

LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) CONSULTATION SURVEY COMMENTS

The TCDSB Draft Long-Term Program Plan (LTPP) consultation survey provided respondents with an opportunity to submit comments.

169 comments were submitted with the 481 survey responses, or approximately 35% of respondents. The following is the breakdown of comments provided by Participant Group. Almost half of the submitted comments were from parents (47/9%).

LTPP Survey Participant Group	# Comments	% of Comments
Parent	81	47.9%
Staff	46	27.2%
Student	8	4.7%
Catholic Ratepayer/Community Member	13	7.6%
Other	21	12.4%
TOTAL	169	100.00%

The following is a compilation of all comments received. For easier reading and analysis of the feedback, comments were extracted and grouped by LTPP issue/subject area identified in the survey. Please note that these comments are “unfiltered” and presented in their “raw” form. Only spelling corrections and minor grammatical changes have been made to assist readability, and names referencing specific individuals have been removed to protect the confidentiality of participants.

A. GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

The following is a compilation of general and miscellaneous comments submitted by respondents touching on a number of Board or school-related issues not specific to a proposed elementary or secondary program as part of the LTPP survey.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Catholic Ratepayer	Does the board have the money to implement these changes or will schools be expected to make these changes without adequate funding and long term support?
Staff	Traditional academic courses are essential both in terms of developing well-rounded young adults and to adequately prepare students for post-secondary. Too much focus on these specialized programs. We need to focus more on a traditional liberal humanities education especially for students on university track. Increasingly, more and more U and M level courses do very little to prepare students for university level work (as any university professor can attest to). Our university bound students are grossly unprepared for academic work...research, critical thinking, high level reading and writing. This is a real crisis. We are failing to truly educate...we are at best simply training drones for the workforce.
Staff	Some excellent proposals but I think we need to be cognizant of real budget constraints -- rather than PR around specialized programs when resources are tight in all of our schools, e.g. the Max Kolbe multi-language site.
Staff	What about Special Education Programs at High school levels? AISP (Autism Intensive Support Programs) for children who do not meet the need for ME/DD classes, but require support for transitioning into high school for self-regulation and social (their diagnosis?). A general special education teacher is not being proactive for these clear needs that will be surfacing at high school levels at large numbers each year.
Staff	Investigate a true alternative school model and make it more available to more kids. Expand academic programs in Msgr. Fraser to meet some of the academic thrust described in the programs proposed above.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Other	The Board should focus its energies on making good neighbourhood schools! All these specialties schools create opportunity for only a few. The local high schools suffer.
Staff	All of these specialized programs are good; however I hope there is enough money to see them all through. Also: when is the Board going to build the new St. Joe's Morrow Park?! This school has suffered enough and the board is spending huge amounts of money on rent--so that Tyndale University can thrive--ridiculous! I believe that funding should go for programs that students will be interested in. I understand the need for math--but more money for it will take away from students who are interested in other areas (the arts, etc.). There should be an arts school for elementary students only. Finally, please make sure that religious instruction is given daily in our elementary schools and that all Catholic high schools have 4 credits of religion (this is not always the case--even though it is a Board policy). Our identity and religious character must be maintained, this is what the Board is all about. There are some great ideas here, OECTA has to be reined in though since--as usual--they will oppose all of this.
Staff	I believe that various alternative programs should be put in place in various schools in the Board. However, these should be distributed evenly geographically, and in consultation with staff in the schools.
Other	Schools that are focused on a specific field does not address the issues of the whole. It would be a waste of resources, precious resources, to implement programs that will benefit only a small population of students. A field study should be conducted before any serious implementation would take place.
Other	These programs clearly focus on students that are excelling in academics and specific areas of excellence or ability and places money in furthering their knowledge and skills, however the struggling students, whether special needs or not, are having their programs cut or decreased, leaving them to struggle even further. Those that would benefit from the above-mentioned programs will most likely find success in the future within their post-secondary programs. Programs should be created to assist the struggling students to meet their potential. For every dollar that we take away from those with learning needs, we are potentially creating greater

