

June 25, 2018

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Unfortunately, I am not able to make the meeting tonight personally but I still feel it is important for my parental voice to be heard.

My name is Helen Falbo and my daughter is currently in Grade 3 at St. Fidelis Catholic School. She will begin Grade 4 in September.

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the impending change at her school in September specifically relating to the International Languages program. My concern relates to the time change and, specifically, the loss of instructional time for our children as a result thereof if International Language (Italian) is continued as part of the curriculum during the regular school hour.

Let me begin by expressing my concern about the fact that the written communication originally received from the school in connection with this matter lacked key information. To be frank, it was as clear as mud. It is equally disturbing that this communication was distributed to parents with a few weeks left during this school year. Personally, I cannot help but feel that the decision to release this communication so late was deliberate, leaving parents in the dark and somewhat powerless. Perhaps, this was not the intended result but, unfortunately, the lack of information provided to us in that communication at the outset, and its late timing, certainly amplifies that feeling.

I have since received information about what this change really means for our children. It is my understanding that our children will continue to be taught Italian at St. Fidelis but will, in turn, be losing a half hour of instructional time as a result of the earlier end to the school day. I also understand that, as it stands, this will also mean that the school will not be meeting the current criteria as outlined by the Ministry of Education's regulations with respect to instructional teaching time. Obviously, as a parent, this is a critical concern to me and wholly unacceptable.

I will simply get to the point: I **do not** support the continued inclusion of International Language during the regular school hour and believe that it should be removed and be offered as an after school program or, in the alternative, via some other avenue that will not interfere with any instructional time needed by our children.

Helen Falbo