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December 17, 2020

Dear Chair Martino and Director Browne:

On behalf of both our organizations, we are writing to you both regarding the motion passed at the Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2020 rescinding the next switch date in February.

This school year parents have been trying to decide how to balance their children's health, mental wellness, finances, and education. Before the school year even began parents were dealing with incomplete information. Now with the ever-changing information from the board, these decisions become even more challenging and over-whelming to many.

The way the communication is presented has left a lack of clarity with many parents and families. Seemingly, instead of giving parents the opportunity to choose the learning model for their child, movements will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and **only** under the condition that such a transfer will not disrupt the current staffing allocations. Once again, it seems to many of the TCDSB parents and families that **the children have not been made the priority.**

We realize this school year has been very fluid and unprecedented. We understand that the Board was looking for a solution that was both fair and equitable to all our parents without creating the disruption to schools that was felt in November; however, with the solution arrived at, no other information accompanied it. All the finer or nuanced details about the 'how' are unknown. It is the unknown that parents fear most, how can a parent make a decision without all the details? It also mitigates the various socio-economic circumstances for our parents and families, which are increasingly and glaringly impacting their experiences.



Further, if our parents or stakeholders were given all the information and an opportunity for consultation, they may have come to the decision the Board did. Parental engagement begins with collaborative communication. Having parents involved in the decision maker process for their children shows that the Board respects their stakeholders and is putting children first!

With inefficient communication, no consultation and lack of consistency or transparency, we are losing the confidence of our parents in our Board. During this time of flux with the pandemic, the Board should be building confidence in their stakeholders and not continually leaving them grasping for answers and reactive to further induced stress, which could have been prevented. We will always remain compassionate; however, this is about courtesy.

Please review this decision and consider this very well supported stakeholder perspective.

Thank you and God Bless,

Joe Fiorante

CPIC Chair

Annalisa Crudo-Perri

OAPCE Executive Director