

**Ward 10**

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March 17, 2016

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Student Nutrition Programs

Dear Ms. Watkiss,

I am submitting this Administrative Inquiry under Municipal Code S27-61 to seek clarification of recent statements by the Toronto Board of Health and Student Nutrition Toronto that change policy of who is eligible to receive funding for Student Nutrition Programs. Recently Student Nutrition Toronto issued the following statement: "The municipal and provincial government funding for new student nutrition programs is allocated to publicly funded schools in the City of Toronto. Privately funded schools, including privately funded faith-based schools, do not qualify for this expansion funding."

Toronto Public Health and Student Nutrition Toronto is making a policy change that is a significant departure from the directions of City Council.

I am therefore asking for the date and venue, along with voting record (if a recorded vote was taken) and the minutes of any and all meetings of City Council and Toronto Board of Health in which the City of Toronto Student Nutrition Program policy was changed to restrict new universal student nutrition programs to publicly funded schools only and exclude new applications from community groups and faith-based schools, two groups that had received funding in the past.

Background

Toronto Public Health is no longer approving applications from community organizations even if need is proven. It has in the past. Older recipients have been grandfathered. This contradicts Toronto's historical role in funding students regardless of the institution delivering the program.

Here is a brief chronology of City of Toronto policy:

In its meeting of June 15, 2009, the Board of Health requested Toronto Public Health to conduct a collaborative review of the student nutrition program. “This review will aid to improve the long-term sustainability of the Student Nutrition Program, ensuring that programs can meet high nutrition standards, have adequate infrastructure and space, meet the principles of universality and be offered in a non-stigmatizing manner.”

In July 2012 Toronto City Council Adopted the following about Student Nutrition Programs vision “That student nutrition programs are delivered in all Toronto schools so that students who would benefit can achieve positive health, learning and behavioral outcomes that result from this key strategy.”

In the document *Nourishing Young Minds*, it is stated that “The programs are designed to meet provincial standards, but are tailored to meet local needs.”

During 2015, letters going to institutions and organizations that Student Nutrition Toronto removed from eligibility and denied funding stated that the decision was “at this time” and to consider the appeal process. No mention was made of Student Nutrition’s Toronto’s “change of City policy” that denied such groups new funding.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,



Councillor James Pasternak
Ward 10, York Centre
Chair, Community Development and Recreation Committee