



# WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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November 23, 2017

Parents and Guardians,

Last night the Board of Trustees voted to discontinue the School Resource Officer program in the TDSB. The SRO program included a police officer assigned to visit our school on a regular basis to build relationships with police.

As you may know, our school was one of the secondary schools that hosted a shared SRO during the 2016-2017 school year. The program was suspended in August pending a review which included surveys, focus groups and public consultations with the community.

The consultation found that while many students had a positive impression of the program, a number of students said the presence of an SRO made them feel uncomfortable, intimidated, and/or watched or targeted. We strive to create an environment where each and every student can reach their full potential and we understand students cannot be expected to reach their full potential in an environment where they feel insecure or intimidated. You can read the full staff report on the SRO program review on the TDSB website.

Our school is a safe place for students to learn; this decision does not change that. Our staff and students work hard to create a safe, inclusive and positive space, accepting of all students and it will remain that way.

The TDSB and our school will though, of course, continue to work in partnership with Toronto Police Service to maintain positive working relationships that will ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive culture. We also continue to be guided by the [Police-School Board Protocol](#) (PR698) which encourages a positive relationship between school communities and police officers and establishes guidelines for these relationships. As always, TPS will continue to respond to any incident that threatens the safety of our school, students and staff and school communities.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marcia Diakun  
Principal

