

From: [Theresa Pastore](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Subject: My comments for 2021.EC22.7 on May 26, 2021 Economic and Community Development Committee
Date: May 25, 2021 12:10:24 PM
Attachments: [2021-05-25_Parents Engaged in Education.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 26, 2021 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2021.EC22.7, Parents Engaged in Education

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments: Please see attached letter from OECTA President Liz Stuart to support our application for funding.

Email contact : e.tang@catholicteachers.ca

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



400-65 ST. CLAIR AVE. EAST
TORONTO, ON M4T 2Y8

T. 416.925.2493
1.800.268.7230

catholicteachers.ca

May 25, 2021

Theresa Pastore, Executive Director
857 Milner Ave., Unit 104
Scarborough, ON M1B 5N6
parentengagementgroup@gmail.com

Dear Theresa Pastore:

Re: Support for Parents Engaged in Education

On behalf of the 45,000 members of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, I am writing in support and gratitude for the good work of Parents Engaged in Education.

When the pandemic onset in March 2020, it amplified the underlying socioeconomic disparities in our society and across our school systems. Not all students have equal access to learning technology, resources or nutritious foods – even in the province's most urban settings. While equal access to high-quality publicly funded education works to equalize these disparities, school closures have amplified them.

This is the gap that Theresa Pastore and Parents Engaged in Education have worked hard to bridge through the launch of its Education Bank, which has worked tirelessly to support the province's most vulnerable low-income students and families amidst the ongoing school closures. As an Association, we have been proud supporters of Parents Engaged in Education throughout the pandemic, which has distributed everything from "learn at home kits" to laptops to food to students in need.

Grassroots efforts like those of Parents Engaged in Education have been key to survival for so many students, particularly amidst the lack of overall support from the province. As the pandemic ensues, the demand for support from the charity organization has intensified, making it difficult for Parents Engaged in Education to raise enough funds to support the number of students in need. While organizations like ours continue to support Parents Engaged in Education through charitable donations to every extent possible, I strongly encourage the City to extend any support possible to ensure the Education Bank can remain open to the benefit of our most vulnerable students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Liz Stuart'.

Liz Stuart
President

LS/et