



REPORT TO

SPECIAL BOARD

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES PROGRAM SPECIAL BOARD MEETING REPORT

And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you." Matthew 17:20

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
June 29, 2018	July 12, 2018	Click here to enter a date.

D. Koenig, Associate Director of Academic Affairs
P. Matthews, General Legal Counsel

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

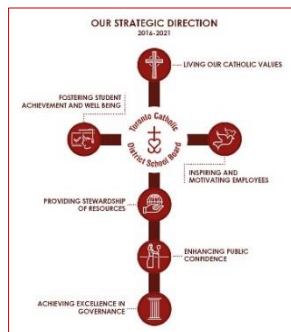
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

T. Robins
Acting Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

L. Noronha
Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of Ontario Regulation 298 and an Arbitrator-approved settlement, the Board is prohibited from offering the International Languages Program (the “ILP”) during the regular “instructional day” or in the “extended-day format”. The Board acknowledges the legitimate complaints received from many parents who reasonably objected to the Board offering the ILP during the regular “instructional day”. Recently, the Board has received communication from stakeholders in support of the International Languages-Extended Day program. The Board regrets that because of the legal constraints described in this report, the TCDSB can only offer the ILP after school and on Saturdays commencing September 1, 2018.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours

B. PURPOSE

This report was requested arising out of the Special Board on June 26, 2018. The purpose of this report is to recommend a new delivery model for the International Languages Program (“ILP”) to commence in September 2018.

C. BACKGROUND

1. As a result of an Arbitrator’s Award for a grievance between the Toronto Elementary Catholic Teachers (TECT) of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA), the Board may not continue to offer the ILP in the extended-day format.
2. Further, the Board has received a legal opinion from Hicks Morley that advises that the ILP may not lawfully be offered during the regular “instructional day”.
3. Regulation 3(1) of Ontario Regulation 298 (R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 298) provides that:

“The length of the instructional program of each school day for pupils of compulsory school age and pupils in full day junior kindergarten or kindergarten shall be not less than five hours a day excluding recesses or scheduled intervals between classes” (emphasis added).

4. The legal requirement to provide “not less than five hours” of instructional time is a requirement to provide pupils with at least five hours of teachers’ time. The ILP is staffed by International Language Instructors who are not members of the Ontario College of Teachers (“OCT”). As such, any instruction offered by the ILP Instructors cannot be counted toward the five hours per day instructional requirement, which as stated above, must be provided by members of the OCT.
5. As a result of Ontario Regulation 298, the Board is prohibited from offering the ILP during the regular “instructional day”.
6. The Board also acknowledges the legitimate complaints received from many parents who reasonably objected to the Board offering the ILP during the regular “instructional day”.
7. Recently, the Board has received communication from stakeholders in support of the International Languages-Extended Day program. (**Appendix A**)
8. The Board, based on the Arbitrator’s Award, as explained above, is also precluded from offering the ILP in the “extended day” format.
9. In the Ministry of Education document **ONTARIO SCHOOLS Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Program Requirements**, Section 2.5.3 provides direction on International Language Programs for Elementary School Students:

Boards may offer, as subjects, international languages-that is modern languages other than English or French- to students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 through continuing education.

International language classes may be held during the school day (but outside regular instructional time-for example at lunch) at a school site used by the board, or after school or on weekends at a school or at a location that is not a school site.
10. The only available time to offer the ILP outside of the regular “instructional day” and the “extended day” is to offer the program before or after school, and on Saturdays.
11. The Board acknowledges the important pedagogical value of offering students training in foreign languages and the significant contribution made to students by the Board’s International Languages Instructors.

12. The Board regrets that because of the legal constraints described in this report, the TCDSB can only offer the ILP program before or after school, and on Saturdays commencing in September 2018.

TRANSPORTATION

13. The Toronto Student Transportation Group has been advised of the changes to the program hours for the International Language-Extended Day schools and is in the process of updating school bus routes. With the majority of program hours moving to 8:30 am - 3:00 pm, there is a need to add additional vehicles into service in order to accommodate these students within operational parameters.
14. Given the tenuous driver situation, however, it was felt that the changeover to the new afternoon service at 3:00 pm will need to be transitioned throughout the school year in order to ensure all bus routes are adequately serviced. To start the 2018-2019 school year many International Language-Extended Day schools will continue to be serviced at 3:30 pm. This will mean no change of routine for parents from their current bus routes serviced this past year. As new drivers come on-line, notification will be sent out to the schools and parents advising them of the revised stop times.
15. This transition plan will apply to all students who utilize the large capacity school buses at these International Language-Extended Day schools.
16. Transportation services for students with special needs at these schools will be modified and will be ready at the new program times for September 2018, therefore bussing for students with special needs will not be impacted by the change in dismissal time.
17. All students on transportation will be receiving an automated phone call this August asking them to go to the new transportation portal to confirm their transportation information for September.

D. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. The Communications Plan is designed to inform parents/guardians and school communities of any required changes to the International Language (IL) Program delivery immediately after the decision arising from the July 12, 2018, Special Board Meeting.

2. If the report recommendations are approved, information outlining the new IL delivery for both after school and/or weekend program options will be shared publicly no later than Friday, July 13, 2018, with those affected in the school community using all communications modalities available. Coordination for communication of key after school registration details will also be distributed through the principals of the 44 IL program schools in the following manner:
 - a. Notification letter via customized school parent email lists (where available through school principal) and delivery to home address through Canada Post.
 - b. IL Program delivery and registration information posted to Board and school websites
 - c. Social media (Twitter and Instagram)
 - d. Director's Bulletin Board
 - e. E-News
 - f. Collaboration with the Archdiocese to publish information for inclusion in individual parish bulletins and parish web site links

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board discontinue offering the ILP in the extended-day format commencing September 1, 2018 as per the Arbitrator's Award.
2. That the Board not integrate the ILP during the regular school day of 300 minutes of instructional time.
3. That the Board offer options to register in the ILP before or after school, and on Saturdays commencing in September 2018.