



John Del Grande
Trustee - Ward 7
Scarborough/North York

VICE CHAIR: ADMINISTRATIVE & CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE
CHAIR: AUDIT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

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September 5th, 2006

Dear parents/guardians,

I would like to welcome everyone back from what I hope was a restful summer. With the start of the new school year there are typically some questions relating to school bus transportation to/from school.

According to the Board's Transportation Policy, S.T.01, "Transportation may be provided to pupils where a substantial number of Catholic pupils have difficulty in availing themselves of a Catholic education, or for Special Education and/or handicapped pupils." In order to apply fairness and uniformity, the board has applied a distance factor (1.5 km) measured from the closest elementary school to be considered for automatic standard transportation. There are provisions within our policy that allow for exceptions for students closer than 1.5 km where certain hardships or safety hazards exist. Extenuating circumstance bussing is evaluated and provided on a *year-by-year* basis only.

For those who are awaiting transportation service under our extenuating circumstances provisions, our transportation planners are working diligently in attempting to accommodate your requests. Due to the fluxuating enrollment in the first two weeks of school and our mandate to provide service to those under our standard transportation policies, all extenuating circumstance transportation will be approved on a case by case basis only after the school attempted to mediate an alternative solution, and only if *space and time* permits on an *existing* vehicle.

Demand unfortunately always exceeds supply for transportation, to provide some context, according to our last budget figures, on top of our current year deficit, the TCDSB currently spends \$3.2 million in excess of transportation funding from the provincial government (our only primary funding source).

Please call or email me if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Del Grande".

Trustee John Del Grande

REFERENCES: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION POLICIES ST01 & ST03