

November 9, 2020

Joseph Martino  
Chair of the Board  
Cc: Dr.B. Browne, Dir. Of Education

Dear. Mr Martino,

I am writing this letter with regard to the special board meeting this week where the Board will reconsider whether Trustee Del Grande violated the trustee code of conduct when he made hateful comments towards the LGBTQ community las year.

According to the Toronto Star<sup>i</sup>, the legal investigation concluded that he very clearly did violate the code of conduct – finding I agree with. Earlier this year I was disheartened to learn that several trustees, including mine, voted against finding Mr. Del Grande in violation of the Code of Conduct.

I understand that this issue will be discussed at this week's meeting, and the board will reconsider the matter. Again according to The Star, Trustee Kennedy is likely to change her vote this week, for which I am grateful.

My husband and I were shocked and deeply offended at the comments Mr. Del Grande made, equating homosexuality to a variety of criminal behaviours. After six years of having kids in TCDSB schools, we don't know a single parent in our Catholic school community who is aligned with that kind of thinking.

Mr. Del Grande's comments are not aligned with Catholic teaching to see all as God's children, nor are his comments aligned with the views of our Pope, who was quoted as saying that "[Homosexual people] are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or made miserable over it."<sup>ii</sup>

These comments, and this and other conduct displayed by Mr. Del Grande are unbecoming of a trustee. It's truly an outrage that he felt emboldened to publicly speak this way, and even more outrageous that FOUR trustees chose to stand on the wrong side of this issue – the side of hate and discrimination.

We are teaching our children better than this, and we expect more than this from our elected trustees. I implore all trustees to listen to our Pope, to stand on the right side of this issue and follow God's path towards love and not hate.

Sincerely,

Carla Hindman

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/11/06/a-damning-outside-report-said-a-toronto-catholic-trustee-broke-the-rules-by-linking-lgbtq-issues-to-bestiality-and-pedophilia-but-four-trustees-still-backed-him.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54627625>