Values Sub-Committee", its unclear mandate and lack of clarity to many parents. During the extensive deliberative process regarding recommendations for a new TCDSB Code of Conduct, no formal communication from this sub-committee or the Board was ever communicated to TCDSB parents or school communities.

"OAPCE Toronto has always ensured that the parent voice is heard, but unless parents are informed how are they to be engaged," says OAPCE Director Dave Bennett. "We drown ourselves with surveys and consultations, yet, there is has been not one piece of communication sent to our PARENTS." He cited that the majority of the delegations up until the November 7 meeting came from external organizations voicing their own opinions.

OAPCE is partners with the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE), and has a formal seat at the ICE table. OAPCE Toronto has requested that the TCDSB Board of Trustees refer to and accept the monograph that was created to explain how to support students in our Catholic schools. This material was introduced based on feedback from the Bishops of the Education Commission, and the feedback provided by ICE partners. As it states, "Catholic Schools should consciously create an environment where students who feel marginalized, rejected or vulnerable can experience safe, nurturing inclusive, communities of faith".

“Our students represent a new generation of diverse, dynamic, open-minded young Catholics who will determine the future of not only Catholic Education, but our Catholic Faith,” says Annalisa Crudo-Perri, OAPCE President, “Please protect their hopes, dreams and aspirations so they can reach the full potential of who they are, and what they want to be”.

OAPCE Toronto appreciates the tireless work that some of the TCDSB Trustees, and our most notably, the Chair of the Board, has undertaken in the past several months to ensure that parents were informed and understood that our inherent responsibility as a publicly funded Catholic school board to be inclusive, and most importantly, follow the law.

About OAPCE

As Ontario’s parent voice association, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is the authoritative voice of Ontario parents and guardians in Catholic education. OAPCE Toronto is the regional affiliate of OAPCE. We are the provincial voice that is authorized through the Education Act and Regulation 612, to represent families with children enrolled in the English Catholic education system. OAPCE is a vital connection between the Ministry of Education, Catholic District School Boards in Ontario, the Institute of Catholic Education, Ontario Catholic Trustees, Parish, Regional Parent’s Associations, School Councils and other valuable parent groups, and prominent advocate for Catholic education excellence and student success. OAPCE elevates the profile of a publicly funded Catholic system of education by providing opportunities for ongoing information sharing, resources, learning, networking and community building.

For media requests, please contact oapce.toronto@gmail.com