

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular monthly **Board Meeting** of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held in the Board Room, Floor 1, Building 2, Education Centre, 51 Ardelet Avenue, Kitchener, on **Monday, May 28, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

Call to Order/Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

O Canada

Invocation (To be recited by trustees)

“In preparation for this evening’s meeting, let us pause for thirty seconds of silent reflection – to commit our hearts and our heads, and help one another to make the careful and thoughtful decisions that will further the education of all our students.”

Approval of Agenda

Consent Agenda**

Receipt/Approval of Minutes:

- Approve Minutes – Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 6, 2018
- Approve Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of April 11, 2018
- Receive Minutes – Board Meeting of April 30, 2018
- Approve Minutes – Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 14, 2018

Receipt/Approval of Monthly Reports:

- 23** Staffing Information – Retirements and Resignations M. Weinert
- 26** Staffing Recommendations – Appointments M. Weinert
- 28** Suspension/Expulsion Report as of April 30, 2018 P. Rubenschuh

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

- 30** Linda Fabi Bursary Chairperson

Communications Department Good News Update

S. Longeway

Delegations

Reports

- Graduation Rate Verbal Update J. Bryant
- 32** Quarterly Report on Student Aggression M. Weinert
- 34** Discussion: Board Policy 3008 – Use of Board Resources Chairperson

Board Reports

Board Communications

- 38** Bluewater District School Board - Special Education Funding
- 39** Ministry of Education – Special Education Funding Response
- 41** Ministry of Education – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Response

**All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered not to require debate by the Board of Trustees and should be approved in one motion in accordance with the recommendation contained in each report.

Other Business

Question Period (10 minutes)

Future Agenda Items (Notices of motion to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

Adjournment



Report to Board of Trustees

May 28, 2018

**Subject: Staffing Information –
Retirements and Resignations**

Recommendation

This report is provided for information of the Board.

Status

The employees listed in Appendix A of this report have received acknowledgement of their retirement or resignation.

Background

The board's practice is to receive information regarding staff retirements and resignations at regular monthly board meetings.

Financial implications

Expenses are within the existing approved budget.

Communications

Employees listed in this report have communicated through Human Resource Services.

Prepared by: Michael Weinert, Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resource Services, in consultation with Coordinating Council.

Staffing Statistics – Retirements & Resignations
Current at May 28, 2018

Retirements: Elementary Teaching Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Christopher	Boyer	Teacher, Franklin PS	June 29, 2018	17
Maxine	Brake	Teacher, Hillcrest PS	June 29, 2018	23
Lori	Croken	Teacher, Meadlowlane PS	June 29, 2018	30
Lori	Danylchuk	Teacher, Driftwood Park PS	June 29, 2018	31
Theadore	Frey	Teacher, Park Manor PS	June 29, 2018	31
Karen	Frew-Paul	Teacher, Woodland Park PS	June 29, 2018	28
Faith	Howie	Learning Support Teacher (Elem), Learning Services, EdC	June 29, 2018	31
Beverley	Jantzi	Teacher / SERT, Cedarbrae PS	June 20, 2018	23
Lynne	Scott	Teacher, Glencairn PS	June 29, 2018	24
Kathy	Sharpe	Teacher, Brigadoon PS	June 29, 2018	22
Roger	Skelly	Itinerant Teacher, Special Education, EdC	June 29, 2018	26
Mary Ellen	Skelly	Teacher, Edna Staebler PS	June 29, 2018	30
Margie	Sonnenburg	Teacher, Woodland Park PS	June 29, 2018	34
Emma	Steffler	Teacher, Prueter PS	June 29, 2018	31
Janine	Wilson	Teacher, Westvale PS	June 29, 2018	28

