

To AC  
For Info

December 14, 2015

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Mr. A. Sangiorgio  
Associate Director of Planning and Facilities  
Toronto Catholic District School Board  
80 Sheppard Avenue East  
North York ON M2N 6E8

Associate Director of Planning and Facilities

Dear Mr. Sangiorgio,

I am writing to update you on the informal inquiries we made as a result of receiving several complaints about the Board's decision to expropriate a block of town homes on Bayview Avenue. We will not be proceeding further with the complaints.

As you will know, the Ontario Ombudsman was given jurisdiction over school boards as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The Ombudsman's role under the *Ombudsman Act* is to investigate the conduct of public sector bodies, now including school boards, in the course of their administration. The Ombudsman's focus is on ensuring proper and fair administration including reviewing how decisions are arrived at and explained. The Ombudsman may make recommendations to resolve problems but does not have the authority to overturn decisions taken by school boards. The Ombudsman's Office is an office of last resort, when all other existing mechanisms available to resolve a complaint have been exhausted.

The complainants expressed concerns about a number of issues relating to the Board's plans for a new St. Joseph's Morrow Park Secondary School.

In considering the complaints, we reviewed information on the Board's website about its meetings including agendas and minutes; the Inquiry Hearing report into the expropriation by David R. Vine, QC, released in June 2015; the Board's response to the Inquiry Report; the Board's Education Development Charges By-law 2013 No. 178; and the development charge background study prepared by Quadrant Advisory Group Limited. My investigator also spoke with you and reviewed the video of the Board meeting held on August 27, 2015, where the issue was discussed.

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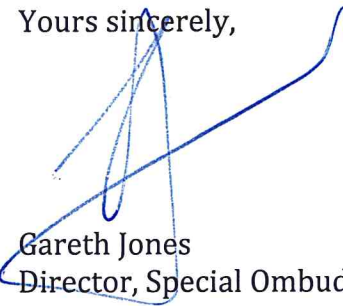
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The Board has followed the process in place under the *Expropriations Act* in this instance. It has provided detailed reasons explaining why it did not accept the recommendations of the Inquiry Officer and preferred its selected option to others. The Board gave interested parties an opportunity to make representations and considered those representations in arriving at its decision.

Your assistance with these complaints is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Jones  
Director, Special Ombudsman Response Team

cc. Ms. Angela Gauthier  
Director of Education  
Toronto Catholic District School Board