

LETTER/E-MAIL RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 1200 TIMES

Dear Toronto Catholic District School Board,

I am shocked to learn about TCDSB's plans to eliminate the International Languages Integrated Day Program in its elementary schools.

International languages instruction at TCDSB, currently provided to kindergarten to Grade 8 students as part of their regular school day, is rooted in the best teaching theories about language acquisition. It's hard to overstate its benefits: it enriches learning across the curriculum and offers students, families and communities a model for inclusion and opportunity. It supports children's cognitive development and helps to prepare students to take their place in a globalized world.

Eliminating the integrated-day program will do incalculable harm to TCDSB's students, families and communities. I call on TCDSB trustees to honour their commitment to international language learning by exploring every option for maintaining the integrated-day program in its current form.

From: patrizia antonucci

Date: July 6, 2018 at 4:02:35 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>,
"rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org" <rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>,
"dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org"
<adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save the INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM.. TCDSB

Reply-To: patrizia antonucci

Good morning,

I have been teaching Italian at St.Roch School, TCDSB, for 10 years. I give to this job all my strenght and soul. It is my medicine! I enjoy teaching everyday Italian , not only the language, but History, Geography. Art,.....as well! The students love it!!! They are enthusiastic to learn another language and culture! When in the morning I enter the classroom I can see a light in their eyes and faces!

Cancelling this valuable Program, all this will end! I can imagine the disappointment and sadness when in September the students (as well as their parents) will know that after 40 years there is no more Italian! It disappeared! They will feel empty!

In a multicultural society as Ontario is, the students will fall behind compared to other developed countries, where they are even taught dead languages as Latin and Greek.

They will miss an opportunity to Learn!

It is called EDUCATIO, CULTURE, A chance to find more jobs later on in life!

Please support the INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM. TCDSB. A Program you can't do without !

Sincerely,

Grazie!

Patrizia Antonucci

From: CSPC - St Norbert

Date: July 6, 2018 at 3:23:47 PM EDT

To: "Bottoni, Patrizia (Trustees' Services)" <Patrizia.Bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "Rizzo, Maria (Trustees' Services)" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save Italian Class and International Language Program

Dear Trustee Bottoni,

We are dismayed to learn about the shorted school day and providing parents with such little notice to make arrangements.

However, we are also extremely disappointed to hear that after receiving a letter that the International Language program will continue, now it has come to our attention that may not be the case.

It has been proven that learning other languages help children learn and develop. The Italian program at St Norbert is a vibrant part of the curriculum that the students enjoy. It is more than just Italian class, it is the annual Carnivale, and trips to the Columbus Centre. To eliminate this enriching program would be wrong.

Please find a way to resolve this issue and keep the International Language Program.

Sincerely,

CSPC – St Norbert
Sabrina Iannantuono (Chair)
Diana Biancolin (co- Chair)

From: Rosario Gaspar

Date: July 6, 2018 at 4:39:30 PM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org,
rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org,
angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org, nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org,
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org

Subject: IL Campaign

To whom it may concern,

Deals being made between the TCDSB and the teachers union remain very unclear to members of the public. The short notice prior to meetings or decisions made by the board seem almost deliberate. This is a blatant disrespect to taxpayers - it is not open, transparent or accountable and does nothing to foster public trust. It is unfair to the many students, parents, and international language instructors who can see the benefits of this program and wish for it to continue.

In a country where we are truly proud to call home and where the multiculturalism and diversity is publicized everyday and everywhere, is it fair to deny our children the opportunity to learn a different language at school as part of their curriculum?

It's proven scientifically that as many different languages a child learns the better she will develop its intellectual capacities.

On the other hand, in a world that it's all connected, one day, our children will have a better chance to look for a job if they speak different languages.

As a citizen and a mother I am very concern that our Catholic Board it's disregarding these situation and it's trying to eliminate the integrated IL program from our schools.

I hope you can all reconsider and let the next school year begin with the IL program.

Best regards,

Maria Gaspar

From: PAULA MACDONALD

Date: July 6, 2018 at 5:06:31 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>,
<sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org"
<patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
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"rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org" <rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>,
"dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org"
<adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: IL Campaign

To whom it may concern:

I never thought that the day would come that this Board would turn its back on international Languages learning for children. You know the benefits of the program as you have been providing them to students for four decades.

Generations of students that have benefitted though the years.

My name is Paula De Melo MacDonald mother of now two adults Daniel MacDonald and Megan MacDonald who took IL and have benefited knowing an additional language and now are both in the work force.

Paula MacDonald

Executive Secretary

First Portuguese Canadian Cultural Centre

From: Dina Seabra

Date: July 6, 2018 at 5:26:19 PM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org,
patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org,
rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org, frank.damico@tcdsb.org,
mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org,
angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org, nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org,
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org

Subject: IL campaign

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dina Clara Oliveira Ferrao Seabra and I am writing this email on behalf of my daughter, who attends Sts. Cosmas and Damian Catholic School, currently.

I am in full support of the IL program that is being offered at our school and enjoy when my child comes home and speaks and sings in another language. It has been proven time and time again that the benefits of learning other languages improves student achievement.

This is a valuable program that must continue being taught to our kids during the school day! I do not support the program on weekends or after school.

I am sure you want that our children have more knowledge of a IL, since we live in a multicultural city, as Toronto!

Regards

Dina Seabra

From: John Tsagarelis

Date: July 6, 2018 at 9:04:17 PM EDT

To: roby.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org,
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org

Cc: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Language Program with the TCDSB

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as a former student, current parent and long time supporter of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). I just learned that TCDSB Trustees and Superintendents are considering eliminating the existing International Languages Program and are planning to hold a meeting next week to decide the future of the program. As I am unable to attend this meeting, I have a number of concerns that I would like to raise with respect to this issue.

Firstly, as a matter of administrative fairness you have failed to provide the parent community with a reasonable opportunity to participate in this process. There has been a lack of transparency and appropriate notice provided to us with respect to this entire issue. The fact that you are considering dealing with the future of this program in the middle of the Summer when many impacted families may not be available is outrageous and speaks volume to how little you regard the input of the parent community and the very taxpayers that continue to fund and support the TCDSB. Query how this process is consistent with the TCDSB's own strategic plan which provides that the board will "ensure accountability, fairness, and transparency to the public in all processes and policies" and "ensure timely and sensitive responses to stakeholder questions and concerns". I am confident that I am not the only stakeholder that has raised this concern with you.

Secondly, the suggestion that Administrators cannot fit 30 minutes of learning another language in the current school day lacks credibility given the long-standing history of this program in the current curriculum. More importantly this suggestion fails to appropriately account for the benefits students gain of learning a foreign language in a city like Toronto that prides itself on its multiculturalism and diversity.

Finally, the International Languages Program has been, in my view, one of the most distinguishing features of the TCDSB's educational offering (in addition to Catholic Teachings) compared to the public school board. As Professor Jim Cummins (one of the world's leading authorities on second language acquisition)

astutely noted “schools that succeed in bringing issues related to cultural and linguistic diversity from the periphery to the center of their mission are much more likely to prepare pupils to thrive in the interdependent global society within which they will live. These schools will communicate to pupils and communities that their access to more than one culture and language is a resource that can enrich the entire school”. I would strongly encourage the TCDSB not to stray from this fundamental principle which has also helped to distinguish the value of your board more generally.

Respectfully,

Rossana Tsagarelis

From: "nadia.bellini"

Date: July 6, 2018 at 7:25:39 PM EDT

To: joseoh.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo.am.davis@tcdsb.org,
barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org, angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org,
nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org, joel.ndongmi@tcdsb.org

Subject: The importance to keep International Language

Dear Trustees,

My name is Nadia Bellini, and I am an Italian instructor. Over the years in my position, I have watched children flourish with the help of international languages, and its because of this observation that I hold a deep conviction that International Languages are a very important part of the school day, and shouldn't be discarded.

I truly believe that having students learn international is an asset for a number of reasons.

The first of which is that it gives them an advantage later in life. Knowing more than one language gives students the opportunity to seek out better jobs and have more chances to experience new things in life.

The second of which is that going to an International Language class allows students a break from the monotony of the regular school day and school subjects- I believe it is far more stimulating to study an international Language partway through the day as opposed to the sort of thing for eight hours at a time.

And finally, the third reason I believe International Languages are **so** important is because it exposes children to a slew of different cultures. Take a country like Italy, for example. Italy has a large personality and an incredibly diverse culture that many children love to learn about because it provides an escape. Without International Languages class, this exposure to multiculturalism would not be possible.

I truly hope this letter has done something to dissuade you from taking away International Languages. All of us are hard working and love our jobs. We adore being able to take children away from their everyday lives and bringing them to

new and exciting places with just our teaching. School would not be the same without these classes.

Thank you for reading.

Regards,
Nadia Bellini

From: Mariana D
Date: July 6, 2018 at 10:08:01 PM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: International Language

Good evening,

I never thought that the day would come that this Board would turn its back on International Language learning for children. You know the benefits of the program as you have been providing them to students for four decades. Generations of students have benefitted through the years.

There are commonly held benefits attributed to these casual script swappers, most of them suggesting an increase in cognitive processing and the ability to multi task. Obviously, some of you have not been taught another language otherwise you would be able to understand and appreciate cultural references and nuances. Being able to talk to grandparents and relatives and simply communicating while traveling keeps students relevant in an ever changing global society.

You notice and appreciate the things that are sometimes lost in translation. We live in an increasingly globalized world where many cultural subtleties can slip through the cracks as we try to understand past each other's language. Learning another language means opening the door to an entirely new culture and way of viewing the world.

I am sure you want this for our children so you must protect the International Languages program at our school board.

Sincerely,
Mariana Doubas

From: Brigida Di Palma

Date: July 6, 2018 at 11:13:33 PM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andruchuck@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
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nancy.crowford@tcdsb.org

Subject: Save the International Language Program

Dear Trustees

Over the past 20 years I have been working as an International Language Instructor. I have dedicated my life to this career. With all my passion, enthusiasm and love for education in a foreign language. I am heartbroken to hear that the Board does not appreciate the hard work all the Instructors put into delivering this program simply because the TCDSB has decided to shorten the school day with the high risk in the elimination of the International Language Program. I would like to remind you that we live in Canada which is one of the most culturally diverse country in the world. Canada has a foreign-born population of almost 50%, Toronto alone is home to people from roughly 230 different nationalities. You should also keep into consideration that many physiological studies have proven that speaking two or more languages helps the thinking process of children.

Furthermore, our students are the ones who will be suffering and deteriorated in comparison to all the other industrialised countries. Why do you want to deprive your students of this knowledge? Therefore, I would like to express my disagreements on your decision on shorting the school day or on the elimination of the International Language program. As a parent and an International Language Instructor I believe that the board does not want to deny the opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge and I have faith in you that you will work hard in keeping the International Language Program during the school day.

Best regards

Brigida Di Palma

From: j c

Date: July 7, 2018 at 12:19:18 AM EDT

To: "dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>,
"rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org" <rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>,
"adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org" <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>,
"joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
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"mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org" <mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>,
"garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org" <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo.ann.davis@tcdsb.org"
<jo.ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org"
<barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org"
<angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org"
<nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Concerns for the International Languages program

Dear trustees and administrators,

I am writing to you today to express my concern about the news that the International Language program may be ended at the TCDSB.

I feel this would be a great loss for the children. Apart from the known benefits to overall academic achievement, it would be saddening to see the loss of this opportunity to enrich themselves with the experience of learning another language.

I know I am not alone in this concern, and want to see this program continue for the betterment of the next generation.

regards,

James Cataldo

Dear Trustees,

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the international languages program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day. I believe this would be a mistake as many children will miss out. I have two boys in kindergarten and they have benefited greatly from this program. They are able to communicate with their grandparents in an extraordinary way by speaking in Italian. I learned at a young age and I can see that they are doing the same from learning it in school. Research has shown that learning another languages improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits students overall in their academic performance. It is also proven that learning a foreign language at a younger age keeps our kids smarter longer. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

It is my understanding that the program is being considered on weekends and or after school. This should be part of the curriculum during school hours and not be devalued in this way.

I know of many parents that have shown their concern as well so please let us know what steps we could take to save this program for generations to come.

Respectfully,

A devoted Catholic parent,
Lucie Cirone

From: Nancy Linares
Date: July 7, 2018 at 10:52:15 AM EDT
To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org
Subject: I. L. Program

Dear Trustee Maria Rizzo,

My name is Nancy Linares, I have been working as a Spanish instructor for more than 15 years at the TCDSB.

I am writing this letter to beg of you, to please, help save our program "International Languages". My experience as an instructor is very rewarding. That feeling when you see your students not only excel in learning the language, but also see them apply those skills in helping themselves develop their English skills such as reading, writing, comprehension, math and religion. We help reinforce these core skills through the third language and help our students tackle these skills from a different perspective and method, allowing for more clarity on the subjects. All these things help to benefit the students to prepare for a better future full of opportunities. I don't understand why the Board would want to change all this? Aren't we here to help give the students all the tools necessary for a better future in our multicultural country? Isn't this important for the Board? We are Catholic, so where is the compassion, the understanding, the support for the students and instructors? We too have family and children that depend on our work for their futures.

This is a valuable program that must continue being taught during the school day. I do not support the teaching of the program on weekends or after school. It dishonours the importance and respect for the languages we are teaching.

God bless you and may He guide you in saving our International Languages Program.

Sincerely,

Nancy Linares

Toronto, July 7, 2018

Dear Trustee

I am writing to you not only as an International Languages Instructor but as a parent who feels dismayed about the future of my profession and my family. As an employee of the Toronto Catholic District School Board for the past 23 years, I find very saddening to hear about the discussions and plans about the future of this enriching program that has been offered by the Board for 4 decades and with little or no appreciation and consideration for the educators who have worked hard and dedicated their time to maintain the outstanding name of the International Language Program.

Throughout those years I have taught or instruct thousands of students and some of them, like you, are parents now. When they see me on public places, they remember and thank me and say **"Gracias Señora"** for the years you dedicated teaching me Spanish it has helped me when I traveled to any Spanish speaking country and at work. Students when they come to Canada with no English they feel scared and anxious because of the language barrier but when they hear somebody who speaks their mother tongue telling them **"Todo va a estar bien, no te preocupes"**, they look at the instructor with confidence and give their best smile.

Have you asked yourself, what is going to happen to future students that come to Canada and register in a school at the TCDSB and wish to choose to learn a new language or to continue practicing their mother tongue?? As you all know many families come to our Canada with no English and their kids after they have learned English, have to interpret to communicate to others.

