

ATTN: Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education  
TCDSB  
Catholic Education Centre  
80 Sheppard Ave E  
Toronto, ON M2N 6E8  
June 23, 2016

Hello,

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the Special Board Meeting on Monday, June 23rd, 2016 to address the bus transportation issue. I will be away and although I would have liked to attend a delegation, I have outlined my concerns for this unfortunate circumstance below and would like to be added to the agenda.

As a parent, first importance is safety and piece of mind. I'm sure many parents feel the same way. This is a huge impact for many parents. Not to mention how children are made to feel after this decision... that they have to get to school on their own.

Where school is an important part of their life, they feel abandoned especially in a catholic community where we are raised and taught to help and love one another.

Where they realize that others that live farther away have privileges that they do not. Feeling less special and unimportant.

Where they will be faced with emotional challenges to get to school where it once was considered as a normal part of going to school with a school bus, is no more.

To be overcome with stress while crossing the streets. Walking to school scared and distressed in hopes that they will arrive on time and safely and not get lost while using the TTC.

The horrible temperatures of the winter months where they will be forced to stay home because it's too cold to walk or they get sick and have to stay home resulting in missed classes and lack of learning.

The thoughts of a parent, that many have no choice because of the workplace, where they have to be at work and wonder if their child got to school okay. Horrible thoughts crossing their mind throughout the day and hopefully seeing their children when they get home from work at the end of the day.

I haven't slept since June 16th, filled with anxiety and stressing on how my children will get to and from school in the new school year. Rethinking over and over ways to change our schedule, or hire a transportation service, taxi or contemplating taking them to another school.

Why not reject these other children that live too far?

Why should they have special treatment and my children do not?

Why not have limitations on boundaries which are too far and drive the cost transportation up?

Why accommodate children that are farther away? If you are trying to save money, try minimizing the max boundary.

Don't take away something that has always been available to school children for years and years. I understand that there isn't enough in the budge and I'm sure asking for more money has already been done, but this isn't the right solution... to exclude children of transportation. It seems tax payers pay more each year, and the board can't acquire more funding?

Sincerely,  
Maria and Enrico Baggetta