15 / Subtotal

Retirements: Secondary Teaching Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Robert	Bendus	Teacher, Glenview Park SS	June 29, 2018	42
Judith	Brock	Teacher, (on leave)	May 31, 2018	21
Helen	Fry	Teacher, (on leave)	June 29, 2018	28
Bruce	Glebe	Teacher, Cameron Heights CI	June 29, 2018	29
Ron	Hoekstra	Special Education Teacher, Southwood SS	June 29, 2018	28
Jim	Miller	Department Head, Preston HS	June 29, 2018	21
Jason	Renfrew	Teacher, Southwood SS	June 29, 2018	28
Michael	Rouse	Assistant Dept. Head, Waterloo CI	June 29, 2018	28
Leslie	Strickler	Department Head, Waterloo CI	June 29, 2018	31
Heather	Thomson	Teacher, Waterloo-Oxford DSS	June 29, 2018	32
Murray	Wray	Teacher, Waterloo-Oxford DSS	June 29, 2018	22

11 / Subtotal

Staffing Statistics – Retirements & Resignations
Current at May 28, 2018

Continued...

Retirements: Administrative & Support Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Douglas	Apperson	Head Custodian, Courtand PS	Sept. 28, 2018	31
Linda	Aspden	Elementary Head Secretary, Breslau PS	June 29, 2018	30
Anne	Barth	Head Custodian, Stewart Avenue PS	May 25, 2018	28
Margie	Besselink	Custodian Supervisor, Galt CI & VS	July 31, 2018	35
Beth	Bodkin	Principal, Waterloo-Oxford DSS	June 29, 2018	30
Sandy	Dawson-Currie	Principal, Stanley Park PS	June 29, 2018	30
Elizabeth	Dingwall	Educational Assistant, Westvale PS	June 29, 2018	26
Doreen	Finlayson	Educational Assistant, Centennial PS (W)	June 29, 2018	18
Karen	Gerber	Custodian (on leave)	Mar. 30, 2018	24
Robert	Hamelin	Head Custodian, Preston PS	June 29, 2018	30
Dianne	Kekish	Secretary to Coordinators/Consultants, Learning Services, EdC	Oct. 31, 2018	26
Lesley	Latimer	Educational Assistant, Jacob Hespeler SS	June 29, 2018	21
Virginia	Nusca	Chief Psychologist, Special Education, Learning Services, EdC	July 27, 2018	14
Catherine	Reitzel	Head Custodian, Keatsway PS	July 27, 2018	18
Marioara	Sordjan	Custodian, Driftwood Park PS	Oct. 31, 2018	17
Margaret	Zimmerman	Educational Assistant (Life Skills), Cameron Heights CI	June 29, 2018	16

16 / Total = 42

WRDSB Resignations:			
First	Last	Position/Location	Effective Date
Noemia	DeSousa	Custodian, Ayr PS	May 11, 2018
Leanne	Gates	Elementary Teacher, Clemens Mill PS (on leave)	May 21, 2018
Melanie	Hahn	Vice-Principal, Sir Adam Beck PS & Baden PS	June 29, 2018
Rachel	Loveman	Educational Assistant, Waterloo CI	May 8, 2018
Peter	Soliman	Deployment Services Technician, Information Technology Services (ITS), EdC	April 27, 2018
Cindy	Vanlersel	Educational Assistant, (Supply)	April 11, 2018
Criss	Williams	Secretary, Learning Services, EdC	April 20, 2018
Kayla	Wilson	Elementary Teacher, (on leave)	April 13, 2018



Report to Board of Trustees

May 28, 2018

Subject: Staffing Recommendations – Appointments

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointments to staff as outlined in the report titled “Staffing Recommendations – Appointments, dated May 28, 2018.

Status

The staff appointments as noted on Appendix A of this report are effective the dates indicated.

Background

The board’s practice has been to have appointments presented for information at regular monthly board meetings.

Financial implications

Expenses are within the existing approved budget.

Communications

Employees listed in this report have, or will be advised of the appointments.

Prepared by: Michael Weinert, Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resource Services, in consultation with Coordinating Council.

