

APPENDIX A

On Jul 3, 2018, at 9:29 AM, Massimiliano Galassi wrote:

Dear Ms. Bottoni,

I am reaching out to you today because I am concerned about a matter that recently came to my attention. I have received information that the international languages program will possibly be removed from the TCDSB curriculum. I cannot begin to tell what a mistake this would be. It would be very unfortunate for the children to miss out on such a wonderful and enriching experience to learn another language. I also have been informed that the program could continue but after school. This should be part of the curriculum during school hours. I have a number of parents that have showed their concern as well. Please let us know what steps we could take to save this program and continue to embrace the learning from these wonderful teachers.

Respectfully,

Massimiliano Galassi
Professional Photographer

On Jun 26, 2018, at 12:22 PM, Fabio Biancolin wrote:

Dear Trustee Bottoni,

I was dismayed to learn about the Board's decision to shorten the school day, but glad to hear that they were able to save Heritage language.

Although I'm hearing now that Heritage language may be on the chopping block again!

I would like to state for the record that I do not support the shortening of the school day, nor do I support the elimination of heritage languages. Our kids are falling behind globally as compared to other developed nations, and shortening the school day will only make that worse.

In addition, it's been proven that learning other languages and music actually makes kids smarter!! Why would we want to take this away?

Hoping you will lend your support to any initiatives that will help keep Heritage languages in our schools.

Thanks,
Fabio Biancolin, P. Eng.,

From: Mike Pallotta
Date: July 2, 2018 at 9:02:56 PM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: International Languages Program

Dear Trustee,

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.

With this wonderful program in jeopardy, I cannot help but be reminded of the students who always seem to suffer when issues of contracts and unions are disputed amongst different members of this school board.

Deals being made between the TCDSB and OECTA remain very unclear to members of the public, and the short notice before very important forums and meetings seem almost deliberate, at the very least 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.

Exactly how many parents and community members do you suppose would be able to attend (or even be interested in attending) a meeting concerning this program barely a week after the end of the school year? And 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?

In talking to other members of the TCDSB community, it is clear that some parents and teachers are also severely misinformed about the International Languages Program to the point where the program (and its proposed removal) is becoming a scapegoat to appease teachers and parents. For example, the idea that this program was lessening students' daily instructional time.

Moving forward, it will be very difficult to put my trust and my vote in a trustee who would allow the unfair cancellation of a program that has proven benefits to young minds in development.

I trust that you will work hard to find a more fair and equitable solution.

With regards, Mike Pallota

On Jun 29, 2018, at 10:39 AM, lisa may wrote:

Good morning Ms Maria, my name is Melissa and I hope all is well with you, I am writing this email on behalf of my Daughter who attends St Wilfrid's currently, I am in full support of the international program that is being offered there and I am overjoyed when my eleven year old comes home and speaks and sings in another language, as a single parent who struggles I would love my daughter to continue learning this language , not only can it benefit her to be bilingual but because it goes along way, she is part of the next generation and they too will need translation in many areas of everyday life, so children learning many languages will be a plus and I am not only asking but begging that this program be kept. Thanking you in advance for your time and understanding.

From: Paula Garofalo

Date: July 4, 2018 at 11:16:35 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.delgrande@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: TDSB - Internal Language Program

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 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.

Thank you,

Paula Garofalo

Toronto Community Member

From: Hannika Romano-Custodio
Date: July 4, 2018 at 2:41:19 PM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: International Language Program

Dear Board Trustee,

I am writing to you at this time to seek your assistance to vote against the removal of the International School Program. As a parent, I strongly believe that students currently benefit from learning a second language in their homes. This program promotes awareness, sharpens the mind, promotes diversity, and improve people's thinking skills and memory abilities. For these reasons, I implore you to keep the International School program.

Thank you in advance for your vote.

From: Rita Custodio

Date: July 4, 2018 at 2:39:27 PM EDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Subject: Vote for International Language program

Dear Board Trustee,

I write to you out of deep concern for the proposed action to cancel the International Language program by the Toronto Catholic District School Board on your meeting of July 12, 2018. As a parent, I strongly oppose this decision. My children benefit from learning a second language. As an immigrant of this great nation, this country promotes multiculturalism and to remove the International Language program is the opposite of that. I urge you to reconsider and to continue teaching the International Language program as what has been done for the past 40 years.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

From: Regine Silva

Sent: Wednesday, July 4, 2018 12:10 PM

To: Harris, Sophia (Corporate Services) <Sophia.Harris@tcdsb.org>

Cc: Martino, Joseph (Trustees' Services) <Joseph.Martino@tcdsb.org>; Andrachuk, Ann (Trustees' Services) <ann.andrachuk@tcdsb.org>; Piccininni, Sal (Trustees' Services) <sal.piccininni@tcdsb.org>; maria.rizmaria.rizzo@tcdsb.org; Bottoni, Patrizia (Trustees' Services) <Patrizia.Bottoni@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>; Koenig, Dan (Associate Director of Education, Academic Services) <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>; McGuckin, Rory (Director of Education) <rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org>; Della Mora, Adrian (Superintendent of Human Resources) <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Re: Fwd: Iternational Language program

Dear Trustees, Associate Director of Academic Services, Director of Education and Superintendent of Human Resources

In early June the Toronto Catholic District School Board sent a letter home advising of a decision to reduce their school hours by 30 minutes per day. In doing so they have reduced the international language program from 30 minutes per day to 20 minutes per day.

