

Feb. 15, 2007

An Important Message to Parents and Guardians

From Trustee: Esther O'Toole, Ward 9/10, Vice Chair of the Board

Over the past two years, your Catholic school board has been steadfast in its position that underfunding of education must be addressed by the provincial government. Specifically, we have cited three key areas of chronic underfunding:

- ▶ **Salaries and benefits** – the majority of our employees are teachers. We are funded approximately \$1,700 less per teacher than we pay in salaries and benefits.
- ▶ **Special Education**
- ▶ **Transportation**, where we are funded at a rate of approximately \$200 less per student than the Ottawa-Carlton District School Board! And even \$15 less per student than our neighbouring Peel DSB, a district with which we share the same transportation system. A comparative illustration of the funding disparity among school boards is provided below.

Transportation Funding Per Pupil *School Board Profiles Estimates 2006-2007*

	Dufferin-Peel CDSB	Durham DSB	Ottawa-Carlton DSB	Peel DSB	Simcoe County DSB	Thames Valley DSB	York CDSB	York Region DSB
Transportation Grant	\$16,283,155	\$19,673,589	\$26,462,511	\$28,926,950	\$18,402,938	\$27,953,508	\$15,869,679	\$31,976,183
Board Enrolment	83,829	66,016	66,993	137,740	52,817	74,809	51,972	102,872
Transportation Funding Per Pupil	\$194.24	\$298.01	\$395.00	\$210.01	\$348.43	\$373.67	\$305.35	\$310.83

The government acknowledges the need to repair the benchmarks for these areas with sustained additional funding, but insists that the board must reduce costs by cutting programs and services, until the benchmarks have been fixed. While Dufferin-Peel trustees have sought to co-operate with the province and be good stewards of our budget, we have steadfastly maintained that we will go no further with cuts.

On Monday, February 5, trustees were advised that, because we refuse to make further cuts, we will no longer be responsible for the board's budget or any financial matters. Please be assured that we will continue to advocate and work on behalf of students, parents, staff, and Catholic ratepayers on a number of fronts.

We appreciate your continued support, prayers and encouragement. I encourage you to express your concerns about this issue to the province through your local MPP, local MPP, Bob Delaney, 2145 Dunwin Dr. Unit 3, Miss., On, L5L 4L9 Tel: 905-569-1643 Fax: 905-569-6416 bdelaney.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

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You may also wish to contact The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, 900 Bay Street, Mowat Block, 22nd Floor, Toronto, ON M7A 1L2, Tel : 416-325-7204, Fax : 416-325-7249, or by email to kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org .

Sincerely,

Trustee, Esther O'Toole
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