

**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 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, on **Monday, November 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order/ Territorial Acknowledgement**

**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 September 24, 2019

Approve Minutes – Audit Committee Meeting of September 25, 2019

Approve Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 9, 2019

Receive Minutes – Board Meeting of October 28, 2019

Approve Minutes – Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 18, 2019

**Receipt/Approval of Monthly Reports:**

23 Staffing Information – Retirements and Resignations

M. Weinert

26 Staffing Recommendations – Appointments

M. Weinert

**Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

**Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities**

**Communications Good News Update**

A. Sloan

**Delegations**

**Reports**

28 Suspension/Expulsion Report as of October 31, 2019

B. Lemon

30 2018-2019 Suspension/Expulsion Report

B. Lemon

36 Discussion: Committee Representatives and Information Sharing

Chairperson

40 Discussion: Trustee Bursaries

Chairperson

**Board Reports**

\*\*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.

**Board Communications**

- 42 Simcoe County DSB SEAC to Minister of Education - Local Priorities Funding
- 44 Halton District School Board - Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

**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

November 25, 2019

**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**  
**Current at November 25, 2019**

<b>Retirements: Elementary Teaching Staff</b>				
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Retirement Date</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Anne	Campbell	Teacher, Forest Hill PS	June 30, 2020	30
Jennifer	Dorans	Teacher, Preston PS	December 31, 2019	30
Susan	Peper	Teacher, JW Gerth PS (On leave)	November 30, 2019	30
Elizabeth	Stippler	Teacher, On Leave	December 31, 2019	32

<b>Retirements: Secondary Teaching Staff</b>				
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Retirement Date</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Tammy	Rogerson	Teacher, Eastwood Collegiate Institute	February 29, 2020	33

<b>Retirements: Administrative &amp; Support Staff</b>				
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Retirement Date</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Barb	Brubacher	Supervision Monitor, Waterloo Collegiate Institute (On leave)	December 31, 2019	19
Brent	Hatcher	Principal, Riverside Public School	January 31, 2020	32
Kelly	Lantink	Principal, On Leave (Seconded)	June 30, 2020	32
Diana	Schoppel	Educational Assistant, Silverheights Public School	December 31, 2019	20
Pauline	Shiry	Principal, Crestview Public School	January 31, 2020	16
Ingrid	Steffler	Child Youth Worker, Margaret Avenue Public School	January 31, 2020	31
Janice	Williams	Data Analyst MISA, Research Office	February 29, 2020	30

**Staffing Statistics – Resignations**  
**Current at November 25, 2019**

<b>Permanent Staff Resignations:</b>			
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Position/Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Stephanie	Brindley	Educational Assistant, Suddaby Public School	November 18, 2019
Tara	Cordes	Secondary Teacher, Kitchener Collegiate Institute	November 24, 2019
Becky	Davidson	Custodian, Elmira District Secondary School	October 25, 2019
William	Grobe	Elementary Vice Principal, Coronation Public School	January 31, 2020
Megan	Kim	Elementary Occasional Teacher, Various	November 25, 2019
Hebah	Rizk	Occasional Early Childhood Educator, Various	October 15, 2019
Michelle	Kakar	Supply Educational Assistant, Various	November 8, 2019



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25, 2019

## **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 November 25, 2019.*

### **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 November 25, 2019**

<b>New Appointments: Elementary Teachers</b>			
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>School ID / Education Centre</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Stephanie	Ho	Central PS	November 15, 2019
Meredith	Jewson	Queensmount PS	November 18, 2019

<b>New Appointments: Administrative and Support Staff</b>			
<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>School ID / Education Centre</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Radenka	Jovic	Custodian, Jacob Hespeler SS	November 20, 2019
Dragica	Tanasic	Custodian, Galt Collegiate Institute	November 19, 2019
Ljiljana	Vasic	Custodian, Jacob Hespeler SS	November 21, 2019

*New Hires - due to retirements, resignations or leaves and are to replace full or part time vacancies.*

*Human Resource Services*



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25, 2019

## **Subject: Student Suspension/Expulsion Report October, 2019**

### **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 October 2018 and October 2019, elementary suspensions have increased by 129 and secondary suspensions have increased by 25.

Comparing year to date from October 2018 and October 2019, school expulsions have remained the same and board expulsions have increased by 9.