I appreciate this program and my children have learned so much from it; aspects of a different culture and initiation to a language that is dear to me. I thought that 20 minutes, although not enough to get a full lesson would be a good compromise. I work in a school setting and I am aware of the time children need to transition and focus on the next subject.

On the last day of school, I received a letter and was advised of a meeting on July 12 to further discuss cuts to the IL program and the possibility for the program to be removed by the board.

I am really frustrated by this last minute notice on the meeting as I will not be able to attend to express my thoughts and concerns. Who will listen to us parents? if we cannot communicate with our school boards effectively and with proper notice.

Our kids are getting less time at school, so they are more time in our care. But working parents, like our family, struggle to find before and after school care for their kids. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School does not offer either services. I am able to drop my children at 8:15 the earliest and rush to work but I need to find after school care for them which is now going to be more expensive since pick up time will change to 3 PM come September. Many parents will have a hard time to accommodate this change; as most work full-time hours and the need for before and after school care will imply to them too.

I wish the school and school board will build a strong community with good communication and respect between parties. I am sure that if we knew more about our schools, we would want to support them more on our end. We all want the best for our kids. Programs are being taken away from them...lost of opportunities!!!

Regine Silva

From: Jennifer Lodovici

Date: July 4, 2018 at 4:27:13 PM 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.delgrande@tcdsb.org,
garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org, jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org, barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org,
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rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org, adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Languages Program

To whom it 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,

Jennifer Lodovici

From: Jennifer Leslie

Date: July 4, 2018 at 4:28:24 PM 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.delgrande@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: International Languages Program

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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.

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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.

--

Regards,

Jennifer Leslie

From: "Calce, Natalina (St Charles)"

Date: July 4, 2018 at 6:51:00 PM EDT

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

Subject: international Languages

Dear Mrs. Rizzo,

I understand that you are working very diligently to keep the international program alive. I wish to thank you for your effort and can only hope that we can keep it going. I have taken the liberty to send an email to each trustee voicing the concern of not just the one but the many.

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.

Students are always first priority but times like these remind me that this is not the case. 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 teacher's union remain very unclear to members of the international language. The short notice prior to meetings or decisions made by the board seem 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 work e-mails are left unseen until September?

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 beneficial 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.

This is a Catholic School Board, where virtues are grounded in our curriculum and we teach students to think about all angles of a situation before making

decisions. This decision by the board is putting 85 full time employees out of a job, where is the Hospitality or Compassion? Many of them are young with families starting, but the board is happy to put them out on the streets for a precious 30 minutes, where is the Love, Faithfulness, or Gratitude? A program proven to be beneficial to student development and gives employment opportunity is about to be removed for that just, 30 minutes a day of free time, is that Justice? Were students put first in this decision? Was budgeting an issue? Or was the extra 10 minutes of traffic getting home the biggest concern when these complaints were being made?

As a teacher, parent and strong advocate of fairness and justice I trust you will work hard to find a more fair and equitable solution for September. If the program were to be added to each school instead of just 40, there would be no grounds for elimination, it would simply just be a regular part of the curriculum.

Sincerely,

Natalina Calce

Italian Instructor

From: chiara digirolamo>

Date: July 4, 2018 at 6:46:52 PM EDT

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

Subject: I'm very disappointed to hear that the TCDSB wants to cancel the International Language Program

I am a former student and I was dismayed to learn about the Board's decision to shorten the school day, but glad to hear that they were able to save the International Language program. I am now hearing that the International Language program may be on the chopping block again!

I would like to state the record that I do not support the shortening of the school day, nor do i support the elimination of the International Languages program.

Our students are falling behind globally as compared to other developed nations, and shortening the school day will only make that worse.

In addition, it has been proven that learning other languages actually makes kids smarter! Why would we want to take away?

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

Best Regards,
Chiara DiGirolamo

From: Misterious Melanie

Date: July 4, 2018 at 7:30:06 PM EDT

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

Subject: International School Program

Dear Board Trustee,

I am writing to you at this time to seek your assistance to vote against the removal of the International School Program. As a parent, I strongly believe that students currently benefit from learning a second language in their homes. This program promotes awareness, sharpens the mind, promotes diversity, and improve people's thinking skills and memory abilities. For these reasons, I implore you to keep the International School program.

Thank you in advance for your vote.

Sincerely

From: isabel vilela

Date: July 4, 2018 at 7:32:00 PM EDT

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

Subject: International Languages Program (Elementary)

Dear Ms. Rizzo,

I believe it is very important that our children are provided with the opportunity to learn a third language and culture. Therefore, please help to ensure that the International Languages Program (Elementary) will continue to be delivered during the school day. Thank you for supporting the TCDSB's International Languages Program.

Sincerely,

Isabel Vilela

From: sonia delaurentiis

Date: July 4, 2018 at 7:35:08 PM EDT

To: "roy.mcguin@tcdsb.org" <roy.mcguin@tcdsb.org>

Cc: "patriziz.bottoni@tcdsb.org"

<patriziz.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org" <maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>

Subject: International language

Reply-To: sonia delaurentiis <delaurs@rogers.com>

July 4, 2018.

