AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY
   Waychay! We begin our meeting by acknowledging that we are in the Traditional Territory of the Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Cree people of the Mattagami First Nation, located in Treaty 9 Territory, and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area.

2. REGULAR SESSION
   The Regular Session of the Board meeting may be recorded.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
   As of March 1, 2019, Trustees declaring a conflict of interest must do so in writing, with a log kept in the Chair’s office.

5. PRESENTATION:  May Strategic Plan Vignette (Communications Officer Denis)

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   Regular Board meeting, May 21, 2019 ........................................................................................................................................ 3-5

7. BUSINESS AND/OR QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES
   i. Clarification on 2019: SB06 memo re: proposed new regulation for Boards who incur in-year deficit (Superintendent Fong-West)

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
   i. Policies under Review (all 3 for receipt; Policy to be approved and Procedures to be received at the June 18, 2019 meeting)
      1) Supporting Student Behaviour that is Violent and Aggressive (formerly called “Managing Violent and Aggressive Behaviour”) Policy 2.1.23 (Superintendent Pladzyk) .............................................................. 6 & attachment
      2) Physical Containment 2.1.21 (Superintendent Pladzyk) ........ 7 & attachment
      3) Safe Schools, Student Discipline, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy 2.1.18 (Superintendent Rowe) ........................................ 8 & attachment
      4) Purchasing 3.1.6 (Superintendent Fong-West) ...................... 9 & attachment
ii. Strategic Plan Vignettes feedback (Communications Officer Denis) ......................10
iii. Policies to be Reviewed for 2019-2020 .................................................................11
iv. Summer Learning Program 2019 (Superintendent Niemi) ...............................12
v. Elementary and Secondary Staffing update (Superintendent Rowe)

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS
   i. Human Resources – minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting .................................handout
   ii. Finance and Property – minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting ............................handout

11. OTHER BUSINESS
   i. Focus Commitments 2019-2020 ...........................................................................13-14
   ii. Student Trustees’ report on the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA/AECO)
      Annual General Meeting
   iii. Update: Trustee Retreat – August 2019

12. ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS’ ASSOCIATION (OPSBA)
   i.

13. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
   i. Memo: Release of the Curriculum and Implementation Plan for Grades 9-12, First
      Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies ..............................................................................15-16
   ii. Memo 2019:SB07 – Special Education Grant Funding 2019-20 ......................attachment
      ..............................................................................................................................attachment
   v. Minister Thompson re: Audit and Accountability Fund ...........................................17

14. CORRESPONDENCE
   i. Waterloo DSB re: Kindergarten funding past 2019-2020 ........................................18
   ii. Durham DSB re: Kindergarten funding past 2019-2020 ........................................19-20
   iii. Hamilton-Wentworth DSB re: consultation with Ministry .................................21-23

15. STUDENT TRUSTEE REFLECTIONS

16. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS
   i. June 18, 2019: Innovation: Student Success and Pathways
   ii. September 3, 2019: Strategic Plan Year One Implementation

17. MOTION TO ADJOURN
MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of District School Board Ontario North East, held at 5:30 p.m. in the Schumacher Board Room, 153 Croatia Avenue, on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:
Bob Brush, Chair
Dennis Draves, Vice Chair
Val Fuller
Tom Henderson
Steve Meunier
Brian Peever
Rosemary Pochopsky
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck
Doug Shearer
Ken Steinbrunner (via t/c)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:
Howard Archibald

STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT:
Chloey Frank (Indigenous – Kirkland Lake District Composite School) (via v/c)
Danielle Beaudoin (Kirkland Lake District Composite School)
Noble Stow-Gore (Timiskaming District Secondary School)

STUDENT TRUSTEES ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:
Lesleigh Dye - Director of Education
Jo-Anne Plaunt - Superintendent of Education
Kristen Niemi - Superintendent of Education
Steven Pladzyk - Superintendent of Education
Jim Rowe - Superintendent of Human Resources

