

Special Board Meeting held on Monday, April 26, 2021

Final motion, as amended “Supporting Our Diverse School Community”

Moved by: J. O’Hearn-Czarnota

Seconded by: M. Duarte

Whereas;

Our schools should be safe spaces for anyone that walks through our doors.

Whereas;

Many of our students, parents, caregivers, staff and community members identify as 2SLBGQTQ+

Whereas;

Our strategic plan emphasizes that the well-being for all of our students and staff are met through a focus on equity and inclusion.

Whereas;

Pope Francis has told parents of 2SLBGQTQ+ children that “God loves your children as they are” and “the church loves your children as they are because they are children of God.”

Whereas;

Mark 10:13-16 states "People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."

Whereas;

There are students and staff within our HCDSB community who identify with the 2SLBGQTQ+

and

Whereas;

We as a Board wish to ensure all the students and staff attending our schools and their families, know that we support and are welcoming of all students, staff and community members,

Be it resolved,

That the Halton Catholic District School Board create a shared understanding through mandatory training for senior staff (including Superintendents and board level Senior Managers/Chiefs of Programming) on the Catholic Social Teaching on loving and accompanying students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+, denominational rights and rights of students and staff under the *Ontario Human Rights Code* by the start of the 2021/ 2022 school year.

Be it further resolved,

That the Halton Catholic District School Board create shared understanding through mandatory training on the Catholic Social Teaching on loving and accompanying students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+, denominational rights and rights of students and staff under the *Ontario Human Rights Code* in schools with Principals and VPs, Teachers, Chaplains, Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants, Special Education Staff (including Social Workers, Child and Youth Workers, Speech Pathologists, Special Education Resource Teachers, Psychology department, etc) to be started in September of the 2021/ 2022 school year.

Be it further resolved,

That HCDSB staff raise awareness around Pride month, utilizing the guidelines the Institute for Catholic Education (I.C.E.) has provided to each board through the Directors of Education (Memo dated May 19, 2020) starting June 2021.

Be it further resolved,

That each school be mandated to post safe space poster signage, to ensure that students in the 2SLGBTQ+ community are supported throughout the entire school year.

Be it further resolved,

That the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board ensure that the mandatory training is to be completed by the 2021/ 2022 school year if not sooner and provide an updated report on the progress to the Trustees at the first meeting in January 2022.