Dear Mr. McGukin,

As a longtime community member and supporter of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, I feel I must express my concerns with the way in which the school board and trustees are considering the possibility of cancelling the International Languages Program is being handled.

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

Deals being made between the TCDSB and unions remain very unclear to the public. The very short notice prior to meetings and decisions made by the board seem almost deliberate. This is blatant disrespect to taxpayers. The board 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 at such short notice in the middle of the summer? As a time when many families have made plans to go on vacation and perhaps are checking their e-mails as often as they would during the school year?

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

As a community member, parent and strong advocate of fairness and justice I trust you will work hard to find a fair and equitable solution for September 2018-2019.

Sincerely,
Angela De Antoniis

From: Monica Pallotta

Date: July 4, 2018 at 9:14:00 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 International Languages at the TCDSB!

July 4th, 2018

Hello,

I am reaching out to you all today because I am greatly 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. 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 personally find it very appalling as to how such a culturally enriching and beneficiary program is being put up to the chopping block. Learning new languages is a very important skill for students that has MANY proven benefits! And it is shameful that not only this program is being sacrificed in general, but it is being sacrificed in favour of a shorter school day! Once again, I am being reminded that students ARE NOT the first priority in any way to unions when it comes to contract changes and instead personal interests are being pursued! I personally find it extremely shameful. Students MUST always come first!

I am also extremely concerned as to how deals between the TCDSB and teachers

unions remain incredibly unclear to members of the public — including the short notices given to IMPORTANT meetings such as the one concerning the future of this very program! This blatant disrespect not only degrades the teachers and educators of this program — but to the taxpayer as well. Furthermore, how many parents and community members do you suppose would be able to attend a meeting concerning this program with such short notice? There should be more care and concern brought forward into what this program means to community members, and they should be given the chance to speak about it so FAR in advance, like they are able to do regarding other policy changes.

It will be difficult for me to put my trust and vote in a trustee who would allow for such a terrible, unfair, cut into our already arid school board. To consider cancelling this program or to place it in an after school program is deplorable and derogatory to the importance the program has on children. The TCDSB is a school board situated in one of the most culturally rich cities in the world and removing a chance for students to receive education in favour of a shorter day is archaic and does nothing to benefit the student.

As a resident, and supporter of the TCDSB I trust that better measures will be taken to find a more fair and equitable solution for September. I believe that this program is too enriching and important to be slashed, and I do find that it benefits nobody to have it removed.

Sincerely,

— Monica Pallotta

Monica Pallotta
Curator
Eleanor Winters Art Gallery

From: Sabrina Barillari

Date: July 4, 2018 at 10:01:52 PM EDT

To: rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org, dan.koenig@tcdsb.org,
adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org, maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org, nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org,
frank.damico@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Language Program

Hello,

Heard of the possible cancellation of the International Language Program in TCDSB and i think this is wrong. Toronto is a multi-cultural and bilingual city. There are parents and future parents that depend on this program for our children to learn other languages. These other languages are beneficial to students who need other languages to get jobs and by taking this away you are limiting the possibilities as well as taking jobs away from these teachers who have spent many years doing this program. Please reevaluate the pros and cons as i feel there are many more pros in having these programs.

Sincerely,

A woman who grew up with Italian classes and would like to see them still around when my children go to school.

From: Angie Ferrara

Date: July 3, 2018 at 10:53:24 PM EDT

To: rory.mcGuckin@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Language Program

Good morning,

I recently was given some news that the international program may be a thing of the past in our schools. I can't tell how surprised I was to hear this as I believe it is so beneficial to all students of different cultures to experience the beautiful language of Italian.

Growing up in an Italian Calabrese household I didn't realize the beauty of the language until I reached high school. I would sit in awe every September as my friends came back from their summer vacation spent in Italy. I would listen to endless stories about their adventures and I would listen to the way they spoke and I wished I could speak as fluently.

I truly believe exposing children at a young age to such an amazing language leads to opening doors to learning other languages. The more the better in our multicultural city.

I truly am not advocating only because I am of Italian descent. I really believe the students benefit even if they don't know it yet. They will. I promise you.

I hope this can make some difference.

Speriamo di sì.

Angie Ferrara

On Jun 27, 2018, at 1:26 AM, Laura DiCredico wrote:

Dear Patrizia Bottoni,

I see that there were many delegations at tonight's meeting regarding the international language program. I had asked the recording secretary last Thursday to have the report that would be in discussion be posted. How would so many people do delegations if the full report was not posted?

I'm not asking to take away Italian at St. Conrad. In fact I hear most parents love the teachers teaching it and this year they made an effort to connect with Columbus centre and Centro Scuola. My daughter in grade 3 was not able to take Italian because she was in a reading program. However, the Italian teachers made her feel included any time there was an opportunity for her to take some Italian classes (teacher away for example).

I did not watch the meeting tonight but the addendum indicated the anger towards removing IL program because of the time changes and loss of curriculum time. However, is it just that or because of transportation and the collective agreement? In August 2019 will be the end of the collective agreement and then a new one. Hopefully no strike. I have no clue what more teachers want. In my personal opinion I feel the curriculum is not being delivered properly. In particular to this year's experience. My argument would be if taking away an IL program in order to get more curriculum time would teachers actually be teaching or does it mean they get more break time? Schools with IL have good EQAO scores? St. Conrad is low but Regina Mundi or Cosmo Damian etc, are they doing well?