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT:
Pearl Fong-West - Superintendent of Business/Finance and Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:
Susan Allen, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education – Recording Secretary
Andreanne Denis – Communications Officer
Larry Souliere – Information Services
Chad Mowbray – Vice Principal, Innovation, Literacy and Numeracy 9-12

GUESTS:
Ryan Dailey, 2019-20 Student Trustee (Timmins High & Vocational Schools)
Ethan Hurtubise, 2019-20 Student Trustee (Timiskaming District Secondary School) (v/c)
JP Desilets, OSSTF District President

7185-19 SHEARER/HENDERSON: THAT this Board resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole. CARRIED

7186-19 MEUNIER/ PYE-REASBECK: THAT this Board resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, In-Camera. CARRIED
The Regular session commenced at 6:14 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting opened with the acknowledgement of our being on the Traditional Territory of the Ojibway and Oji-Cree people of the Mattagami First Nation, located in Treaty 9 Territory and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area. Chair Bob Brush warmly welcomed Ryan Dailey (Timmins High & Vocational School) and Ethan Hurtubise (Timiskaming District Secondary School), our incoming Student Trustees for the 2019-2020 School Year. Incoming Indigenous Student Trustee Kaytlyn Julien was unable to attend tonight.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Trustees were asked to declare conflicts of interest as they arise.

PRESENTATIONS:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

BUSINESS AND/OR QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Cash Disbursements

Information Services Board Report

Meeting with the Town of Temagami
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Special Education Advisory Committee

7195-19 FULLER/MEUNIER: THAT the Board receive the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) request for the Chair to write a letter to Minister Thompson regarding cuts to autism services. CARRIED

7196-19 STEINBRUNNER/PYE-REASBECK: THAT the Chair of DSB Ontario North East send a letter to Minister Thompson outlining our concerns with the changes to the provincial funding model for autism services. CARRIED

Finance and Property Committee

7197-19 HENDERSON/SHEARER: THAT the Board approve the minutes of the Finance and Property Committee meeting held May 21, 2019. CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS’ ASSOCIATION (OPSBA)

7198-19 PEEVER/MEUNIER: THAT the Board receive the report and updates on the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association by Trustee Tom Henderson. CARRIED

MINISTRY CORRESPONDENCE

7199-19 SHEARER/DRAVES: THAT the Board receive the following Ministry correspondence:
- Ministry Memo 2019 SB06: 2019-2020 Estimates (District School Boards) CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

7200-19 POCHOPSKY/MEUNIER: THAT the Board receive the following correspondence:
- Treasury Board Secretariat re: Update on broader public sector executive compensation
- DRAFT Letter from Chair Brush to Minister Thompson (written and to be sent per motion #7183-19 of the May 7, 2019 meeting) CARRIED

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

i. June 18, 2019: Innovation: Student Success and Pathways
ii. September 3, 2019: Strategic Plan Year One Implementation

ADJOURNMENT

7201-19 MEUNIER/HENDERSON: THAT we do now adjourn. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

___________________________________  ___________________________________
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD  CHAIR OF THE BOARD
TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

Agenda Ref. No. 2019 06 04

RE:  Supporting Student Behaviour that is Violent and Aggressive Policy 2.1.23 (revised)
(formerly called Managing Violent and Aggressive Behaviour Policy 2.1.23)

Backgrounder:

As part of our ongoing review of Board policies, the Managing Violent and Aggressive Behaviour Policy 2.1.23 has been reviewed and revised as follows:

- Title has been changed to better reflect the focus on support of students:
  - Supporting Student Behaviour that is Violent and Aggressive Policy 2.1.23
- Policy has been transferred from the old format to current Policy format
- Inclusion of rationale
- Clearly defined policy statement with updated reference to current Procedures

The revised Policy has been reviewed by Trustee Steve Meunier and Admin Council and is now ready to be brought to the Board for review and then to be approved at the June 18, 2019 meeting.