Staffing Information – New Appointments

Current at May 28, 2018

New Appointments: Elementary Teaching Staff			
First	Last	School ID / Education Centre	Effective Date
Joanna	Albers	Elementary Teacher, Sandowne PS	May 7, 2018

New Appointments: Secondary Teaching Staff			
First	Last	School ID / Education Centre	Effective Date
<i>Nil Report</i>			

New Appointments: Administrative and Support Staff			
First	Last	School ID / Education Centre	Effective Date
Novica	Draganic	HVAC Technician, Facility Services, EdC	May 1, 2018
Matthew	Fisher	Grounds Technician, Facility Services, EdC	May 28, 2018
Wayne	Griffin	HVAC Technician, Facility Services, EdC	April 25, 2018
Drazenka	Jovanovic	Custodian, Abraham Erb PS	April 30, 2018
Ashley	Stone	Custodian, Preston HS	April 3, 2018
Christine	Sun	Accounting Analyst, Financial Services, EdC	May 7, 2018
Darlene	Vandenakerboom	Accounting Clerk, Financial Services, EdC	May 14, 2018

The above new hires are to replace staff due to leaves, retirements and resignations and are full or part time positions.

Human Resource Services

May 28, 2018



Report to Board of Trustees

May 28, 2018

Subject: Student Suspension/Expulsion Report April, 2018

Recommendation

This report is provided for the Waterloo Region District School Board with information regarding monthly and year-to-date suspension/expulsion data.

Status

Comparing year to date from April 2017 and April 2018, elementary suspensions have increased by 106 and secondary suspensions have increased by 290.

Comparing year to date from April 2017 and April 2018, school expulsions have decreased by 1 and board expulsions have decreased by 3.

The most recent month's suspension and expulsion data is included below. The data is accurate up to, and including, the date of collection.

Suspensions

- Total elementary school suspensions in April 2017 - 136, year to date - 920
- Total elementary school suspensions in April 2018 - 112, year to date - 1026
- Total secondary school suspensions in April 2017 - 169, year to date - 1194
- Total secondary school suspensions in April 2018 - 136, year to date - 1484

Expulsions

- Total school expulsions in April 2017 - 1, Year to Date 4
- Total school expulsions in April 2018 - 3, Year to Date 3
- Total board expulsions in April 2017 - 4, Year to Date 15
- Total board expulsions in April 2018 - 0, Year to Date 12

Violent Incidents

The term violent incident is defined as the occurrence of any of the following or the occurrence of a combination of any of the following; possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm, physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention, sexual assault, robbery, using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person, extortion, hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences.

- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in April 2017 - 5, year to date 36
- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in April 2018 - 2, year to date 29

Background

As requested by the Board, suspension/expulsion data will be presented at the Board meeting each month.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

Communications

Upon request, suspension/expulsion data is communicated to the Ministry of Education for statistical purposes.

Prepared by: Peter Rubenschuh, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, James Bond, System Administrator, Learning Services, and in consultation with Coordinating Council.



Report to Board of Trustees

May 28, 2018

Subject: Recipients of the 2017-18 Linda Fabi Bursary

Recommendation

This report is for the information of the Board.

Status

The Linda Fabi Bursary will provide funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at the graduation ceremony.

The Adjudication Committee, comprised of Linda Fabi, former Director of Education, Ted Martin, Scott McMillan and Kathleen Woodcock, reviewed the applications submitted by the following students:

Adam Furlotte	Waterloo Oxford Secondary School
Owen Ross	Waterloo Oxford Secondary School
Pauline Ditner	Elmira District Secondary School
Matthaeus Duldhardt	Waterloo Collegiate Institute
Arneze Willis	Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute
Luke Wolf	Grand River Collegiate Institute
Megan Liddell	Preston High School
Tiana Jolaoso	Forest Heights Collegiate Institute
Cheyenne Budimlic	Southwood Secondary School
Kade Chapman	Eastwood Collegiate Institute

The following criteria were taken into consideration:

1. The student's key characteristics
2. An example of how the student has demonstrated perseverance or has overcome obstacles or made a remarkable comeback during his/her high school career
3. A staff member's recommendation

All ten applicants were confirmed to meet the criteria and were selected to receive the 2017-18 Linda Fabi Bursary.