All schools seem to have the same problem in math whether they have IL or not. Perhaps the school board can have teachers with strong background in math and English grammar? Some parents even suggested rotary math in grade 3. At St. Conrad what my daughter experienced was having no text books but sheets of papers from Nelson or American web sights. Only Jump math was a book brought home but hardly used in my opinion.

Given that the video for the meeting is not up, was a decision made based on delegations when the agenda was not fully posted 3 days prior to the meeting?

In the end. The school board created the same situation as last year regarding transportation. Hopefully there will be more transparency and notice ahead of time.

Thanks.

Kind Regards,
Laura DiCredico

From: frank digirolamo

Date: July 5, 2018 at 12:02:13 PM EDT

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

Subject: I am not in support for the International Languages program to be canceled.

Dear, Maria

As a retired Ontario teacher from TCDSB, I understand that the Italian international language program may be eliminated from the TCDSB. As a parent I disapprove of this consideration. As a tax payer and member of the Canadian/Italian community, I think this will assault my Canadian/Italian heritage in a negative way.

Sincerely,
Frank Di Girolamo

From: Lisa-Marie Corazza

Date: July 5, 2018 at 11:33:44 AM 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>,
"adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org" <adrian.dellamora@tcdsb.org>,
"dan.koenig@tcdsb.org" <dan.koenig@tcdsb.org>, "rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org"
<rory.mcguickin@tcdsb.org>, "nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org"
<nancy.crawford@tcdsb.org>, "angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org"
<angela.kennedy@tcdsb.org>, "barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org"
<barbara.poplawski@tcdsb.org>, "jo-ann.davis@tcdsb.org" <jo-
ann.davis@tcdsb.org>, "garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org" <garry.tanuan@tcdsb.org>,
"mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org" <mike.delgrande@tcdsb.org>,
"frank.damico@tcdsb.org" <frank.damico@tcdsb.org>, "maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org"
<maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org>, "patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org"
<patrizia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>

Subject: international languages program

To whom it may concern,

I am reaching out to you today because as a community member as 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,

Lisa-Marie Corazza

July 4, 2018

Dear Toronto Catholic School Board,

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sivan Revivo'. The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end. There is a small arrow pointing to the right above the signature.

Sivan Revivo
Concerned Community Member

Thursday, June 28, 2018

To whom it concerns,

We are writing this letter in response to the last-minute consideration of removing the International Languages Program from the school day. It has left us very upset, disheartened and discouraged. It is akin to having the rug pulled right out from underneath you – and definitely not in line with Catholic values.

That letters from angry parents of one or two communities is to dictate decisions made for the 40 schools and school communities that have IL programs makes absolutely NO sense to us. The value of learning more than one language in school has proven to be beneficial in the growth and future possibilities of our students. So much of what is taught in a second and third language subject brings better understanding of different aspects of language arts/literacy – how it is written, read, spoken, and understood. How different languages communicate different perspectives, sub-consciously cultures a student's own mind and allows them to make connections they would otherwise not have the ability to make in this global world we want them to embrace.

The IL Program is completely in line with how Torontonians and Canadians embrace multi-culturalism. It allows them to respect and connect with other cultures and even more so their own.

Here at St. Francis of Assisi, Portuguese as the IL language taught. It has been an integral part of our students' learning regardless of their ethnic background. It has been positively embraced. The students, along with the parents and staff, consider it as important as the other subjects they are taught. Speaking with several students on the possibility of no longer having IL as part of their learning day, has left them very sad and upset as well. Had they know about this consideration, we would have a stack of letters to send.

We urge you to strongly consider ALL schools impacted by such a decision and that we are not ALL in agreement with the few angry letters from but a small minority of parent communities.

Regards,

Staff of St. Francis of Assisi

M. Pelletier
L. Kapon
R. Mazzucco
J. Ward
S. King
J. Gagliardi
J. Mamella
J. Rodriguez

Thursday, June 28, 2018

To whomever it may concern,

We as a community know there has been some uproar regarding the international languages program within elementary schools. There have been many negative comments made from parents and educators alike regarding this program, such comments would include deeming these teachers unqualified and making direct statements that say that they aren't even teachers at all but instead instructors, and saying these "instructors" take away from other teachers time and that the international languages time slot is a waste; but with considering all these negative comments and reviewing them you can clearly see these comments are opinions and not facts, therefore proving they need actual facts to support their opinions, their opinions that are most definitely not well stated.

So if we're just making comments, we might as well state some of ours: the international languages program may be deemed unimportant and useless to some, but if we're taking a better look towards the program you will surely see that learning an international language looks quite impressive on resumes, learning an international language will also provide you with great knowledge on a different culture and open your eyes to a community very well rooted within your own. The international languages program also encourages the youth of our community to accept other cultures as they are, and discourages racial discrimination by introducing these children to the different cultures.

In conclusion, we do believe that the international languages programs are an integral part of our learning day, and we strongly disagree with the last minute decision to cancel the program.

Sincerely,

The Grade 8 Graduating Class of St. Francis of Assisi

Sydney Pacheco
Hailey Pereira N.P.
Rogene Leodoro
Laura Luis
Miguel M.
Yusef Leung
Kayla Hall
Amanda Calderon
Rebecca Surtado
Alessandro
H.S.