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
	<p>need for money to support them in the future! It is amazing how the TCDSB has made a profound shift from helping those most in need to those that are already well on their way- even without these proposed programs. Once, the struggling students were withdrawn for support in order to assist with their learning needs- now they must be fully integrated, sink or swim, "for their own good" with dwindling support. Now, the strong students are not only given their own school- for example St. Bonaventure, Gifted program, we are also being asked to consider putting money into possible programs to segregate these students to further pursue their strengths in their own specialized programs. If TCDSB has no money for one, how can it consider putting money into the other???</p>
Staff	<p>These new initiatives pull moneys away from the basis of education and dilute the funding from much needed courses.</p>
Parent	<p>Very difficult to properly complete as there is not enough information about the school, the population around the school, the current curriculum to properly complete this form.</p>
Catholic Ratepayer	<p>Perhaps looking at cut programs that support literacy such as 5th Block and Empower. Also, there is a need for a program to assist students struggling with FDK especially in regard to safe behaviour.</p>
Parent	<p>Fix your computers in the schools you already have instead of trying to build a tech school which will sap resources and money from schools already short on computers.</p>
Parent	<p>Let's please focus on high tech training education business etc. that will lead to jobs for kids for the future</p>
Staff	<p>Equity issues need to be addressed if the Board is considering a large number of specialized programs so that all students have access to programs they need. Available funds should be spent on reducing class sizes and providing support for students with special needs within the current school model. Funds should also be redirected to rebuilding old schools for the health and safety of staff and students.</p>

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	Please stick to basic programs and science based rather than boutique style education.
Staff	Just wondering if we are taking on to many programs. I believe we need to be strategies in our attempts to increase enrolment within our schools. We continue to fine tune existing programs. Regardless of specialty programs, we are all encouraging the exploration of all pathways and the dignity of all 'work' and the different ways students learn. Although the following expression may not be the best fit, "Jack of all trades, master of none." I would encourage TCDSB to be strategic in its approach where we could potential 'master' a few new programs instead of adopting all suggested specialty programs and only to a mediocre job with the adoption of all suggested programs.
Parent	Emphasis should be placed on creating great programs in EVERY school--pockets of special programs don't improve learning across the system. Every school should be the best school in the neighborhood where students want to attend and where all children can be successful and motivated.
Parent	Make sure there are no further cuts to students not in these programs before having specialized programs. You have cut reading programs, but have money for these ones. Priorities are all wrong.
Staff	Elementary students need exposure to all areas of the curriculum with specialized teachers. This should be the focus.
Staff	We need to move forward with both our curriculum offerings and the holiday schedule of the schools. With today's globalized economy, sticking to our antiquated ways will undoubtedly drop us from one of the leaders in education to just a participant.
Parent	An alarming number of students can't perform simple addition and subtraction functions or read. We need to get back to basics!!!! Without a solid foundation these programs are a waste of already stretched resources.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	<p>Stop running your sprinklers in the summer, invest in fake grass or cement to save on hydro bill. Stop photocopying documents that just get thrown out - email documents to your staff for large meetings like town halls. You waste so much money on colour copies. The last meeting we attending (many last year actually) everything was colour copied on heavy weight paper and many remained untouched because no one comes to your town halls. You provide everyone with a catered snack - stop. We can bring our own food. Use LED light bulbs and nothing else at the CEC. Stop keeping your building open 24/7. Start advertising rental space at the schools, encourage communities to use our facilities so that there can be an income at every school. How do you have money to provide all these new programs when you've cut psychologists and nurses and EAs, SPEC Ed programming for students ALREADY in the system. We watch our ONE EA get pulled everywhere, we are watching our students suffer due to cuts.</p>
Other	<p>Very happy at the possibility of seeing specialized programs for elementary and secondary schools.</p>
Staff	<p>Are there any proposals to help students that have difficulties/or lack interest in learning (specifically those students in the lower income areas of our city and/or who live in public housing) to motive them by investigating the introduction of typing and secretarial skills and shop. Some students learn differently than others!</p>
Parent	<p>Change the way the Catholic Board does business. Focus on Math and science and business because students are going to public schools that offer more technical studies to get jobs in the future. The jobs now and future are asking for other languages. Mandarin, Punjab, Spanish.</p>
Parent	<p>You have left out any long term plan for support of special education. The board of trustees cut special education. The ministry of education is also responsible for leaving special education students behind. The union for teachers need to re-evaluate their teachers and should re-apply after so many years for license status. The TCDSB has unqualified EA's from decades ago. Special Education students do not need just a body to yell at them but a person who can assist the teacher in the class with math and reading writing support. The ECE's are not even qualified. Teachers have a job to teach a curriculum and if their students fail means they are not doing a</p>

