

DECEMBER 13, 2021

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular monthly **Board Meeting** of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held via video conference, on **Monday, December 13, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Territorial Acknowledgement and O Canada

Approval of Agenda

Consent Agenda**

Receipt/Approval of Minutes:

Approve Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 10, 2021

Receive Minutes – Board Meeting of November 29, 2021

Receive Minutes – Inaugural Board Meeting of December 6, 2021

Receipt/Approval of Monthly Reports:

23	Staffing Information – Retirements and Resignations	G. Shantz
26	Staffing Recommendations – Appointments	G. Shantz
28	Student Suspension / Expulsion Report, November, 2021	B. Lemon
30	Reported Student Aggression Quarterly Data Q1 – 2021-2022	G. Shantz

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

Communications Good News Update

Delegations

Staff Follow Up

Reports

	COVID-19 and Public Health Update	j. chanicka / L. Read
36	2022 Board Committee Membership	Chairperson
39	2022 OPSBA Director and Voting Delegate Nominations/Appointments	Chairperson

Board Reports

Board Communications

43	Bluewater District School Board
44	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education
46	Toronto District School Board to Minister of Education
48	Thames Valley District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education

**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

December 13, 2021

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: Graham Shantz, Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resources & Equity Services, in consultation with Coordinating Council.

Staffing Statistics – Retirements
Current at December 13, 2021

Retirements: Elementary Teaching Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Carolyn	Boyne	Teacher, Linwood PS	January 31, 2022	35
Karen	Brown	Teacher, Ayr PS	November 30, 2021	23
Jennifer	McKinnon	Teacher, Wilson Avenue PS	December 31, 2021	34
Melissa	Reist	Itinerant Teacher, Special Education	January 27, 2022	31

Retirements: Administrative & Support Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Steven	Garland	Custodian, Waterloo Oxford DSS	April 22, 2022	12
Tammara	Gombos	Educational Assistant, MacGregor PS	December 17, 2021	13
Sharon	Hagedorn	Custodian, Queen Elizabeth PS	June 24, 2022	23
Julieann	Miller	Guidance Secretary, Bluevale CI	February 7, 2022	16
Linda	Toth-Winterkorn	Educational Assistant, Bluevale CI	December 31, 2021	16
Helmut	Wolf	Custodian, Lincoln Heights PS	January 2, 2022	8

Staffing Statistics – Resignations
Current at December 13, 2021

Permanent Staff Resignations			
First	Last	Position/Location	Effective Date
Emily	Derry	Support Specialist, ITS	December 31, 2021
Tara	Drury	HR Assistant, Wellness Office	December 10, 2021
Peter	Hamm	Secondary Teacher, Eastwood CI	December 6, 2021
Amy	Kuntz	Custodian, Huron Heights SS	December 2, 2021
Lorena	Molina	Custodian, Laurentian PS	December 17, 2021
Andrew	Richards	Custodian, Brigadoon PS	November 26, 2021



Report to Board of Trustees

December 13, 2021

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 December 13, 2021.

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: Graham Shantz, Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resources & Equity Services, in consultation with Coordinating Council.

Appendix A

Staffing Information – New Appointments
Current at December 13, 2021

New Appointments: Elementary Teacher Staff			
First	Last	Location	Effective Date
Jasmine	Chaumont	Elementary Remote School #1	December 9, 2021
Sarah	Corkery	Central PS	December 6, 2021
Christine	Jantzi	Floradale PS	December 6, 2021
Brianna	Shatkosky	Elizabeth Ziegler PS	December 8, 2021
Erika	Stypulkowski	King Edward PS	December 6, 2021
Natalie	Winter	Elementary Remote School #1	December 1, 2021

New Appointments: Administrative and Support Staff			
First	Last	Position / Location	Effective Date
Deanna	Fernandes	Supervision Monitor, Galt CI	December 8, 2021
Christopher	Kilgour	Custodian, Waterloo Oxford DSS	November 29, 2021
Prashant	Madan	Procurement Clerk, Finance	December 15, 2021
Alexandra	Quintero Hernandez	Custodian, Forest Glen PS	December 3, 2021
Douglas	Sanchez Palma	Custodian, MacGregor PS	November 15, 2021
Bradly	Shoemaker	Custodian, Highland PS	November 22, 2021

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

Human Resources & Equity Services



Report to Board of Trustees

December 13, 2021

Subject: Student Suspension/Expulsion Report November, 2021

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 November 2020 and November 2021, elementary suspensions have increased by 195 and secondary suspensions have increased by 445.

Comparing year to date from November 2020 and November 2021, school expulsions have increased by 1 and board expulsions have increased by 2.

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

Data from 2020/2021 were collected during a school year where students were engaged in learning in three modes: in-person, adaptive hybrid and distance learning.

