



OSSTF TORONTO

April 17, 2019

Dear Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute Parent Council Chair,

I am writing to ask that you share the enclosed letter with your school's Parent Council Members at the next School Council meeting.

In the letter, I outline the impact on high schools that the government's current budget and announced reduction in staffing will have on access to school programs for students.

I also ask that you and your colleagues consider passing a motion in opposition to the government's plan for Ontario's schools, and that you share that motion with the Minister of Education.

Thanks you for taking the time to read this letter, and the enclosed material, and for considering with your School Council the steps you may take as a group to help protect our schools.

Sincerely,

Leslie Wolfe
President
Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit
OSSTF Toronto District 12

LW/ml
Enclosures

Secondary Teachers' Bargaining Unit
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 12, Toronto

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Protecting and Enhancing Public Education



April 17, 2019

Dear Members of Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute School Council,

I am reaching out to you as a partner in public education. The commitment you have shown by being part of protecting and enhancing our local schools through your engagement with your School Council matters.

On March 15th, 2019, the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, unleashed the Ontario Progressive Conservative education plan called *New Vision for Education*.

In a nutshell, their *Plan* is to underfund schools. Their education budget does not provide enough money to cover enrolment growth and inflation. This ultimately means their plan will fail to support and meet the needs of the students in our schools. It is a decisive move that results in undervaluing our children and their future.

The *New Vision Plan* reduces the number of teachers in high schools by 20% over four years.

The *New Vision Plan* will force high school students to take a minimum of four online courses, further reducing the time your child has to engage with educators and peers, and increasing their screen time.

The *New Vision Plan* cuts general funding to school boards, adding an increased burden on the public education system.

These are the very courses and programs that ensure the TDSB can meet the needs of all the different types of learners in our city; these are the very opportunities that students in our community need to succeed.

If these cuts are not stopped, our children will face:

- Split grade classes;
- Split subject classes;
- Larger class sizes;
- Less time to have meaningful interaction with education workers;
- Fewer courses available to choose from as they move through the system;
- Reduction/cancellation of programs like the Specialist High Skills Majors; performing and fine arts; elite sports alternative schools; special education; International Baccalaureate; Advanced Placement, and more;

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- Less time for teachers to spend supporting students who require extra help and guidance;
- Reduced access to guidance counsellors, Educational Assistants, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and other important members of the education team;
- Fewer adults available to support students with special needs and
- Fewer adults in schools available to volunteer their time for extra-curricular programs, clubs, and teams.

The Toronto District School Board currently faces a budget deficit of \$54 million for the coming school year, and may face some stark choices if the government does not change course.

We are here for students. We know you are too.

Many School Councils have already passed resolutions opposing the PC government's education cuts. For those who have done so, thank you for this act of solidarity.

I am writing to ask that if your School Council hasn't yet done so, to consider doing so now and then send it to the Minister of Education, Lisa Thompson, at lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org.

Whether you've already passed a motion to oppose the government's cuts to education or you do so as a result of this letter, if you'd like to send me a copy of the motion, I'd be happy to see it!

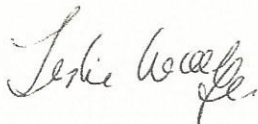
When all education stakeholders stand together we have a better chance of achieving our shared goal of protecting the education system we so value. To that end, I am also including with this letter an Action Toolkit developed by Toronto West End Parents for Public Education (<https://www.facebook.com/WEPPEToronto/>).

I also invite you to visit the website www.hereforstudents.ca where you can send a message directly to your MPP that you do not support increases to class size and a reduction in programs. Please share this website with members of the school community and ask them to add their voice to stand up for public education.

I know you care about public education and about this school. You dedicate your time to this School Council because you believe in the value of the public education system. Now is the time for us to work together to protect our schools for our children, and for the children coming up behind them.

Thank you for taking the time to consider what I've said.

Sincerely,



Leslie Wolfe
President
Toronto Teachers' Bargaining Unit
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