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
	<p>good job at teaching. There are all these P.A days and yet do we know how many teachers from each school have gone to the updated courses such as Math, Kinder Addendum etc? NO we don't. Some have no clue or do not even work. This is the frustration amongst parents and catholic tax payers. We all see that teachers and staff in the TCDSB get to pick and choose where they get to send their children yet one in their boundary is sent away because their home school has no room. They believed in the system 20 years ago now they support public. Invest in math and science and business and apprenticeship. The TCDSB can add all the programs it wants yet you need all your staff including lunch monitors, EA's Teachers, supports to be on the same page as TCDSB mandates. Those who don't do their job get sent out. Parents do not support union or their teachers and at the end of the day the TCDSB looks bad.</p>
Staff	<p>Don't let the needs of students with special rights be forgotten- the programs mentioned above should be held at the same standard and priority as programs benefitting students with behavioural issues and/or exceptionalities.</p>
Parent	<p>All of these specialized programs targeted at gifted students, have created a unsupportable population problem. "Bright" students leave their local areas to attend schools in "good neighbourhoods." This causes population decline in more challenging locations. Without a balance of student types in these schools, the perception of them as "bad" schools is enforced. Scores continue to go down and the cycle becomes self-fulfilling. Why hasn't the board created specialty programs for special needs students, or academically challenged students, that allows them to get into "good" schools? Or conversely, why is the board still actively pursuing this distinctly un-Catholic policy?</p>
Parent	<p>Hire MORE staff...more teachers and more support staff, especially high quality passionate, warm, nurturing educators will do FAR more than any program to enhance student engagement and success.</p>
Parent	<p>Focus on science and tech programs. That is the future. Not sports and sleeping in. And unless all our schools have air conditioning, all year schools will be dangerous for students and teachers. Did people not read the star articles about how difficult it is to learn in heatwave?</p>

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	Computing Coding should also be a mandatory part of the curriculum, esp in the lower levels. According to Code.org, 70% of new STEM jobs are in computing. Computer science should be part of all curriculums.
Other	The specialty programs for high school are a right step in a positive direction as it motivates students to pursue their interest of education and provide them with a career path, however the problem is that we are forming pre conceived perceptions of schools and creating a more stressful admissions process.
Parent	Public money the board receives seems not to be evenly distributed and given to other areas more favourable for better services. You have children with Autism without proper supports. The EA's have no educational background to support the teacher classroom in reading and math. The unions are failing the Board is failing. We seem to keep comparing our board to what the public board has so you want more FI to get 7percent increase quickly instead of investing in STEM and STEAM which is attracting more students. The TDSB is broke as can be and you want to compare us to be even like them? The TDSB schools in particular Ward 4 are closing or on the verge of being closed. Their schools are no longer for the community students but for outside students and that is what this Board is intending to do also since you have no room in particular Ward 4! You say to get rid of portables but you will keep bringing in portables. This Board is more interested in supporting the board staff and their families to have jobs within the system. Parents are still upset from the deficit, still upset from the work to rule and this plan is really questionable. Is there a report out yet from this RIAT-working committee? Do we have proper data? If a trustee lived and breathed their area and visited their schools then they can see the needs and the stress teachers.
Parent	The board should focus on education the students in the catholic board. There is little to no evidence that any of these programs provide any long term success to the students who seek to participate in them.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	As the expectations of the world changes, so should the school curriculum. Schools should be up to date with the technological advancements so students are prepared and can succeed in the ever-changing world/workforce.
Catholic Ratepayer	Many of these programs require additional funding to be properly implemented. With the board carrying a hefty deficit, how can the board consider new programs when there are no funding for them? Very irresponsible!
Parent	Personal Finance Budgeting and Financial Literacy programming needs more attention starting in Elementary and broadening in Secondary. We are falling behind and failing our children by not instilling these skills earlier. We are seeing debt levels rising among new/recent graduates into University and post University.
Parent	At this point, we don't need more technology or Robotics, we need strong and well-rounded human beings with moral integrity and empathy. If the Catholic Schools had taken a stand against euthanasia it would have been harder to legalize it, but I don't even think it was mentioned in my children's schools. The teachers need to be educated in the Catholic faith to carry it forward. The children don't need iPads, they need a faith based, classical education./Mother of six, ages 1-15.
Parent	The Board needs to focus on student well-being. These super schools will create division with the have and have not in our communities. Some people will be able to afford to move to the areas where these special schools exist while others cannot. There will be 'poor' areas that will suffer. Please reconsider these proposals. I know the Trustees want to move forward to do these things but for them, this is just a vote to remain in office. The Board needs to listen to the people who work directly with the students and see what they think is needed.
Catholic Ratepayer	Does the Board have money to introduce all these new programs? I agree with new programs as long as it doesn't mean deficit and more taxes.
Staff	It is vitally important that all of these recommendations happen with appropriate and meaningful consultation with SSSAC, LSSACs and any other joint discussion tables that apply

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
	prior to decisions being made. It is preferable that program implementation and change be done correctly as opposed to just fast and haphazardly. Work with the teachers who will implement these programs in a unionized environment so that everyone buys in and success will occur sustainably.
Student	I am upset that the school board supports LGBTQ. Yes, we must be loving and accepting to everyone, but bear in mind homosexuality is still a sin. We must not judge dose people of course and pray for them but please be careful and don't promote these things.
Parent	More DD/ME programs are needed! When will consultations be done for these programs?
Parent	I hope the Board will find the money through partnerships without incurring additional debt.

B. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**1. Multi-Language school at St. Maximillian Kobe (2017)**

Survey Summary: 41% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with 39% with no opinion.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	We live in a country that is English and French speaking. We need to increase the amount of French that is taught. We need to have the children as excited about French as they are about English. Allowing schools to have other languages like Italian or Spanish is not beneficial. If parents want their kids to learn these languages, they can have it as an extra-curricular activity on their own time not school time. My daughters both had to take Italian and we are Portuguese, this was a waste of their time. They could have had their French class extended instead. The Italian teachers are not respected and from what I have seen and what my daughters have told me, they do not have control of their classrooms. We don't send out children to school to learn other languages, we send them to school to learn the important things like math, science, English etc. There are bilingual jobs out there where French is the language required, not Italian or Spanish. Let's keep the school equal all across by providing the students with what they need not what they don't need and don't want. This is Canada, if you choose to come to this country, you choose to learn its languages not another country's language!
Parent	I really like the idea of more Multi-language or Bi-lingual schools available for a wider variety of languages. There is a large Polish community that wants a Polish bilingual school, with French being taught as well. The west-end would be the most appropriate location and would provide families in the west-end with a multi-language school option.
Parent	As to the issue of a Multi-lingual school, although the idea seems intriguing, re-opening an already closed school in order to do this would be counter-productive. I would suggest phasing this multi-lingual instruction into an undersubscribed school. In this way, if this plan is unsuccessful, the initial outlay of funds will be significantly less.

2. Specialized Arts Program at St. Raymond 2019-2020

Survey Summary: Overall 55% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with this proposal, and approximately 30% indicated no opinion on the issue.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	<p>Regarding St. Raymond's Art focus - although there is merit, the LTAP states that TCDSB would like to increase enrolment. In the rationale statements from the minutes of the Board, it was stated that there were many intermediate students that did not receive placement in Cardinal Carter, and that is why an Intermediate Arts Program is needed. However, assuming that the majority of the students auditioning were current TCDSB students, how does this satisfy the Board objective of increasing enrolment?</p> <p>This is just moving students from one TCDSB school to another.</p>

3. Reggio Emilia Program at Railway Lands School

Survey Summary: Overall, close to 48% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with a higher proportion of parents (44.7%) and staff (58%) and more strongly supporting the proposal.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	The Reggio Emilia Program to meet the needs of self-directed learners is an amazing idea.

4. Middle Years International Baccalaureate Program

Survey Summary: Both parents and staff support reflect the overall 55% support level.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	The Board has been successful with the implementation of IB Program at St. Mary Secondary, and thus a feeder school with a strong academic focus - consider Middle Years IB and / or possibly STEAM - type program (at elementary level), would make a natural fit (From my personal experience, working with Gifted Program students at St. Raymond), the implementation of rigorous academic program at St. Mary has substantially reduced the number of my students leaving our board to the public board over the last few years.

5. Year Round Elementary Programs

Survey Summary: On average, close to 50% disagree with “Year-Round” schools as an option. Over 70% of Catholic Ratepayers indicated they disagree or disagree strongly.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	Agree on many aspects having year round schools may have difficulty for working parents and it may not suit the due to change in the weather unless having different mode of schools / arts or sports/ at different times.
Parent	I am 100% against "year-round" schools. Soon enough children grow up and work year round for most of their adult lives. Let the young children have their summers to enjoy. As for the high school students, summer break gives them the opportunity to have a full-time job to earn some cash to put towards university or college (or in some cases, much needed cash for the home.) If there are no long summer breaks, the students cannot earn as much cash during the year with part-time work.