The administrative Procedures for Supporting Student Behaviour that is Violent and Aggressive have been reviewed, clarified and revised and updated and are included with the Policy for your information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the revised Supporting Student Behaviour that is Violent and Aggressive Policy 2.1.23 for review (Policy to be approved and Procedures to be received at the June 18, 2019 meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Pladzyk
Superintendent of Schools

Lesleigh Dye
Director of Education
TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

RE: Physical Containment Policy 2.1.21 (revised)

Backgrounder:
As part of our ongoing review of Board policies, the Physical Containment Policy 2.1.21 has been reviewed and revised as follows:
- Transferred to the new Board policy template
- Title has been modified to more accurately reflect purpose and use
- Inclusion of rationale
- Clearly defined policy statement

The revised Policy has been reviewed by Trustee Steve Meunier and Admin Council and is now ready to be brought to the Board for review and then to be approved at the June 18, 2019 meeting.

The administrative Procedures for the Physical Containment have been reviewed and revised and are included for information.

RECOMMENDATION:
THAT the Board receive the revised Physical Containment Policy 2.1.21 for review (Policy to be approved and Procedures to be received at the June 18, 2019 meeting)

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Pladzyk
Superintendent of Schools

Lesleigh Dye
Director of Education
TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

RE: Safe Schools: Student Discipline, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy 2.1.18

Backgrounder:

As part of our ongoing review of Board policies, the Safe Schools: Student Discipline, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy 2.1.18 has been reviewed. Following are highlights of the revisions made:

- Realigned the Rationale and Policy with current legislation
- Included Ministry mandated language, specifically per Policy and Program Memorandums (PPM) 144 & 145 – see blue highlighted sections under “Bullying Prevention”, p. 3
- Updated the language to include “gender expression”
- Removed language that is covered by the Education Act
- Removed repetitious language in the Policy or that is part of the related Procedures to improved clarity and prevent confusion and excessive and unnecessary duplication of language.

Trustee Doug Shearer and the Admin Council have reviewed the revisions to the Policy.

The Policy is now ready to be received for review by the Board of Trustees and will be on the June 18th Agenda to be approved. The Procedures related to this Policy are included for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the revised Safe Schools: Student Discipline, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy 2.1.18 for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Rowe
Superintendent of Human Resources

Lesleigh Dye
Director of Education
TO THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES OF
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

AGENDA REF. NO. 2019 06 04

RE: Revised: Purchasing Policy

BACKGROUNDER

As part of our ongoing review of policies to ensure they are relevant and current, the Purchasing Policy 3.1.6 has been reviewed.

The procedures supporting the Purchasing Procedures has been updated to the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive, issued by Management Board of Cabinet, dated July 1, 2011.

Trustees Bob Brush, Rosemary Pochopsky and Doug Shearer reviewed the Policy.

The Policy is now ready to be received for review by the Board of Trustees and will be on the June 18th Agenda to be approved. The Procedures related to this Policy are included for information and have been updated to conform to the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board receive the revised Purchasing Policy 3.1.6 for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Pearl Fong-West
Superintendent of Business/Finance

Lesleigh Dye
Director of Education
TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

RE: Strategic Plan Vignette feedback

Backgrounder:

The monthly vignettes were introduced in January 2019 as a way to share how we are bringing our Strategic Plan to life within our system and communities. The Strategic Plan Staff Committee identified themes for the vignettes, each one anchored in the Board’s priorities and commitments.

The Communications Officer gathered feedback and recommendations from the Leadership Team on May 15 for the 2019-2020 vignettes. Overall the feedback was positive, and the group presented very valuable recommendations to improve our vignettes for the upcoming school year.

This month, we began sharing the vignettes with the individuals who participated in the Strategic Plan consultations and provided an email address. The May vignette was shared with 148 subscribers. It was opened by 43 recipients for a total of 91 times.

