

Good evening TCDSB Trustees:

My name is AnaPaula Elliott I am here representing Michael Power St. Joseph.

I would like to kindly ask that you reconsider the No Uniform Policy for the following reasons:

1. The safety of the students has been seriously overlooked. We all look very different wearing our masks, sometimes it is very hard to recognize people we know wearing masks, usually when a visitor or a stranger walks into our school is easily identified by both the staff and the students because they are not wearing uniform, so if the students are not wearing uniform and they are wearing masks is going to be very difficult to identify visitors or strangers in the building. It is a huge concern and safety issue.
2. Parents were not consulted on this matter. We understand the concern of the student trustees for those less fortunate, however, in most families the students are not the ones paying for the uniforms or taxes that support their education, or for many other things and I am pretty confident when I say that in most families, if not, in all families the opinion of the children is valued, appreciated and seriously considered, but at the end, Parents make the important decisions not the children. Times are very hard for many families and the cost of the uniform might be a burden, however as parents we may decide to make an effort or to approach the school or a friend for help to be able to purchase the uniforms only because we believe that wearing a uniform provides the students safety, discipline, sense of belonging, uniformity and pride. We also know that there might be parents that are totally okay with their children not wearing uniform, but unfortunately, we were denied the opportunity to decide.
3. Another concern of students not wearing uniform is that some students may wear inappropriate clothing, or clothing with inappropriate words or pictures that might represent an extra workload for the administrative staff having to call parents to inform them of the reason why their child is being sent back to change instead of focusing their time in making sure the students follow the health and safety guidelines, as well as the parade of brands, we have to remember that we do need to worry for those less fortunate, some families may be having a hard time getting a \$60.00 dollars pair of pants from McCarthy's, I don't want to imagine how that parent will feel when their child asks for a \$130.00 Champion Hoodie? The Children are attending school for a few hours every other day, so they only need one uniform set. One Pair of pants, one Polo shirt and a sweater that they can wash on the alternate days.
4. If the No uniform policy stands, students may use it in the future as an excuse to request for the uniforms to be removed permanently.
5. I have heard that McCarthy's provides schools with some vouchers to help students in need. Parents need to approach their school principal if they are experiencing difficulty.

6. As parents we made the decision to enroll our children in the Catholic system for a reason, we knew from day one that uniforms were required, this is one of the things that differentiate us from the public board, we knew the uniforms were going to be pricy but that didn't stopped us then because we believe in the values that the Catholic Education provides our children, values like discipline and respect.
7. We are in this together, Parent Councils of some schools have a fund for student needs that can be accessed through the principal. Parents need to reach out.

Please reconsider and bring Uniform Back, or at least leave it to the school principal in conjunction with the CPSC to make the decision as they know their community better than anybody.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.