6. General Comments about Programs and Program-related Issues:

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	I'm really excited that the board is exploring options for specialized programs in high schools. I teach the gifted program at St. Monica and several of my students leave our board to attend special programs at the TDSB or they go to private schools. I think that we would retain a lot more of our stronger students if we were able to compete with these programs. I would love to see itinerant 21C/technology teachers/programs at the elementary level. I recognize that unless the provincial report card has a section for technology/21C, this will be difficult/impossible. There is so much discussion about 'preparing our children for jobs that do not exist yet' and 'promoting critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and problem-solving' but there is very little expectation from teachers to teach these skills.
Staff	Specialized programs at the elementary level are only available to a small fragment of the greater population. Rather than specializing at this level, funds should be spent on improving current schools by reducing class sizes, and increasing the number of EAs and CYWs.
Staff	The board should consider ending the International Languages program (extended day) to provide savings to help support many of these very worthwhile projects. A program that has very little results or benefits, has no accountability or formal curriculum, and is taught by unqualified instructors should not be a part of the TCDSB and continues to be a drain on the resources of the system. If the board really wants to continue this program, it should consider a pay as you go weekend program where those who are truly interested in the program pay the cost with subsidies from the governments of countries where those languages exist (e.g.: Italy, Portugal, Spain, etc...)
Parent	The board should look to offer primary gifted programming starting in JK all the way through to grade 8.
Staff	Let us begin with the primary students and address the real concerns of all the specials and the growing number of students with autism.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	I think that there needs to be more art and music programs in the k-8 grades. There also needs to be more playgrounds, and outdoor play space. Computers needs be current and useable. Religion should also be a big part of the plan. In the k-8 grades there is not enough programs for the non-sporty kids, and there needs to be more opportunities for leadership roles during school hours.
Parent	<p>The Robotics and High Tech Centres should be also made available to elementary schools. This is a great way to engage children early in math and link it to what they can do with the learnings today and tomorrow. Early engagement will also support more girls entering the more "boy" fields. It becomes ingrained early on, and they learn that they are able to do it in a familiar setting.</p> <p>The Board should be open to partnering with business to create these Centres. Companies depend on these skills set to run their companies, they have as much to benefit as the kids. Also, it brings in more resources than the Board alone can provide. Companies are supporting children related programs more and more realizing that it is a great way to positively impact the community and mutually gain from it.</p> <p>Ask for more parent engagement - we represent a broader knowledge base than just the Trustees and Educators.</p>
Other	I think the board should investigate changing the Start Times to create a late start in Elementary Schools.
Parent	It would be great if the school board could finally get rid of international languages in the schools that still offer it!

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	Address student Mental Health - Increase Elementary Guidance-Teacher Counsellors to visit schools weekly instead of every other week.
Parent	<p>Remove school day International Language programs. These programs are running at a deficit to the board of over a half million dollars a year. Some programs are running in schools where the community has drastically changed and that language is no longer prevalent. We need programs like 5th Block in all our schools. Spend the money on programs like this, not funding a budget killing program. If parents want their child to learn a third language after English and French then give them the choice to have their child learn it after school or on weekends and let them pay for it. My child had Italian at his school for 10 years and now is in high school. He was the highest overall academic student at his school in grade eight and he can't even say "May I go to the washroom?" in Italian. He has no place to practice or use it. In my opinion it was a waste of a total of 38 days of his life. (30 min/day * 182 days/year * 10 years). Cut this and use the funding for other programs for at risk students or programs that will ready our children for a technological based future. Think Ahead!</p>

C. SECONDARY SCHOOLS**1. Continued implementation of Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs**

Survey Summary: Over 57% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with over 80% support from students.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	SHSM seems only to appeal to university-bound students so could the money be better spent in some other way?
Catholic Ratepayer	While the expansion of SHSM programs is a good plan, there is still a need for a high end full-blown academy for the skilled trades. One school with highly trained professionals in a variety of fields--culinary arts, carpentry, brick laying, etc. so that students who may not be academically inclined can graduate with the necessary skills to obtain gainful employment or apprenticeship positions once they finish the program.
Other	SHSM programs seem a better idea as the program takes from an existing student population, not forcing a student to go out of their school district.
Other	21st Century high tech Centres should be implemented in all high schools. If you don't encourage all high schools to implement technology courses again you are going to help form these "pre conceived" perceptions of what is a "good" school and what isn't.
Student	Add arts and culture SHSM to Madonna Catholic Secondary school

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

2. Continued Support of Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics Programs

Survey Summary: Over 85% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly”, reflecting similar high levels of support across the Board from parents, staff, and stakeholders. Students indicated over 90% support.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	I think money is best spent on programs which are multifaceted and meet specific diverse needs such as those of artistic students and those who possess superior bodily kinesthetic intelligence, as well as on STEM and STEAM, 21st Century technology, rather than on IB programs. The needs of high achieving students are well served in the current model. We need diversity of programs.

