

TAPCE

Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education

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Madam Chair,

On behalf of the Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education I am writing to you to address the scathing report on TCDSB trustee spending. TAPCE has directed members to contact their Trustee on the matter. However, Parents want answers and action from the Board to assure them this matter is contained especially in light of proposed budget cuts impacting our school even now.

Parents are specifically asking why an external audit was necessary to reveal this issue and where is due diligence with respect to financial controls and internal audit within Board policies and procedures. This could not have come at a worse time. As late as last week parents were presented budget cut options impacting them personally as well from a broader perspective. This has provided yet further fuel to those that would eliminate our system. It has also given pause to parents who trust our board stands for something more in accordance with Christian beliefs. The values of our faith are brought into question yet again.

The unfortunate truth is that most trustees do work hard for the children of our system. From a parent perspective, there are trustees who are always offering to assist in order to improve communications, increase parent engagement and help resolve educational issues. These same trustees are always available as resources for parents. Negative publicity like this concerns TAPCE very much as the public does not always see the good work that is done by our trustees. Even if TCDSB trustees are spending double or triple the amounts of their counterparts at TDSB, we trust that expenditures are going directly to enhance the distinctive nature of our board. How much of the reported discrepancy is related to the inherent differences between TCDSB and TDSB?

I am sure the Board is moving to ensure that in future, such scandal will be eliminated and TAPCE is confident that you are doing everything possible to demand the implementation of appropriate measures to enforce adherence to Board policies and procedures. Parents are frustrated with having to deal with cuts to important programs on the one hand and what seems as uncontrolled spending on the other.

TAPCE parents need your assurance that the Board is pursuing the best course of action, and will be awaiting confirmation of strategies that are currently underway to ensure better accountability of Trustee expenses and a budget process that is in the best interest of our children. I am requesting a reply at your earliest to share with parents.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert'.

ROBERT SELVADURAI

President, Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education (TAPCE)