Background

The Linda Fabi Bursary was established by the Board of Trustees in celebration and recognition of the many contributions and achievements of Linda Fabi during her tenure as Director of Education for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

The total amount of the Bursary is \$2,000, which is to be presented annually to students of the Waterloo Region District School Board. Depending on the number of applicants, this award can be divided so that a number of eligible applicants can be recognized. This year's recipients will each receive a \$200 award.

Financial implications

An amount of \$2,000 will be charged annually to the Trustee expense budget. This is the fourth year the award has been issued.

Communications

The announcement of the Linda Fabi Bursary recipients will be shared with all schools, staff, students and the public via the Board website.

Prepared by: John Bryant, Director of Education
 Stephanie Reidel, Manager, Corporate Services
 in consultation with Coordinating Council



Report to Board of Trustees

May 28, 2018

Subject: Reported Student Aggression Quarterly Data May 28, 2018

Recommendation

This report is provided for the Waterloo Region District School Board with information regarding reported incidences of student aggression for the quarter (Feb. 1 – Apr. 30, 2018).

Status

Student Aggression is recorded under four (4) categories. They are:

No Injury: No injury to the worker was sustained during the incident.

First aid: Applying minor first aid measures like cleaning minor cuts, scrapes or scratches; applying a band aid, cold compress or ice pack.

Health care (or medical aid): Worker sustained an injury requiring the professional skills of a health care practitioner (i.e. a doctor, nurse, chiropractor or physiotherapist); services provided at a hospital and/or health facility and/or require prescription drugs. Reporting to the WSIB required.

Lost Time: Worker sustains injury that requires time away from work after the day of incident. Reporting to the WSIB required.

Providing quarterly student aggression data as reported by WRDSB staff for the period of February 1 – April 30, 2018.

- Elementary incidents have increased by 2.8% (14 incidences) from the same period last year
- Secondary incidents have increased by 7% (1 incident) from the same period last year.

Reported Student Aggression Incidents (February 1 – April, 30, 2018):

- Total Elementary aggression incidents from February 1 – April 30, 2018: **516**
 - No injury – 389
 - First Aid – 115
 - Health Care – 6
 - Lost Time – 6
- Total Secondary aggression incidents from February 1 – April 30, 2018: **15**
 - No injury – 12
 - First Aid – 3
 - Health Care – 0
 - Lost Time – 0
- Total aggression incidents per employee group from February 1 – April 30, 2018:
 - Educational Assistant (EA) / Child and Youth Worker (CYW) – 361

- Early Child Educator (ECE) – 46
- Elementary Teacher – 121
- Secondary Teacher – 4

Reported Student Aggression Incidents (February 1 – April, 30, 2017):

- Total Elementary aggression incidents from February 1 – April 30, 2017: **502**
 - No injury – 380
 - First Aid – 108
 - Health Care – 9
 - Lost Time – 5
- Total Secondary aggression incidents from February 1 – April 30, 2017: **16**
 - No injury – 15
 - First Aid – 0
 - Health Care – 0
 - Lost Time – 1
- Total aggression incidents per employee group from February 1 – April 30, 2017:
 - Educational Assistant (EA) / Child and Youth Worker (CYW) – 347
 - Early Child Educator (ECE) – 52
 - Elementary Teacher – 112
 - Secondary teacher – 2

Background

As requested by the Board, student aggression data is to be provided on a quarterly basis.

Financial implications

The financial impacts are covered within existing Board approved budget lines.

Communications

A report of all workplace incidences, including student aggression is provided every two weeks to the Board's Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC).

Prepared by: Michael Weinert, Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resource Services, Shannon-Melissa Dunlop, Manager, Health, Safety & Security and in consultation with Coordinating Council.



Report to Board

May 28, 2018

Subject: Discussion: Board Policy 3008 – Use of Board Resources during the Election Campaign

Recommendation

This report is for information. Trustees may determine if any policy changes are needed.

Status

The following question was asked of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) in respect to section 4.7 of Board Policy 3008 – Use of Board Resources during the Election Campaign:

There was concern expressed that there are parents and students who may work on some campaigns distributing materials etc. Would this clause prevent that from happening?

Some trustees think the clause means that trustees can't send home campaign/election materials using students or parent school groups or on school property.