I would like to end by saying that our **STUDENTS are the only ones** that will suffer the most with the decision to change the model of teaching International Languages. God bless you on any decision you make.

Anna Macias

From: Maurivan SOLNER

Date: July 7, 2018 at 1:18:31 PM EDT

To: "ann.andrchuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrchuk@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.totoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.totoni@tcdsb.org>, "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frankdamico@tcdsb.org" <frankdamico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org" <mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org" <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "babara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <babara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>, "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Must Remain

Good afternoon,

I am a father of 3 students that are enrolled in a middle school which is fortunate enough to provide the International Language program during their normal school day . As a father me and my wife find it detrimental that this program remains. It is a learning experience that isn't offered at many school and for this reason we choose Stella Maris.

As a Brazilian man married to a Italian woman me and my wife had arguments debating which language our children would be taking in school. The fact that this was an option is tremendous in this country as I have always hoped our children would grow up knowing their heritage and traditions.

All of our children have benefited tremendously from the learning that has come out of these classes. I don't believe there is an ounce of benefit coming from shutting it down. I cant believe this would be coming from a Catholic school as I always believed that they would put the learning of the children up first.

30 minutes is nothing when it is up against a powerful program that has brought so many life skills, job opportunities and wealth into EVERY single student that partakes lives. I cant believe you as the Trustees would assume that this program is even an option in order to save costs and half an hour of the school day.

Me along with my family and many others from my community are outraged that this is happening to our schools. I cannot believe that the School Board would send my children home with a letter on the last day of school announcing that the program was soon to close. This does not allow me and many others to contact the other parents and teachers along with other staff to gather information of any sort. This gives the International Program's parents zero ability to be in the know of what is going on and I find it ridiculous that there wasn't a better way to go about this. I cannot believe that this is what they chose to do.

As a concerned parent and Catholic man I am praying that this will be resolved in favor of the International Language program

Maurivan Oliveira

From: Connie Cambria

Date: July 7, 2018 at 1:55:11 PM EDT

To: "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Languages Program from the Toronto Catholic School Board

Hello Ms. Rizzo,

I am deeply saddened and hurt to know that the International Languages Program of the Toronto Catholic District School Board is in risk of being cancelled. Please do not let unions and greed interfere with our children's education. I have been teaching these kids for over 30 years and never has a union or anyone from the board dared to interfere with my students' education until now. I do what I do with passion and devotion and not for the pay, the two months off, the cushy pension or the perks given to me by a union. This is my job and it is done with devotion and for the love and respect I have for children. I know my work and I know it well. We, international language teachers, are professional and dignified people. We have taught both in Canada and abroad. We do not need anyone dictating to us what and how to do our jobs. We are not greedy nor do we have the "all about me" attitude. We do not need to hide behind a union. We are professionals seeking the right to make a living and continue our work with devotion and passion. We do not criticize anyone but we will and have the right to defend ourselves when we are being attacked. Teachers, no matter what union you belong to, no matter what you teach in the classroom, you are all the same. You deserve the utmost respect for the work that you do and not be criticized nor talked down upon. International Language teachers will never discredit another teacher. This is not done. Regardless of where you stand with this issue please do not lose respect for one another. If we do that, then we are guilty of lowering the bar of ignorance. This is simply not done. Please stop criticizing the program and the teachers that teach it. We all have issues in life to deal with and we all need to make a living to support our families. Please do not let greed be the cause for having close to 100 teachers lose their jobs. Let's respect one another and most importantly, RESPECT EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS!

Thank you!

Connie Cambria

Italian International Language teacher with over 30 years experience!!!!

July 5, 2018
Maria Rizzo
Ward 5 North York

Dear Honorable Ms. Rizzo

As an Instructor actively involved in the International Language Program, I am writing this letter to express my concern for the possible changes that will affect our program and the communities at large.

Since the 1970s, the International Language Program has been an important part of the elementary education within the TCDSB. Over the years, I have witnessed the dedication of the students learning a different language and the support of their parents. The students have been eager to learn another language and have shown immense gratitude for the opportunity to do so.

As Catholic Educators we must work together to enrich the learning of our students and ensure quality education. The gift of learning another language must continue as it has proven to be beneficial in our diverse city. The future of our children and society depends on us and the support of the International Language Program.

Thank you kindly for all your support!

Sincerely

Gladis Suarez
Instructor St. Jane Frances

From: Sharon Mauricio

Date: July 7, 2018 at 3:27:25 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save the International Language Program

To whom it may concern,

I am a past student from a IL program and wanted to share my opinion on the upcoming vote regarding the status of the program. I am currently employed within the Portuguese community due to my language skills and have been able to grow within my career due to the skills given to me.

I as a young child was given the opportunity to study the Portuguese language from a young age during my time in elementary school and continued my studies in college which has led me to an abundance of opportunities. Due to my skills obtained in school I was able to obtain my current employment. The career I am currently in is largely due to my second language. During application stages there is consistently questions of how many languages you speak and how fluent you are. Thankfully I am able to list Portuguese. I was selected first for my position as it is based in the Portuguese neighbourhood.

Being born in Canada with immigrated parents geared me to the IL program which allowed me to learn about other Portuguese speaking communities as I grew up. It allowed me to do a semester in Brazil which gave me a completely different perspective of the world. It has allotted me many opportunities when applying to different courses in College and has given me the best gift of all, communication.

The language has allowed me to grow closer with my family in different parts of the world and I don't know a single person who would give up that opportunity. I understand that cost and timing of the school day is a very difficult thing to balance and I give you all credit for upholding an amazing schooling experience for me and many others. This decision if made incorrectly can ruin many life goals of children, abolish traditions kept by the communities and shatter dreams that are created in those classrooms.

I know that my future personally as well as the majority of my friends started within the walls of the IL classes. I want to thank all of those who are in favour of keeping this program alive and I hope those who are struggling to understand the positives will look at how important communication is to every individual. Children can never have too much knowledge, it would be a tragedy to strip them of the opportunities this program offers.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sharon De Paula

From: Carolina Batca

Date: July 8, 2018 at 11:20:43 AM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>,
"rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org" <rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org>, "Joel.Ndongmi@tcdsb.org"
<Joel.Ndongmi@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Program

Hello

I would like you to be aware that I support the International Language Program, and as an elected official I would hope that you would listen to the community and also support the program.

As the world becomes a smaller place through the global market it is more important than ever to give all our children the equal opportunity to learn a new language. Not only will this better their education as a whole, studies have also shown that learning languages at a young age will help them with their cognitive learning and problem solving skills. After all, language is just word math.

As the world evolves it is now more important than ever to be aware of other cultures. By learning about cultures, our children will grow up to be accepting and loving individuals who are overall more open minded.

Learning languages is important for our children's education, and by taking that away you are saying that you do not think it is an important life skill to have. I will not accept that officials in charge of looking out for the best needs of our children do not agree with this sentiment.

Please support the International Language Program so that all our children are able to reap the benefits of language learning, rather than a select few who are able to attend after school programs, allow all children to have equal opportunity when it comes to education.

I am voicing my support via email because I cannot attend the event as I am a working Individual, however that does not mean I do not care about the wellbeing of our children's education. Please consider this a vote in favour of the International Language Program even though I cannot physically be there.

Thank you,

Carolina Batca

From: Rosana Russo

Date: July 8, 2018 at 12:25:23 PM EDT

Subject: International Language Program

I would like you to be aware that I support the International Language Program, and as an elected official I would hope that you would listen to the community and also support the program.

As the world becomes a smaller place through the global market it is more important than ever to give all our children the equal opportunity to learn a new language. Not only will this better their education as a whole, studies have also shown that learning languages at a young age will help them with their cognitive learning and problem solving skills. After all, language is just word math.

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Thank you,

--

Rosana Russo, Broker, MCNE, C.Tran

Date: July 8, 2018 at 12:34:44 PM EDT

To: Horacio Escalada

Subject: International Language Program

I would like you to be aware that I support the International Language Program, and as an elected official I would hope that you would listen to the community and also support the program.

As the world becomes a smaller place through the global market it is more important than ever to give all our children the equal opportunity to learn a new language. Not only will this better their education as a whole, studies have also shown that learning languages at a young age will help them with their cognitive learning and problem solving skills. After all, language is just word math.

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I am voicing my support via email because I cannot attend the event as I am a working Individual, however that does not mean I do not care about the wellbeing of our children's education. Please consider this a vote in favour of the International Language Program even though I cannot physically be there.

Thank you,

Horacio Escalada

From: eloiza amara **Date:** July 8, 2018 at 2:00:11 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org" <frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org" <mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org" <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save the International Language Program

Good Afternoon,

My name is Eloiza Mauricio and I have been an Instructor within the International Language program with the TCDSB for more than 15 years. This job has allowed me to pass on years of experience and knowledge to a variety of students. This job brings me joy, teaches me compassion and gives students the opportunity to be a part of a bigger community.

I have the honour of teaching the Portuguese language at Stella Maris Catholic School and wouldn't trade this job for anything. Being a part of the Portuguese/ Brazilian community allows me to provide an abundance of opportunities for the children that have passed through my classes throughout the years. I have seen students go on to do post secondary studies focusing on the Language, I have watched students study abroad in Portuguese spoken countries and have been told that this program was what sparked their interest.

With ours jobs and the students learning in jeopardy I must take a stand and hope you, the Trustees understand the importance of mine and every other International

Language instructors careers. With the late notice of our programs possible cancellation it has been increasingly difficult to reach out to parents and members of our community who as well think it would be detrimental.

With hard work and determination we have found a massive support system in the families of our students, members of our Catholic communities and other TCDSB members who feel just as embarrassed by the actions the TCDSB has brought upon this staple of a program that has been running for over 40 years.

I would hope that the thoughts and feelings of everyone reaching out to you would prove the importance of our program and the work we do every day. The careers that have been made by allowing students to flourish and become everything they possible want shall not be pushed aside as it hold an unimaginable amount of worth to all involved.

Please consider the consequences of your decisions.

Eloiza Mauricio
Executive Secretary of Cupe 3155

From: Michelle Rocha <michellerocha08@hotmail.com>

Date: July 8, 2018 at 4:46:13 PM EDT

To: Undisclosed recipients;;

Subject: International Language Program

Hello,

I would like inform you that I support the International Language Program. Unfortunately, I cannot attend the meeting where you will decide this important program's fate, but I would like to voice my support for it's benefit to our children's education and I hope that you will strongly consider voting in its favour.

Given the world we live in, it is now more important than ever that we provide our children with the skills to be globally competitive and culturally sensitive individuals. Learning multiple languages facilitates cognitive learning and problem solving and provides immeasurable opportunities for growth and development in both a professional and personal capacity. As an official in charge of deciding the fate of our children's education, I would hope that you can see just how detrimental removing this program would be.

Please support the International Language Program so that all our children are able to reap the benefits of language learning, rather than a select few who are able to attend after school programs.

Thank you,

Michelle Rocha

From: Isabel Pagano

Date: July 8, 2018 at 5:50:50 PM EDT

To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: Supporting the International Language Program

Dear Ms. Rizzo,

Co-collaborative education has recently become a hot topic among pedagogy circles. Scholars are trying to find ways to collaborate with parents on how to best educate their kids. The Toronto Catholic District School Board has been doing this for the past 40 years with the International Language Program, and instead of being proud of their program the School Board now wants to shut it down. Instead of being an example around the country we are being pushed aside and told that this type of learning isn't important regardless of the countless studies that say it is.

I am not going to mention all the benefits of having a third language because I would never be able to finish this email. There is not one con to a child's education in learning a third language. The benefits strongly outweigh any opposition. I can attach many scholarly articles proving this to be true. That is why I would like to ask for your support to continue to provide students with the best well-rounded education possible, and to put our children's education first. I am also asking you to remember, that languages should be open to all students regardless of their backgrounds.

When one thinks of education, it is important to think about it from all points of view. I can ensure you that all parents want their children to learn different languages because as an adult we know how difficult learning a language is when you are older. Not to mention, the possibility of various types of employment that a language open its doors to.

As an Instructor, I have seen first-hand the benefits of language in the classroom. Not only do I take great pleasure from teaching culture to my students every day I

am also humbled when they return years later telling me of stories of how they used language in their day to day lives.

As Canada continues to grow its multiculturalism, all jobs are benefited by languages. Whether it be a policeman, a nurse or a school official, communication is necessary and as we welcome newcomers from around the world it is important to be able to communicate with them.

This program should not be optional, for the same reason other subjects are not optional, it is necessary to student's futures. This has been proven time and time again for the past 40 years that's why I am asking you to keep the program as it is, and not after school where it would become a choice.

I understand you have a hard decision ahead of you. Please take in consideration all the support this program has, all the families that value these classes, all the children we make an impact on daily, and all the children who would benefit from this in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to reading this email,

Isabel Pagano

From: Tania Cruz-Sanchez

Date: July 8, 2018 at 5:54:14 PM EDT

To: "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Languages Program = part of a Holistic Education for our Students

Dear Maria Rizzo,

My name is Tania Cruz-Sanchez, a past alumni of St. Thomas Catholic School yet a member of St. Thom's parish and current teacher graduate from the CEC. I am reaching out to you for a matter that has recently come to my attention.

I have received information that the International Languages Program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day.

I strongly believe this would be a mistake, for it would mean a taken and removed opportunity for many TCDSB children to become and develop themselves as trilingual and/or polylingual individuals. I'm currently a Spanish and French teacher at a private high school in Toronto and I have become witness of how learning languages has become a huge asset. Besides existing research that has shown that learning another language increases cognitive development and even improves test scores, if ILP is maintained and continued, we would be allowing our students to be as prepared as they can be in this competitive global market that we live in, with very diverse and developed communication skills. At the moment the world is in need of well rounded individuals with strong and diverse communication skills so that healthy relations are fostered and good solutions are proposed.

That being said, the International Language Program must be preserved as part of the curriculum during school hours.

I know of many individuals, such as other TCDSB alumni, students, parents and upcoming teachers that have shown their concern as well. Therefore, please let us know of what next steps we could take in order to save ILP for our current students and generations to come.

