



TECT Delegation to the Board of Trustees February 11, 2021

Thank you to the Trustees for all your ongoing efforts dealing with this pandemic.

This has been a year of unprecedented change and challenges. Let us continue to pray that we never experience this again.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed the way of life in our TCDSB communities. What was commonplace and expected over a year ago must now be avoided.

As so many of us struggle to adjust to these new realities, government and medical officials maintain that these measures are required to keep us safe and limit the spread of the virus.

Some of these altered realities are unavoidable, but there is one change being implemented in our Board that is not due to COVID-19.

Specifically, despite the unparalleled disruptions that have confronted our TCDSB communities, the Board is now planning to impose further changes to 15 schools.

During this pandemic, these communities were told in January that starting next year, the start and end times at their schools would be changing. Many of these communities are home to our most vulnerable students and families. Parents, students and staff have framed their lives around the current start and end times. The letter from the Board even acknowledges that these “changes will impact the lives of TCDSB staff and families.”

The rationale being given is bell optimization. Is it truly optimal to ask thousands of families, over 7000 students, and hundreds of staff members to deal with yet another change during these already tumultuous times? The January letter also references the need for efficiency, but, to the greatest extent possible, our focus should be on stability.

This is not the year to ask our school communities to endure another disruption to their lives.

TECT encourages the Trustees to reconsider this decision and send a supportive message to all in these communities that in an unrelentingly difficult year, this is one change that they will not have to endure.

In a time marked by so much distressing news, rest assured, a reconsideration of this decision will be welcome news for these 15 school communities.