The Strategic Plan Staff Committee is also tracking school participation in each vignette and online insights on each platform where they are shared.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the update on the Strategic Plan Vignettes and feedback by Communications Officer Andreanne Denis.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Andreanne Denis
Communications Officer

[Signature]
Lesleigh Dye
Director of Education
Policies to review – 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Number</th>
<th>Policy Name (Alpha List) (Last Year of Review)</th>
<th>S/O Assigned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.14</td>
<td>Appropriate Dress (2012)</td>
<td>K. Niemi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.16</td>
<td>Camera Surveillance (2013)</td>
<td>J. Plaunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.17</td>
<td>Canvassing &amp; Fundraising (2013)</td>
<td>P. Fong-West</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.20</td>
<td>Communications – Advocacy (2014)</td>
<td>L. Dye-West</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.21</td>
<td>Communications Policy – Board Advertising (2014)</td>
<td>L. Dye-West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.25</td>
<td>Confidentiality of Staff Medical Records (2015)</td>
<td>J. Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.28</td>
<td>Copyright Policy &amp; Fair Dealing Guidelines (2012)</td>
<td>P. Fong-West</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.7</td>
<td>Flag Raising (2007)</td>
<td>K. Niemi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.25</td>
<td>First Nation, Metis and Inuit Voluntary Self-Identification (2013)</td>
<td>L. Dye-West</td>
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<td>2.1.16</td>
<td>Home Instruction (2014)</td>
<td>S. Pladzyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.18</td>
<td>PSSP Performance Appraisal (2015)</td>
<td>S. Pladzyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.14</td>
<td>Protocol for Reporting Teacher Professional Misconduct (2013)</td>
<td>J. Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Pupil Accommodation Review (2015)</td>
<td>P. Fong-West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.19</td>
<td>Records Retention (2006) – BOERMS chart is updated annually</td>
<td>K. Niemi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.29</td>
<td>Safe Workplaces and Learning -Environments (2014)</td>
<td>J. Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.22</td>
<td>Special Education – Specialized Equipment (2013)</td>
<td>S. Pladzyk</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1.4</td>
<td>Volunteers in Schools (2013)</td>
<td>J. Plaunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New</strong></td>
<td>Service animals in schools</td>
<td>S. Pladzyk</td>
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TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

RE: Summer Learning Program 2019

Backgrounder:

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) confirmed funding for Summer Learning Programs (SLPs). DSB1 received confirmation of funding for two classes.

During July 2019, summer learning programs will be offered in partnership with Northeastern Catholic District School Board. Due to this partnership, we are able to have two classes at two sites for a total of four classes. One SLP site will be Timmins Centennial Public School with Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 classes. The second site will be English Catholic Central School in New Liskeard with Grade 3/4 and Grade 5/6 classes. The primary focus of the summer learning programs will be Math, specifically Number Sense and Numeration. Students will be recommended by schools based on needs in the area of mathematics. Other educational programming including STEM and recreation activities will also be included in the program.

Our Summer Learning Programs, comprised of a combination of this new partnership and the partnership for the Oral Language Program (brought to the Board with the April 2, 2019 Agenda as a handout), will run from July 2nd to July 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. daily.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Board receive the update on the Summer Learning Program 2019 as presented by Superintendent Kristen Niemi.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Kristen Niemi
Superintendent of Schools

[Signature]

Lesleigh Dye
Director of Education
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST
STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITMENTS

DSB Ontario North East commits to putting the needs of learners first by:
- Ensuring that students are the focus.
- Expecting high standards in pedagogy, programs, and results.
- Providing access to resources, technology and experiences that meet students’ strengths and needs.

DSB Ontario North East commits to excellence by:
- Supporting high standards for each learner.
- Maintaining high professional standards for staff.
- Recognizing and celebrating the achievements of students and staff.

DSB Ontario North East commits to inspire and promote learning by:
- Encouraging risk-taking by students and staff.
- Engaging the community in real world experiences for students.
- Developing critical thinking skills in students.

DSB Ontario North East commits to engaging in open and transparent communication by:
- Celebrating the successes of the DSB1 community.
- Consulting internal and external audiences during the decision-making process.
- Promoting student and family voice.

DSB Ontario North East commits to equitable practices by:
- Recognizing the diversity of our Board community.
- Promoting our Board’s diversity and achievements.
- Encouraging participation in our DSB1 community of learning.