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 October 2018 - 156, year to date - 222
- Total elementary school suspensions in October 2019 - 227, year to date - 351
- Total secondary school suspensions in October 2018 - 281, year to date - 435
- Total secondary school suspensions in October 2019 - 240, year to date - 460

#### Expulsions

- Total school expulsions in October 2018 - 0, Year to Date 0
- Total school expulsions in October 2019 - 0, Year to Date 0
- Total board expulsions in October 2018 - 0, Year to Date 1
- Total board expulsions in October 2019 - 6, Year to Date 10

#### 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 October 2018 - 6, year to date 12
- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in October 2019 - 6, year to date 9



**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: Bill Lemon, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being,  
Joe Bell, System Administrator, Learning Support Services, and  
in consultation with Coordinating Council



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25, 2019

## **Subject: Suspension/Expulsion Annual Report**

### **Recommendation**

*This report is for the information of the Board.*

### **Status**

To provide the Waterloo Region District School Board with an annual report concerning suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2018-2019 school year.

This report supports the strategic priority of Our Students are First – Each and Every One. The WRDSB continues to support students in alternative programs that support their success. Suspension and expulsion data is helpful in supporting schools as inclusive and caring communities.

Using the previous annual report as a model, staff worked to provide an in-depth analysis of suspension, expulsion and violent incident data.

In Appendix A:

Suspension/expulsion data is analyzed by:

- Percentage of Students Suspended by Enrollment
- Number of Students Expelled
- Violent Incident Reports
- Suspension Analysis by Gender
- Suspension Analysis by Multiple Suspensions
- Suspension Analysis by Grade
- Analysis by Length of Suspension
- Suspension/Expulsion Analysis by Category
- Suspension Analysis by Location

### **Background**

On May 26, 2008, the Board requested an analysis of annual suspension/expulsion/violent incident data, including statistics on violent incidents.

**Financial implications**

No financial implications.

**Communications**

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

Prepared by: Bill Lemon, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being  
Joe Bell, System Administrator, Learning Support Services  
in consultation with Coordinating Council

**SUSPENSION/EXPULSION ANALYSIS**

September 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

**Percentage of Students Suspended by Enrollment:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Enrollment	35055	33086	<b>68141</b>
# of suspensions	2996	1480	<b>4476</b>
% of suspensions by enrollment	8.5%	4.5%	<b>6.6%</b>
# of students	2348	955	<b>3303</b>
% of students suspended by enrollment	6.7%	2.9%	

**Number of Students Expelled:**

<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
32	3	35

**Number of Violent Incident Reports:** 51**Suspension Analysis by Gender:**

- 67% of all suspensions were given to males.
- 33% of all suspensions were given to females

**Suspension Analysis by Multiple Suspensions:**

- 56% of all suspensions were multiple offenders (i.e. more than one suspension for one student)
- 44% of all suspensions were single offences

Grade	Male	Female
JK/SK	107	111
1	90	45
2	152	71
3	125	34
4	157	20
5	159	31
6	194	57
7	349	75
8	361	157
9	355	207
10	518	181
11	410	160
12	316	104

Suspension Analysis by Length of Suspension:

- 3735 83 % of all suspensions were three days in length or less
- 206 5 % of all suspensions were long-term (six days or longer)

Length of Suspension	Number of Suspensions
1	2052
2	820
3	866
4	118
5	167
6	33
7	21
8	8
9	6
10	21
11	6
12	5
13	5
14	3
15	6
16	3
17	2
18	5
19	3
20	79

Suspension/Expulsion Analysis by Category:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Suspensions</b>
S1	Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person	2
S2	Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs	7
S3	Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs	164
S4	Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority	138
S5	Committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school	37
S7	Bullying	134
S8	Medical/Immunization	704
S9	Possessing cannabis unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user	41
S10	Being under the influence of cannabis, unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user	29
S11	Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs (except cannabis)	63
Board	Code of Conduct Violation	1869
Board	Fighting/Violence	789
Board	Habitual Neglect of Duty	143
Board	Opposition to Authority	542
Board	Profanity/Swearing	293