Respectfully,

Tania Cruz-Sanchez
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard ave.
East North York
M2N 6E8

July 9, 2018

Dear Trustees,

My name is Yolanda Castro, and I want to express my concern about the future of the International Languages Program that has been offered by the Toronto Catholic District School Board for over 40 years. I strongly believe that this program has represented during all these years, the multicultural nature of the Canadian Society especially in the city of Toronto. Classes offered by this wonderful program allow the children and the community to have the option of having contact and preserving their mother tongue and culture. In addition, these classes promote the values and virtues that are fundamental to the Toronto Catholic District School Board. I also want to emphasize that speaking several languages allows people to be more competitive and have more opportunities in their future careers. It is not fair to deny the children the privilege of learning other languages and knowing more about the rest of the world.

For all the reasons explained above, I am requesting you to maintain the International Languages program during the school day as it has been very successful throughout the years.

Thank you very much and I hope that before making a final decision against the program, think of the children, parents and the community who do not deserve to be removed from the programs that help them to have a more promising future.

Cordially,

Yolanda Castro
Spanish Instructor.

From: gaudenza carosi

Date: July 8, 2018 at 10:08:29 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "Rizzo Maria
(Trustees' Services)" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org"
<barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org"
<angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org"
<nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>, "rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org"
<rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>, "dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>,
"adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org" <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>, "jo-
ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Program

Dear Trustees, Director of Education, Associate Director of Academic Affairs,
Superintendent of Human Resources,

I have been an Italian instructor in the International Language Program with the TCDSB for 14 years. I write to you today concerned about the possibility of the program's removal from **regular** school hours and urge you to vote against this choice.

The ILP has existed since 1977 and achieved great scholastic success in the Toronto Catholic District School Board. It has been a great benefit to students and communities in Toronto, and a point of pride for them to express their heritage and enjoy a greater breadth of learning in our schools.

Despite this, the program has always been attacked and threatened with reduction and closure, and its passionate, hard-working instructors have made many concessions over the years to continue their work. It troubles me that even today, in 2018, we are having the same discussions whose objective is simply, and seems always to have been, to close the program.

Recently, to satisfy the interests of other groups and without regard to the students themselves, the Board decided to shorten the school day at the expense of the ILP, who once again accepted their conditions. Now, with the most recent decisions, some have suggested to parents that there won't be enough time to deliver the curriculum, and that the only solution is to move the ILP after school or cancel it. According to them, the subjects we teach – which foster creativity, flexibility of thought, deep linguistic understanding, and cultural perspective – are not as important as subjects like math or science. Who can make such a claim? Who decides the worth of our culture in Canada, and of the breadth of knowledge we have worked so hard to cultivate in our schools?

Countless studies demonstrate that learning a third language has vast benefits for childhood development. Students exposed to a third language demonstrate greater critical thinking abilities, creative skills and open-mindedness. That is to say nothing of the fact that we live in the most multicultural country, with arguably the richest variety of traditions, foods, clothes, languages and ethnic values, in the world. How can we be proud of this fact if we decide to make cultural education an afterthought for our children?

Students of diverse cultures live, accept, respect and work with their neighbours on the basis of what they are exposed to and taught at an early age. The first act of multiculturalism is precisely the recognition of and exposure to a language. Without upholding this in our schools, we not only deprive students of the unique advantages and perspectives we have ourselves enjoyed and cultivated, we lose a cornerstone of our identity as Canadian educators. And in this globalized world, where language and cultural understanding plays a fundamental role in the harmony and well-being of neighbours, the timing of such a decision seems particularly worrisome.

I trust in the foresight of the trustees to put student's needs first and **retain the ILP within regular school hours.**

Sincerely,
Gaudenza Carosi

From: "Delle Donne, Caldina (St Jerome)"

Date: July 9, 2018 at 12:29:48 AM EDT

To: "Martino, Joseph (Trustees' Services)" <Joseph.Martino@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "Bottoni, Patrizia (Trustees' Services)" <Patrizia.Bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "Rizzo, Maria (Trustees' Services)" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "D'Amico, Frank (Trustees' Services)" <Frank.Damico@tcdsb.org>, "Del Grande, Mike (Trustees' Services)" <Mike.DelGrande@tcdsb.org>, "Tanuan, Garry (Trustees' Services)" <Garry.Tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "Davis, Jo-Ann (Trustees' Services)" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "Poplawski, Barbara (Trustees' Services)" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "Kennedy, Angela (Trustees' Services)" <Angela.Kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "Crawford, Nancy (Trustees' Services)" <Nancy.Crawford@tcdsb.org>, "McGuckin, Rory (Director of Education)" <rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org>, "Koenig, Dan (Associate Director of Education, Academic Services)" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "Della Mora, Adrian (Superintendent of Human Resources)" <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: re: concerned IL Instructor

Hello,

I am writing you today to share my concern with the recent conversation regarding eliminating the International Language Program among more than 45 schools within the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

I have been an Italian instructor for this board for over 20 years and am in awe that this program is considered being removed. I, among many of the language teachers, work tirelessly to ensure that students are being taught a third language in meaningful ways. I am well aware of the cognitive benefits that learning a foreign language has on the students of today and work very hard to ensure that they become critical thinkers and allow their creativity to shine. I have ensured that the

Italian language is embedded in curriculum and try and find ways to engage my students in various ways. I know that students learn in different ways, therefore I create a safe environment that allow students to show their multiple intelligences. Not only is the Italian language embedded through announcements, concerts, and everyday learning at our schools, but is further extended through contests and other meaningful avenues. I have seen my students grow from JK up until grade 8 and their growth in a third language is extremely rewarding being their educator. In this multicultural and diverse society, it is important to recognize the strength and benefits of this program. It is important to showcase the learning that has occurred in these schools. It is important to recognize the hard work that international instructors across this board have put into the delivery of this program ensuring that student success is always at the forefront. I am deeply saddened as a Catholic educator that this program is not being taken seriously and that someone can quickly dismiss it without thinking about the various affects that this will have on the students and the educators.

The international language program has endured many challenges over the years, yet instructors like myself continue to come to work everyday and work hard. I value the delivery of the program in its entirety and do my job everyday to the best of my ability. I respect the teachers time and praise the hard work that they put into implementing a great program for their students and all that I have ever asked in return is the same respect and acknowledgement. The staff and school community at my school has been so great, so this new conversation that has come about is shocking to me.

I cannot believe that the CATHOLIC board would allow instructors to be dismissed, especially with such short notice. We were negotiating for the program to be delivered in various ways, yet this was conveniently completed on the last week of school and into the summer. I have kids of my own and a husband that I also think about when I go to work everyday so that I can put food on the table and have a roof over our heads. I am in dismay and question what the Catholic board and Catholic church have to say about this conversation and how they plan on telling the students about the reasoning behind eliminating the program. I question if the students feel like they are being abandoned or if all of their hard and meaningful work did not matter.

I hope that you have read my letter and recognize the love, time and hard work that I bring to each of my students at the Toronto Catholic District School Board. I hope to see them again in September to continue to educate them on the Italian heritage and language.

Thank you for your time.

Best always,

Caldina Delle Donne

IL Instuctor at St. Jerome CS

From: daniela diano

Date: July 9, 2018 at 12:31:01 AM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, mike.delagrande@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org, angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org,
nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org,
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org

Subject: IL Program – URGENT

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I was very disappointed to learn that the Catholic School Board of Toronto has decided to cancel the International Language Program. A program that began when I was in Grade 7. The many aspects of the Italian Culture and Language that I learned back then have been useful to me throughout my life.

It is a shame that today's young students will not be given the same opportunities that we were given back in 1977 and up until yesterday. In our constantly evolving world the importance of speaking more than one language has become essential for the future generations and a necessity for their professional development.

In a country like Canada based on immigration and known for its "Mosaic" like society, the cancellation of such a program is a contradiction in terms and a great loss for our Elementary students.

In the hope that you may go back on your decision I thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Daniela Maria Diano
Parent

Monday, July 9, 2018

Dear Mr. Martino,

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the International Languages Program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day. I believe this would be a mistake as many children will miss out. Research has shown that learning other languages improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits students overall in their academic performance. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

As a teacher, I have travelled abroad to teach English and recognize the value other countries place on language instruction. But we must also recognize that we are not only developing language skills, but awareness and tolerance for other cultures and values, something Canada's multicultural society has always prided itself in. Learning a new language means opening the door to an entirely new culture and way of viewing the world.

It is my understanding that the program is being considered on weekends and/or after school. This devalues the program as it should be part of the curriculum during school hours.

I know of many parents that have shown their concern as well, so please let us know what steps we could take to save this program for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Mary Alberton
Retired Teacher

From: jorgeabo

Date: July 9, 2018 at 11:01:00 AM EDT

To: "Rizzo, Maria (Trustees' Services)" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Re: International language political.pdf

hello Maria; i am Jorge Bonilla, thanks a lot for your work for the program; unfortunately I can not accompany you on this issues but I want share with you my experience with the program at De Sales for more than 16th years;

-I created the Spanish spelling contest and it is version 12th; in our award ceremony (working with Yolanda Castro) we recognize to different Latin American countries each year; we meet our community; more than 7 consuls and different Superintendents and trustees; ask please to Mr Piccinini.

With the contest we have experienced possitive changes about behaviour of the kids. Our contest has been part of the Hispanic heritage month in Ontario.

Our contest also, has made that the community be closer to the School.

-The program has a hug support from the Directors of our School.

-Our contest may the kids improve their skills and talents of art, music, dance and languages.

- I created in 2010 the campaign "Si Tu Puedes" "Yes You Can" it is an activity to encourage the students specially Spanish kids to never leave the school.

-In the Sales, we inaugurated with Mr. Caccamo the " Spanish Corner" it is our small library in Spanish and it may the opportunity the kids and people of the community of the area of Jane and Finch to use the Spanish books.

-Finally I know our students appreciate a lot to have the opportunity of learn Spanish, also their parents.

I hope this contribute to avoid the program being closed.

Thanks again;

Jorge Bonilla

Spanish teacher
St Francis de Sales.

From: Barbara Palazzolo

Date: July 9, 2018 at 11:39:42 AM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org, angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org,
nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org, Joel.Ndongmi@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Languages Program

Dear members of the Trust,

this email is in reference to the situation of the international languages program at school.

I'm Italian, and I've been living in Canada for over two years. I have a daughter who attends Catholic school and I am really enthusiastic about the work her teacher has done with her and her class.

I personally think that the knowledge of foreign languages is an inestimable treasure for those who own them. Knowing foreign languages opens the doors of the world.

So I wonder why this School Board is jeopardizing foreign language education for our children. Since Canada is a multicultural country, by repealing these disciplines, does it not conflict with its nature?

From my observations, it is well understood that I disagree with the repeal and I hope that this email will be helpful for the maintenance of the program, which I believe. I hope that common sense prevails, openness and reflection on the importance of stranger languages.

Thanks for your attention.

Regards,

--

Barbara Palazzolo

From: Oksana Cherchyk

Date: July 9, 2018 at 3:12:53 PM EDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Subject: Save International Languages Program

Dear Trustee,

I am writing to you as a mom and asking to save IL program for our children! It's crucial for the quality of education of my kids and it's part of their heart and soul. It builds a community strong and unique. A tradition that existed for over 40 years and delivered unique benefits for our children cannot just be killed!

Let's work together to find a solution! I am sure that we can find legal grounds and compromise that will satisfy all parties.

After all children are our future and we owe it to them!

Please help save our heritage program.

From: Ostap Doubas

Date: July 9, 2018 at 1:08:33 PM EDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: Save international Languages at TCDSB

Good morning, I am a parent from Josyf Cardinal Slipyj school and I would like to express my deep concerns regarding the potential cancellation of daytime International Languages Program at TCDSB. I strongly believe that this program has been very crucial for the quality of education for my child and it has been a unique tradition of over 50 years that makes these schools within TCDSB so unique. I have considered private schools but decided to keep my child at TCDSB largely due to this program that offers numerous benefits for my child.

As a parent, I would like to request that this decision is revisited and that International Languages Program continues.

Learning a third language improves student achievement. Save international Language learning during the school day at the TCDSB. Language and culture – diversity and inclusivity are important values – don't disrespect those core values by sidelining International Languages as an extra-curricular activity after school or on weekends.

TCDSB is about to abolish 30 min/day of international languages in heritage elementary schools.

Protecting and preserving multiculturalism is provisioned by The Multiculturalism Act.

Is the law not important any more?

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-18.7/page-1.html>

Ostap Doubas

From: Maria Pugliese

Date: July 7, 2018 at 4:13:02 PM EDT

To: "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Program

International Language Program July 7, 2018

Good afternoon Ms. Maria Rizzo

My name is Maria Diletta Pugliese. I write you this email as a lifelong supporter and also an International Language Instructor (Italian) of the Toronto Catholic District School Board and I wish to express my concerns with the decision to possibly cancel the International Languages Program.

It is clear that deals have and are, being made between the TCDSB and the teachers union in regards to the International Language Program and usually they remain very unclear to those in the IL program and members of the public.

I never thought the day would come that the TDCSB would turn its back on International Language learning for children. The benefits of the program are quite evident as you have been providing them successfully to students for over 4 decades and generations.

When I first came to Canada in 1977 the International Language Program was already in place and it has been working well for over 40 years and now all of a sudden it may disappear due to unclear suggestions from a very selfish group of people dictating who should or shouldn't have specific jobs at the TDCSB. These individuals are simply not thinking of the bigger picture.

What about the children that enjoy the IL program, do they mean anything to anybody? What about the families that enjoy listening to their children expressing themselves in a different language or even in their cultural language which gives children stronger ties to their own culture? And what about the hardship that comes with the loss of a job and not being able to keep providing for their families. Has this not crossed anyone's mind?

The idea that parents have been slowly brainwashed in thinking that IL program gets in the way of their children's education is absurd due to an extra half hour of the school day.

The teachers union would like to see the extra half hour gone only to benefit their own members. All of this commotion only to end the school day at 3:00pm instead of 3:30pm. This to me is a very selfish act.

The short notice prior to meetings or decision making by the board seem almost deliberate. It is not open, transparent or accountable and does nothing to foster public trust.

Another deliberate act is arranging to have these "special meetings" to discuss the IL program in the middle of summer where the probability of many parents and community members are not able to attend mostly because many will be on vacation and out of the country, and are completely unaware of these "meetings".

It is unfair to the many students who love the IL program, and to the parents, teachers, and IL instructors who can see the benefits of this program and wish for it to continue.

I'm including some attachments from children in the IL program who expressed themselves about the program. I think we should take a closer look to see what the children want and enjoy because most of the times their views are overlooked and almost ignored.

