



**John Del Grande, B.Comm**  
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VICE-CHAIR  
HUMAN RESOURCES, PROGRAM AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Dear parents,

I would like to welcome everyone back and wish your children many successes during this 2004-2005 school year. With the start of the new school year there continues to be many questions and confusion with school bus transportation to and from school.

Transportation planning is a cumbersome and difficult task. Many of our routes are coordinated with the Toronto District School Board and are based around projected enrollment numbers and student distribution within the school neighbourhoods.

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 treat all of our students fairly, the board has applied a distance factor (1.5 km) measured from the closest elementary school to be considered for standard transportation. There are provisions within the policy that allow for exceptions for students closer than 1.5 km where family hardships, disability or safety hazards exist. Exceptional circumstance bussing is provided on a year-by-year basis only.

Since exceptions can change from year to year they can only be approved where space and route coordination exist. The transportation department is diligently working on outstanding requests. There continues to be more requests than spaces available. The TCDSB is committed to providing whatever assistance possible for exceptional circumstance cases.

The overall big picture is that with rising fuel costs and vehicle maintenance/insurance increases, and the fact that the government funds transportation at 1998 levels, transportation at any level of service is very expensive. Last year, the TCDSB spent more than \$1.7 million in excess of grant revenues for school bus transportation (excluding transportation for schools under construction).

I encourage you to call or email me if you have any concerns, questions or issues I can help you address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Del Grande', written over a horizontal line.

John Del Grande