DSB Ontario North East commits to ensuring respectful learning and working environments by:
- Providing resources that promote wellness.
- Respecting cultural diversity.
- Promoting a culture of learning.

DSB Ontario North East commits to utilizing the leadership skills of the entire community by:
- Fostering student voice.
- Ensuring strong community partnerships.
- Demonstrating pride in our diversity.

DSB Ontario North East commits to being a strong steward of public education by:
- Engaging with all levels of government.
- Allocating resources in an equitable fashion.
- Serving the needs of all learners.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rationale for Commitment #</th>
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MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

DATE: May 21, 2019

SUBJECT: Release of the Curriculum and Implementation Plans for: Grades 9 – 12, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, and Études des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuits, de la 9e à la 12e année

The ministry is pleased to release the curriculum policy documents for The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 – 12, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, and Le curriculum de l’Ontario de la 9e à la 12e année -- Études des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuits. The curriculum has been posted on the Ministry of Education website www.ontario.ca/education for school boards, school authorities, educators, parents, Indigenous communities and other education stakeholders to access.

Ministry staff worked in collaboration with Indigenous teachers, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Senators, Indigenous community representatives, and residential school survivors to develop this curriculum. Indigenous partners contributed their knowledge and expertise in presenting sensitive topics in an appropriate and accessible way.

The ministry understands that school boards and school authorities may have already begun to use the first five draft courses released on April 6, 2018 as a resource in advance of the release of the final revised curriculum. Mandatory implementation of the full curriculum begins in September 2019.

The ministry is also pleased to support school boards and school authorities with funding for professional learning opportunities focused on the implementation of the revised First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies, Grades 9 – 12 curriculum and Indigenous Education across the curriculum.

**Part A: Funding to Implement Revised Curriculum and Professional Learning**

To support implementation of revised curriculum related to Indigenous education the Ministry will fund school boards and school authorities for Indigenous education curriculum capacity building to ensure full implementation of these revised curricula.

Funding for all school boards and school authorities will be provided through Transfer Payment Agreements at the amount of $10,400 with an additional $400/school in the school board/school authority. This funding will be used to:

1. Enhance School Board Leadership and Accountability

   - Establish/enhance a school board leadership team to include, at minimum, the Indigenous Education Lead, Indigenous Education Council Member(s), local Indigenous community members, curriculum/division leads, administrators, and educators with experience teaching the curriculum being implemented; and

   - Provide localized learning opportunities for educators within the school board/region in collaboration with regional stakeholders and Indigenous community partners.
2. Build Educator Capacity to Implement the Revised Curriculum

- Conduct school board learning opportunities for educators and staff related to the revised curriculum and the resources available to support implementation.
- Provide awareness and professional learning around cultural safety

Reporting Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-Term Report:</th>
<th>Due February 15, 2020</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Report:</td>
<td>Due July 15, 2020</td>
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</table>

Part B. Virtual Training Sessions

The Ministry of Education will be hosting a series of virtual training sessions during fall 2019, to support educators and school board and school authority implementation teams to implement the *First Nations, Metis and Inuit Studies, Grades 9 – 12 curriculum*. Dates and times for sessions will be confirmed and sent out through regional offices.

Costs associated with release time will be provided through the Transfer Payment Agreement mentioned in Part A.

Who should attend?

- Indigenous Education Leads
- School Board, or School Authority Implementation Leadership Teams
- Indigenous Community Partners, including members of the Indigenous Education Council

Questions regarding these initiatives can be addressed to jennykay.dupuis@ontario.ca.

Please share this information with your School Effectiveness Lead, Student Success Lead, and Indigenous Education Lead, as applicable.

Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership in the implementation of Indigenous education.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor

cc: Council of Directors of Education (CODE)
    School Business Officials
    Chairs of the Boards of Education
    Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister, Chief Student Achievement Officer, Student Achievement Division
    Denys Giguère, Assistant Deputy Minister, French-Language Teaching, Learning and Achievement Division
    Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division
    Shirley Kendrick, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Support and Field Services Division
    Regional Office Managers
From: "Minister (EDU)" <Minister.edu@ontario.ca>
Date: May 29, 2019 at 2:21:07 PM EDT
To: "Minister (EDU)" <Minister.edu@ontario.ca>

Subject: Audit and Accountability Fund

Dear Chair,

Our government is committed to supporting our students so that they have the skills to succeed in school, while also restoring trust, transparency and accountability in Ontario's finances. As you know, the province has undertaken an independent line-by-line review of our own expenditures and, in the 2019 Ontario Budget, we put forward a plan that sets Ontario on the right path to achieve savings of four cents on every dollar.

We are taking a modernized approach to education reform by better utilizing technology, protecting front-line teachers and reprioritizing tax dollars to make sure that they are having the greatest impact in the classroom. Taxpayers deserve modern, efficient service delivery that puts people at the center of all decisions and respects hard-earned dollars. The province has been clear that we expect our partners, including school boards, to take steps to become more efficient.

To support school boards in driving the modernization and transformation that is essential to achieving fiscal sustainability, the government has established the Audit and Accountability Fund. This initiative will allow up to ten school boards to access funding to undertake independent third-party line-by-line reviews of operations and service delivery with a goal of finding administrative efficiencies of up to four cents on every dollar spent.

In the coming days, Deputy Minister Nancy Naylor will be writing to your Director of Education and Superintendent of Business to provide more information about this application-based funding.

Thank you once again for your commitment to demonstrating value for money. I look forward to continuing to work together to help the students in our communities across our province thrive.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education

c: Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
April 29, 2019

Dear Chairperson;

Recently, our Board of Trustees approved a motion to send a letter to Minister Thompson regarding the government's commitment to only fund the current Full Day Kindergarten program for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Waterloo Region District School Board is asking that the Provincial Government commit to funding Full Day Kindergarten beyond the 2019-2020 school year.

During the Education announcement on March 15 at the Ontario Science Centre, Minister of Education Lisa Thompson indicated her support for full-day learning and made no further comment on whether the current program would be changing.

Research shows that Full Day Kindergarten provides students with many benefits. Students in the Full Day Kindergarten program have strong skills in reading, writing and numeracy as well as social skills and self-regulation.

The current program gives our students and their families the best start in public education.

We request that your Board take any action they deem appropriate to ensure that Full Day Kindergarten continues for four and five-year-olds in Ontario.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jayne Herring
Chairperson of the Board

cc: Chairs of all District School Boards
May 22, 2019

Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education
Mowat Block
22nd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson:

At the Board meeting held on May 21, 2019, the Durham District School Board supported the attached correspondence, dated April 29, 2019, from the Waterloo Region District School Board.

The Board is writing to also share its concerns regarding the planned changes to the Full Day Kindergarten program beyond the 2019-2020 school year.

The Durham District School Board is a leader in providing full day Kindergarten programming for four- and five-year-old’s in Durham. The transformational changes in the pedagogical approaches used in Kindergarten, moving from a traditional pedagogy to one centred on the child has created a cohesive, coordinated system for early years programs and services.

Research shows that Full Day Kindergarten provides positive experiences in early childhood and sets the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, health and well-being. It provides an opportunity for partnerships with families and communities that are essential, while fostering respect for diversity, equity and inclusion. Play and enquiry are learning approaches that capitalize on children’s natural curiosity and exuberance.

The Durham District School Board respectfully requests that the Government continue to support and commit to funding the current full-day Kindergarten program beyond the 2019-2020 school year.

Our students are our most precious resource and are the future.
We welcome the opportunity to partner and collaborate with the Government to service our students and families.

Sincerely,

Michael Barrett, Chair
Durham District School Board

cc: Chairs, Ontario Public School Boards
Lisa Millar, Director of Education
May 28, 2019

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Education
13th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street, Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Thompson,

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) Trustees are interested in working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education as we share input into the proposed funding changes. As part of the Ministry of Education’s public consultation that ends May 31, 2019, Trustees have highlighted areas where we can improve student outcomes including class size changes, e-Learning, special education funding and the Ontario Autism Program.