As a resident, parent and strong advocate of fairness and justice I trust you will work hard to find a more equitable compromise for this upcoming school year.
Sincerely,

Maria Diletta Pugliese
Italian Language Instructor
Saint Pascal Baylon

From: ash barrios

Date: July 7, 2018 at 6:21:15 PM EDT

To: Maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: Supporting the Complete Education of our Kids

Dear Maria Rizzo,

I am asking you to please support the International Language Extended Day Program. International Languages have many benefits to children, and relegating it to an after school program is not only relegating the importance of this subject but it is also a way to relegate culture from children.

Canadians believe in multiculturalism, it is what makes us a great nation, this would be a slap in the face to that. This program should be an example to all schools in other boards, to embrace the culture in their neighbourhood, to allow for children to embrace other cultures to help understand and accept each other.

Please stand in favour of education, acceptance, empathy and progressive thought. Be a part of the future in introducing students to the global market, as the world of business is changing to be more global than ever before in our past. Let's prepare our children not relegate their chances of success in the future. Let's do this for ALL students not only students who choose to take programs after school.

I humbly ask you to support this program not only for me but for all of the children in Toronto. Let's give other boards a good example on how to embrace multiculturalism in the classroom. After all, it is what the bible tells us to do, to celebrate differences and love each other.

Thank you,

Ash Barrios

From: patrizia antonucci

Date: July 7, 2018 at 3:50:05 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "Piccininni Sal
(Trustees' Services)" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org"
<patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "Rizzo Maria (Trustees' Services)"
<maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "D'Amico Frank (Trustees' Services)"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>,
"rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org" <rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>,
"dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org"
<adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save the IL Program

Good morning, please read!

I am Patrizia Antonucci, Italian teacher at St.Roch SCHOOL. I already sent you an email, but I am sending another one because it is very important you to know about these two points:

1. The students of St.Roch love the Italian language and culture. In June some of the Gr8 students from different nationality told me: " signora, we are going to Italy in August, Rome, Calabria!". Other students said they were lucky to go! They were so excited and proud! And above all so happy to be able to speak even if not fluently to thei relatives living in Italy..happy even to be able to experience the language and culture I taught them!!

One student said that he is going to be a journalist and go to Italy.

2. When I go shopping, big as well as small stores, I see many of my students from the past working there. They recognize me and say: "Buongiorno signora Antonucci, come stai?"

I wish I could speak Italian better now I am working here!, Because in every store the costumers speak Italian!".

Students from the past took Italian in High Schools and Universtiy. And they are working now in well known Italian places and events!

So , why are you cancelling this valuable International Language Program? In a developed and multicultural Ontario it is unthinkable to have schools with no International Language Program!

Instead of cancelling the Program why , instead ,we don't work TOGETHER to improve it and spread it to all school as a regular school subject!?

Please, think about it!

Sincerely,

Patrizia Antonucci

From: Maurivan Solner

Date: July 7, 2018 at 1:46:47 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Cutting of International Language Program

To whom it may concern,

As a community we come together to aid one another in learning, happiness and faith. I as a member of this community was contacted on behalf of the International Language program and was shocked to hear that the TCDSB was deciding that this program was no longer beneficial and needed in our schools. This news was shocking due to the fact that most friends and family members of mine take part in these programs and this benefits their daily lives.

I am concerned that this will show to the younger generation that the heritage and culture and language of their family and ancestors is of no concern to them. I believe that most parents would find that disgraceful. The culture of most families in our community is based on either the Portuguese or Italian languages and most children speak their native tongue to their parents and family.

Not having the opportunity to learn the spelling, grammar and ins and outs of the customs of their countries is a huge downfall as it is encouraging most children to care less and learn less and be less knowledgeable about who they are. Canada is all about being multicultural and it is unbelievable that the TCDSB is unable to understand that being multicultural means that programs such as this one should remain open.

I hope that before you choose to make a decision you will consider the lives of the children that will be punished and the futures that will be changed due to the cancellation of this.

Best Regards
Maurivan Solner and Co.

From: Roberta Pugliese

Date: July 9, 2018 at 10:57:27 PM EDT

To: "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Program

Hello, I hope this email finds you well and in good health.

It has come to my attention that the International Language Program is up for review and will possibly be removed from the curriculum this coming school year. Being a person who has gone through this program many years ago and living in such a diverse and multicultural city, I must say that I am somewhat disappointed that this is even a possibility.

As a first generation Canadian and having spent five years abroad, I know the value and importance of having the fundamentals in another language, and I believe the inclusion of other languages outside of french and english can have a significant impact on our children's ability to communicate with what is now becoming a connected world especially through the internet and social media. Also, I am sure I don't need to further impress the fact the there is a drastic increase of opportunity to improve our youths potential to obtain future employment, but I have in my own personal experience, been privy to this exact situation multiple times and even currently, have seen other co-workers being passed over in favour of people with diverse language expertise.

Finally and more specifically, I am an Italian-Canadian, and would hope that my future children have the same opportunities to learn not only Italian, but also a new language, and through that, a new culture. I know it is a major theme found in all of our great schools and boards, the practice of acceptance and inclusion and I really hope that in some capacity, there will be a fair compromise and inclusion of the International Language Programs in our schools.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to express my concerns and feelings about what I believe is a cornerstone of our diverse country and city. Language and

communication especially in todays age, is so fundamentally important and I really feel that the complete removal of such an opportunity for our youth would be a missed one for them.

Kindest Regards,

Roberta Raimondo

From: nico

Date: July 10, 2018 at 6:52:20 AM EDT

To: "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: SAVE THE PROGRAM

Dear Trustee Rizzo,

My name is Domenico Paglia and I'm one of the Instructor for the International Language Program at the TCDSB and I have been teaching Italian for more then 15 years.

In a city where there is a very large Multiethnic society, Kids of the TCDSB have the unique opportunity to learn a third language as part of the "Extended Day" Program. There is research that supports learning a second, third even fourth language at a young age as early as three improves children's problem solving skills, critical thinking, enhanced memory and ability to better multi-task.

Our program that has been in place since 1969 is now in threat of being dismantled.

Why would we want to take this away?

Hoping you will lend your support to any initiatives that will help keep International Language learning in our schools.

PLEASE, SAVE THE PROGRAM

Best Regards,
Domenico Paglia

From: Lena Chernukhina

Date: July 10, 2018 at 2:03:14 PM EDT

To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: Help keep the International Languages during daytime school

Dear Ms. Rizzo!

I am a mother of two girls who enjoy learning an international language at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj Catholic School.

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the international languages program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day.

I believe this would be a mistake, as many children will miss out. Research has shown that learning another languages improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits students overall in their academic performance. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

It is my understanding that the program is being considered on weekends and or after school. This should be part of the curriculum during school hours and not be devalued in this way. I know of many parents that have shown their concern as well so please let us know what steps we could take to save this program for generations to come.

I am asking you to please support our kids and vote in favor of keeping the IL program during the school day.

Respectfully,

Olena Chernukhina

From: Nataliya Byk

Date: July 10, 2018 at 2:29:15 PM EDT

To: "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Languages in Heritage Schools

Dear Ms. Rizzo,

We are writing to you today to express our dissatisfaction with TDCSB decision of cancelling international languages (Ukrainian specifically) in heritage schools.

Canada is a diverse and multicultural country, where people from all cultural backgrounds work together for the betterment of the Country. Canadian citizens respect and appreciate their ability and freedom of expression in their own language, which is guaranteed by

Canadian Multicultural Act, 1988. An Act for Preservation and Enhancement of Multiculturalism in Canada.

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-18.7/FullText.html>

As people of Canada we would like to teach our children and preserve our cultural background, which is expressed through language in addition to their primary English or French. We request that the institutions, TDCSB in essence, respect The Act and act in accordance.

Thank you, Ms Andrachak and please express our opinion in your vote on July 12th

Byk-Reis Family

From: anna trevisano

Date: July 10, 2018 at 2:41:02 PM EDT

Subject: Save International Language program

As a life long supporter of the TCDSB, i wish to express my concerns with the way in which the decision to possibly cancel the IL Program is being handled.

I am often reminded that students are occasionally not the first priority. Students seem to suffer most when issues of contracts and unions are disputed amongst different members of this school board.

Deals being made between the TCDSB and the teachers union remain very unclear to members of the public. The short notice prior to meetings or decisions made by the board seem almost deliberate. This is a blatant disrespect to taxpayers - it is not open, transparent or accountable and does nothing to foster public trust. It is unfair to the many students, parents, teachers, and international language instructors who can see the benefits of this program and wish for it to continue.

How many parents and community members do you suppose would be able to attend a meeting concerning this program in the middle of the summer? At a time when many families go on vacation and perhaps are not checking their e-mails as frequently as they would during the school year?

it will be very difficult to put my trust and my vote in a trustee who would allow the cancellation of a program that has proven benefits to young minds in development. To consider operating this program after school and or weekends debases the value of the program and speaks volumes to the systemic bigotry that persists in the age of diversity.

As a resident and strong advocate of fairness and justice I trust you will work hard to find a more fair and equitable solution for September.

Sincerely,

Anna Trevisano

From: Vira Kalinova

Date: July 10, 2018 at 8:30:12 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: In support of the International Languages Program

Dear Trustees,

I am a parent of a student who attends St. Demetrius Catholic School. I would like to express my deep concern about the upcoming decision to cancel the International Languages Program (ILP). I would urge you to vote against such a decision.

Most parents who choose schools with ILP do so intentionally as they realize the value of learning multiple languages and being exposed to a unique cultural environment. We had a choice to send our son to a Public or another Catholic school, both of which are much more conveniently located but does not offer ILP. We, therefore, chose to enroll him in the Eastern Rite Catholic School. Our school offers an opportunity to widen students' horizons and enrich their learning that is not offered in other schools. It will be a shame and a huge loss, if ILP were to be removed from the school. We would really consider moving our son to a different school, if ILP is cancelled.

At this time of increasing globalization, when many countries are striving to expose their school children to multiple cultures and teaching 3 or 4 foreign languages, we in Canada - one of the most multi-cultural countries in the world - are facing the cancellation of the well-established and truly loved language program. Many parents and kids alike can attest to the benefits of this program.

We speak three languages in our household and are hoping to add a fourth, once our son starts learning French. We see a great advantage in being fluent in multiple

languages , both personally and professionally. It is very regretful that TCDSB does not see the value of this program and limits future opportunities for our kids.

I hope that wisdom will prevail and you will make the right decision to maintain the ILP during the instructional day hours.

Sincerely,

Vira Kalinova, CPA, CGA, MBA.

From: Lena Chernukhina

Date: July 10, 2018 at 4:33:55 PM EDT

To: "Koenig, Dan (Associate Director of Education, Academic Services)"

<dan.koenig@tcdsb.org**>**, **Cc:** joseph.martino@tcdsb.org,
ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org, sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org,
maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org, frank.damico@tcdsb.org, mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org,
garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org,
angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org, nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org,
Joel.Ndongmi@tcdsb.org, adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org

Subject: Re: Help to keep the International Languages during daytime school

Dear Mr. Koenig!

Thank you very very much for your response!

My family cherishes our Ukrainian background and we went through considerable changes in our lives to be able to offer our kids an ability to learn our native language in a Catholic school. Particularly, we had to move Etobicoke, only for the purpose of being eligible to go to Joseph Cardinal Slipyj Catholic School.

With all due respect, parents who complain about IL being taught in school, why have they chosen one of the 44 International Language schools out of more than 160 TCDSB schools?

The statement that the IL program operating during the regular "instructional day" negatively impacts in-class learning related to core academic studies is a doubting argument; see our school is # 4 top academic-ranked Catholic school in Toronto.

It is a well-known fact that studying languages only improve academic performance, never worsens it. I just don't have time to run statistical analysis, comparing the performance of IL schools toward the rest.

Changing the delivery model to afterschool and/or weekends has no value to parents, as our after-school arrangement doesn't allow our kids to attend the afterschool and weekends is our opportunity to rest and involve in other activities. The proposal

All parents, kids, administration, and instructors in our school enjoy having this unique opportunity to maintain our heritage in such a multiculturally-diverse society as Ontario's capital. Moving it outside of school hours dishonors the

languages of learning. This is a valuable program that must continue being taught during the school day.

I'm not seeing any reasons to cancel teaching IL during school hours or calling it "illegal".

Would you please send me additional information on which you're basing your decision.

Once, again, thank you for your valuable time and hope to hear from you!

Respectfully,

Olena Chernukhina

From: Nahuel Barrios Ruiz Pagano
Date: July 10, 2018 at 5:06:34 PM EDT
To: Undisclosed recipients;
Subject: International Languages

Hello,

I am writing to you today to discuss the international languages program and why I feel it is so important to our community. I have recently learned that the program is in jeopardy and feel this is a huge mistake that can not happen. The international languages program is something that sets the TCDSB and is a huge draw to many in my opinion. It brings not only kids, but also families together.

As we move into the future, the knowledge of knowing multiple languages is immense. All over the world, children are learning multiple languages at a time and by the time they reach high school are often fluent in not only their primary language but also in up to two more languages (including English). Why does our community have to differ? Why can't we expand our communities knowledge and help kids move into a future where knowing only one language will be seen as a weakness.

I understand that moving the program to after school or the weekends is being considered, but I feel this will not help the students. After school and weekend programs often have very low enrollment and it has been proven that children often do not take the material serious. They do not view it as "real" school . If math was being offered after school or on weekends, would kids actually go? No, they would want to go home after a long day, or go out and hang out with their friends.

International languages are so important, and should be part of the regular curriculum.

I know many parents, and many students feel the same way.

I thank you for your time, and I hope to hear that this vital program is not left behind. Thank you.

Regards,

Nahuel Barrios

From: Francesco Bellissimo

Date: July 10, 2018 at 11:38:06 PM EDT

To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: Re: Proposed Changes to International Languages Program

Dear Maria,

Hope all is well. I am a parent of two students who attend a TCDSB school in our ward, and I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the International Languages program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day.

I believe this would be a mistake as many children will miss out. Research has shown that learning another language improves test scores and other areas of learning, therefore benefiting students in their overall academic performance. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience.

It is my understanding that the program is being considered on weekends and/or after school. It should be part of the curriculum during school hours and not be devalued in this way.

I know of many parents who have also expressed their concern; please let us know what steps we can take to save this program for generations to come. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Francesco Bellissimo

From: S R

Date: July 10, 2018 at 9:49:58 PM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org, angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org,
nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org, Joel.Ndongmi@tcdsb.org

Subject: Concern re. proposed changes to Integrated Day International Language Program

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to express my concern over the suggestion to remove the Integrated Day International Language Program (ILP) within the Toronto Catholic District School board and I am appealing for your support to continue with an Integrated Day model.

