



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION
 SUB-SECTION:
 POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 POLICY NO: T.07

Date Approved: December 13, 2012- Board	Date of Next Review: November 2022	Dates of Amendments: November 16, 2017 December XX, 2022
<p>Cross References: S.S. 04, Access to School Premises H.M. 24, Catholic Equity and Inclusive Education S. 09, School Accommodation Review S. 10, Catholic School Advisory Councils S.S. 09, Code of Conduct S.P. 02, Elementary French Programming Ministry of Education: O. Reg. 612/00 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees</p> <p><u>Parents in Partnership - A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools, 2010</u></p>		
<p>Appendix A – Community Engagement Handbook, revised September 2012</p> <p>Appendix A: TCDSB Community Engagement Guidelines</p>		

Purpose:

This policy affirms and promotes the need to engage and inform **TCDSB** stakeholders and community members in decision-making processes **and to** that foster student achievement and well-being, identify new and emerging issues, support the implementation of Toronto Catholic District School Board plans and strategies, and provide **seek input on** direction about policy decisions.



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION
 SUB-SECTION:
 POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 POLICY NO: T.07

Scope and Responsibility:

The policy extends to all activities **requiring meaningful feedback and/or input from TCDSB stakeholders, including but not limited to the budget setting process, capital and renewal projects, school programs and policies** designed to bring about ongoing stakeholder engagement by building and strengthening the relationship between the TCDSB and its communities, and facilitating input and feedback from the general public on the TCDSB's activities will be provided. **All departments who advocate for the TCDSB are responsible to adhere to this policy, including the Community Engagement Guidelines.**

Alignment with MYSP:

Learning

Equity

Well-Being

Policy:

The Board of Trustees, embracing its governance mandate, strives to engage Catholic and community stakeholders, ratepayers, and all involved in Toronto Catholic schools to contribute their input to the ongoing development and strategic direction of the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The TCDSB will commit to ensuring that meaningful input from our community members is considered in order for initiatives, policies and practices reflect our



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION
 SUB-SECTION:
 POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 POLICY NO: T.07

mission and meet the needs and expectations of the communities served by the TCDSB.

Regulations:

1. Community members **The TCDSB community has** ~~have both~~ the right and the responsibility to be involved in decisions.
2. The TCDSB will provide community engagement opportunities that are open, honest, transparent, and accessible to all, and that ~~value the input obtained in its decision-making~~ follow the TCDSB Community Engagement **Guidelines: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, Empower** (see Definitions).
3. The authority to implement community engagement is as follows:
 - i. ~~Internal TCDSB staff~~— Director of Education;
 - ii. ~~Board-wide engagement~~— Board of Trustees;
 - iii. **Central Superintendent;**
 - iv. ~~Ward level engagement— Director of Education and the Ward Trustee.~~ **Area Superintendent;**
 - v. School level engagement— Principal;
 - vi. **Local Trustee**
4. ~~The TCDSB shall engage community members and the general public in meaningful ways on matters in the purview of the Board to allow deeper conversations about values, beliefs and concerns, to emphasize the desired future, appreciate the positives and build on past successes and create effective networks.~~



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY NO: T.07

5. ~~The Board of Trustees will take into consideration the views of all community members in making policy decisions by facilitating ongoing exchange of information and feedback among the TCDSB, its communities and the public.~~
6. ~~The following principles form the foundation of effective engagements: commitment, evaluation, timing, inclusiveness, accessibility, location, clarity, respect, accountability and transparency.~~
7. ~~The Board of Trustees, TCDSB Staff, Catholic communities and the general public will use the Community Engagement Handbook to support this policy. The TCDSB Staff will develop procedures and a community engagement strategy to ensure ongoing and effective implementation of this policy.~~
8. ~~The Continuum of Engagement comprises six different levels of engagement that could be sought with community members: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, Consensus and Empower.~~
9. In preparing for a community engagement process, the Board or designated leader will select one or more of these levels **determine the level of engagement (board-wide, ward or school level) required** to ensure that the community is appropriately engaged and identify the inclusion of the stakeholders it wishes to engage.
10. At the completion of each community engagement process, stakeholders will be informed by TCDSB staff of the outcome.
11. ~~Stakeholders involved in each engagement process will be solicited for their feedback consistent with the level of engagement used in the process.~~



POLICY SECTION:	ADMINISTRATION
SUB-SECTION:	
POLICY NAME:	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
POLICY NO:	T.07

Definitions:

Continuum of Engagement

The continuum comprises the six different levels of engagement that could be sought with community members: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, Consensus, and Empower.

Inform

To provide community members and the general public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding issues, the alternatives, opportunities and solutions. **To provide TCDSB stakeholders with timely and accessible information to navigate the TCDSB system and support their child's school and learning as appropriate.**

Consult

To obtain input from community members and the general public on proposed Board directions and decisions. **To obtain meaningful feedback on TCDSB schools, programs and strategic directions to serve stakeholders better.**

Involve

To work directly with the community members throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered in decision-making processes. **To provide regular, inclusive opportunities for**



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY NO: T.07

stakeholders to participate in TCDSB events, initiatives, and consultations to ensure concerns and priorities are identified.

Collaborate

~~To partner with the community members in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.~~ **To partner with stakeholders who will be most impacted by the initiative or issue, incorporating input in the development or resolution process.**

Consensus

~~To work together with community members until the decision is reached through appropriate consensus.~~

Empower

~~To provide elements of the final decision or implementation in the hands of the community.~~ **To reach a conclusion that is reflective of stakeholder feedback.**

~~Toronto Catholic District School Board or The Board (abbreviated TCDSB)~~

~~Refers to the complete corporate entity and includes the Board of Trustees and all Staff and students.~~

The Board of Trustees

~~The twelve elected officials charged with governing the TCDSB.~~



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION
 SUB-SECTION:
 POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
 POLICY NO: T.07

Community Engagement

~~An active, intentional, purposeful and ethical relationship between the Catholic communities, the general public and the TCDSB.~~

Catholic Communities

~~Include students, parents, Catholic ratepayers, Staff, Trustees, and the Catholic Church.~~

General Public

~~Includes residents within the TCDSB boundaries, and levels of government in Ontario.~~

Evaluation and Metrics:

The effectiveness of the policy will be determined by measuring the following:

1. ~~TCDSB sites and Catholic schools and the TCDSB~~ are accessible and welcoming places ~~to parents and other community members;~~
2. Community members and the general public have open access to information and a growing understanding of educational policies and programs ~~and services;~~
3. Predefined and Board approved metrics for each community engagement and feedback solicited from stakeholders on the process and participation.



POLICY SECTION: ADMINISTRATION

SUB-SECTION:

POLICY NAME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY NO: T.07

4. An annual report of community engagements process **that have occurred** ~~as reported by staff to be reviewed by~~ **will be shared with the Board annually.**

Details on the process by which planning for, and implementation of, community engagement may be carried out at the Board can be found in the Community Engagement **Guidelines Handbook**, revised ~~September~~ November 2022~~12~~.