

PRESENTATION TO THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Monday, September 11, 2006

Good evening.

My name is Tina DiVona, president of Local 2026 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, currently representing 474 members. We are the secretarial, clerical and technical staff. We are the business and public relations of Dufferin Peel, we are your front line workers.

Thank you once again to the board of Trustees for this opportunity to speak with you about the impact of budget difficulties, and to warn parents and the community about the impact of possible cuts (if approved) to services as defined at the September 6th meeting.

I would like to start by saying that I was surprised at last Wednesday's meeting that I did not have to field any questions regarding my presentation and further surprised that our offer to rally MPPs was not discussed or even questioned.

It has always been our intent, and I trust we have always demonstrated this intent to work together with the Board on all issues, both big or small.

The Board and Special Advisor recommendations to achieve a balanced budget on September 6th were clear.

The impact to our local will be - 20 jobs, 20 members and 20 of your employees will be faced with layoffs and permanent cuts.

I would like you to observe 20 people representing the 700 working hours that will be lost weekly resulting from the introduced plan, and 700 working hours that will have a direct impact on our educational system. I will give you a short synopsis of some of the jobs that will be eliminated and the impact that it will have on our most vulnerable students.

Resource Secretaries - Keep in mind all of the above is multiplied by 7 families of school.

*Co-ordinate IPRC and Case Conferences – assign dates, committees - send out invites (*average of 10 per student*) approx. 200 students per family per school year

*Attendance conferences - letters - parents - average 25 per family/school year

*Integration Days - keep track of each school's use of their days - approx. 250 days per -family

*Data base updates - twice yearly - average of 1200 per family / per year = 2400 inputs

*Track Special Services Personnel & Safety Protocol average of 20 people per family

*Track and oversee monthly mileage reports, average 20 people per family

*ERW/CYW placement letters each May/June average 150 letters per family

*Three special services personnel require report typing each school year

*Request (fill out forms and take to the Health and Safety secretary) Crisis Prevention Intervention Training - average of 60 per family for each school year

Assistant Secretaries – Guidance/attendance (1500 students or more) employees are performing the equivalent duties of a full time guidance/attendance secretary.

- Attendance accuracy
- Truancy , skips, forged notes
- Field trip Manifest – Medical alerts and notification to school staff.
- Input of achieved credits from Peel Schools, Private Schools, including summer school and night school.
- Record keeping of community hours
- Diplomas, Honour roll, Ontario Scholars etc.

And the list goes on!

In the past 10 years, The Dufferin Peel student body has grown by 10% while our support staff has grown by only 2%.

Based on the stats that we have provided you with, it is abundantly clear that there's no fat to cut in this local. We are already down to the bone. When vital staff are cut from the schools and the Board, you don't just lose the services they provide, you lose much more. Your biggest loss will be the dedicated employees who offer a safe environment for the children of this board. Those children deserve the same as any other child in any educational system.

When calling the CEC main number the greeting is "Experience the Value and Quality of a Catholic Education" "Experience the Dufferin Peel tradition" We believe in approving the recommendations provided to you on September 6th, these two statements are in jeopardy!

A provincial election will be held in October 2007. We must not let the Liberal government take this community's votes for granted. The Public must be made aware that with the current Premier lauding himself as the "Education Premier" along with his failure to fulfill his campaign promises – action needs to be taken. The chronic under funding will not go away unless the public "stands up and let themselves be counted". It is apparent that our job is to keep the public informed.

In closing, I urge the Board and Trustees to allow your conscience and your good faith to guide you. Vote against the proposed document and explore other avenues.

Thank you.

Tina DiVona

President, CUPE Local 2026