P.S

I'm going

My name is Hudson and I'm Dutch, and
Slovakian and my thoughts about portugese
are I like it. it's a good language to
learn because a lot of people in toronto
are portugese and if I work or go to
college/university a person may speak portugese and
if there's a fire or something bad i'll
know to get out of the building and i've
heard that Portugal is a nice/beautiful place
to be so I may want to go there
Some day,

We love our portugese teacher

I've learned about the portugese flag so
now I kind of want to learn about the
Dutch and Canadian flags

I'd be very sad if we couldn't
Sincerely: Hudson learn portugese
in school

Hello! My Name is Bianca De
Fazio.

I am going into grade 5
next year. My ~~back ground~~ is
Italian. And these are my
thoughts about Portuguese.

1. It's nice to learn it
for when you go to
Portugal.

2. It's nice to learn it
because lots of people
in Toronto are from
Portugal.

3. It's nice to learn it
because it's nice knowing
different languages to work
in different country's.

I even like it because
we learn a lot about
the Portuguese flag.

Sincerely, Bianca

P.S. We love are
Portuguese teacher

From: "Pallotta, Cinzia (Blessed Margherita)"

Date: July 5, 2018 at 7:55:43 PM EDT

To: "McGuckin, Rory (Director of Education)" <rory.mcguickin@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>, "Martino, Joseph (Trustees' Services)" <Joseph.Martino@tcdsb.org>, "ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org" <ann.andrachuck@tcdsb.org>, "sal.piccinini@tcdsb.org" <sal.piccinini@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>, "Crawford, Nancy (Trustees' Services)" <Nancy.Crawford@tcdsb.org>, "Carlisle, Rhea (Trustees' Services)" <Rhea.Carlisle@tcdsb.org>

Subject: Save the International Language Program!

Dear all,

My name is Cinzia Pallotta and I am an Italian instructor at Blessed Margherita Catholic Elementary School. I am writing to you with great concern about the International Languages Program. As an employee of the TCDSB for the past 13 years, I find it very alarming that there are plans and discussions being placed about the future of this program with little to no consideration for the educators who belong to this program, and to the communities that they belong to.

Usually, when issues as big as cancelling a program there is more consideration and information, spread to both members of the public and the employees effected and I am shocked by the lack of any communication being made concerning this. Aside from the letters given to families in the community, myself and my fellow educators were not given any preface or any warning regarding the future of this program. I find it very concerning considering that the International Language Program is not considered by the board to be a teachable subject or a subject with any academic merit for that matter. It is saddening that a city such as Toronto erase such a culturally enriching program that promotes cultural pride and diversity. How do we raise our children to be part of a multicultural society if we deem the programs made for doing such as unimportant?

I have always been a supporter of the TCDSB, as my three children have all attended Catholic schools and participated in both Extended French and the International Language Program through both elementary and high school. My eldest daughter continued to study both French and Italian in university and is completely fluent in both and passionate about language. As an educator, it gives me much pride to see my students learn a language that is not native to them excel and take pride in knowing a third or fourth language. Learning a new language is a privilege not given to many. It is sad that this honor is being devalued and degraded by policy changes.

I am trying hard to understand this dilemma, and the solutions. I understand that the board has agreed to shorten the school day to 300 minutes. But, why should such a wonderfully unique program be sacrificed with these radical changes? I feel like there are better solutions to this problem than eliminating jobs and taking away the opportunity for children to learn. For example, instead of creating cuts on the job force, why can't cuts be made in recesses or lunches that are over the minimum time required stated in the Educational Act? Myself and my colleagues work tirelessly with no planning times allotted, while regular classroom teachers are given up to 300 minutes a week plus a half an hour free. If you are looking to find cuts in time to make it feasible for students to receive ample education I have just given you some alternatives.

I love to teach and being a language instructor is something I take immense pride in. I believe my students deserve nothing but the most enriching and bountiful education and I believe that having the International Languages Program feeds that need and is just as important as subjects such as Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science. I have hope that this program has a future for many generations to come. Without it, we make our students lose opportunities and close doors for their potential. I hope reconsiderations are made.

Sincere regards,

Cinzia Pallotta

From: Ivete Rodrigues

Date: July 5, 2018 at 8:30:42 PM EDT

To: suptsall@tcdsb.org

Cc: trusteesa@tcdsb.org

Subject: Regarding International languages program

Regarding International languages program

July 5, 2018

To whom it may concern,

My name is Maia and I am a grade 4 student at St. Francis of Assisi. At my school I love the Portuguese class. I love learning about the Portuguese culture and I also like speaking and learning how to write in Portuguese. I enjoy this because I can apply strategies that I have learned in Portuguese into English and French and this helps me in writing and reading. I think that learning Portuguese at a young age will help me in the future.

In my Portuguese class I learned how to make tomato jam and pao com chourico. Both super delicious.

My Portuguese teacher encouraged me to write the Portuguese exam because she thought I would do well. She practised with me and some of my classmates two days a week after school until the exam. She worked really hard to make us feel confident. After the exam we all talked about it. It was really cool to write and I think we all did really well, (I hope).

I would be really, really sad if you took away my chance to learn more Portuguese because I enjoy it so so much. Please think about how much better school is with Portuguese class.