Given the high percentage of families that rely on bussing services, moving the program to either before or after school will have the effect of ultimately cancelling the program altogether. In addition, on the TCDSB's very own brochure explaining the Integrated Day International Languages Program, it says:

"The International Languages Program is provided during the school day when at least 67% of the parents of a school request a language program to be established during the school day".

What gives anyone the right to revoke the program from the established curriculum, without the same consult of the parents where such programs have already been established? How can you allow a union to effectively dictate the curriculum at our schools, which in principle is what will happen if the integrated day model is abolished? And how can you also allow such an unfair process which lacks transparency, and with critical decisions being made on short notice in the middle of the summer?

You as our elected officials hold the balance of power not to exacerbate an already damaging impact on our children's education as a result of the reduced number of instructional time negotiated with the union. To abandon the Integrated Day ILP is to take that one step further, and also has the effect of turning your backs on one of the core principles our country champions - that is to celebrate the ethnicity, diversity and inclusion of its people.

On a more personal note, the Integrated Day ILP at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj school was the key deciding factor why I chose to send my child here. I am also proud to say that my mother was on the founding committee that established Josyf Cardinal Slipyj school, on the back of an identified need to form a third Catholic School enriched by Eastern Rite traditions. I, in turn, was part of the very first Junior Kindergarten class, and therefore had the privilege to experience the full benefits that the Integrated Day ILP has to offer. I am Canadian born, with no direct family ties to Ukraine, and I have not yet had the opportunity to visit. However, I feel so closely connected to the country, to the language, to the culture, to the people in the community - and it is largely attributed to the continual reinforcement of the language which is paramount to understanding and appreciating the rich culture, history, literature and the religious education I received at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj School through the integrated day ILP.

I believe the next generation have the right to experience the richness of their heritage and this cannot be achieved with the continuation of an Integrated Day model of the ILP. I believe it is time to put the children's interest first.

Thank you very much for your attention to this important matter. I trust that I can count on your support, as our elected officials, to **continue** with the Integrated Day ILP, and assurance that no significant disruptions to the program will be made without appropriate engagement and consult of the parents at the impacted schools.

Kind regards,

Sophia Rozanec

Current parent and alumni at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj School

From: nella.randazzo

Date: July 11, 2018 at 10:17:20 AM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-
ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org, angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org,
nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org, rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org

Subject: **Inetnational languages**

Dea Trustee and Administrators,

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the International Language program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day.

I believe this would be a mistake as many children will miss out. Research has shown that learning another language improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits Students overall in their academic performance. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

I know of many parents that have shown their concerns as well.

Sincerely

From: Irina Bobtchenok

Date: July 11, 2018 at 1:35:26 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org"

<joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org"
<ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org"
<sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org"
<patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org"
<maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org"
<barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org"
<angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org"
<nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>, "rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org"
<rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org>, "dan.koenig@tcdsb.org"
<dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org"
<adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Program

Dear Members of the Board

My name is Irina Bobtchenok and I am writing this email on behalf of my son who attends St. Josaphat Catholic School,

I am in full support of the international language program that is being offered at our school and Enjoy when my child comes home and speaks and sings in another language. It has been proven time and time again that the benefits of learning other languages improves student achievement. Why wouldn't you do everything in your power to continue the program and expand it across the board?

This is a valuable program that must continue being taught during the school day. I do not support the program on weekends or after school. It dishonours the languages of learning.

I am aware of the fact that there are parents who do not see the value in this program and want it to be discontinued; these parents may have their reasons for it.

However, my son really enjoys the school that he is attending and the new language

that he is learning. The progress that he made learning a Ukrainian Language is magnificent.

Please note the fact that neither me or my husband are Ukrainian, however, we would really

love for our son to continue learning this language during school hours.

Best Regards,
Irina Bobtchenok, CPA, CGA

Dear TCDSB & Whom This May Concern,

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the international languages program may be removed from the TCDSB during the school day.

I believe this would be a mistake as many children will miss out. Research has shown that learning another languages improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits students overall in their academic performance. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

It is my understanding that the program is being considered on weekends and or after school. This should be part of the curriculum during school hours and not be devalued in this way.

I know of many parents that have shown their concern as well so please let us know what steps we could take to save this program for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Olivia Venturin

Thursday July 12, 2018

Dear trustees:

I would like to express my concern about the "recent change to the Delivery model of the International Language program (IL)" which is going to remove from the TCDSB from the curriculum next school year; with the purpose of shortening the student's school day by half hour.

This is not a step forward for our students, on the contrary this action will be detrimental for all our students and will not reflect their best interests.

Additionally; the students are the ones who will suffer when issues of contracts and unions are disputed.

It is unclear as to what was the process for such drastic change to be considered for the future. All we want at this meeting is respect, the respect we want is that our voice is going to be heard regarding this issue.

It is very concerning that this letter from Rory was sent to the parents on June 28th, 2018; as it had been redacted on March 29th, 2018. Moreover, that a meeting is being held a few days after, today July 12th, one may assume that the reason was that the parents and all the interested people that are part of the family of TCDSB do not attend at all to this meeting or at least a few number of them.

Considering that the letter was sent on June 28th, 2018, how many parents received and read the letter? How did the board of the TCDSB; given the relevance of the issue; ensured that that the students and parents were informed about this change, was there any public consultation, was this issue raised at the monthly interface meetings with parents, did the TCDSB received any feedback from students and/or parents, the trustees? From the evidence, you can see that communication on this issue has been minimal. Furthermore, as vacation season starts for parents and students, how they will be able to participate in the deliberations and contribute at this meeting; which will be affecting directly so many catholic families in Toronto.

This is a very important matter that will affect the future of our younger generation of Canadian children. A decision such as this one cannot be done in a way that, at least up to this point, seems arbitrary without any input from the parents and students (which are the end users of this IL program) members of the catholic community in Toronto.

Our expectation is that the trustees that are elected by the community represent this catholic community in the TCDSB, in a way that is fair and transparent. We are anxious to hear and see how this process has been fair and transparent. Otherwise, there needs to be a reevaluation of removal the IL program, and a formal process of consultation needs to occur.

Yours Truly

Maria Luisa Grimaldi

From: John Tsagarelis

Date: July 6, 2018 at 9:04:17 PM EDT

To: rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org,
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org

Cc: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Language Program with the TCDSB

Dear Sirs,

I am writing as a former student, current parent and long time supporter of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). I just learned that TCDSB Trustees and Superintendents are considering eliminating the existing International Languages Program and are planning to hold a meeting next week to decide the future of the program. As I am unable to attend this meeting, I have a number of concerns that I would like to raise with respect to this issue.

Firstly, as a matter of administrative fairness you have failed to provide the parent community with a reasonable opportunity to participate in this process. There has been a lack of transparency and appropriate notice provided to us with respect to this entire issue. The fact that you are considering dealing with the future of this program in the middle of the Summer when many impacted families may not be available is outrageous and speaks volume to how little you regard the input of the parent community and the very taxpayers that continue to fund and support the TCDSB. Query how this process is consistent with the TCDSB's own strategic plan which provides that the board will "ensure accountability, fairness, and transparency to the public in all processes and policies" and "ensure timely and sensitive responses to stakeholder questions and concerns". I am confident that I am not the only stakeholder that has raised this concern with you.

Secondly, the suggestion that Administrators cannot fit 30 minutes of learning another language in the current school day lacks credibility given the long-standing history of this program in the current curriculum. More importantly this suggestion fails to appropriately account for the benefits students gain of learning a foreign language in a city like Toronto that prides itself on its multiculturalism and diversity.

Finally, the International Languages Program has been, in my view, one of the most distinguishing features of the TCDSB's educational offering (in addition to Catholic Teachings) compared to the public school board. As Professor Jim Cummins (one of the world's leading authorities on second language acquisition)

astutely noted “schools that succeed in bringing issues related to cultural and linguistic diversity from the periphery to the center of their mission are much more likely to prepare pupils to thrive in the interdependent global society within which they will live. These schools will communicate to pupils and communities that their access to more than one culture and language is a resource that can enrich the entire school”. I would strongly encourage the TCDSB not to stray from this fundamental principle which has also helped to distinguish the value of your board more generally.

Respectfully,

Rossana Tsagarelis

From: Raphael Arens

Date: July 11, 2018 at 5:34:19 PM EDT

To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Languages

Dear TCDSB Staff & Board of Trustees,

I am very happy that the recommendation to discontinue the International Language Program as part of the regular school day has been made, and hope that it will be met with your approval. Offering IL after school hours seems like a reasonable compromise without jeopardizing or putting unnecessary pressure on the mandatory Ministry of Education curriculum. It seems to me that attempting to squeeze IL into the regular school day would add undue stress for teachers in terms of what they are already expected to cover.

I am aware that this is not the first time this question has been deliberated, and trust that the well-grounded recommendations outlined in the staff report will be realized. With a very clear Board Policy, there should be no doubt or further delay in eliminating IL from the school day.

Respectfully,

Raphael Arens

From: "Giordano, Ilenia (Area 09-Subs OA OD ST)"

Date: July 11, 2018 at 3:20:21 PM EDT

Cc: "Martino, Joseph (Trustees' Services)" <Joseph.Martino@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuck@tcdsb" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "Piccininni, Sal (Trustees' Services)" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "Bottoni, Patrizia (Trustees' Services)" <Patrizia.Bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "Rizzo, Maria (Trustees' Services)" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "D'Amico, Frank (Trustees' Services)" <Frank.Damico@tcdsb.org>, "Del Grande, Mike (Trustees' Services)" <Mike.DelGrande@tcdsb.org>, "Tanuan, Garry (Trustees' Services)" <Garry.Tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "Davis, Jo-Ann (Trustees' Services)" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "Poplawski, Barbara (Trustees' Services)" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "Kennedy, Angela (Trustees' Services)" <Angela.Kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "Crawford, Nancy (Trustees' Services)" <Nancy.Crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International Language Program

Good Afternoon Trustees,

my name is Ilenia Giordano I am an Italian Instructor with TCDSB. I would like to address my opinion on the International language program, I am in favour of the program. I believe that the program benefits the children. Learning another language is always positive, especially learning it at a young age. It helps the development of the brain and sharpens the mind, it improves memory, and helps improve performance in other academic areas. I believe that by taking the program away you are depriving the children of future opportunities, and you are depriving them of improving their academic abilities. By taking this program away you are also putting many good and deserving people out of work.

Thank you for your time

Regards,

Ilenia

July 11th, 2018

Delegation to: Trustees, Toronto Catholic District School Board

Re: Proposed removal of the International Language Program

To Whom it May Concern,

One of the selling points of our house was its proximity to JCS; it was (and is) important for our family that their children attend not just a school, but a community. Schools are more than academics, they are a social place, a second home. And, as a graduate of Josyf Cardinal Slipyj, I must be frank that I didn't appreciate the Ukrainian program as a kid. However, growing up has made me realize the importance and benefits of my Ukrainian classes. It fostered my language skills, gave me a sense of community, and recognized my identity as part Ukrainian-Canadian.

No one would question learning French in schools. One would be baffled by protesting English classes. I think the same mentality should be applied to this program, as Canada is truly a melting pot of nations. English and French are necessary, but that is not all that defines us. We are a wide range of communities that must be represented.

Further still, research¹ has shown that learning a new language further develops the brain. This is especially significant for early stages in life, as children's brains develop rapidly. So, speaking and learning English, French, *and* a third language nearly daily would inadvertently improve a pupil's performance in school.

I believe this discussion isn't simply about the future of the program, it's also about the potential effects losing the program would have on the students' academic achievement. We must consider what tools each student should be equipped with to help them succeed in school and beyond, in their future as a Canadian.

Sincerely,

Katharina Davoudian

Josyf Cardinal Slipyj graduate, class of 2012

Dahl, R. E. (2006, January 12). *Adolescent Brain Development: A Period of Vulnerabilities and Opportunities*. Keynote Address [PDF].

Retrieved from <https://nyaspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1196/annals.1308.001>

Genesee, F. (2000, January 12). *Brain Research: Implications for Second Language Learning*. [PDF]. Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED447727.pdf>

Mackey, A. (2014, September 4). What happens in the brain when you learn a language? Retrieved from The Guardian website: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/sep/04/what-happens-to-the-brain-language-learning>

From: "nicopag68@gmail.com" <nicopag68@gmail.com>

Date: July 11, 2018 at 1:16:08 PM EDT

To: "joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org" <frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org" <mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org" <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save the International Language Program at the TCDSB

Reply-To: "nicopag68@gmail.com" <nicopag68@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

First of all I have to say that I'm not able to write yet but I can speak a little bit of English and Italian. When I grow up I will be speaking two languages because I have the best Italian teacher in the world. He's funny, he plays the guitar and is also a great artist.

His students really like him too.

Today I'm asking you:

For my future, as student at the TCDSB, and for the future of kids like me to

Save the International Language Program at the TCDSB

My name is Alessia and I'm 2 years old and that teacher is also my Dad.

P.s. I will not be able to come to the meeting tomorrow because 7 pm is my bed time.

Best Regards,

Alessia Paglia

From: "On. Francesca La Marca"

Date: July 11, 2018 at 11:53:22 AM EDT

Subject: LA MARCA (PD): NON SI CANCELLINO QUARANT'ANNI DI INSEGNAMENTO DELL'ITALIANO NELLE SCUOLE DI TORONTO E DELL'ONTARIO

COMUNICATO - 11 LUGLIO 2018

LA MARCA (PD): NON SI CANCELLINO QUARANT'ANNI DI INSEGNAMENTO DELL'ITALIANO NELLE SCUOLE DI TORONTO E DELL'ONTARIO

“L’insegnamento dell’italiano durante l’orario scolastico nell’area di Toronto, alla luce dell’Extended Day International Languages (IL) Program, rischia di essere cancellato dopo oltre quarant’anni di soddisfacente svolgimento.

Il Toronto Catholic District School Board, che si riunisce giovedì 12 luglio, nella capitale dell’Ontario, deciderà delle sorti di un’esperienza di formazione interculturale di così lungo respiro. Purtroppo, il TCDSB arriva a questa scadenza senza avere coinvolto le famiglie degli studenti e interloquito con i rappresentanti né della comunità italiana né delle altre comunità interessate. Vengono intaccati in profondità i diritti delle minoranze a conservare gli aspetti salienti delle loro identità culturali multiple e smontato un tassello della mirabile costruzione multiculturale e plurilinguistica che ha connotato e distinto il Canada agli occhi del mondo come un Paese aperto e moderno.

