



January 26, 2022

Dear TCDSB Families,

You may have heard last night that the Toronto Elementary Catholic Teacher's union (TECT), the union representing elementary teachers, provided the TCDSB with notice of a full strike at one or more schools on Monday. The Board was shocked to receive TECT's notice. We recognize and appreciate the ways in which teachers have gone above and beyond to support students and we know that our wonderful teachers are committed to service and support. The Board is very disappointed that TECT is choosing to disrupt student learning by threatening to go on strike over the following two issues:

- Absenteeism continues to be a serious issue that impacts the classroom experience for students; TECT wants to prevent the Board from supporting teachers while also improving attendance at work.
- The Board is responsible for ensuring that staffing levels and classroom assignments are managed in a way that reduces disruption to students. TECT wants to limit the manner in which the Board determines this, particularly during the commencement of the school year in September.

We recognize how difficult the last few years have been for staff, students, and families during the pandemic and appreciate all that our teachers continue to do to support students during this difficult time. It is inexcusable that the local union (TECT) wants to halt student learning by threatening to strike after all that students have been through during the pandemic in order to prevent the Board from providing absenteeism support and managing staffing processes.

The TCDSB will continue to do all that it can to reach a fair and just agreement. We are available to meet today or any day to reach a deal with TECT. The TCDSB will continue to advocate on behalf of our students to ensure TECT's demands do not negatively impact the quality of student education.

Toronto Catholic District School Board