3. Creation of an International Baccalaureate Program at J. Cardinal McGuigan

Survey Summary: Close to 62% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with the proposal.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	We do not need more money spent on solely academic schools; we have those already within the regular schools. IB programs are not the way forward. These are not progressive. Maybe twenty years ago this would have been a good idea for TCDSB, but currently if we want to stand out and surpass other offerings we need to focus outside the box.
Other	IB Programs, they cost money to operate and ensure expectation are being met. They are designed for students who have parents that work in various countries throughout their professional life and follow the same curriculum in various countries. Save the money and put it towards something else. Yes, I know first-hand as my wife teaches at one of the top IB schools in Canada and also teaches PYP which is IB for elementary students. This survey sounds like TCDSB is just trying to compete with all the other school boards in what they are doing. Why not fix what problems our board has first and then start expanding. Every 2 or 3 years the board’s educational strategy changes, nothing stays put for long enough to see the end result.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	I am not supportive of additional programming like IB in elementary schools. I would like to see focus on improving the existing curriculum implementation at our schools. With EQAO results in math at an all-time low, we need to be looking at ways to improve that and not spending limited resources to support a new program in the elementary system like IB. Let's improve our results first, implement things like science fairs, etc. to grow student competency at the elementary level and not look to IB. By doing so, these types of growth opportunities can feed students who have an appetite for more challenges. This saves precious Board dollars while still achieving challenging student experiences.
Other	Good luck implementing the Baccalaureate program at McGuigan, you will be taking students from the existing area not attracting new ones from outside. I hope I am wrong on this.
Parent	The IB is generally considered to be a lot of work for little to no benefit as universities do not award students for their participation. If parents want more then let them pay for it. This is all expensive nonsense.
Staff	As the board is trying to implement a fourth site for IB, why not utilize a school that is more central than Cardinal? Cardinal already has an extensive arts program that draws a large number of students to that school. Create a fourth IB school outside of that area; a school that currently does not have a specialized program (spread the wealth a bit, instead of keeping it in a congregated area).

4. Centrally –located, downtown secondary school in partnership with St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto

Survey Summary: Over 66% of respondents across the Board “Agree or Agree Strongly” the proposed new downtown secondary school.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Catholic Ratepayer	The downtown school, to avoid encroaching on enrolment at St. Joe's College, I would suggest considering an arts academy. Right now the arts schools are east, west and north. Nothing in the downtown core. It might alleviate some of the overcrowding at Cardinal Carter.
Parent	If the St. Michael's College partnership is single sex (male students only) I strongly disagree. If it is co-ed, I strongly support.

5. Culinary Arts/Hospitality Programs – Partnerships with Community Colleges

Survey Summary: Over 80% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” to expand the program.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
NO COMMENTS	NO COMMENTS submitted regarding this survey topic.

6. High Performance Sports Academy for Secondary Athletes

Survey Summary: Over 63% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with this type of academy, although student support was mixed with as many supporting the idea as those who disagree with the proposal.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	Focus on academics. What is a High Performance sports academy for secondary students? Elite athletes are not involved at the high school level, except for basketball and maybe football. Father Henry Carr is already our Track incubator. Elite carded athletes are not allowed to compete in high school sports. This is an idiotic suggestion unless, you are talking about providing

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
	flexible scheduling for the elite athlete. The Canadian Olympic Association already has their centres of excellence in Vancouver, Calgary, and Montreal. Toronto has an elite swim centre. Olympic athletes do not compete at the high school level.
Catholic Ratepayer	We need to meet the needs of ALL students in the Catholic system. We do not need to 'specialize' for the athlete, etc. as this limits participation and makes for rivalry amongst the schools. The same opportunities for ALL students should be offered in ALL schools.
Catholic Ratepayer	With respect to the sports academy, the emphasis should not be on elite athletes but rather programming focusing on all aspects of athletics--sports medicine, sports marketing, sports reporting/broadcasting, sports management etc.
Staff	We need to put a greater focus on developing proper athletic programs and inspiring sport academy schools within our board. Many of our at risk youth are yearning to thrive in such programs, as well as staff are willing to showcase their talents and expertise in a currently lackluster athletic programming school board.

