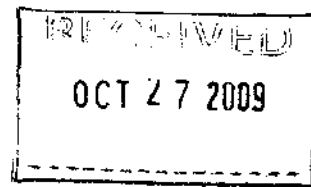




Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 3G8
Tel: 905-713-2711, 416-221-5050, 1-800-363-2711, Automated Lines: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051
Fax 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

October 22, 2009

Mayor Wayne Emmerson,
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
37 Sandiford Dr., 4th Floor
Stouffville, Ontario L4A 7X5



Trustees

Elizabeth Crowe

Chair of the Board
Aurora/King/
Whitchurch-Stouffville

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Markham
(Thornhill/Unionville)

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(Milliken/Markham/
Unionville)

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Richmond Hill

Teresa Ciaravella

Vaughan
(Maple/Kleinburg)

Dino Giuliani

Vaughan
(Woodbridge,
Area 2, Ward 2)

Micheal Carnovale

Vaughan
(Woodbridge,
Area 3, Ward 3)

Victor Schiralli

Vaughan
(Thornhill/Concord)

Dear Mayor Emmerson,

At the September 22, 2009 Board meeting, York Catholic District School Board Trustees approved a motion from Vaughan Trustee, D. Giuliani regarding YRT/VIVA student fares and service levels. The Board is seeking the support of the York Region District School Board, the Region of York, and the municipalities to encourage YRT/VIVA to:

- i) expand programs and services for York Region students;
- ii) consider further reductions in student fees and the elimination of the two zone fees; and to
- iii) consider alternative programs such as the one in Durham (student restricted pass).

Among his rationale, Trustee D. Giuliani noted that:

- using public transit reduces congestion and improves air quality
- using public transit makes cities cleaner, quieter and safer
- using public transit is a 'greener' alternative
- secondary students have a strong relationship with public transit as they are less likely to be licensed drivers and less likely to have access to a car. Their needs can be better met through innovative transit services, and through engaging outreach programs that encourage them to make their travel choices more sustainable
- transit systems are finding that partnerships with school boards are win-win opportunities. By making use of spare capacity outside peak hours, systems can increase ridership without a proportional increase in operating costs.

I am hopeful that you will join us in passing a motion at your Board/Council to encourage YRT/VIVA to reduce transit fares and enhance service levels for students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Crowe
Chair of the Board

Susan F. LaRosa
Director of Education

cc: Chair, York Region Rapid Transit Steering Committee