

**SEAC – Delegation- TCDSB Diabetes Policy**  
**By Lisa Geelen (TCDSB Parent)**  
**April 18, 2018 7pm**

## **Introduction**

It has now been over 7 years since we left sick kids hospital and started to prepare for my daughter's (Anna's) return to school. We discovered our school board did not have policy to outline how to care for a child with diabetes. So, faced with no other options, I created my own safety plan for Anna. I now have a 10-point plan I go through every year to ensure Anna has the care she needs...from conducting hands-on training with Anna's homeroom teacher...to presenting to her classmates about diabetes.

Each school year, I take the first two weeks off of work to train the staff and to make sure I can be at the school if needed. I have also adjusted my career work to part time work so my schedule could be flexible for when I was needed at school/ home.

The reality is – if the day-to-day management of Anna's diabetes slips, an emergency will occur. Not all children have parents who can take two weeks off at the beginning of the school year, who has a parent with a flexible schedule, who know how to provide training to school staff, or create a plan. **(Appendix A Parent Letter)**

Yet despite all the precautions I've taken for Anna, I can't control everything that happens at school. Two years ago my daughter had an extremely serious situation that happened at school **(Appendix B 2016 Incident)**.

This dangerous situation happened because the safety plan that I have developed with the school was not followed by this one person. However, since the safety plan is not formalized through the school board that this must be done and the severity of Type 1 diabetes is not understood by all people. *This plan is just implemented by a mom asking for help...it's not seen as a requirement.*

Last year, I wanted to channel my energy in a positive way . I created my own awareness initiative in my community, and schools called "Coffee's on Me."

There are two main points I want to tell you:

1. I learned a grade 4 ESL student almost died due to a 4 minute seizure from an extreme low. He stopped breathing for 40 seconds. **The teachers at this school never received any diabetes training. (Appendix C Toronto Incident)**
2. I learned that **teachers want information. They want to help.** And that's how I know of this situation

## **MOE PPM 161**

- On Feb 28 2018 , the Ministry of Education (MOE) finalized PPM161 **(Appendix D )-** Supporting Children and Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy) in Schools.

- The PPM 161 requires school boards to develop much needed policies to support the medical conditions. It describes what should be included in the policies, among other things, school boards are expected to detail the following: The roles and responsibilities of parents, school staff, principal, students, and school boards; (including care plan, training etc)
- School boards are expected to have their policies on prevalent medical conditions implemented no later than **September 1, 2018**.

### **My ASK:**

TCDSB establishes a working group (which includes both myself and Matthew DeAbreu as parent representatives and T1D subject matter experts) as suggested in the PPM 161 , to develop a TCDSB diabetes policy to meet the ministry implementation deadline of September 1, 2018.

### **Next steps**

- Establish a working group with type 1 parent representatives (Lisa & Matt) and subject matter experts by the end of this month
- provide status update including next SEAC meeting (May 16) regarding working groups progress
- use school boards best practice diabetes policies (**Appendix E**) as identify by Diabetes Canada as a starting point along with the TCDSB draft policy (See Matthew DeArbeu submission)

### Additional Appendices

Appendix F - TCDSB Policy letter

Appendix G - Delegation Registration Form Submittal