Sincerely,

Maia (a very concerned student)

Comments Regarding International Languages from Petition

Anna Romain	Kevin Gordillo	Lisa Sacco	Patricia Paz	Sandra Desousa	Yuliya Bronska	Maria Carosi
International language education is so important to foster the love of learning languages and culture. This is not something that is superfluous. Rather essential in our multicultural society.	I was raised learning a third language and growing up in a multicultural city where having a third language on your resume is an asset, it saddens me that this is even an option.	Save the International Language Program	I am a Foreign Language Teacher and I know the benefits of learning a second or a third language.	This is important to me!	It is extremely beneficial program! Learning foreign language for kids is crucial for their development!	Being able to learn an international language provides students the ability to expand their cultural horizons. This program is just as important as any other school subject and should be part of the regular day curriculum
Woodbridge	Woodbridge	Toronto	GTA	GTA	Toronto	Toronto

Elisabete Branco	Nataly Loiero	Tetyana Foyak	Michelle Barbosa
I speak three languages and can testify how important that has been in all areas of my life from having a better job to intellectually feeling an overall advantage in learning compared to kids that just spoke one language	We are Italian and for us it is important our children continue to talk and write the same language	I want my daughter to learn Ukrainian language in school.	Portuguese program offered in my elementary school was so beneficial in helping me learn to read and write in my parents native tongue.
Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

Taras Semkiv	Enza Abbas	Olena Gorbenko	Sabrina Bianco
I think it is very important to retain a different languages!	My age group was the first to do the language program! I'm glad I did it. The 3rd language was helpful with my job and when I travelled. Keep the program!	Diversity and multiculturalism are a big value of Canada. Please keep them going	Keep the program. I did it as a child and want my kids to do the same. Back then if families opted to not do it, their child went to the library during the class. If the catholic board removes it, I will go to the public board
Toronto	ETOBICOKE	Toronto	Toronto

Jeff Smith	Guido D'Elia	Paola Conforti	Sonia Zepieri
What a shame! Why don't they ask parents first in cases like these. They have already cut so much in the arts and now this! Why? Kids cannot be educated only in math and sciences. Interanational language program is more then just learning another language. It's about culture and heritage.	In solidarity	my children speak Spanish and Italian so they do the Italian during the scvxool year and Spanish on the weekend. It is very important for these kids to know there heritage and actually be in a classroom with children to communicate and actually learn something from there culture	I believe in the program. Languages are an asset. People pay alot of money to learn languages and the children in the TCDSB have the privilege to have this without paying money. It would be a shame to have this golden opportunity taken away.
Toronto	Rome	North York	Vaughan

Domingos Marques	Halyna Pryhara	Jose Abreu Ferreira	grace pereira
Our society will be poor without international languages.	Decision makers must talk to parents first!	It matters.	I have small children and learning a 3rd language like Portuguese matters to the future of our children.
Toronto	Toronto	Toronto	GTA

Justin Melo	Cristian Nigro	Giada Nigro	Deanna M
I'm a 27 year old, former student of the TCDSB. One of the most valuable teachings was a second and third language. Having graduated from the Ontario French Immersion Program and being taught a third language (Portuguese) has been so influential in my life. Whether in my career or travels, languages have become a critical aspect. The importance of this program cannot be valued enough,	The Italian program has been vital to my educational upbringing. Learning the Italian language has furthered my capability to communicate with others whom do not share my language, not only this, it has also aided me greatly in learning other languages such as french along with aquiring the dicipline and enthusiasm whilst working in other subjects. Hence, the international languages program should be saved for future generations to come!	I've been a student of the international language program and I feel it is an essential skill students must pursue in order to widen their critical thinking skills in all areas. I have found that through learning another language it has helped me to excel in all areas of work. Hence, by keeping the program it will be beneficial for students through all their future endeavours.	Even though I am Croatian, I learned Italian in elementary school because that was the option offered, and our mother knew learning a new language can only be a good thing. Both myself and my sister were Gifted students and we picked it up quickly.
Toronto	ETOBICOKE	Toronto	ETOBICOKE

Maria do Carmo P. de Lima	Christina Sousa	Cecilia Mingone	Larry Simone
Studying another language, even superficially, develops the mind and has the benefit of introducing you to other cultures and who knows make you discover talents and abilities that otherwise you would never discover. I am in favour of keeping the core subjects strong: math, the arts, and literacy in more than one language	Portuguese classes were the best classes when I was in school and I want my children to have the same.	I believe it is important and essential to learn a second or more languages!	I support the Italian language classes for my son's school and don't want to see it disappear or reduced in any way. I also understand the importance of math and science but in the real world it is likely the language you use that does you better than any application of science and math.
Toronto	Toronto	Maple	Toronto

Phillip Monteiro	Elena Soda	maria damelio	Franca Ceron
This is a learning experience that will broaden our kids minds and help them reach their goals. Keep it alive!	Languages are a stepping stone to a childs development !!!!!	Integral part of my education. I learned to read and write Italian. My heritage language. Thank you. Keep it alive.	Let's save this program.
ETOBICOKE	North York	Toronto	Toronto