S - Suspension

\* The number of suspensions for each reason code will appear higher, as one suspension may have had two or more reason codes and therefore counted multiple times. This chart should be used to review the reasons for a suspension, not a total number of suspensions.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Suspensions Pending Expulsion</b>
E1	Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm.	38
E2	Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person.	16
E3	Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner.	27
E4	Committing sexual assault.	8
E5	Trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs.	7
E6	Committing robbery.	7
E7	Giving alcohol to a minor.	2
E8	Any activity listed under Suspensions that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other similar factor.	
E9	Bullying, if, the pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying and the pupil's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person.	5
E10	Any other activity that, under a policy of the board, is an activity for which a student may be considered for expulsion.	13

## E - Expulsion

- \* The number of suspensions pending expulsion for each reason code will appear higher, as one suspension may have had two or more reason codes and therefore counted multiple times. This chart should be used to review the reasons for a suspension pending expulsion, not a total number of suspensions.

**Suspension Analysis by Location:**

Bleachers	5
Cafeteria/Lunch	75
Change Room	63
Classroom	946
Gymnasium	88
Hallway	592
Internet	6
Laboratory	7
Library	8
Not Available	11
Off Site	414
Office	190
Other	680
Parking Lot	66
Portable	8
School Bus	65
School Grounds	866
School Trip	18
Sports Events	3
Staircase	18
Swimming Pool	0
Washroom	258



# Report to Committee of the Whole

November 25, 2019

**Subject: Discussion - Committee Representatives and Information Sharing**

## Recommendation

*This report is for information.*

## Status

The purpose of this discussion is to determine how best Trustees can share information from Committees where minutes are not already shared at Board Meetings.

The following committee minutes are approved by the Board of Trustees:

- Audit Committee
- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

## Background

At the Agenda Development Committee Meeting of November 4, 2019, committee members discussed the potential benefits of receiving regular verbal updates from Trustee representatives on committees whose minutes are not already shared at Board Meetings.

Committee members agreed that this matter should be brought to trustees for a generative discussion.



## 2019 - BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

<p><b>Special Education Advisory Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed for 4 Years 2 Trustees &amp; 2 Alternates Meets Monthly 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● N. Waddell</li> <li>● C. Watson</li> <li>● K. Smith (Alt)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Alt)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Student Program Review and SAL</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually At least 4 Trustees Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C. Millar</li> <li>● K. Smith</li> <li>● N. Waddell</li> <li>● K. Woodcock</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discipline Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually Chairperson &amp; Trustees Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. Herring (M &amp; T)</li> <li>● C. Millar (M)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (M)</li> <li>● M. Ramsay (T)</li> <li>● K. Smith (M &amp; T)</li> <li>● C. Watson (M)</li> <li>● J. Weston (M &amp; T)</li> <li>● C. Whetham (M &amp; T)</li> <li>● K. Woodcock (T)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Board Audit Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed for 4 Years 3 Trustees Meets 3 times per year</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● K. Smith</li> <li>● C. Whetham</li> <li>● K. Woodcock</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parent Involvement Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually 1 Trustee Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● K. Smith</li> <li>● K. Meissner (Alt)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agenda Development Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Past Chair &amp; 2 Trustees Meets Monthly- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. Herring (Chair)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>● K. Woodcock (Past Chair)</li> <li>● C. Whetham (Jan to May)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (Jun to Dec)</li> <li>● PLUS: One trustee rotating alphabetically</li> </ul>

<p><b>Student Trustee &amp; Student Senate Mentor</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually 1 Trustee Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K. Meissner</li> </ul>	<p><b>Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually 2 Trustees Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K. Meissner</li> <li>• C. Millar</li> </ul>	<p><b>School Year Calendar Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually 1 Trustee Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Herring</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accessibility Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually 2 Trustees Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K. Meissner</li> <li>• K. Smith</li> </ul>	<p><b>Internet Content Filtering Working Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Whetham</li> <li>• Student Trustees</li> </ul>	<p><b>Fiscal Task Force</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually 2 Trustees Meets monthly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N. Waddell</li> <li>• K. Woodcock</li> </ul>
<p><b>French Immersion Review Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Piatkowski</li> <li>• K. Smith</li> <li>• J. Weston</li> </ul>	<p><b>Code of Conduct Review (Use of a Third Party)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Piatkowski</li> <li>• M. Ramsay</li> <li>• C. Watson</li> <li>• K. Woodcock</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bylaw Review Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Herring</li> <li>• K. Smith</li> <li>• N. Waddell</li> <li>• K. Woodcock</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trustee Self Evaluation Tool</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Millar</li> <li>• M. Ramsay</li> <li>• K. Smith</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mental Health and Addiction Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Millar</li> </ul>	<p><b>Pro Grants Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Millar</li> </ul>
<p><b>Huron Natural Area Advisory Committee</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually Vice-Chairperson Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Weston</li> </ul>	<p><b>Waterloo Education Foundation Inc.</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Herring (Chair)</li> <li>• J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suspension/Expulsion Ad Hoc Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Piatkowski</li> <li>• C. Watson</li> <li>• J. Weston</li> <li>• J. Herring (Ex Officio)</li> </ul>

**Financial implications**

There are no financial implications.