7. Year Round Secondary School

Survey Summary: On average, close to 50% disagree with “Year-Round” schools as an option. Over 70% of Catholic Ratepayers indicated they disagree or disagree strongly. Concern centred around students’ loss of summer jobs.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Catholic Ratepayer	Year round schooling may merit exploration, but without an investment in air conditioning, it is not feasible. A better discussion to have would be the exploration of a more balanced school year. More of a European model where students have a slightly shorter summer and have longer breaks at Christmas and Easter.
Parent	Why do trustees want a 12 month school? My wife and I both only have 3 weeks holidays to spend time with our two children in the summer. This is Canada summer is too short already. I do not have money to go to Florida in the winter.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	Why do you want our students to go to school year round? What about high school students who need the summer months for jobs that will help them in the future.
Catholic Ratepayer	How will students get their job experience that most of them normally get from their summer job if they have to go to school all year? You will be preventing them from future job potentials.
Student	Why are you punishing students by making them go to school all year? What about summer jobs?
Parent	I am 100% against "year-round" schools. As for the high school students, summer break gives them the opportunity to have a full-time job to earn some cash to put towards university or college (or in some cases, much needed cash for the home.) If there are no long summer breaks, the students cannot earn as much cash during the year with part-time work.

8. Creation of a “Late Start” Secondary School

Survey Summary: Response was split across the Board, with as many agreeing or agreeing strongly as those who also disagree or disagree strongly with proposed Late Start Secondary School designed to accommodate “circadian cycles” of student learners. This was also true for students who responded – which showed a similar split in opinion.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Catholic Ratepayer	What the heck is a late start school? My teenage son is lazy enough as it is in the morning. He doesn't need help from the school board.
Staff	Too bad your Trustees don't do their homework before suggesting this type of nonsense, like this and the Late Start School. Which company [sic] allows their workers to come and go as they please?
Parent	And who was the brilliant person who is suggesting LATE START schools. If you left it to teenagers they would never get up to go to school. There is no job in the real world that lets you show up to work when you feel like it... except maybe being school trustees. Isn't high school supposed to help students be ready for the rest of their lives?

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	Secondary students to face the realities of life, so no Late Start schools.
Catholic Ratepayer	How does a late start school help students prepare for University or the real working world? I remember my labs were all at 8:30 am in university. Did the Board do a study on this? Going to school late - must have been a trustee idea as it only prepares students to be a trustee because I see that the board meetings never start at 7pm on time.
Parent	What is late start> Please specify a time. Does late start also mean students stay at school later? My son has a job after work.
Student	What will be hours be for late start? I have a part time job after school and I need the money. If school runs late I will have to quit my job - or skip class. Probably skip class because I need the \$\$\$\$. Same for year-round school. In summer I get more hours. I need to save for college. Are you going to do this for all high schools? Bad idea it will hurt students.

9. 21st Century, High-Tech Centre of Excellence Colleges

Survey Summary: Overall strong agreement with over 70% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” the suggestion.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	Why create a "High Tech Centre of Excellence Secondary School"???? They all should be! Would these Robotics Centres be in every Secondary School??? The Board should really focus on creating EXCELLENT local neighbourhood schools. Kids should be able to walk to their local high school, and attend school in their own hood.
Parent	Also partnership across school boards, or timesharing (a couple of months or summer time) for High Tech Center of Excellence or Robotics Centres.
Catholic Ratepayer	As far as 21C is concerned, given that the board has had a department devoted to this for a few years, the expectation would be that staff are ALL being trained to incorporate 21C principles into their teaching. Instead of a school specifically focusing on that, perhaps a more concerted effort

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
	to ensure that teachers colleges are incorporating the right methodology into their programming, and that there is ongoing support and training for all staff. Of course, if the thinking is that students may want to specialize in computer engineering, computer program design, computer repairs/maintenance, then I would push that program into the skilled trades academy I suggested in one of my earlier points.
Student	Technology is the future. The TCDSB should implement and realize how important is it for students to learn and understand the fundamentals of technology, computers and programming specifically. Almost every job today has a technological aspect to them. And even if a student pursues something like math or arts, there is no doubt digital tools would help them excel in their choice of career. Computers and Technology should not be an elective but a mandatory course someone must take, because that's where the world is going.
Staff	As for a push for technology, spend money on all of the current schools that desperately need to update their current hardware; there is no need to create a tech school, simply provide current schools with the means to implement 21st century learning. That is what the board wants but fails to provide the means by which schools can operate in such manner.

10. Robotics Centres in Secondary Schools

Survey Summary: Strong indication of support among respondents expressing they “Agree or Agree Strongly” for Robotics Centres at over 70% among parents and staff. Over 86% of student respondents expressed their agreement.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Student	We currently are unable to fund robotics in our regular schools. This site will create a greater disparity in robotics programs. Specialty programming should be looked at for our schools that are currently undersubscribed.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

11. Business/Young Entrepreneurs Program within a Secondary School

Survey Summary: Over 78% of respondents “Agree or Agree Strongly” with this type of specialty program.