Liz Altomare	AnnaMaria Rosso	Graziella Gallo	Caterina Aita
Languages are important. We live in a country with so many ethnic backgrounds. We should embrace that and give our children an option to learn about their heritage or even interest in another language.	Toronto is multicultural and it is extremely important for us as a community to learn as many languages as possible. We are fortunate enough to be able to go to school and we should not take away the amazing opportunity for anyone to learn International Languages.	I agree	It has been proven time and time again that the benefits of learning other languages improves student achievement . Let's give our students the advantage and empower them with this gift .
	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

Toni Miceli	doreen zaccaria	Grace Sabino	Darryl Da Ponte
it's one of the most important programm for the children	My daughter went through the TCDSB system and studied all of the standard curriculum, French, and Italian. She learned the grammar when speaking and writing in both languages and that was very beneficial as my husband is Italian and I am French. We spoke and continue to speak all three languages at home (the 3rd being English) and by taking the IL at school, it taught her the proper Italian language, not just the dialect she was exposed to when around family . She continued taking both the Italian and French in high school and in university. Studies show that the more languages one knows, the stronger one's cognitive abilities will be as well, the more opportunities one will have in life. Keep the IL program and instead increase the amount of supply teachers allowed to work daily so that students are not dispersed and sit and do nothing all day -this along with so many unnecessary interruptions in a week are what's decreasing the amount of learning a child is exposed to.	I want my sons to have the same opportunity as I did to learn our morher tongue. My grade school teacher taught me to read and write and I'm completly fluent.	Keeping the International language program is important. Being able to speak multiple languages is a great asset to have and I feel this program is beneficial for the kids
	Toronto	Toronto	Toronto

From: Sonia Preiano

Date: July 5, 2018 at 8:43:52 PM EDT

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

Subject: Keep the italian Language

Reply-To: Sonia Preiano <spreiano@rogers.com>

Hi my name is Sonia Preiano', and i fully support the Italian Language in the schools.

Per noi che siamo Italiani siamo dispiaciuti per questa scelta ,

We want to keep the Italian language

Sonia Preiano'

From: Marianna Pankiw

Date: July 6, 2018 at 5:56:53 AM EDT

To: maria.rizzo@tcdsb.org

Subject: International Language preservation

Dear Ms Rizzo,

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,
Marianna Pankiw

From: Gabriella Paradiso

Date: Fri, Jul 6, 2018 at 12:27 AM

Subject: International Language Program at St. Norbert School

To: patricia.bottoni@tcdsb.org <patricia.bottoni@tcdsb.org>, rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org <rory.mcguckin@tcdsb.org>

Mr. McGuckin and Ms Bottoni,

We are writing you today both as former students and current parents at St. Norbert Catholic Elementary School.

On May 31, 2018, parents were informed that the extended day model in place for schools with an International Language (IL) Program would be eliminated. However, it was also communicated that our IL program would remain in place and the only change would be reducing instructional hours from 5 thirty minute classes per week to 4 thirty minute classes. While it was a bit unclear how this may work, we trusted that all core subjects would be met and we would still have Italian during this shorter school day. We were very saddened to learn that Italian classes may now be completely removed from the curriculum.

We each attended St Norbert in our elementary school years and were fortunate enough to further develop our knowledge of the Italian language through the IL program. Being first generation Canadian, our households and extended families spoke Italian as a first language. Although we could communicate mainly in our dialects, we had the benefit of learning how to read in Italian, as well as the grammatical and semantic application of the language. Moving on to high school and then post secondary school, we already had the tools in place if we wanted to continue mastering the language.

Today, our children range in age from Senior Kindergarten to grade 8. While they are somewhat exposed to the Italian language at home with grandparents or older family members, it becomes natural as parents to communicate solely in English. Having this added subject enriches their knowledge and appreciation of their Italian culture and heritage.

We understand that the school demographics are not what they were in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s when we attended St. Norbert. However, what we have seen from the Italian program over the years through our children - they are learning more

than just how to conjugate verbs and sing songs. Other core areas are integrated such as religion, history and art.

We are asking that the Italian program continue as communicated in the May 31 letter, during the regular school day. We have wonderful, passionate instructors in Maestro Paglia and Signora Guido. They put their whole hearts in the classes they teach, regardless of the age or grade, and go over and above what we would expect from an educator. Our children - and we are sure a large number of students at St. Norbert - enjoy the interactive, fun yet educational way in which Maestro Paglia and Signora Guido develop their students. It would be a shame and a loss to our school if we no longer have the IL program as part of the regular curriculum. Furthermore, offering the program after school is not an option as it interrupts valuable family time as well as other activities which were previously committed to.

Thank you for your time.

Aguiar Family (Gabriella Paradiso, former student)
Fasciani Family (Emily Porco, former student)
Iannaccio Family (John Iannaccio, former student)
Morillo Family (Adriana Tarsitano, former student)
Romano Family (Giovanna Palazzo, former student)
Smith Family (Santina DiMatteo, former student)

From: Raffaele Muzzi

Date: July 5, 2018 at 8:56:58 PM EDT

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

Subject: Italiano nella scuola

Salve sono Raffaele, sono Italiano, mi piacerebbe che la lingua italiana continuasse ad essere insegnata nelle scuole. così i nostri figli continuano ad imparare la lingua.

