



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION READINESS SEPTEMBER 2017

*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.
The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1 | NIV |*

Created, Draft

August 21, 2017

First Tabling

August 24, 2017

Review

J. Volek, Acting Comptroller of Planning and Development Services

INFORMATION REPORT

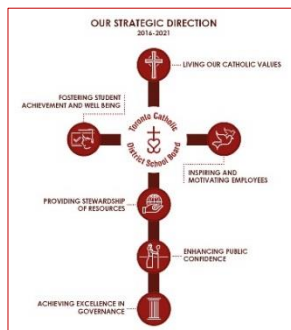
Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



Rory McGuckin
Director of Education

D. Koenig
Associate Director
of Academic Affairs

A. Sangiorgio
Associate Director
of Planning and Facilities

T.B.D.
Executive Superintendent
of Business Services and
Chief Financial Officer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since July 13th, Board staff have been regularly meeting with representatives of the Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) and representatives from each of the bus carriers in an effort to maintain a high level of operational readiness for September 2017 school start and to avoid a repeat of last September's school bus driver shortage.

In addition, the TSTG Governance Committee met on two occasions between July and August to provide critical oversight on bussing preparedness for school start and to ensure compliance with the recommendations outlined in the Ombudsman's report.

Bus operators formally indicated to us that they have sufficient drivers to begin the new school year, and that they currently have 101 spare drivers, which exceeds their contractual obligation for a roster of 94 spares.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 2 hours.

B. PURPOSE

To provide the Board of Trustees with an update on the status of operational readiness for September 2017 school start.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Two Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) Governance meetings have been held (June 29th and August 17th) to prevent a repeat of some of the oversight issues that may have contributed to last September's school bus service disruption. In addition, the meetings served to guide concrete actions to comply with the recommendations outlined in the Ombudsman's report.
2. Weekly Operations Committee meetings with the individual carriers began on July 13th 2017, and these meetings will continue through to mid-September. Items of discussion have included:
 - a. Hiring statistics - anticipated open routes, persons in training, hiring practices and strategies,
 - b. Spare driver pool,
 - c. Office reception and ability to respond to parent inquiries, complaints and concerns,
 - d. Questions, information sharing.

3. Bus carriers were given a deadline of August 11th to confirm their operational readiness. At the weekly Operations Committee meeting on August 10th, bus operators formally indicated to us that they have sufficient drivers to begin the new school year, and that they currently have 101 spare drivers, which exceeds their contractual obligation for a roster of 94 spares
4. A letter was delivered to bus carriers on August 17th, 2017 reminding them of all contractual obligations contained in the current transportation agreement with the consortium.
5. The Governance Committee will continue with weekly teleconference calls in the weeks leading up to the beginning of school.
6. Communications with parents is a priority and two joint TCDSB-TDSB-TSTG letters have been sent to parents (August 8th and August 17th) detailing the ongoing status of bus service preparations to date.
7. All communications related to bus transportation is currently spotlighted on the TCDSB home page (www.tcdsb.org) with links to all key communications information.
8. In addition, an alert banner will be added to the front page of the Board's Website prior to the first week of school to clearly link to the Transportation portal to allow parents easy access to available real-time information updates related to their child's bus service.

D. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.