



February 18, 2016

Angela Kennedy, Chair of Trustees, TCDSB
Angela Gauthier, Director of Education, TCDSB
Trustees, Senior Staff and Guests

Good evening:

Please accept this written delegation from OAPCE Toronto as advocates for Student Achievement in Catholic Education and as the voice of the parents and students in the TCDSB. We are grateful for the opportunity given to us and meeting with Staff to be consulted on the TCDSBs Multi Year Recovery Plan, and after much reflection, would like to present our opinions and recommendations.

We realize that this consultation was based on a high level type consultation and its purpose was only to choose from the three options provided by you. Either way, it will be an unfortunate loss to our students in the classrooms. Our answer, as with most stakeholders, would be to not make *any* reductions but given the current situation, of the three options OAPCE is least opposed to option three.

We are however concerned about the additional pressure on the classroom dynamic that the elimination of the 5th Block program will place on student achievement. The 5th Block program worked most effectively as an ISP program and many families were hopeful for an expansion of this beneficial program since admission was limited. We hope that with the new module that you will create for the program, and this responsibility of program fundamentals integration on the

classroom teacher will be supported with intensive professional development and commitment.

OAPCE Toronto would like to express our support for some of the revenue generating ideas outlined in the MYRP, to find cost savings avenues to help alleviate the deficit. One example is increasing permit fees and for the implementation of parking fees, not for staff when they are working at their schools, but for the evening or weekend use of permit holders or anyone that chooses to park in these lots on these said times.

We would also like you to take into consideration transforming undersubscribed or vacant schools into Community Hubs and to charge a nominal fee for the use of these spaces by the community members that use them.

We are also open to discussing other avenues for International Languages: Although much has been said about international languages being an enrichment opportunity, historically, this program has run at a deficit similar to special education which has and is the main focus of reductions. We would therefore support and recommend that International languages be offered as an after school program and as a fee for service program, which will generate much needed revenue for the TCDSB.

We are also very happy that the TCDSB is looking at Energy Management, in lieu of Pope Francis' Laudato Si and his direction to take care of our planet. There are monetary incentives for school boards that are offered by our energy providers that would cover or reduce the cost of upgrading outdated equipment to a more energy and fiscally efficient model, thus reducing our carbon footprint.

We thank you again for the opportunity to bring the parent voice to the forefront and embrace and encourage ongoing engagement and discussion during this challenging time.

Yours in Catholic Education,
OAPCE Toronto