

Notice of motion to be placed on the April 25, 2013 Regular Board Agenda

Submitted by Trustee Garry Tanuan, seconded by Trustee John Del Grande

TITLE: Anti-Bullying Clubs Policy Change

- WHEREAS: The provincial government is breaking the law by violating s. 93 of the Constitution, which enshrines the denominational rights of the Catholic schools.
- AND WHEREAS: Decisions from the Privy Council all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada have affirmed the responsibility of Catholic officials to provide Catholic teachings in Catholic schools.
- AND WHEREAS: Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs promote a positive view of homosexual activity, which undermines Catholic teaching on chastity and marriage.
- AND WHEREAS: The Church's solution to bullying is being ignored and Church teaching is being undermined by these clubs. Cardinal Thomas Collins put it this way: "So the key issue is not just the [GSA] name itself, but the content connected with the name" ("Observations on a recent change in government policy re: proposed anti-bullying legislation," May 28, 2012 [press release]).
- AND WHEREAS: Trustees must protect Catholic school principals from being forced to betray their Catholic values.
- AND WHEREAS: Defining the terms of reference of the anti-bullying clubs in the Toronto Catholic District School Board is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and is currently being left to front line administrators. This is compromising these administrators' conscience rights.
- AND WHEREAS: Over a year ago on March 7, 2012 the Toronto Catholic District School Board passed a motion by an overwhelming majority of Trustees in a vote of 8-2 making "Respecting Difference" clubs the anti-bullying solution for this board. The motion stated that:
- "the board endorse 'Respecting Difference' for implementation and that staff a) come back with a plan for implementation and in servicing of procedures and policy and b) that the policy be also looked at to see if changes are needed."
- AND WHEREAS: Toronto Catholic District School Board staff has not brought back implementation for "Respecting Difference."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Toronto Catholic District School Board schools shall have no Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs or similar and that anti-bullying clubs and activities must adhere to the framework outlined in "Respecting Difference." And be it further resolved that the relevant section of the Board's Equity and Inclusion (EIE) Policy shall be amended to reflect that "Respecting Difference" shall govern the operations of school anti-bullying clubs.