

Attention: TCDSB Board Members and Trustees

We are writing this letter to express significant concerns related to the proposed temporary relocation of Loretto Abbey Catholic High School. We have concerns with both the process as well as the solution recommended by TCDSB Board Members.

We have two daughters currently attending Loretto Abbey, in Grades 9 and 11. During our visits to the school, through our daughters' daily experiences and the Board's assessments, it is evident that the school building is in need of attention. It is an historic building which requires repair to keep the school in good working condition. This letter is not meant to dispute the need for repairs, but rather is meant to address the lack of an informed and transparent process which will impact decisions that will directly affect many people in our school community.

There has been no communication about the school's need for repair and the subsequent relocation. Many parents were made aware of the issue through social media and rumours circulating between our daughters. We spent most of this past weekend fact-checking amongst ourselves, checking the board website for information and wondering if we had missed important communication from the school. Our school's Principal works tirelessly to communicate important information to parents on a regular basis, yet we were not informed that this issue would be addressed at the Parent Council Meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 until that morning. This left many parents with little time to discuss the issues with our daughters and unable to attend the Parent Council meeting. In addition, we have just learned that decisions about the future of Loretto Abbey will be made at a Board Meeting this Thursday, January 16th. As we are writing this letter, the parents and families which will be directly affected have not yet received official communication of this important Board Meeting. While I am hopeful that all decisions are made with our students' best interest in mind, the way in which the information has been dispersed to our community leaves us questioning the integrity of the decision-making process at the Board and compromises our trust in the school Board. In addition, this situation is taking a toll on our daughters who are questioning their future at a school that they love so dearly. The lack of information and transparency has created an environment of stress and anxiety for parents and students.

In an attempt to gain a better understanding of the situation, I contacted the school and spoke with Mr. Rubino, Vice Principal. From our conversation I learned that the boilers are in need of urgent repair. I understand that this has been a long-

standing issue in the school and needs to be addressed in a timely manner. I also learned that the board is using the opportunity to repair the boilers to address other necessary repairs and renovations within the school. In my communication with parents who attended the Parent Council meeting on Monday, a complete understanding of the scope of the renovations and plans for improvement is not yet clear. However, an estimated 18 months was the suggested timeline for the work to be completed at Loretto Abbey. At the meeting it was also shared that the proposed housing school is scheduled to be demolished by 2022. Assuming that the decision to relocate our students will not interrupt this school year, the board is suggesting we use a school that has a window of roughly 18-20 months for work that is expected to take about the same time. Without a clear plan of the scope of work, I am concerned that our daughters will potentially face yet another relocation in two years.

The decision for our daughters to attend Loretto Abbey was made for a number of reasons including Catholic education, it's rich history in our community and the proximity to our home. Moving students to the suggested location will result in a disruption of our daughters' ability to participate in after school activities and work due to the extended travel time. The current school is located on the subway line making it easily accessible to many students. The new location requires lengthy commutes with buses and transfers. Has the Board considered other options such as portables, office buildings in the area, etc.?

Our community understands the need and importance of maintaining and upgrading the school facilities. We do not want to stall the Board's efforts to improve the school environment. We are asking that more information be gathered before proceeding with the suggested relocation. In addition, as community members who will be directly affected by the decisions made by the Board, we are requesting that thoughtful and informed consideration be given to all possible options, information is shared and presented to the parent, staff and student community and that we have input in selecting the option that will be the least disruptive to Loretto Abbey staff and students. From our perspective, decisions are being rushed and the full impact of those decisions is not being considered. We are appealing to the Board Members and Trustees to make informed decisions and gather all necessary information before making choices which will directly affect our daughters' academic, social and emotional development at Loretto Abbey.

Thank you for considering our concerns with this matter.  
Remo Naccarato and Elena DeBiasio