Class Size Implications

Trustees and the Ministry of Education have many shared interests. An investment in courses that promote tech, the trades, specialized classes and special education is a priority for both of us as we engage students who are at-risk of graduating. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), for example, offers an enriching experience for our students to develop skills in a 21st Century learning environment while honouring all pathways.

The proposed changes to secondary class sizes are impacting at-risk students typically enroled in small classes to support their learning. For example, there are courses with as low enrolment as 14 students – that is half of the new 28 class size average. A diverse range of program options offered in a small class environment is critical to supporting at-risk students.

Trustees are asking the Ministry to work with us to protect specialized courses. The proposed changes to secondary school class sizes are showing an impact on teacher redundancies and program offerings. An open dialogue with the Ministry and school boards is encouraged to ensure that a diverse course selection remains available. Families need to know that we are maintaining specialized courses to keep students engaged.

Online Classes

As a Board of Trustees, we recognize our shared interest in supporting e-Learning as an option that is growing in popularity and rising in student demand.

E-Learning, however, is not for all students. While many students excel, others require differentiated learning from a caring educator and one-on-one support to succeed. We have concerns for students, particularly those in grades 9 and 10, who will find independent study a challenge. Trustees feel strongly that the Ministry of Education ensure that e-Learning courses are taught by local teachers who know their students and who can provide guidance and oversight in the classroom.

In this digital approach, we need to also consider students who live in our most vulnerable school communities who are without access to technology. As we seek greater equity of access, the Ministry should enhance investments in educational technology to ensure every student has adequate support. An
annual review of e-Learning should be part of the implementation that includes feedback from students, staff and parents.

Special Education

There is no greater interest than the care and compassion we share towards our most vulnerable students supported through special education services.

A recent Report on Value-for-Money Audit, released by the Office of the Auditor General, reported that HWDSB received some of the lowest levels of special education funding in the province, even though we support a 26 per cent student population who depend on these specialized services. In 2018-19, $3.01 billion was allocated to school boards across the province in special education grants. HWDSB received only $73.5 million representing 2.45 per cent of the total provincial allocation in special education.

Trustees are requesting that the Ministry address the critical issue of special education funding and adjust its funding formula to appropriately match student populations.

Ontario Autism Program

Improvements in the services and support for families of children and youth with autism is a priority for both the provincial government and HWDSB. We have a shared interest that all children and youth are successful at school and in life.

Staff continue to work with our community partners and families impacted by the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. The transition from a clinic-service model to an integrated-school setting limits the specialized services that support these students. Trustees are requesting that a revised timeframe is considered to allow families, schools and agencies to allow time to better plan and accommodate students into school.

Trustees understand and respect the financial pressures of the Ontario government. We will continue to focus on providing quality education for every student in HWDSB in a positive, caring and safe environment.

We support all of the boards across the province writing to you about the topics addressed. Trustees respectfully request that the Ministry consider further consultation, specifically with education partners, to ensure that the New Vision for Education is supportive and best for all students across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Alex Johnstone, Trustee, Ward 11 & 12
Chair of the Board

Dawn Danko, Trustee, Ward 7
Vice-Chair of the Board

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HWDSB

Christine Bingham, Trustee, Wards 1 & 2
Ray Mulholland, Trustee, Ward 4
Kathy Archer, Trustee, Ward 6
Cam Galindo, Trustee, Ward 9 & 10
Penny Deathe, Trustee, Ward 15

Chris Parkinson, Trustee, Ward 3
Carole Paikin Miller, Trustee, Ward 5
Becky Buck, Trustee, Ward 8 & 14
Paul Tut, Trustee, Ward 13

Co:
HWDSB Unions/Federations/Associations
Hamilton Members of Provincial Parliament
HWDSB School Councils, Parent Involvement Committee and Home & School Association
HWDSB Special Education Advisory Committee
Chairs of all Ontario Public and Catholic School Boards
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