Per quanto riguarda l’Italiano, ricordo che i nostri immigrati hanno compiuto uno sforzo costante e sostenuto molti sacrifici per offrire un’opportunità formativa in italiano non solo ai loro discendenti, ma anche a chiunque voglia arricchire il proprio bagaglio culturale e linguistico.

I lavori parlamentari in Aula non mi consentiranno di assistere personalmente ai lavori del Toronto Catholic District School Board, ma invito i connazionali a fare sentire la loro voce in ogni modo possibile.

Nello stesso tempo, cercherò di coinvolgere le autorità italiane in questa vicenda che crea tanto sconcerto nella comunità italiana; esorto, inoltre, le autorità canadesi a interloquire attivamente con l’istituzione scolastica perché non sia compiuto un atto dannoso e ingiusto verso comunità che hanno dato un apporto decisivo allo sviluppo di Toronto, dell’Ontario e di tutto il Canada”.

From: chiara digirolamo

Date: July 11, 2018 at 10:27:52 PM EDT

To: "Joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <Joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,
"ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>,
"sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>,
"patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org" <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>,
"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"
<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"
<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,
"Barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <Barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,
"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,
"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>,
"rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org" <rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>,
"dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "Adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org"
<Adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Don't put IL instructors out of work, save the IL program.

Tomorrow support and save the International Language program to keep it during the day regular school hours. It's essential. Don't put 100 International language instructors out of work, they have families. This program benefits children in so many ways.

Chiara Digirolamo

From: Adam Hanycz

Date: July 11, 2018 at 9:12:05 PM EDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Subject: Intentional languages program

I am reaching out because I am concerned about the matter of the international languages program potentially being removed from the TCDSB during the school day.

I feel it would be unfortunate for the children to miss out on the opportunity to learn another language.

I believe these classes are more effective during, and should be scheduled on school days and not deviated outside of regular school hours.

Respectfully,

Adam Hanycz

From: Gregory Kourtoff

Date: July 11, 2018 at 10:56:18 PM EDT

To: rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org

Cc: <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>, <patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, <frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, <mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>, <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Our children are our future, please save the ILP

Rory,

I am contacting you and TCDSB Trustees (CC'd) to convey my disapproval regarding the recent plans to cut the International Languages Program. Far too often I am reminded that students seem to suffer most when issues of contracts and unions are disputed amongst different members of this school board.

While I was dismayed to learn about the Board's decision to shorten the school day, I glad to hear that they were able to save the International Language program. But the recent news to the contrary is unacceptable.

Our students are falling behind globally as compared to other developed nations, and shortening the school day will only make that worse. Research has shown that learning another languages improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits students overall in their academic performance. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

Our children are our future and we need to strive to give them every advantage to compete in the ever globalizing world.

Best Regards,

Greg Kourtoff

From: Maria Carosi

Date: July 11, 2018 at 11:17:18 PM EDT

To: "rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org" <rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>

Cc: "dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>,

"adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org" <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>,

"joseph.martino@tcdsb.org" <joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>,

"maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org"

<ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org"

<sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org"

<patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "frank.damico@tcdsb.org"

<frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org"

<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org"

<garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>,

"barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org" <barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>,

"angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org" <angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>,

"nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org" <nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Can't Work Past 3PM

Rory and TCDSB Trustees,

It is absolutely ridiculous that you are thinking of removing the International Language Program from the regular day curriculum so that the other teachers can go home at 3:00PM instead of 3:30PM. If you mention this fact to the vast majority of adults working 9-5 they would agree on the absurdity.

As a lifelong supporter of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, I wish to express my concerns with the way in which the decision to possibly cancel the International Languages Program is being handled. I am often reminded that students are occasionally not the first priority and they seem to suffer most when issues of contracts and unions are disputed.

Deals being made between the TCDSB and the teachers union remain very unclear to members of the public. The short notice prior to meetings or decisions made by the board seem deliberate and sneaky. It is not transparent or accountable and does nothing to foster public trust. It is unfair to the many students, parents, teachers, and international language instructors who can see the benefits of this program and wish for it to continue.

It is very interesting that you decided to schedule this meeting concerning this program in the middle of the summer. At a time when many families go on vacation and perhaps are not checking their e-mail as frequently. It will be very difficult to put my trust and my vote in a trustee who would allow the cancellation of a program that has proven benefits to young minds in development. I am living proof of the benefits this program offers to students, as it helped me land a job with an large international company. To consider operating this program after school and or weekends debases the value of the program and speaks volumes to the systemic bigotry that persists in this age of diversity. As a resident, former International Language Program student and strong advocate of fairness and justice I trust you will work hard to find a more fair and equitable solution for September.

Regards,

Maria

From: Emily Cameron

Date: July 11, 2018 at 10:49:40 PM EDT

To: Undisclosed recipients::

Subject: International languages

Hi,

I would like to make my support for the international languages department known to all the TCDSB Trustees. I have been informed that the program is potentially in danger of being closed, and wanted to write on why I feel this would be such a grave mistake. As someone who speaks multiple languages and has benefited from the program myself, I truly am dismayed that this is even up for discussion.

The international languages department is something so many children and families benefit from. Language and communication is so important in this world and to deprive kids of the opportunity to be bilingual or multilingual is unfair to our community. This program does so much more than just teach other languages though. It teaches kids how to communicate, how to problem solve, and how to relate to others. Furthermore, it teaches children the importance of diversity and acceptance of cultures. A program like this sets our community apart and helps unite so many.

I have heard that some have suggested an after school or weekend program. This is unrealistic and naive in my opinion. Kids won't learn as much and won't be incentivized to learn in this atmosphere.

Overall, I hope we make the right decision for not only our students but for our community.

Thank you for your time.
Emily Cameron

Attn: Patrizia Bottoni, Toronto Catholic School Trustee – Ward 4

I am a Parent Volunteer and former Vice-Chair at St. Wilfrid School. I am writing this in regards to the TCDSB's recent decision to shorten the school day by 30 minutes beginning in September 2018, while maintaining 120 minutes per week of International Language instruction.

My first question is: Why were parents not consulted regarding the possible changes? We should be asked for our input when the board is planning to make any major decisions regarding our children's education! A survey conducted 3 years ago does not reflect the current situation in our schools, especially now with the announcement of the shortened school day.

My second question is: Why are we reducing English instruction time by 120 minutes per week while maintaining an International Language that represents the culture of such a small percentage of our schools' population. I understand the need to shorten the school day, however, our city has a large population of immigrant families, from many different countries, who need to focus on learning English and French! Why are we so concerned in keeping instruction of a third language when they are struggling in reading and writing the two most important ones? If the Board is so concerned with having students learn a third language to "thrive in today's interdependent global society", why are they not being taught Mandarin or Spanish – 2 of the most spoken languages in the world? The students at St. Wilfrid are learning Italian, however, they will most likely only find it useful if they ever travel to Italy! Is that the best use of that 120 minutes per week? To learn a language they will most likely never use? In addition, our EQAO scores show that our students need more help in English and Math. How will reducing English instructional time assist with that? The schools that offer IL will suffer with even lower scores going forward.

I attended St. Wilfrid School in the 1980's. In grade 7, several of my grade 7 classmates and I asked our parents to write a letter to the school to allow us to opt out of our International Language because we felt we could better use our time focussing on our other school work. For that period, we would gather in another classroom and use that time to work on our homework. If we continue with a shortened schedule, I will choose to exclude my son from IL class in the coming school year so he can work on his homework instead. I understand that the Board offers a variety of International Languages classes on Saturday. Those parents that wish for their children to learn a third language have the option of doing so by taking Saturday classes, without it affecting the rest of the children that need more

time for other core subjects. We cannot shorten the students' day and expect better results from them. We should be making decisions that provide students with the best chance for success. I feel that the decision to shorten the school day while maintaining 120 minutes of IL instruction does not provide them with that. It is only going to create more of a struggle for them in all other areas of study.

I am very disappointed in the decision the Board has made and also the manner in which it did so. We, as parents, act as the union representing our children. Our voice should have been represented at these negotiations. However, it was not, and as a result the adults will win and our children will lose.

I would like to recommend that the Board remove International Language Instruction, or, at the very least, conduct a new survey with parents regarding IL instruction at our schools and the impact of the shortened school day on English Instruction time, with concerned parents also having input in the creation of the survey. We should be allowed input in any major decisions that will affect our children's education. I trust that the TCDSB will put the education of our children first.

Yours truly,

Sandra Zeppieri
Parent Volunteer, St. Wilfrid School

From: Zina Domachtchouk

Date: July 12, 2018 at 9:42:44 AM EDT

To: Myroslav Shalapskyy joseph.martino@tcdsb.org
<joseph.martino@tcdsb.org>; ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org
<ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>; sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org
<sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>; patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org
<patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>; maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>;
frank.damico@tcdsb.org <frank.damico@tcdsb.org>; mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org
<mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>; garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>;
jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org <jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org>; barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org
<barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>; angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org
<angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>; nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org
<nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>; rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org
<rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>; dan.koenig@tcdsb.org <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>;
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org> Sent: Wednesday,
July 11, 2018 01:35:26 PM Subject: International Language Program
Subject: International Language Program

Dear Members of the Board

My name is Zinaida Domachtchouk and I am writing this email on behalf of my grand-

son who attends St. Josaphat Catholic School,

I am in full support of the international language program that is being offered at our school and Enjoy when my grandchild comes home and speaks and sings in another language. It has been proven time and time again that the benefits of learning other languages improves student achievement.

Why wouldn't you do everything in your power to continue the program and expand it across the board?

This is a valuable program that must continue being taught during the school day. I do not support the program on weekends or after school. It dishonours the languages of learning.

Best Regards,

Zinaida Domachtchouk

From: Dhruv Lohchab

Date: July 12, 2018 at 10:02:07 AM EDT

To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Languages Program

Good Morning,

I'm writing to you to discuss the international languages program and why it is vital that we keep the program running. I recently found out that the program is in jeopardy and that is a massive mistake, in my opinion. The international languages program is extremely crucial and sets the TCDSB apart, and prepares students for life in this ever-globalized economy.

Throughout the world, students are being taught multiple languages due to the importance of being able to talk and communicate effectively with external parties. Furthermore, knowing multiple languages gives individuals a competitive advantage when looking for a job. As the world grows into a more globalized economy, the knowledge of multiple languages will be essential for businesses, and students must be prepared for when they go into the workforce.

In conclusion, I believe that the program is vital for the students, and any way possible to keep it would be seen as extremely valuable for everyone involved. I hope this program will not be left behind.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Dhruv Lohchab

From: Julie Giraldi

Date: July 12, 2018 at 10:29:35 AM EDT

To: Maria Rizzo <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Heritage language program urgent

Maria, I am so disappointed to learn that the heritage program will be eliminated. I can't believe the board is having this discussion when all the literature and research tells us how important languages are especially in the most formative years for children. Country fight to add more languages and we are decreasing. Wow that's a great way to lose our competitive edge for our kids and our country.

These programs are already integrated into our school system and to toss them out is just ridiculous. What is even more ridiculous is that the Board did not fully disclose this upcoming change to the community. And who has a meeting to discuss this very important issue in July?

I would like to express to you my disappointment. Both of my children had studied Italian. Both have and are studying Italian at the University of Toronto and love it. It has opened their eyes to cultural differences, it has also made them become better and more accepting of other cultures and view points. Diversity of thoughts!

I'm sorry that I can't make to tonight's meeting but I wanted to voice my concern as a mom, a business leader and a community member.

It seems that you are the only voice of reason. Please do what you can to stop this craziness. And help them understand this will affect our future workforce and our children! Let's keep the kids in the centre of our decision making.

Julie

From: Sujanthan Sriskandarajah

Date: July 12, 2018 at 10:32:05 AM EDT

To: joseph.martino@tcdsb.org, ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org,
sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org, patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org, mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org, garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org, angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org,
nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org

Cc: rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, rhea.carlisle@tcdsb.org, joel.ndongmi@tcdsb.org

Subject: Keep international languages alive in TCDSB elementary schools!

Dear Toronto Catholic District School Board,

I am shocked to learn about TCDSB's plans to eliminate the International Languages Integrated Day Program in its elementary schools.

International languages instruction at TCDSB, currently provided to kindergarten to Grade 8 students as part of their regular school day, is rooted in the best teaching theories about language acquisition. It's hard to overstate its benefits: it enriches learning across the curriculum and offers students, families and communities a model for inclusion and opportunity. It supports children's cognitive development and helps to prepare students to take their place in a globalized world.

Eliminating the integrated-day program will do incalculable harm to TCDSB's students, families and communities. I call on TCDSB trustees to honour their commitment to international language learning by exploring every option for maintaining the integrated-day program in its current form.

Sincerely,

Sujanthan Sriskandarajah

Comments Regarding International Languages from Petition

Vicky Goodridge	Chinni Family	Agostino Nigro	Marirosa Nigro
Languages are important for our students in this multicultural city. Learning is always valuable, but developing a language helps to accelerate the learning process. International Languages offers invaluable experiences for our children. I was fortunate enough to have it in my childhood.	Save the International Language Program and teach it during the day otherwise it de values the language and the culture.	Heritage is firmly the foundation of who we are and learning a third language not only contributes to that foundation but intrinsically enriches culture and growth through education that would otherwise not be possible without the International Heritage Language program.	We live in a global world, that is very competitive and the knowledge of a third language gives our students an extra chance for success.
Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

Larissa Fraser	michelle rodrigues	Sima Caro	Maria Poggio
Keep the International Language Program! Studies have proven the endless Benefits from learning a second and even a third language.	Keep the International language on going for the kids future ?	We live in a multicultural city! This should be part of the regular day curriculum.	It is important to learn different languages
	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

Anna Ponzani	Luciano Lombardi	HALYNA MARUNYAK	M Melnyk
The benefits of learning languages is well documented and part of a well rounded education. One only needs to look at Europe to see how we fall miserably in fostering second or third language development in our students. The fact that this is even a debatable topic is concerning. If funding is an issue, then we should look at effective cost savings elsewhere. If we can continue to send educators on expensive conferences abroad in a era of limited resources and support costly benefit packages , then we surely can offer students skills that they will require moving forward in a global economy.	italian language and culture are an important part of what our community in Toronto and Canada is. And what the Italian community did for Canada so far	We need this this program to keep our roots, tradition because many of us came to Canada as immigrants and appreciate this country to support us	Language matters. European children routinely learn multiple languages to fluency and are great global citizens because of it. Let's not take this step backwards.
Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

To TCDSB Trustees and Staff:

This kind of thinking - that cultural intelligence is somehow secondary to what is practiced in "core" subjects - is ignorant, lazy, and reveals, among other things, a deep insecurity on the part of our school board. A deep insecurity that what we do for our children here in Canada might be inferior to a "hard knocks" approach to education like we might find in the U.S.