Suspensions

- Total elementary school suspensions in November 2020 - 77, year to date - 151
- Total elementary school suspensions in November 2021 - 144, year to date - 346
- Total secondary school suspensions in November 2020 - 22, year to date - 39
- Total secondary school suspensions in November 2021 - 195, year to date - 484

Expulsions

- Total school expulsions in November 2020 - 0, Year to Date 0
- Total school expulsions in November 2021 - 1, Year to Date 1
- Total board expulsions in November 2020 - 0, Year to Date 0
- Total board expulsions in November 2021 - 1, Year to Date 2

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 November 2020 - 0, year to date 1
- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in November 2021 - 5, year to date 15

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

December 13, 2021

Subject: Reported Student Aggression Quarterly Data Q1 – 2021-2022

Recommendation:

*This report is provided for the Waterloo Region District School Board with information regarding reported incidences of student aggression for the quarter (**September 1, 2021-November 15, 2021**).*

Status:

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to result in an unforeseen and unplanned disruption to the education system. In September 2021 the majority of our students returned to the classroom. As a result, student aggression numbers have increased compared to the September 2020-2021 school year. Total student aggression numbers are less than the same period for the 2017-2018 as well as the 2018-2019 school year.

In an effort to be proactive in this highly uncertain time period, the Board has added two term BMS liaisons to provide direct “boots on the ground” support to complex and unique student aggression “hot spots” within the system. Funding for these two resources has again been secured for the 2021-2022 school year.

Student Aggression incidents are recorded under four (4) categories in order of severity from least severe to most severe:

Hazard: The worker is reporting a hazard, the worker sustained no injury during the incident or it was a near miss. The Board and Unions actively encourage employees to report workplace hazards in order to act proactively to prevent more serious incidents.

First aid: Applying minor first aid measures like cleaning minor cuts, scrapes or scratches; applying a band aid, cold compress or ice pack. First Aid is provided at the workplace.

Health care (or medical aid): Worker sustained an injury requiring medical aid from an external 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. This is required to be reported to the Workers Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Lost Time: The worker sustains injury that requires time away from work after the day of incident and was unable to work. This is required to be reported to the Workers Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Previous Year Quarterly Report Comparison:

Quarterly student aggression data as reported by WRDSB staff for the period of September 1, 2021 – November 15, 2021 compared to the data from the same period of September 1, 2020 – November 1, 2020 last school year:

- Total Elementary incidents have increased by 242 incidents from the same period last year.
- Total Secondary incidents have increased by 31 incidents from the same period last year.

2020-21 Reporting Information:

Reported Student Aggression Incidents for the Current School Year (*September 1, 2021 -November 15, 2021*):

- Total Elementary aggression incidents: (*September 1, 2021-November 15, 2021*): **469 Incidents**
 - Hazard – 313 incidents
 - 66.74% of all elementary incidents
 - First Aid – 141 incidents
 - 30.06% of all elementary incidents
 - Health Care – 6 events
 - 1.28% of all elementary events
 - Lost Time – 9 events -
 - 1.92% of all elementary events
- Total Secondary aggression incidents from (*September 1, 2021-November 15, 2021*):**41 incidents**
 - Hazard –22 incidents
 - 53.66% of all Secondary incidents
 - First Aid – 17 incidents
 - 41.46% of all Secondary incidents
 - Health Care – 1 incident
 - 2.44% of all Secondary incidents
 - Lost Time – 1 incident
 - 2.44% of all Secondary incidents
- Total aggression incidents for hazards, first aid, health care, and lost time per employee group from **September 1, 2021 -November 15, 2021 - 510 Incidents**
 - Educational Assistant (EA) / Child and Youth Worker (CYW) – 339
 - 66.47% of total incidents
 - Early Child Educator (ECE) – 48
 - 9.41% of total incidents
 - Elementary Teachers – 88
 - 17.25% of total incidents
 - Elementary Occasional Teachers – 21
 - 4.12% of total incidents
 - Non-Union – 1
 - 0.20% of total incidents
 - Secondary Teacher - 6
 - 1.18% of total incidents
 - Professional Student Services - 1

- 0.20% of total incidents
- Administrators – 6
 - 1.18% of total incidents

2020-21 Reporting Information:

Reported Student Aggression Incidents for the Previous School Year (*September 1, 2020-November 15, 2020*):