Response received:

You are correct in your interpretation...these are best practice recommendations during the campaign period. We do not want trustees to use their access to school distribution methods (email list, kids backpacks) to share election or campaign materials either in print or electronically. Trustees can continue to send out information that they regularly do, but during the campaign period, this cannot include political messaging. Of course, we don't have control over what happens off school property but trustees need to know or understand what's appropriate and what's not.

Background

Effective May 1, 2018, all school boards were required to have a policy addressing the use of board resources during the election campaign. WRDSB used the template provided by OPSBA. Trustees requested clarification on the following point:

4.7 Trustees will not distribute (print, electronic or other method) any election-related materials via students or parents/guardians.

The full policy is provided as Appendix A.

Financial implications

Financial implications are not known at this time.

Communications

If policy changes are made, the revised policy will be posted on the WRDSB website.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services
in consultation with Trustees



USE OF SCHOOL BOARD RESOURCES DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Legal References: *Municipal Elections Act*
Education Act

Related References: *Board Policy G100 – Governance Policy - Foundations*
Board Policy G201 – Trustee Code of Conduct
Board Policy 2009 – Board Advocacy

Effective Date: *April 30, 2018*

Revisions:

Reviewed:

1. Objective

- 1.1 To establish instructions for the use of school board resources by trustees and candidates during the Municipal and School Board Election campaign period. Nothing in this policy prevents current elected trustees from performing their role and duties during their term of office. It also provides guidelines for activities involving trustees and candidates during the campaign.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Trustees play an important role as they are the only publicly elected official with the direct responsibility for the education of our children. The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) actively promotes and supports the role of the local democratically elected trustee.
- 2.2 Municipal and School Board Elections are held every four years and the Municipal Elections Act is reviewed after every election. Legislative changes following the last review were identified in both Bill 181, Municipal Elections Modernization Act and Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act. The Municipal Elections Modernization Act received Royal Assent on June 9, 2016. In accordance with that Act,

“Before May 1 in the year of a regular election, municipalities and local boards shall establish rules and procedures with respect to the use of municipal or board resources, as the case may be, during the election campaign period.”

3. Definition of School Board Resources

- 3.1 School Board resources may include: staff time, computer, fax, telephone, cellphone, laptop, tablet, website, newsletter, email, wireless internet, board or school social media accounts. This list is to include any board-issued resource and any other information technology devices given to a trustee for their work use as a trustee of the board.

4. School Board Resources

- 4.1 Trustees will not use their Board office or school board-issued resources for any campaign-related purposes. This includes displaying election-related materials in Board offices, board meetings, board events or school-related events.

- 4.2 Trustees will not distribute or use the Board logo or Board telephone number or other contact information, including any Board branding in any campaign-related material.
- 4.3 Trustees must ensure that all campaign-related material is funded by the trustee in their capacity as a candidate.
- 4.4 Trustees will not use the Board's email system to distribute election-related electronic messages and will not use the board's voicemail system to record election-related messages.
- 4.5 Trustee websites and newsletters that are funded by the Board, are not to include campaign-related material.
- 4.6 Trustees will use their personal information technology resources to create and use social media accounts created for campaign purposes. These are to be separate and distinct from any accounts used by the candidate in their position as a trustee.
- 4.7 Trustees will not distribute (print, electronic or other method) any election-related materials via students or parents/guardians.
- 4.8 Trustees will not use the services of Board staff to assist or advise in the preparation, distribution or communication of any election-related material.

5. Other Activities during the Campaign Period

5.1 School Visits – by Trustees

Trustees who are seeking re-election may continue to perform their duties which may include their continued participation in local events held in schools while they serve their term of office. Trustees should not participate in activities at school events that could reasonably be perceived as campaigning.

5.2 School Visits – by Candidates

Requests for visits by candidates, for the purposes of campaigning, are not considered appropriate. All Candidates Meetings are encouraged and may occur on school property. These are sometimes arranged by school councils and community groups and usually held at night during non-school hours. Consider a minimum of two confirmed candidates before proceeding with the meeting.