Whoever supports the abolishment of a program like this, in Canada, is sadly confused about their own national, provincial and even local identity. It is not just a question of losing a core aspect of our education and all the benefits of second language practice (which, to name only a few, include creativity, flexibility of thought, deeper linguistic understanding and invaluable cultural perspective). It is a socially-deaf maneuver that ignores the communal role of our education system.

It is not by accident that, in Markham, you will find Mandarin in our schools. Or that in North York you will find Spanish and in Brampton Punjabi. In Little Italy students can practice Italian and in Little Portugal Portugese. The International Language Program grounds students in a reality of culture that exists not only in Canada but the world. In addition to workplace wisdom and breadth of understanding, the program reflects the people - the students, parents and even the teachers - that compose society.

I would direct the TCDSB to the following passage from their website:

"Schools that succeed in bringing issues related to cultural and linguistic diversity from the periphery to the center of their mission are much more likely to prepare pupils to thrive in the interdependent global society within which they will live. These schools will communicate to pupils and communities that their access to more than one culture and language is a resource that enriches the entire school."

I. Cross

Wednesday July 11, 2018

Dear Board of trustees:

I am a concerned Catholic Peruvian-Canadian, who came to this country at a very young age; former TCDSB student, now father of two young children 1 and 3; I want them to attend a Catholic School in Toronto, with the hopes that they can learn Spanish at school.

A letter that was sent to parents at the end of school year, from Rory McGuckin, regarding the future of the International language program, has raised many troublesome questions regarding the heritage, cultural values and safeguarding what is dear to me, personally.

My parents brought my brothers and me to Toronto in the year 2000. I am the eldest of four brothers. I was 16, and my brothers were 12, 6 and 1. We spoke Spanish in Peru, and we spoke Spanish at home. It was very important for my parents to keep a safe cultural background. To know where you come from and to know who you are, are ideals that my parents inculcated on us from a very young age.

One of the most important tool my parents had to offer was their language. My brothers and I were fortunate be enrolled in the international languages program offered by the Catholic district school board at the time.

The formal instruction at an institution complemented the spoken Spanish we used at home, and gave us the tools to properly speak, write and read our native language. It gave us a sense of security and belonging. I know that I am from Peru, and this is my native language. Now I am here in Canada, and I have to learn a new language, English.

Many times, immigrant children lose their identities, they stop speaking their native languages, and confused children raise questions and need guidance. Many times, immigrant children do not succeed under these circumstances. Parents trying to make ends meet, working long hours, new place to live, etc.

The instruction of International Languages helps children grasp a sense of identity in these difficult years transitional of their lives; and prevent them from using other distractions such as gangs and drugs.

My working hours do not allow me to attend. I am asking a Community Representative from the Board to please show this letter to the Board of trustees and to Rory McGuckin, Director of Education; tomorrow July 12th at the Special Board Meeting at the Catholic Education Centre, at 80 Sheppard Ave East; and ask him and the Board, to please reconsider their decision on trying to eliminate the International Languages day program.

Our diversity is our strength.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Ceccarelli', with a stylized, flowing script.

Carlo Ceccarelli P.Eng
Dante Alighieri Alumnus – 2003
905-932-1316

To TCDSB Trustees and Staff:

This kind of thinking - that cultural intelligence is somehow secondary to what is practiced in "core" subjects - is ignorant, lazy, and reveals, among other things, a deep insecurity on the part of our school board. A deep insecurity that what we do for our children here in Canada might be inferior to a "hard knocks" approach to education like we might find in the U.S.

Whoever supports the abolishment of a program like this, in Canada, is sadly confused about their own national, provincial and even local identity. It is not just a question of losing a core aspect of our education and all the benefits of second language practice (which, to name only a few, include creativity, flexibility of thought, deeper linguistic understanding and invaluable cultural perspective). It is a socially-deaf maneuver that ignores the communal role of our education system.

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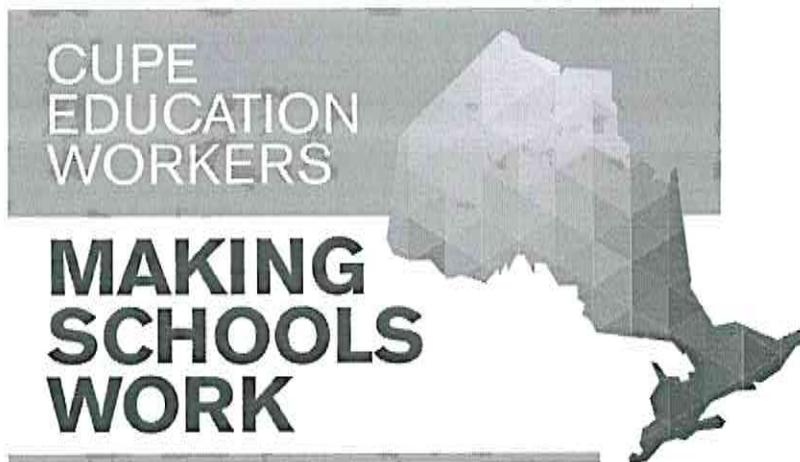
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I. Cross

Comments Regarding International Languages from Petition

Connie Cambria	Nadia Bellini	Raffaella Talacci	Nataliya Hrytsevyh
Since when does a union dictate to parents (the taxpayers) what their children should and should not learn in a free multicultural country such as Canada!!! Absolutely disgusting!	After all these years of International language being implemented at the TCDSB, it's saddening seeing the enrichment knowledge of learning a third language being taken away from students.	Spero fortemente che la nostra lingua venga ancora insegnata nelle scuole canadesi poiché la nostra cultura è importante in tutto il mondo in quanto cilla di tutte le civiltà!	The international language program reflects the TCDSB diversity, equity and inclusion
Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto
sonya lazzer	heather Corriveau	Catherine Rocha	Jessica De Sousa
The heritage language programs continue to teach and remind students of their history and the roots that helped build this country. It would be shameful if the board eliminated this program during the school day.	Language is important for children to make the connection to family and their heritage! It is a source of pride. By eliminating it from the school day sends the message that it is not important nor are children who come from diverse ethnic groups.	I loved learning another language in elementary other than French!	I learned Portuguese at school. I think it is valuable for all students to learn another language during the school day. Otherwise it gives the impression that language is not better than basket weaving - no offense!
North York	Toronto	Waterloo	Toronto



July 9, 2018

Liz Stuart
President
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association
65 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M4T 2Y8
L.Stuart@catholicteachers.ca

Rory McGuckin
Director of Education
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8
Rory.McGucken@tcdsb.org

Dear Ms. Stuart and Mr. McGuckin,

**RE: Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association vs.
Toronto Catholic District School Board
Grievance Number: 15779-TE-JSP**

We are writing today regarding Arbitrator Goodfellow's decision dated July 6, 2018 involving Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and Toronto Catholic District School Board.

This decision has serious implications for the members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3155 members. The implications of this award will inevitably be a breach of Letter of Understanding #3 (job security) in the Central Agreement between CUPE, the Council of Trustees Association and the Crown.

The parties' decision to proceed to arbitration without giving notice to CUPE results in a denial of procedural fairness and natural justice. CUPE should have been given notice so that it could have intervened in the proceedings and given evidence of the deleterious effects that this case will have on its members.

We ask the Toronto Catholic District School Board and Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association to advise the Arbitrator that CUPE is adversely impacted by his decision, that we were not given notice of the hearing and that the case must be reopened so that CUPE may be heard and our members represented.

If you are unable to agree to the foregoing CUPE will explore alternative options including a judicial review of arbitrator Goodfellow's July 6, 2018 decision.

Sincerely,



Darcie McEathron
Ontario School Board Coordinator
Canadian Union of Public Employees



Terri Preston
President
Ontario School Board Council of Unions

cc: Mona Staples, Joe Matasic, Kathy Johnson, Vicki Evans, Michel Revelin, Fred Hahn, Wynne Hartviksen, Sabrina Debeau, Domenico Paglia, Joseph Martino, Ann Andrachuk, Sal Piccininni, Patrizia Bottoni, Maria Rizzo, Frank D'Amico, Mike Del Grande, Garry Tanuan, Jo-Ann Davis, Barbara Poplawski, Angela Kennedy, Nancy Crawford, Caitlyn Kavanagh

DM/lpd cope491

7th July, 2018

Subject: Parents Supporting IL program in TCDSB

To whom it may concern,

My name is Fernanda Suri Maldonado and I am writing this email on behalf of my daughter Ashley Santana who attends St Francis De Sales Catholic School currently in Grade 3. I am in full support of the international language program that is being offered at our school and I enjoy when my daughter comes home and speaks and sings in my language. I always like to know everything about the improvement of my daughter in school that it's more satisfying to me to talk with the teachers to know how she is improving. It has been proven time and time again that the benefits of learning other languages improves student achievement. My daughter feels very proud of knowing two languages and at the same time it encourages her to learn more every day. My daughter knows how successful it will be in her future to be able to contribute in our country Canada. Why wouldn't you do everything in your power to continue the program and expand it across the board? This is a valuable program that must continue being taught during the school day. I do not support the program only on weekends or after school. It dishonours the learning of languages.

Regards,


Fernanda Suri



TERRY O'SULLIVAN
General President

ARMAND E. SABITONI
General Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents:

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RAYMOND M. POCINO

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SERGIO RASCON

ROBERT F. ABBOTT

SAMUEL STATEN, JR.

PAUL V. HOGROGIAN

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LiUNA!

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44 Hughson Street, South • Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 2A7
Phone: (905) 522-7177 • Fax: (905) 522-9310 • www.liuna.ca

July 10, 2018

To the Trustees of the
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario M2N 6E8

Dear Trustees:

Re: International Languages Program

By way of introduction, I am the International Vice President and Regional Manager of the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA), representing over 120,000 working men and women across Canada.

I write to you today with regards to a significant matter that affects many of LiUNA's members and their families in the GTA, namely the possible removal of the International Languages Program from the Toronto Catholic District School Board's (TCDSB) school day.

In today's increasingly global environment, our children and grandchildren will be best served if they are equipped with being fluent in multiple languages. In addition, there is a strong need to be able to communicate in Canada's multicultural society. Given our cultural fabric, since my time as a Separate School Board Trustee in Hamilton, I have advocated for the benefits of language curriculum for our children.

In addition, research shows that learning other languages improves test scores and other areas of learning for students and therefore benefits their overall academic performance. The International Language Program is an integral part of the TCDSB's daytime academic curriculum and it is important that it remains there. In my opinion, moving it to an optional week-end or after-school setting would not result in the same degree of learning, nor would it capture a large student base compromising the integrity of the program and the benefits to the students.

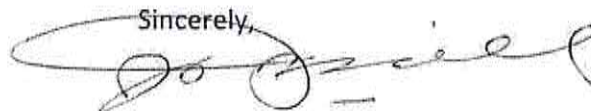
.../2

Feel the Power

To the Trustees of the
Toronto Catholic District School Board
July 10, 2018
...2

On behalf of the affected parties, it is our hope that the Trustees reconsider this important matter and move to keep the program in the Monday-Friday day-time curriculum.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Joseph S. Mancinelli
International Vice President
and Central & Eastern Canada
Regional Manager

cc: Jack Oliveira, Business Manager, LiUNA Local 183



Camera dei Deputati

Roma, 7/11/18

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to you after receiving hundreds of emails and phone calls from Italians in Toronto regarding an issue between Unions and your school board. I believe that there will be a meeting amongst the Trustees regarding the future of teaching international languages during the regular school hours as an integrated day as opposed to previous extended day.

I am aware that international language has 42 years of history in your respected school board, which was started by Mr. Di Giovanni and promoted by Centro Scuola with Mr. Servello. It was also founded in part by the government of Italy.

This program is a wonderful initiative by the Catholic board, while also being an investment from educators as a strategy for the future. Thousands of children have been taught not only Italian, but Portuguese, Spanish, Filipino and even Vietnamese.

I have heard rumors regarding my fellow citizens regarding the qualifications or certification of the teachers that are running this program and the curriculum in it. These teachers being slandered are all in good standing with the Italian Ministry of Education and are graduates of Italian universities.

As a member of the Italian Parliament for the North American Circumscription, it is my duty to speak on behalf of them.

I am shocked as I read and listen to what has been going on in Toronto these last few weeks. It is important that we remember the year of 1947. This memorable year was the when first Italian landed in Canada, Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot). It is very evident of his contribution to the development of Canada and specifically, Toronto.

Toronto is home to the fourth largest Italian population outside of Italy. As of the 2016 census, there were nearly 485,00 Italian Canadians in the greater Toronto area.

To learn a foreign language is a life changing experience for each person and is a gift that I believe all people should take advantage of. It truly makes one much more well-rounded as a human being. There are many benefits it provides but there are few particularly that do so much for people. Travelling the world is something that everyone should do and learning a foreign language not only helps one speak the native language in one's destination, but it gives you confidence to at least attempt to speak it which can go a long way when travelling.

Contact with natives helps you understand and immerse yourself in new cultures, even if it is at a very basic level this can be eye-opening for a person. In addition to these benefits scientists also have spent a notable amount of research in this regard. According to a study published in the Journal of Neuroscience, people who know at least two languages have a much more sensible way of thinking.

To that end, schools should create opportunities for children to not only learn languages, but to hear foreign languages in everyday, native contexts. Listening skills are extremely important to learn languages and in education in general. Roberta Michnick Golinkoff PH.D of How Babies Talk, stated that "Learning another language actually enhances a child's overall verbal development".

I am respectfully asking to not cancel such a wonderful program. Please let me know what we can do together to make this program better and more efficient for the kids and the future generations. In such a multicultural and multilingual city like Toronto, it would be a shame to lose this opportunity for the kids. It also would avoid the loss of jobs of the instructors who rely on this work and love the field they are in. This has been a great tradition and it would be cruel to stop this to accommodate Unions or what some would call equality.