**Communications**

Trustees providing verbal committee updates to the Board of Trustees should inform the Manager of Corporate Services by noon on the Thursday prior to the Board or Committee of the Whole meeting to be included on the meeting agenda under Board Reports.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
for Chairperson J. Herring in consultation with Coordinating Council



# Report to Committee of the Whole

November 25, 2019

## **Subject: Discussion - Trustee Bursaries**

### **Recommendation**

*This report is for information to assist Trustees in their discussion.*

### **Status**

The Board of Trustees currently administer two (2) bursaries from the Trustee Expense Budget, the Linda Fabi Bursary and the Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship.

The purpose of this discussion is to review the two bursaries and determine if trustees are still interested in providing them in the 2020-2021 school year and beyond.

### **Background**

#### Linda Fabi Bursary

In 2013, 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 Linda Fabi Bursary provides funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who are not likely to receive an award at the graduation ceremony. This bursary has been awarded in each of the last four years.

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. In 2018-2019 all ten applicants were successful, each being awarded \$200.

The following criteria are 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

The bursary was announced at the June 24, 2013 Board Meeting and approved through the consent agenda process, but no specific motion can be located.

#### Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship

In May 2006, the Board passed a motion to administer the Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship annually to honour the life of secondary school teacher Tim Walker and his contribution to education and environmental initiatives. The annual award is \$2,000, which is to be equally distributed among two elementary and two secondary schools (i.e., \$500 per school).

The following criteria are taken into consideration:

1. Staff and student involvement (current and future) and environmental stewardship.
2. Impact on student learning/fostering learning and engaging students.
3. Environmental benefits – shading, greening, waste reduction, recycling – organized action/school environmental club or committee.

The motion from the May 7, 2006 Committee of the Whole meeting read as follows:

*That the Waterloo Region District School Board budget \$2,000 annually from the trustee expense budget, starting with the 2006-2007 school year, for the purpose of environmental award(s),*

*and that the award(s) be administered by the Environmental Advisory Standing Committee so that it can make internal award(s) to students, staff, volunteers or schools to further the development of environmental projects, or to promote or reward further studies in the field of the environment,*

*and that the award(s) be designated The Tim Walker Award(s).*

#### **Financial implications**

Both the Linda Fabi Bursary and the Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship cost \$2,000 each annually.

The 2019/2020 Budget included an allocation to the Trustees' Budget of \$4,000 for the Linda Fabi Bursary and the Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship. The allocation is split equally between the two bursaries.

#### **Communications**

If needed, any decisions will be communicated with the necessary individuals.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
for Chairperson J. Herring in consultation with Coordinating Council

October 31, 2019

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

Dear Minister Stephen Lecce,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). We are extremely concerned with the discontinuation of the Local Priorities Funding. This money has been used to fund special education programs and services, specifically for students with special education needs. This funding translated into much needed support for some of our most vulnerable students, the loss of which has had a direct and substantial impact across our school board.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Local Priorities Funding provided to the SCDSB amounted to approximately \$2.8M for special education in addition to the approved budget.

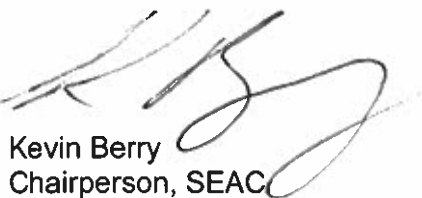
Local Priorities Funding was used to hire:

- 0.8 FTE elementary social worker
- 23 educational assistants and 5 child and youth workers
- 12 special education resource teachers who were assigned to elementary schools to support early literacy (direct reading instruction) in regular classes
- 3.5 special education resource teachers in secondary schools to reduce the number of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) per special education resource teacher (SERT) and reduce time of IEP completion and increase direct support to students in regular class placements

We are also extremely concerned that according to the release from the Ministry of Education (March 15, 2019), this funding seems to have now become subject to the upcoming central collective bargaining process. This significant loss is currently being felt by our students, staff and families, and we feel it is imperative to students' success to reinstate this funding as soon as possible.