5.3 School-Related Events

Candidates are not permitted to campaign at school-related events intended for the students and parents/guardians of that school. Current trustees may continue to attend and participate in school-related activities but shall not campaign or conduct themselves in any way that may reasonably be perceived as campaigning.

5.4 Campaign Involvement – Student

Students are encouraged to participate in curriculum-based activities (Civics) and democratic awareness programs such as Student Vote. Secondary students may choose to earn their Community Involvement Hours by participating in an election campaign. It is strongly recommended that students not volunteer for a candidate seeking election for their local school board. Any campaign or election activities must be done outside of school hours and not on school property.



Bluewater District School Board

P.O. Box 190, 351 1st Avenue North
Chesley, Ontario N0G 1L0
Telephone: (519) 363-2014 Fax: (519) 370-2909
www.bwdsb.on.ca

May 1, 2018

The Honourable Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Naidoo-Harris:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Bluewater District School Board, we agree with the concerns expressed in the letters of February 26, 2018 and March 1, 2018 sent to you from the Waterloo Region District School Board regarding funding for children with special education needs.

As a board that also serves a large cohort of students with special needs, we believe that a review of the Special Education funding formula, which would include additional funding supports for students exhibiting aggression and high risk behaviours in the classroom, is imperative to addressing a gap that exists in our system.

As always, our shared commitment remains focused on providing quality education for every student in a safe and caring environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Motz'.

Ron Motz
Chair

cc: Scott McMillan, Chair of the Board, Waterloo Region District School Board
Ontario Public School Boards' Association

/jp

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

May 7, 2018

Mr. Scott McMillan
 Chair of the Board
 Waterloo Region District School Board
 51 Ardelt Avenue
 Kitchener ON N2C 2R5

Dear Mr. McMillan,

Thank you for your letter regarding special education on behalf of the trustees of the Waterloo Region District School Board. I appreciate your dedication to the students of this province, and I am pleased to respond.

Our government is committed to ensuring that every student has access to the supports they need to succeed in school, including students with special education needs. It is for this reason the Ministry of Education is investing more than \$300 million over the next three school years in special education. This investment will provide school boards with funding to address current waitlists for special education assessments, increase programs and services for students with special education needs, and support students with extraordinary high needs to be successful in school. The ministry continues to make changes to be more responsive to the needs of all students with special education needs and to increase our focus on supporting their achievement, equity and well-being.

Overall, the provincial Special Education Grant (SEG) is projected to be approximately \$3.01 billion in 2018-19. This represents a projected increase of over \$139.3 million or nearly 4.9 per cent over 2017-18; and an increase of \$508.9 million or 20.4 per cent since 2012-13. As you know, SEG funding is enveloped for special education programs, services and equipment. Any unspent special education funding must be treated as deferred revenue for special education.

With respect to SEG funding for the Waterloo Region District School Board, it is projected to increase to \$87.9 million in 2018-19. This represents a projected increase of nearly \$2.5 million or 2.9 per cent over 2017-18; and an increase of \$14.5 million or 19.8 per cent since 2012-13.

As you know, the ministry provides Ontario's 72 publicly funded district school boards with additional funding through the SEG to support the incremental costs of the additional programs, services and equipment required to meet the educational needs and to support positive outcomes for students with special education needs. This enables equity for all students with special education needs. SEG funding is incremental to the Foundation Grants and other special purpose grants of the ministry's education funding model, the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). School boards have the authority and flexibility to use other GSN funding, as well as the SEG, to meet their responsibility to support students with special education needs. It is important to note that while the ministry is responsible for setting the funding policy that directs allocation of funds to schools boards, it is up to school boards to allocate resources for each school or program, according to local needs.

With respect to the evolution of the special education formula, please note that the ministry engages annually with our education partners on the GSN, including the SEG, to ensure that funding changes better align with board cost structures, drive efficiencies and support our government's student achievement agenda. These consultations have led to regular refinements to the GSN funding formula, including the SEG. In addition, the ministry receives input and advice from our many partners throughout the year, and we continue to consult with the Special Education Funding Working Group (SEFWG).

