

# **CUPE** / *Canadian Union of Public Employees*

## **Local 3155 International Language Instructors**

Dear Dr. Browne, Associate Director Koenig, Chair Martino and Board of Trustees,

I would like to start by thanking the Trustees for their continued support of the International Language program. This evening on the agenda is a motion and a board report challenging policy S.P.05 which references the International Language Program.

We are six weeks to the end of the school year and there is a request that four schools be surveyed. They have not followed the above stated process. It does not seem just or fair this has been brought forward in the middle of a pandemic, weeks before the end of the school year.

A survey was concluded of all TCDSB schools in January 2019 and as you know the return rate was the highest ever in recorded history - 25,000 families.

We are not saying that no one has the right to be surveyed we are asking that policy be adhered to at this time.

In regards to the request that the threshold be changed it is critical to refer to the Governance and Policy Committee whose mandate it is to review and recommend to board.

The review of the current policy is in consultation and began in January 2021 and the process must take its course.

For your information, last week several pro-IL parents registered to delegate on this issue. They were from the same schools delegating against today. These delegates were denied based on the new delegation policy T.14 that was revised on April 22, 2021.

My question to the Trustees is: if policies are in place and you insist they be adhered to; then why are you even considering supporting this motion or adopting this board report?

I know your intentions are not to pick and choose what policies you want to comply with but to implement them fairly for all concerned. I hope you know how disturbing, discriminating and contradictory it would be for all school communities if you chose to ignore the review of the policy and process undertaken to date. If you have policies and procedures they need to be observed. I urge this board to set a positive example and follow the policies and procedures set out by this board until they are changed.

Please respect and comply with your existing policies until such time as the present policy review is complete. It is only fair to do so. Every school community should be treated equitably.

Thank you again for your support of the International Language Program.

Val Di Gregorio

President

CUPE Local 3155