We appreciate this government's willingness to listen, and respond to its constituents' feedback, and we hope you will give this matter the attention that we feel it deserves. We respectfully ask that you reinstate the Local Priorities Funding for the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,



Kevin Berry  
Chairperson, SEAC



Brandy Rafeek  
Vice-chairperson, SEAC

- 
- c: Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson, SCDSB  
Steve Blake, Director of Education, SCDSB  
John Dance, Associate Director of Education, SCDSB  
Chris Samis, Superintendent of Program and Special Education, SCDSB  
Hon. Doug Downey, MPP, Barrie–Springwater–Oro-Medonte  
Hon. Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North  
Andrea Khanjin, MPP, Barrie–Innisfil  
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York-Simcoe  
Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey  
Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)

November 1, 2019

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
22nd Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1L2

To the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education,

On Wednesday, October 16, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the Halton District School Board directed the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education concerning the status of the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant funding.

The resolution was as follows:

*Be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education expressing the valuable contribution that school councils and PRO Grants play in engaging the community and supporting student achievement and well-being, encouraging the continuation of the funding model as per previous years, and requesting that information be made available as soon as possible.*

Since 2006, PRO Grants have provided funds that support school councils in "identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community, and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement, human rights and equity, and well-being."

Trustees were disappointed to learn that the 2019 PRO Grant funding has been slashed by more than half and that the process for applying and managing grants had been downloaded to PIC representatives and school boards. It is important to note that the PIC representatives are being asked to participate in the selection process are parent volunteers who have already assumed large volunteer roles in the Board.

A majority of schools within the Halton District School Board have taken advantage of these grants to engage with their parent community in a number of different ways. Many grants were used to subsidize Family Math Nights or STEM Nights, encouraging parents/guardians to attend with their children to engage with math manipulatives, robotics, technology and teachers. Family fitness and wellness events allowed families to discover ways to promote healthy living. In our highly diverse areas, multicultural nights have been a popular choice to engage with newcomer families to help them interact with their children in the school setting to empower them, help them feel welcome, and to promote inclusivity in the school communities.



PRO Grants have also been used to inform and help parents with issues through expert speakers. Examples include information nights about cannabis, vaping, human trafficking, student stress and anxiety, post secondary options, reducing stress in the home, and helping parents/guardians deal with tween and teen social media, devices and digital footprints. Through PRO Grant events, parents have been able to engage with agencies and supports like social workers, public health nurses, police departments and community hub workers. PRO Grants allow schools to meet specific needs within their community and provides an equitable opportunity to access funds.

Our own Board has been a recipient of PRO Grant funding which has been used for the past 12 years to support an annual parent conference. The most recent conference took place on October 19, 2019. Hundreds of parents from across Halton Region attended the conference at Garth Webb Secondary School. [A listing of the 24 available conference workshops](#) has been attached to this letter for your convenience so you can view the breadth of topics. We fear that this highly valuable conference will not continue in its current popular and accessible format without the PRO Grant funding that has always been provided for this event.

Parent/guardian engagement in education is critical. They are our partners in each student's journey through our schools. HDSB Trustees believe school councils and activities enabled through PRO Grants make a valuable, impactful contribution in engaging the parent community in support of student achievement and well-being. As such, we strongly encourage the continuation of the PRO Grant program and funding support levels as per previous years.

Sincerely,



Andréa Grebenc  
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Halton District School Board

Enclosure: HDSB Parent Conference Workshops 2019

Cc: Ted Arnott, MPP  
Stephen Crawford, MPP  
Parm Gill, MPP  
Jane McKenna, MPP  
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP  
Ontario Public School Board Association  
Ontario English Public School Board Chairs  
HDSB Board of Trustees  
HDSB School Councils  
HDSB PIC  
HDSB SEAC