Finally, the ministry established a Local Priorities Fund (LPF) in 2017-18, to address a range of local priorities and needs. This investment included more special education staffing to support children in need, "at-risk" students and adult education. In 2018-19, the LPF amount will be \$235 million.

Once again thank you for your letter on behalf of the trustees of the Waterloo Region District School Board regarding special education, and for sharing your concerns with me. Your commitment to students with special education needs is appreciated. I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifice Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ontario

May 7, 2018

Mr. Scott McMillan
Chair, Board of Trustees
Ms. Janine Oosterveld
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee
Waterloo Region District School Board
51 Ardelt Avenue
Kitchener ON N2C 2R5

Dear Mr. McMillan and Ms. Oosterveld,

Thank you for your correspondence about Bill 191 and individuals living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). I am pleased to respond.

Recently, the Ontario Legislature was prorogued to allow for the Speech from the Throne to outline the government's priorities for the final session of the 41st Parliament.

As a result, government bills, Private Member's Bills and all outstanding business on the Order Paper was lost. The Government House Leader made an offer to the opposition parties to carry over all bills from the previous session, including Private Member's Bills, but the opposition refused this offer. The government has reintroduced all pieces of government legislation and all members have the same opportunity to reintroduce their Private Member's Bills.

On April 11, MPP Kiwala reintroduced the legislation, now Bill 44, in the new session of the Legislature. We will endeavour to keep you apprised of any developments in this process. As we have done at the end of each sitting, we will again explore options to make an agreement with the opposition parties to pass some of the reintroduced Private Member's Bills at the end of this sitting.

That being said, we know that students with FASD may require additional supports in order to succeed in school. Although you may already be aware, I would like to share some information about how the Ministry of Education is supporting students with FASD in our schools.

.../2

Students who have behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities, may have educational needs that go beyond regular instructional and assessment practices. Such students may be identified as “exceptional pupils.” The ministry sets out definitions of exceptionalities that must be used by school boards after determining that a student is an exceptional pupil.

The ministry's broad categories of exceptionalities are designed to address the wide range of conditions that may affect a student's ability to learn, and include any medical conditions, whether diagnosed or not, that can lead to particular types of learning needs. The inclusion of some medical conditions in the definition of exceptionalities is intended to include medical conditions that may result in learning difficulties, such as, but not limited to, Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, and Tourette Syndrome. All students with demonstrable learning-based needs are entitled to appropriate accommodations in the form of special education programs and supports.

Currently, students with FASD who require special education programs and/or services may have their learning needs addressed through an Individual Education Plan (IEP). As you know, at the discretion of the board, a transition plan may also be developed for students who receive special education programs and/or services, but do not have an IEP and have not been identified as exceptional, which may include students with FASD. All transition plans must be developed in consultation with the parent(s), student (as appropriate), postsecondary institution (where appropriate), and relevant community agencies and/or partners, as necessary.

Our government is committed to ensuring that every student has access to the supports they need to succeed in school, including students with special education needs. It is for this reason the ministry is investing more than \$300 million over the next three school years in special education. This investment will provide school boards with funding to address current waitlists for special education assessments, increase programs and services for students with special education needs and support students with extraordinarily high needs to be successful in school. The ministry continues to make changes to be more responsive to the needs of all students with special education needs and to increase our focus on supporting their achievement, equity and well-being.

Overall, the provincial Special Education Grant (SEG) is projected to be approximately \$3.01 billion in 2018-19. This represents a projected increase of over \$139.3 million or nearly 4.9 per cent over 2017-18; and an increase of \$508.9 million or 20.4 per cent since 2012-13. As you know, SEG funding is enveloped for special education programs, services and equipment. Any unspent special education funding must be treated as deferred revenue for special education.

- 3 -

We also know that good schools become great schools when parents and families are engaged in their children's learning. That is why we have invested over \$68 million since 2005 to support parent engagement initiatives. This funding supports:

- Parent Involvement Committees (PICs) and school councils
- 20,000 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants at both the school council and regional/provincial levels
- Parent engagement initiatives led by the four provincial parent organizations

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,



Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care