

Director of Education
Toronto Catholic School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto On, M2N 6E8

Sunday May 1, 2016

Dear Ms. Gauthier,

Further to my email sent on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 regarding the need for a TCDSB Diabetes policy, my daughter Anna experienced another very dangerous situation at school this week.

On Thursday April 28 at 11am, my daughter Anna was to check her blood (and likely be dosed insulin) before eating a snack. Her regular classroom teacher, rather than overseeing Anna's blood check and insulin dose ***chose to leave the classroom with the other children to get an ice cream cone.***

Anna was left alone in the classroom with another 9 year old girl to perform this medical procedure. Unfortunately Anna's blood was well below a safe level (blood glucose of 2.2 rather than the normal 5.5), creating a very dangerous situation. She called me on her phone - I could barely understand her as she was close to a diabetic shock and was very confused (she wanted to give herself insulin so she could join her classmates for ice cream). Instead, I had to yell through the phone and ask her friend to run and get an adult, which she thankfully was able to do so (a different teacher down the hall). If Anna had given herself more insulin she very well could have died.

This dangerous situation happened because the safety plan that I have developed with the school was not followed by the teacher.

I am extremely concerned that this may happen again, as I said in my email to you on Tuesday (attached below), this year there have been repeated failures to properly execute the safety plan and keep my daughter safe.

I believe that the safety plan is not working due to TECT (Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers) union providing advice to the staff at Our Lady of Sorrows school that diabetes management care is not required under their collective agreement. This is contrary to the Education and Human Rights act (Section 5.1.4) and a highly risky position to have should another incident occur.

I respectfully require:

1. Immediate communication by the TCDSB to the TECT union leadership and union representative at Our Lady of Sorrows school that diabetes is a life threatening disease and that the safety plan must be followed at all times.
2. A clear timeline indicating key dates and milestones for the completion of the TCDSB Diabetes Policy.

I look forward to hearing from you so we can avoid any further near fatal incidences from occurring, I will be calling your office this week.



Lisa Geelen
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