Colour Legend:		
Tailored to Elementary	Tailored to Secondary	Tailored to both Elementary & Secondary
Workshop Title & Presenters	Room #	Description
How <a href="#">TVO Mathify</a> supports students, parents and teachers - Christine Luchies Sessions A & B	2011	In partnership with the Ministry of Education, <a href="#">TVO Mathify</a> provides students grade 7-10 with a safe learning environment to develop their math skills and deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. Learn how Mathify offers educators an enriched online classroom tool that enables interactive math lessons and activities, personalized learning, and easy sharing between teachers, students and tutors to facilitate seamless learning and math support for students.
Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development Patricia Tapp Sessions A & B	2012	This session will allow parents to develop a deeper understanding of the different assessments, interventions and resources within the board. We will be delving into reading assessments, and Leveled Literacy Intervention and how they are used in schools. Parents will also have an opportunity to learn how to support their child's literacy development at home.
Revolution is Not a One Time Event; Equity & Inclusion in the classroom - Karamjit Sangha-Bosland Sessions A & B	2013	A safe space for questions, conversations, and capacity building around topics such as Race and Racism, Islamophobia, Unconscious bias, and more. Not a dull moment in this workshop!
Stop Arguing with Your Kids / Teens - Chris Alexiou Sessions A & B	2014	Participants will learn how to begin using the research based Collaborative Problem Solving approach to help their kids develop critical thinking skills such as frustration tolerance, cognitive flexibility, empathy and problem solving to help them in school, at home and in the world of work.
Smartphone: Friend or Foe? - Dr. Deepa Soni Sessions A & B	2015	The impact of phones and technology on the mental health of today's children and teens. Emerging data on cumulative impacts on our attention, memory, relationships and mental health.
Future of Work: Raising the Child of Today and the Adult of Tomorrow - Karena de Souza Sessions A & B	2016	Discussion on the Future of Work & how we raise children to react to and survive in the dynamically evolving nature of work, so that they are equipped to make decisions as they grow into young adults.
HDSB: I-STEM Program - Paul Dawson Sessions A & B	2017	The Halton District School Board will be launching its first I-STEM program starting in September 2019. With a focus on experiential learning, community partnerships and the development skills that will prepare students for an ever changing work, this workshop will provide attendees information related to program design, and what students can expect if they apply to the program.
Tech Help for Parents and Guardians – Ryan Henderson and Shaun Else Sessions A & B	2019	Parents and guardians in the session will explore a variety of resources intended to demystify the technologies that students are using in classrooms around Halton. Attendees will get hands-on experience using these tools and learning how to support their children in a technology-enhanced classroom.
#ClimateOptimism - Suzanne Burwell and Lisa Kohler Sessions A & B	2018	#ClimateOptimism - Yes the climate is changing - science has the solutions, now we need people. Come learn about the Halton Climate Collective, a group working to shift Halton to a Climate Resilient Community, how you can talk about climate change without causing anxiety, explore the impacts, facts & science for Halton, and determine what you and your family can do on a personal level to effect change.

