



NEWMARKET TAXPAYERS ADVOCACY GROUP INC.

April 27, 2017

Martin Van Beek
Trustee
York Region District School Board
60 Wellington Street W., Box 40
Aurora, Ontario L4G 3H2

Sent Via Email

Dear Mr. Van Beek:

Our organization, the Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc., is a local non-for-profit organization dedicated to transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in all areas of local government: regional, municipal, and school boards.

The recent events surrounding the York Region District School Board (YRSDB) is concerning to us on many levels. Given the lack of transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility recently demonstrated, we have a number of questions for you, our Newmarket trustee:

1. Recently a long-standing trustee referred to a parent with a racial slur. The Board's inaction with this situation is disturbing. Can you please explain what action, if any, you took in this circumstance? Can you further explain why the Board was reticent to act promptly to deal with this issue?
2. "Rather than remaining focused on student achievement and well-being, the board continues to be consumed by infighting and personal clashes, and even in the midst of this review, infighting continued," reviewers Patrick Case and Suzanne Herbert wrote in their report this month to Ontario Education Minister Mitzie Hunter. What, in your professional capacity, have you done to refocus the Board on student well-being and achievement, and eradicate the pettiness and personal agendas on the Board? Clearly, infighting and personal clashes are not the best use of taxpayers' money.

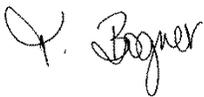
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3. When YRDSB trustees hired the recently terminated Superintendent, he was given an unprecedented 10-year contract, with several unorthodox stipulations, such as job guarantee and ample severance. What was your role in the hiring of this Superintendent? Why did the Board give him a 10-year contract? How much will the hiring, and subsequent termination, of the Superintendent cost taxpayers, factoring in legal fees, severance, new job competition, etc.? It is clearly an appalling waste of taxpayers' money.
4. Lastly, there has been considerable concern voiced by the public with the outrageous, and unnecessary, travel expenses of staff and trustees. Quoted from the same report by Ms. Herbert and Mr. Case, "“We found the lack of concern over the public reaction to their travel expenditures quite astounding. There was no sense that they appreciated the fact the public was seriously questioning their individual and collective judgement.”
What are you doing, Mr. Van Beek, to ensure that taxpayer's money is spent in a responsible and transparent manner? What, if anything, have you done to curb the excessive taxpayer funded travel spending, and other spending?

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Teena Bogner
President
Newmarket Taxpayers Advocacy Group Inc.
“Advocating for YOU, the taxpayer.”

C.c. NTAG Board of Directors