Grazie

Raffaele Muzzi

From: Ivete Rodrigues
Date: July 5, 2018 at 8:55:09 PM EDT
To: suptsall@tcdsb.org
Cc: trusteesa@tcdsb.org
Subject: Regarding International Languages Program

Regarding International Languages Program

July 3, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am very concerned about the threat of the TCDSB removing the international languages program from its schools. I am a grandmother with three grandchildren at St. Francis of Assisi school. At this school, the children learn about the Portuguese language and culture. I am the one who escorts my grandchildren, ranging in ages 4-10, to and from school each day. I can tell you that one thing they look forward to each day, and one thing they always want to talk about on their walk home from school is their Portuguese class.

My grandchildren love their Portuguese class and their Portuguese teacher. I love the fact that they are LEARNING about my language and culture. I would be happy if they were learning another language too, fostering the love of languages and respect for other cultures. Instead of canceling this program, perhaps the board should consider adding other languages instead, like they do in schools in Europe where it is understood the value of being fluent in several languages.

I know my grandchildren are learning because they love to practise their Portuguese with me and are able to have simple , and with my oldest, mature conversations in Portuguese. Often times, they will share with me something about Portugal that they have learned in class, something that even I didn't know! The fact that they are able to learn this much in 30 minutes a day is a reflection of their teacher.

As a grandparent, I urge you to consider continuing with this program which I understand is one your board has maintained for over 20 years already. I urge you to continue with this program so that my grandchildren can continue to learn and respect different languages and cultures as they grow into young adults.

Please feel free to share my opinion as needed.

Sincerely,

Ana Maria Espinola

From: Rachel Chaves

Date: July 5, 2018 at 11:16:52 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>, "mik.delgrande@tcdsb.org"
<mik.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>,
"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: International Languages Program

To whom it may concern,

It's sad to hear that an institution like the TCDSB is willing to eliminate international languages, limit student's education and take away multiculturalism. Canada and the TCDSB pride themselves on being multicultural, but how can that be when you are willing to eliminate a curriculum that promotes this very thing you are so willing to take away. By getting rid of this program you are demonstrating that this institution does not care for its students who come from various backgrounds, and instead want to assimilate them. In school we are taught to stand out and embrace who we are, but you are taking that away when you take away the ability for students to learn their own and other people's languages and in turn culture. It's sad to see that an education system is willing to go against what it stands for all because of money. How can one say that they care for their students when they are taking away their language and therefore limiting their education? Wouldn't this educational institute want to promote international languages and want to encourage students to explore other cultures? Wouldn't an institution such as the TCDSB want to encourage students to explore different countries and not be limited by a language?

Considering this is largely about economics, by taking away international languages, you are losing money. I know many students who go to the Catholic board because of these international languages offered. I'm sure that parents enroll their children in specific schools because they want their children to learn their own language and embrace other people's languages as well. If a family immigrates to Canada, how can they encourage their children to embrace their own culture if the education system doesn't support it. If this is the case, than how can Canada say that it embraces other cultures?

I am a 21 year-old Portuguese Canadian and the feeling I get knowing that I am connected to my background and that I know a second language is indescribable. Although we can learn French, it is not the same as me being able to go to Portugal to speak to my friends. It is certainly not the same as being able to go to Portugal and be allowed to speak to my family members after not seeing them for a year. If it weren't for international languages, I would not have gotten my minor at York University in Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian studies and I would not be considering getting my masters and PhD in Portuguese.

It is not only the responsibility of parents to teach their children other languages, it is the responsibility of the education system in Canada. Even if I did not know a second language, I would encourage my children to learn any language they want, even if it is not from our background. I think that it is extremely important to learn other languages, not only for one's own knowledge, but to have a better understanding of another person's culture. I am sure I am not the only one who feels the same. I want other students to know the feeling of stepping into another country and being able to understand and appreciate the culture at a higher level, all because of understanding the language.

Sincerely,

Rachel Chaves

From: Cecilia Retamales

Date: July 6, 2018 at 10:00:22 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>,
"patriziabottoni@tcdsb.org" <patriziabottoni@tcdsb.org>,
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<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>

Subject: International Languages Program

Dear Ms./Mr. Trustees:

My name is Cecilia Retamales, and I am writing this e-mail to call your attention to a matter that is very important to me.

I am in full support of the International Languages program at T.C.D.S.B. My two daughters were students at one of the 44 schools offering the International Language Program. Now they are studying at university and working, and I can see how the valuable skills they learned in their youth are being utilized in their present lives. They can research in another language, and they can help people who don't speak English well to get what they need.

I know of other parents that have had the same experiences as me, and I would like to know what we could do to save the International Language Program for many more years.

Respectively,

Cecilia Retamales

From: Antonio DaSilva

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 1:50 PM

Subject: Vote for International Language classes

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been informed that you intend on voting for the removal of the International Language Program for all Toronto District Catholic Schools. I wish to express my deepest concerns against such vote. As an immigrant of this great nation and country, I beg you to keep the Language programs for our children. They come home very happy learning the same language as our parents have taught us. It means alot to me, and many parents, that our culture and language are preserved in school. Please think about your vote and please continue teaching these subjects to our children.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

From: Madalena Oliveira

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 2:04 PM

Subject: Vote for International Language Program

Good afternoon,

Please reconsider and vote for the continuation of the International Program. I believe these students benefit from a second/third language and it enhances children's abilities and skills. It also promotes diversity and awareness among students. I encourage you to vote for such program and continue teaching these languages to our students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.