<u>Vaping</u> and <u>Cannabis</u> : What Parents Need to Know - Cynthia Lindsay and Linda Lambert Sessions A & B	2035	Parents will learn about current information and trends on the basics of vaping and cannabis. The first half will focus on cannabis, the effects on the developing teenage brain and signs of use. Secondly, we will talk about the emerging trend of vaping, the aerosol content and health effects. We will spend time providing strategies to help you start talking to your youth about cannabis and vaping with a focus on prevention.
The Long Term Value of Music Education - Lisa Michaels and Peter VanDuzer Sessions A & B	2038	Music class has value far beyond the artistic element. Research studies have proven that students who take music throughout elementary and high school get better marks, are on the honour roll and receive acceptance to their post-secondary programs of choice. Plus, the transferable skills learned in music are exactly the skills employers look for in new graduates. Music will set your child up for long-term success.
<u>TVO mPower</u> #neverstoplearning - Kristen Boyd Sessions A & B	2005	Learn about TVO mPower’s free, creative on-line games that support the development of foundational K-grade 6 math & STEM skills while fostering positive attitudes towards math. It’s Ontario Curriculum-based, Learner-centred, Assessment driven, Tested & trusted, Desktop/tablet accessible and FREE!
Navigating the Elementary Curriculum - how parents can help inspire a love of learning in their child - Tina Salmini Sessions A & B	2004	At the HDSB, we believe that children can best reach their potential when families and schools work together in partnership. This session will provide an overview of the elementary curriculum and explore the important roles that families play in their child(ren)’s learning. We will also provide some helpful tips for families in supporting learning at home (e.g., communicating with your child about school, supporting reading/math, becoming involved in the daily life of the school, understanding the curriculum, helping with homework, inspiring a love of learning.
Making Financial Decisions...Wisely: A Resource Toolkit for Parents of <u>Elementary</u> School Students - Kevin Maynard Session A	2039	This interactive program will feature CFEE’s engaging and interactive online program for Parents “Talk With Our Kids About Money (TWOKAM)”. This FREE resource has activity plans designed to help begin discussions with kids ages 5 and up. The program also provides unique lesson plans that can be used by teachers in the middle grades, correlated to learning outcomes for every subject area at Grade 7 in the Ontario curriculum. Learn more at <a href="http://www.talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com">www.talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com</a> .
Making Financial Decisions...Wisely: A Resource Toolkit for Parents of <u>Secondary</u> School Students - Kevin Maynar Session B	2039	This session will explore a range of strategies and resources designed to assist parents in helping their children make informed decisions about money matters. Attendees will explore a host of financial challenges that occur as young people experience life events and receive free resources to assist their kids in that journey. The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education is a non-profit dedicated to helping Canadians make wise financial decisions with confidence and competence. Visit our site at <a href="http://www.cfee.org">www.cfee.org</a> .
The Gifted Learner - Jennifer Stone, Sandra Dubreuil, Kelly Cooper, Amy Longden, and Conan Spruin Session A	2040	Working with Gifted Learners presents unique challenges and amazing opportunities. This workshop will outline strategies for working with and supporting Gifted Learners from Halton District School Board staff who work in Self-Contained Gifted Classrooms.
Pathways to Apprenticeship: Experiential Learning For a Highly Skilled Workforce Lisa Galay and Wade Richardson Session B	2040	There is no debate that the demands imposed by the highly skilled workforce will require our youth to fill jobs in the Skilled Trades. The Apprenticeship Pathway provides students with many options to build hands on experience and acquire the in-demand skills that will lead them to a successful future. Your facilitators will share more about the experiential learning opportunities this pathway offers and the high school programs that can support a student's journey to apprenticeship.

Be the BOSS "Own Your Life" - Darlene Kranstz Session A	2041	Be the BOSS inspires students to learn how to take ownership over their lives. This workshop will help parents understand the importance of RESPONSIBILITY and the integral part it plays in their child's success.
The Gap Year Advantage - why pausing before post-secondary makes sense – Michelle Dittmer Session B	2041	Current Gap Year trends in Canada, how to decide if a gap year is the right path for your student, and what opportunities exist to ensure a purposeful gap year.
Everything You Want to Know about Halton High Schools - Graduation Requirements, Regional Programs and more! - Julie Hunt Gibbons Session A & B	2042	This workshop will outline the requirements for a graduation diploma or certificate, school supports to ensure success, and regional options available to students in HDSB.
Connecting Students with Innovative Skills and Career Opportunities - Denys Linkov, Angela Xiang, and Nicole Chen Session A & B	2043	Students often ask about how to get real world experience but don't know where to start. During this workshop, we will share how students can learn about different careers, build key skills to succeed and connect with job opportunities all within the Halton community.
Trustee Role & Responsibilities - Trustees Kelly Amos and Jeanne Gray Session A	2046	Halton District School Board Trustees will give an overview of their role & responsibilities, discuss current challenges and opportunities in education, describe how they act as advocates to influence government policy and provide opportunities for parents to ask questions.
Promoting Parent Engagement - Zena Al-Mударis and Jason Moir Session B	2046	This workshop explores the types of activities which can make a difference in our child's learning experience, and shifts our thinking beyond the traditional perception of what it means to be an involved parent. This session is valuable to all, and School Council Chairs and PIC reps are highly encouraged to attend.
<a href="#">How can you help set the direction for the Halton District School Board?</a> – Josh Fullan, Hanna Miller, Lenia Barth and Sam Perry Session A & B	2048	The HDSB is gathering input for the development of its next Strategic Multi-Year Plan. The Multi-Year Plan is the blueprint that guides collective actions for ongoing improvement over the next four years, and it sets the direction to ensure the Board's efforts support all students, staff, families and community members across the Halton District School Board. Current Multi-Year Plan available <a href="#">here</a> .