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	Let's please focus on high tech training education business etc. that will lead to jobs for kids for the future.

12. General Comments about Programs and Program-related Issues

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	I would like to know why teachers at all the above mentioned schools are not made aware of these proposed changes before the world is asked to comment (given this survey is posted to Twitter and hence the world). Staff at these schools should be consulted first and foremost to see if it is something that their community needs. When Teachers are not consult it continues to show that the board doesn't actually care about what Teachers do - even though we are the ones doing everything. Interesting that we are going to expand the French program, but cut services to Special Education - that doesn't make sense.
Other	The Board needs to include financial literacy in its secondary planning.
Other	Put programs in place that support at risk students or programs to support students that are not going further in studies after HS!
Staff	There was nothing her about continuing/developing Trades programs in the secondary schools. They are EXTREMELY important for many of our students. Most people I speak to about how they entered into working in Trades say they had the opportunity to be exposed to trades in high school. Yet our secondary schools are closing their trades programs. Perhaps the board could establish some hub programs in the Trades.

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Staff	At the secondary level, it is important for students to begin to explore avenues that can benefit them in the future and I agree this can be done through SHSMs, IB, and STEAM programs. It is necessary to consider the current infrastructure of schools as many of them are over capacity, unsafe, and unhealthy. We must ensure that funds are dedicated to renovating and building schools that are sustainable and healthy to maintain the well-being of all those in such buildings.
Other	Create High School programming that can be easily duplicated and implemented across the City of Toronto. Strong Local schools will ensure the continuation of Catholic Education.
Parent	There were a number of elements numbered above that I don't recall reading about in the Program Plan. Specifically, the Year Round schools, late start in secondary schools and the high performance sports academy. I question why these were included in the survey if they are not included in the referenced Plan? Where are these proposed investigations described in a recommendation by Staff?
Parent	I think it is essential to look at the needs of each individual school, particularly with respect to high school. If a high school has many graduates attending trades or college post-secondary, it makes sense to offer these students an opportunity to explore their interests in high school. (culinary arts, automotive, etc.)
Other	Always good to have students be a productive member of society, in doing so, 40 hours of volunteer is really not a lot of hours. More co-op programs available to students for various possible future careers.
Student	The Board should thoroughly investigate the implementation of "self-directed" learning in more secondary schools.
Parent	I would like to see high school being less about specialization and more about broadening. We're asking our young people to make life impacting decisions (what to study and specialize in) before they've had a chance to understand the complete range of possibilities. High school should be about sampling a wide range of disciplines, not choosing to specialize. Another thing I would really like to see is high school hours extended by a half hour each day, and religion moved to

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
	that extra half hour time slot, every day. This would free up a credit course opening so the high school students could study 8 full credits each year and still take religion. I believe we would have fewer students graduating from Catholic elementary school and switching the public board if they could take 8 full credits each year in addition to religion.
Staff	Consider implementing a Congregated AP program at Secondary Level in the area to service those students who academically excel in the Liberal Arts or Science courses, but not both. This would especially benefit our elementary ELL students. - surrounding public schools have a much higher utilization rate and significantly higher population, with anticipated demands in the area increasing, based on http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-71897.pdf
Parent	Why are the Catholic schools not expanding also the humanistic subjects and liberal arts? It's all about technology right now, but the coming generations will lose their roots if they're not getting a real education in History and Classics (esp. Latin since it's the language of our Church). Being educated in Europe myself I also find Geography strangely lacking from elementary schools in Canada.
Parent	What does SHSM mean in this survey? I'm glad the board is considering these specialized options for students, especially those in STEM, new technologies and entrepreneurship. Our children need to prepare for a very different work environment than what we experienced ourselves in the 20th century.
Parent	For Brebeuf College: Expand the Advanced Placement and Special High Skills Major programming to address opportunities currently not available to Brebeuf students. This would include additional programming for math strategies. Updating the school library furniture to align with 22nd century technology and usage. This would include audio centres.
Catholic Ratepayer	Think about a Specialty Program for St. Basil. Something like IB or French Immersion would be great for that school community. The proposed secondary sites already have programs. Share the programs in other areas!

APPENDIX B: LONG TERM PROGRAM PLAN (LTPP) SURVEY COMMENTS

PARTICIPANT:	COMMENT:
Parent	<p>All of these programs for secondary schools sound promising however, given that our students are not given the choice to select secondary schools outside their home areas I'm not sure that these program will be feasible. These programs may create interest in our schools and perhaps increase enrollment but we need to address the cost-benefit analysis before we move forward. Does starting a new program in one school mean that essential services (like special education support) get cut in another school?</p>