

TAPCE

Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education

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June 22, 2009

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Ministry of Education

Mr. Norbert Hartmann
Supervisor, Toronto Catholic School Board

RE: TCDSB PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-2010

Dear Ms. Wynne and Mr. Hartmann,

The Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education requests you to direct the Supervisory Team to include the following in the TCDSB 2009-2010 budget:

- A reduction in the long term debt accumulated by the TCDSB in the amount of \$5,000,000
- Amortize the remaining balance over a five year period

The TCDSB has faced a number of challenges in the past several years and, in order to move forward, must concentrate on operating in a balanced budget environment. The “Board” is presenting a balanced operating budget for the next school year, however, the burden of long term debt has required the centralization and, in some cases, the elimination of too many programs and resources. This type of rapid change presents an unreasonable risk to the future of our students and will ultimately affect their performance. The consequences of these actions will have a negative impact on a system that has historically ranked among the highest boards in Ontario.

The debt needs to be more manageable in order for the repayment schedule to be realistic. In these economic times, where interest rates are at an alltime low, the constant focus on debt repayment is not warranted and has become difficult for parents to accept. The McGuinty government has consistently maintained that education is one of its top priorities. However, the funding formula to date has not addressed the legacy issues that were inherent in the TCDSB.

Please give this correspondence your immediate attention and we ask for a written response with your rationale for whatever your decision may be.

Sincerely,

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

Robert Selvadurai
President,
Toronto Association of Parents in Catholic Education