



# York Catholic District School Board

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## **Statement from the York Catholic District School Board re: February 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

During the York Catholic District School Board's Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, two members of the public made delegations to the Board on their belief that measures to promote equity for 2SLGBTQIA+ students run contrary to Catholic teaching and endangers children's well-being.

The delegations were approved in advance and were given the normal amount of time to present, as per Board policy. A number of individuals were present in the public gallery to support these delegations. After the delegations had concluded, the gallery became disruptive and when the Board meeting could not proceed, a recess was called. When the gallery did not return to order, the York Regional Police attended the Board offices and many members of the gallery decided to leave on their own. The meeting then proceeded as usual.

The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) had recently shared with their local members stickers featuring a Pride Flag and the message "Safe Space." The YCDSB was not made aware of these stickers in advance, but the YCDSB has supported teachers in choosing to display or not display these stickers in their classroom, based on their personal beliefs.

The Board of Trustees did not see the stickers or approve them before they were distributed.

As a Catholic learning community, we are committed to promoting equity and the Gospels, because we believe that everyone is made in the image of God and is worthy of love. We also have a legal obligation to ensure the well-being of all our students, according to government policy.