Fucsia Nissoli Fitzgerald

Hon. Fucsia Nissoli Fitzgerald

MP at the Italian Parliament

Representing Italians living in North and Central America

Regards,

Consulate General of Ukraine

2275 Lakeshore Boulevard
West, Suite 301
Toronto, Ontario
M8V 3Y3
Canada



Генеральне
консульство
України

Consulat Général de l'Ukraine

Tel. (416) 763-3114
Fax (416) 763-2051
gc_cat@mfa.gov.ua

Ms Barabara Poplawski, Chair

Dear Chair Poplawski,
Dear Board Members,

Being Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto for two years, I am acquainted with the generous and humane system of International languages program, which, thanks to the decisions of Toronto Catholic District School Board allows to literally tens of thousands of Toronto girls and boys to get acquainted with different foreign cultures, history, art and civilization, in large.

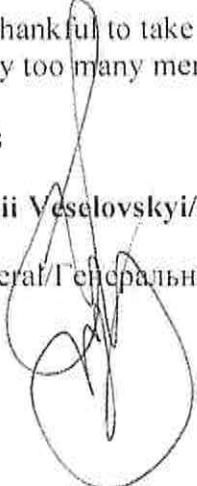
Canadians of Ukrainian dissent, true pioneers of this land, are proud of their history and their input into the rise and success of today's Canada. It would be contrary to the principle of inclusion and rather unjust against them, as well as against all other founding and thriving communities as German, Portuguese, Italian and many others to question the existing Extended Day International languages program. More, it could negatively affect the extremely touchy area of social cohesion, which the Canadian society is genuinely proud of.

I would be thankful to take into consideration these thoughts, which, I guess, are shared by too many members of the Consular Corps in Ontario, as well.

Best regards

Amb. Andrii Veselovskyi/Андрій Веселовський

Consul General/Генеральний консул



TORONTO DISTRICT

Maria Rizzo
Trustee Ward 5
Sent via email maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Dear Ms. Rizzo

I am writing on behalf of the National Congress of Italian Canadians –Toronto District (NCIC) to express our concern about the proposed cancellation of the teaching of International Languages extended day program.

The Toronto Catholic District School Board has always been a leader in supporting this program which has provided curriculum that supports the importance of students being able to speak multiple languages.

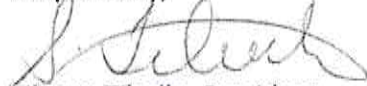
Language plays an important part in the preservation of culture and heritage. As Canadians we all believe in the values of multiculturalism and in fact have them entrenched in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As such it is important that our educational institutions assist in the preservation of language.

In a competitive world, we also know that the more skills an individual develops the more prepared the individual becomes. Success does not happen by chance but through leadership and vision.

The TCDSB has had that vision and thousands of students have benefitted from the program.

The NCIC-TD supports the continued teaching of the program and respectfully requests that the Board reconsider its position and continue to support the program.

Respectfully,



Silvana Tibollo, President

National Congress of Italian Canadians Toronto District

340 Falstaff Avenue, Suite 202, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6L 3E8
Tel/Fax: 416-531-9964 * Email: info@ncictoronto.ca
www.ncictoronto.ca

Wednesday July 11, 2018

Dear Board of trustees:

I am a concerned Catholic Peruvian-Canadian, who came to this country at a very young age; former TCDSB student, now father of two young children 1 and 3; I want them to attend a Catholic School in Toronto, with the hopes that they can learn Spanish at school.

A letter that was sent to parents at the end of school year, from Rory McGuckin, regarding the future of the International language program, has raised many troublesome questions regarding the heritage, cultural values and safeguarding what is dear to me, personally.

My parents brought my brothers and me to Toronto in the year 2000. I am the eldest of four brothers. I was 16, and my brothers were 12, 6 and 1. We spoke Spanish in Peru, and we spoke Spanish at home. It was very important for my parents to keep a safe cultural background. To know where you come from and to know who you are, are ideals that my parents inculcated on us from a very young age.

One of the most important tool my parents had to offer was their language. My brothers and I were fortunate be enrolled in the international languages program offered by the Catholic district school board at the time.

The formal instruction at an institution complemented the spoken Spanish we used at home, and gave us the tools to properly speak, write and read our native language. It gave us a sense of security and belonging. I know that I am from Peru, and this is my native language. Now I am here in Canada, and I have to learn a new language, English.

Many times, immigrant children lose their identities, they stop speaking their native languages, and confused children raise questions and need guidance. Many times, immigrant children do not succeed under these circumstances. Parents trying to make ends meet, working long hours, new place to live, etc.

The instruction of International Languages helps children grasp a sense of identity in these difficult years transitional of their lives; and prevent them from using other distractions such as gangs and drugs.

My working hours do not allow me to attend. I am asking a Community Representative from the Board to please show this letter to the Board of trustees and to Rory McGuckin, Director of Education; tomorrow July 12th at the Special Board Meeting at the Catholic Education Centre, at 80 Sheppard Ave East; and ask him and the Board, to please reconsider their decision on trying to eliminate the International Languages day program.

Our diversity is our strength.

Regards,



Carlo Ceccarelli P.Eng
Dante Alighieri Alumnus – 2003
905-932-1316

PETITION SIGNED BY APPROXIMATELY 2750 PEOPLE

change.org

Recipient: Domenico Paglia, Rory McGuckin, Joseph Martino, Mayor's Office, City of Toronto, Ann Andrachuk, Sal Piccinini, Patrizia Bottoni, Maria Rizzo, Frank d'Amico, Michael del Grande, Gari Tanuan, Jo Ann ...

Letter: Greetings,

Hello,

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that has recently come to my attention. I have received information that the International Languages program may be removed from the TCDSB (Toronto Catholic District School Board) during the school day.

I believe this would be a mistake as many children will miss out. Research has shown that learning another language improves test scores and other areas of learning and therefore benefits students overall in their academic performance.

It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language.

It is my understanding that the program is being considered on weekends and or after school. This should be part of the curriculum school hours and not be devalued in this way.

I know of many parents that have shown that concerns well so please let us know what step we could take to save this program for generations to come.

From: Lynise Reedy
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 1:09 AM
To: Kennedy, Angela (Trustees' Services)
Subject: Re: Special Board meeting this TUESDAY on International Languages

Hello,

I am a teacher in the TCDSB, and the parent of two children, Everett and Lucy Janisse, who attend St. Brigid Catholic School. I am not able to attend the meeting on June 26 regarding the recent decision by the School Board to incorporate the Italian Heritage language instruction at St. Brigid into the standard school day instruction time.

I am concerned, as many parents are, about changes to the school day instruction time.

Although this was already expressed by the CSAC of St. Brigid, I too am very concerned about the loss of **2 hours per week** of instructional time to cover the Ministry mandated curriculum for my children. I am very unclear about how the loss of this instructional time will be compensated for throughout the year?

I hope and trust that the board will review this recent decision and put the educational needs of the students first as these school day changes are hopefully, reconsidered.

In addition, I would like to voice frustration with the change of the school day start time at St. Brigid. I know many parents are struggling with a planned 9am start time, as I am. My family would greatly appreciate the start time of the school day to return to 8:30am.

Thank you and I hope the meeting tomorrow evening goes well,

Thank you,

Lynise Reedy

From: St. Brigid's School Advisory Council
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 2:35 PM
To: Kennedy, Angela (Trustees' Services)
Subject: Re: update International language

Dear Angela,

My name is Cheryl Devine and I am a Co-chair of the St. Brigid CSPC. I left a phone message for you and am hoping I might be able to talk to you some time today, about the Board meeting tomorrow. We sent a delegation to the last meeting (June 14), presentation pasted at the bottom of this email. We are thinking of sending another but will likely be saying something similar, as we are not 100% sure exactly what part(s) of the policy will be discussed tomorrow. We were hoping we might be able to get some insight into this, or if anything came back from the legal department.

We also wanted to ask if you had any thoughts on how we might be able to poll our parents/take a vote on whether to request a formal review of the IL program at our school, given that the summer is about to start. We had a few ideas but aren't sure if they would be acceptable as proper procedure by the Board.

Thanks,

Cheryl Devine (on behalf of myself and Helen Dunn, our other Co-chair)

My name is Helen Dunn and I am the Co-chair of the St. Brigid CSPC. We are here today regarding the recent decision by the School Board to incorporate the Italian Heritage language instruction at St. Brigid into the standard school day instruction time. At our CSPC meeting this past Monday, as well as through email, we have heard concerns from many parents about these upcoming changes. Specifically, concerns largely surround the loss of 2 hours PER WEEK of instructional time to cover the Ministry mandated curriculum. This means that our kids will have to learn the same Ministry mandated curriculum in almost 80 fewer hours per year (8% less) than at other schools in the TCDSB. This was NOT clearly stated in the letter issued by the Board on May 31, and many parents missed this on their first read of the letter.

While an informal school-wide survey conducted by our CSPC last year suggested that the overall feeling about the Italian program is positive in a longer day scenario, over 90% of those who have commented recently have indicated that it is not worth sacrificing 2 hours of our childrens' core instructional time in order to incorporate Italian into a shortened day. Many of these parents feel that the loss of core hours could have long term detrimental effects on all of our students, from the children entering our newly formed French Immersion program to grade 8s preparing for high school.

The feeling at our recent CSPC meeting was that in all of the contract and money talks, the Board had set aside the educational needs of our children. The Board decision appears to be hasty and without consultation of families and other key stakeholders. We are submitting excerpts from several of the 27 emails we have received in just over a 24 hour period, including the two we received in support of maintaining Italian during the school day, in a document for your reference.

Due to the very late notice of these changes (May 31, 2018), we have not had adequate time to conduct a full school poll to get a clearer idea of the true balance of opinions on this subject. However, we HAVE voted to go forward to the next step towards a potential Board review of our Italian program, which is to hold a meeting specifically about the program. Should the outcome of that meeting be that our school would like a review, we would like assurance from the Board that this will be expedited. IN the meantime, we would also like to know how the Board will ensure that students at our school and others like ours will be provided with the same level of curriculum coverage in 2 hours LESS regular instructional time per week (up to 80 hours per year). Further, we would like the Board to consider and consult parents on possible interim solutions for the loss of 2 hours of regular instructional time per week in the 2018-2019 school year, should the review not be possible before the start of September.

From: ash barrios

Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 5:27 PM

To: Kennedy, Angela (Trustees' Services)

Subject: Supporting the Complete Education of our Kids

Hello Mrs. Kennedy,

As a mother of six, and the former member of the parent council at your school I gather you understand the importance of community involvement in our children's education. It is for this reason I am asking you to support the International Language Extended Day Program. This program came from the community coming together and asking for this to take place. It is a clear example of community and parent based collaborative pedagogy which I assume you are very familiar with as a Trustee.

As a mother and a grandmother I know that you would want the best education for your children. As a Trustee I understand that you also want the best education for the children in Toronto. Not only do multiple studies prove that learning languages in elementary schools are beneficial to the development of students, but they are also a way to connect to the outside world. When we were children it was easy to believe that the world was very small, but for the current generation of children this is not the case. With the current political climate, as well as the internet it is easy for children to receive misinformation about the world. Instead education is the only way to relay truth, or the skills to find the truth. It was in University that I was taught how to decipher through legitimate sources and studies on the internet versus non legitimate (when I was in elementary school the internet was not as popular as it is now). It is now very important to have children learn about the outside world in school, because if we do not then teach them legitimate things about the outside world they will grow up to learn to believe what they see hear on social media. Please help keep this program alive to teach children about various cultures around the world, to relay truthful information about what is happening outside of Canada. Let's teach our children to embrace other languages and cultures, and the art and history that comes with that instead of taking the opportunity for them to grow with this knowledge away from them. Save the International Language Extended Day program to give all the children the same opportunity to learn this instead of only a select few who inscribe in afterschool or after hours programs. Continue equal opportunity for our students.

Thank you,
Ash Barrios

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: AGOSTINO NIGRO

Sent: Saturday, July 7, 2018 10:57 AM

To: Kennedy, Angela (Trustees' Services)

Subject: International Languages Program

Date: July 7, 2018

Dear Ms. Angela Kennedy,

As a lifelong supporter of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, I wish to express my concerns with the way in which the decision to possibly cancel the International Languages Program is being handled. I am often reminded that students are occasionally not the first priority. Students seem to suffer most when issues of contracts and unions are disputed amongst different members of this school board. Deals being made between the TCDSB and The teachers union remain very unclear to members of the public. The short notice prior to meetings or decisions made by the board seem almost deliberate. This is a blatant disrespect to taxpayers - it is not open, transparent or accountable and does nothing to foster public trust. It is unfair to the many students, parents, teachers, and international language instructors who can see the benefits of this program and wish for it to continue. How many parents and community members do you suppose would be able to attend a meeting concerning this program in the middle of the summer? At a time when many families go on vacation and perhaps are not checking their e-mail as frequently as they would during the school year? It will be very difficult to put my trust and my vote in a trustee who would allow the cancellation of a program that has proven benefits to young minds in development. To consider operating this program after school and or weekends debases the value of the program and speaks volumes to the systemic bigotry that persists in this age of diversity. As a resident, parent and strong advocate of fairness and justice I trust you will work hard to find a more fair and equitable solution for September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Nigro', written over a horizontal line.

Agostino Nigro

From: Wayne Manuel
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 9:42 AM
Subject: International Languages Program

Hello,

I am writing to you today to discuss the international languages program and why I feel it is an important and integral part of our community. It has been brought to my attention that the program is under discussion for termination from the regular school day schedule. This I feel will be a grave mistake if carried out by the TCDSB and would have poor repercussions for not only the board but the community as well.

The international languages program not only brings kids, but also families together as it emphasizes the importance of culture that not many other programs do. Children globally learn multiple languages in their earlier years and enter high school with fluency in not only two languages but sometimes three or more. I believe that we should continue to set ourselves apart from other districts by emphasizing the importance of this program and its development for our youth.

I understand that the potential of having this program during weekends and afterschool is being considered. I respectfully disagree with this proposal as children are not only heavily involved with several extra curricular activities, but not many children will want to participate in school work again once leaving their regular school day resulting in poor attendance for the program. We need to be demonstrating the importance of this program to not only the people that understand the value of learning more than one language, but to people that do not as well. We can do this through keeping this program as an active part of the regular curriculum.

International languages are important, they develop problem solving and learning techniques and they teach the value of culture and diversity. This program plays a vital part in a child's development and with out a doubt should be a part of several school's curriculums.

I appreciate the time you have taken to read this email and I hope to hear that vital program is not left behind.

Kind regards,

Wayne Manuel