

Ministry of Education

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June 4, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today, the Ontario government has appointed a supervisor to oversee the financial management and administration of the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

I want to assure the Toronto Catholic students, parents, and staff that the welfare of your school system is my priority. One of Norbert Hartmann's first responsibilities as the Supervisor will be to create a communication plan to keep students, parents, and staff informed.

We will work to ensure that parents continue to have input and a meaningful role in decision-making at this board. Parents will also be able to continue to work with local trustees who will be free to carry out individual responsibilities in local communities and at school events.

The appointment of this supervisor follows the recommendations of an investigation team that found:

- A failure on the part of the board to develop a clear plan to implement all of the recommendations in the report entitled “Enhancing Public Trust and Confidence”
- Evidence that trustee behaviour regarding expenses did not change after Mr. Hartmann’s report was received
- A deficit of between \$5 million and \$12 million is forecast for 2008/09
- A pattern of decision-making where staff recommendations are routinely ignored and decisions are made at the last minute without thorough analysis of long-term implications.

The board’s actions have called into question the trustees’ credibility, and as a result, I have no confidence in their ability to continue to manage the board’s affairs. I want this board to have stability and solid financial controls in place, so that we can focus on our main job of improving student achievement.

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Therefore, effective immediately, Norbert Hartmann has been appointed under the *Education Act* to:

- Develop communication measures to inform parents, board trustees, student trustees, staff, and the public of actions taken by the supervisor
- Implement the recommendations of “Enhancing Public Trust and Confidence” as it applies to the board
- Develop and responsibly implement a balanced budget plan to return the board to a balanced financial position, while protecting the best interests of students.

My actions today will ensure that this board is put back on track, so that it can make responsible decisions that are in the best interests of students, and so that public confidence in the board can be restored.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education