- Total Elementary aggression incidents: (*September 1, 2020-November 15, 2020*): **227 Incidents**
 - Hazard – 138 incidents
 - 60.79% of all elementary incidents
 - First Aid – 86 incidents
 - 37.89% of all elementary incidents
 - Health Care – 2 events
 - 0.88% of all elementary events
 - Lost Time – 1 event -
 - 0.44% of all elementary events
- Total Secondary aggression incidents from (*September 1, 2020-November 15, 2020*): **10 incidents**
 - Hazard –3 incidents
 - 30.00% of all Secondary incidents
 - First Aid – 7 incidents
 - 70.00% of all Secondary incidents
 - Health Care – 0 incidents
 - 0.00% of all Secondary incidents
 - Lost Time – 0 incidents
 - 0.00% of all Secondary incidents
- Total aggression incidents for hazards, first aid, health care, and lost time per employee group from **September 1, 2020 -November 15, 2020 - 237 Incidents**
 - Educational Assistant (EA) / Child and Youth Worker (CYW) – 165
 - 69.62% of total incidents
 - Early Child Educator (ECE) – 23
 - 9.70% of total incidents
 - Elementary Teachers – 33
 - 13.92% of total incidents
 - Elementary Occasional Teachers – 14
 - 5.91% of total incidents
 - Administrators – 2
 - 0.84% of total incidents

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:

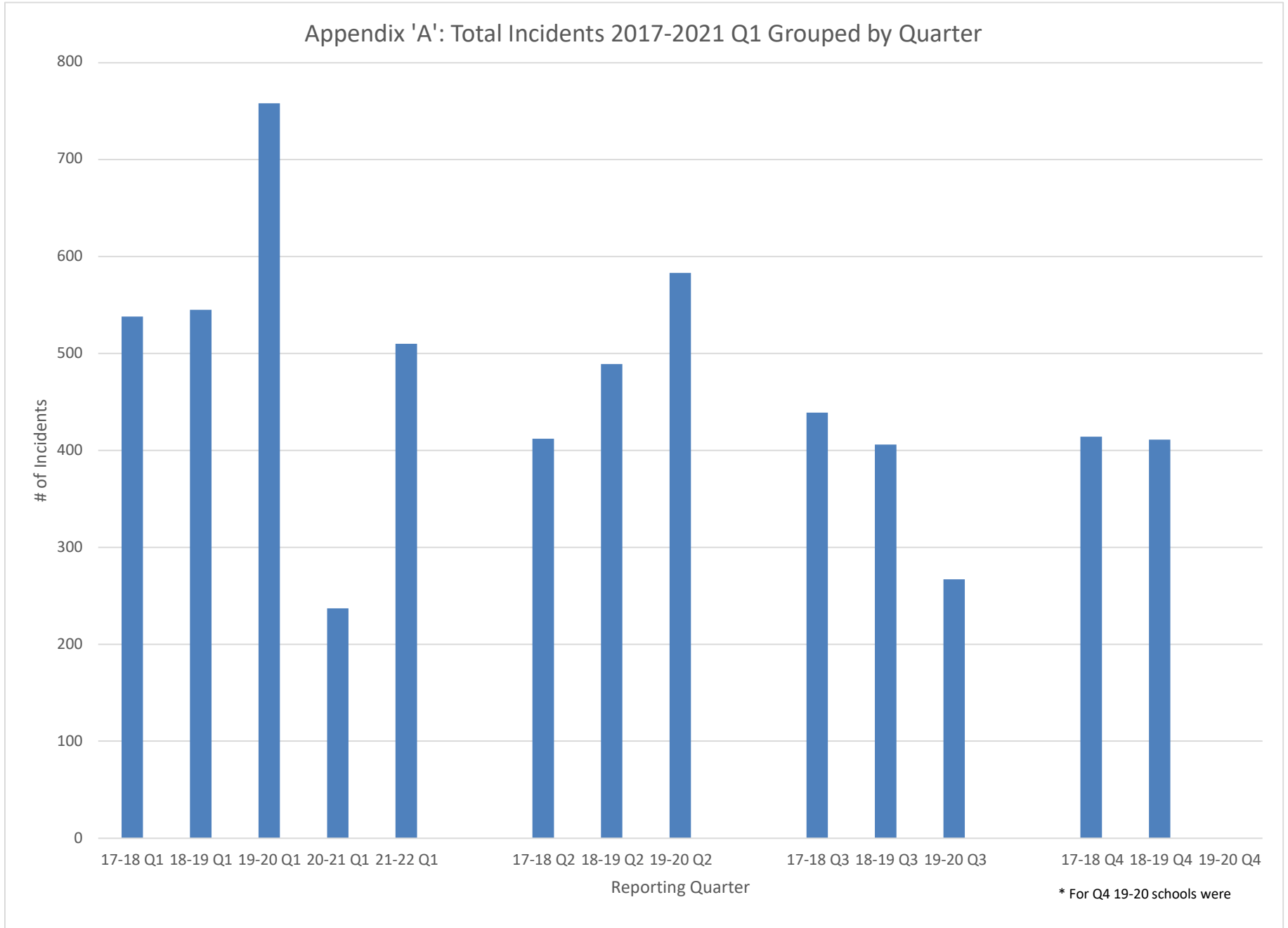
A report of all workplace incidences, including student aggression is provided every two weeks to the Board's Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC).

Appendices:

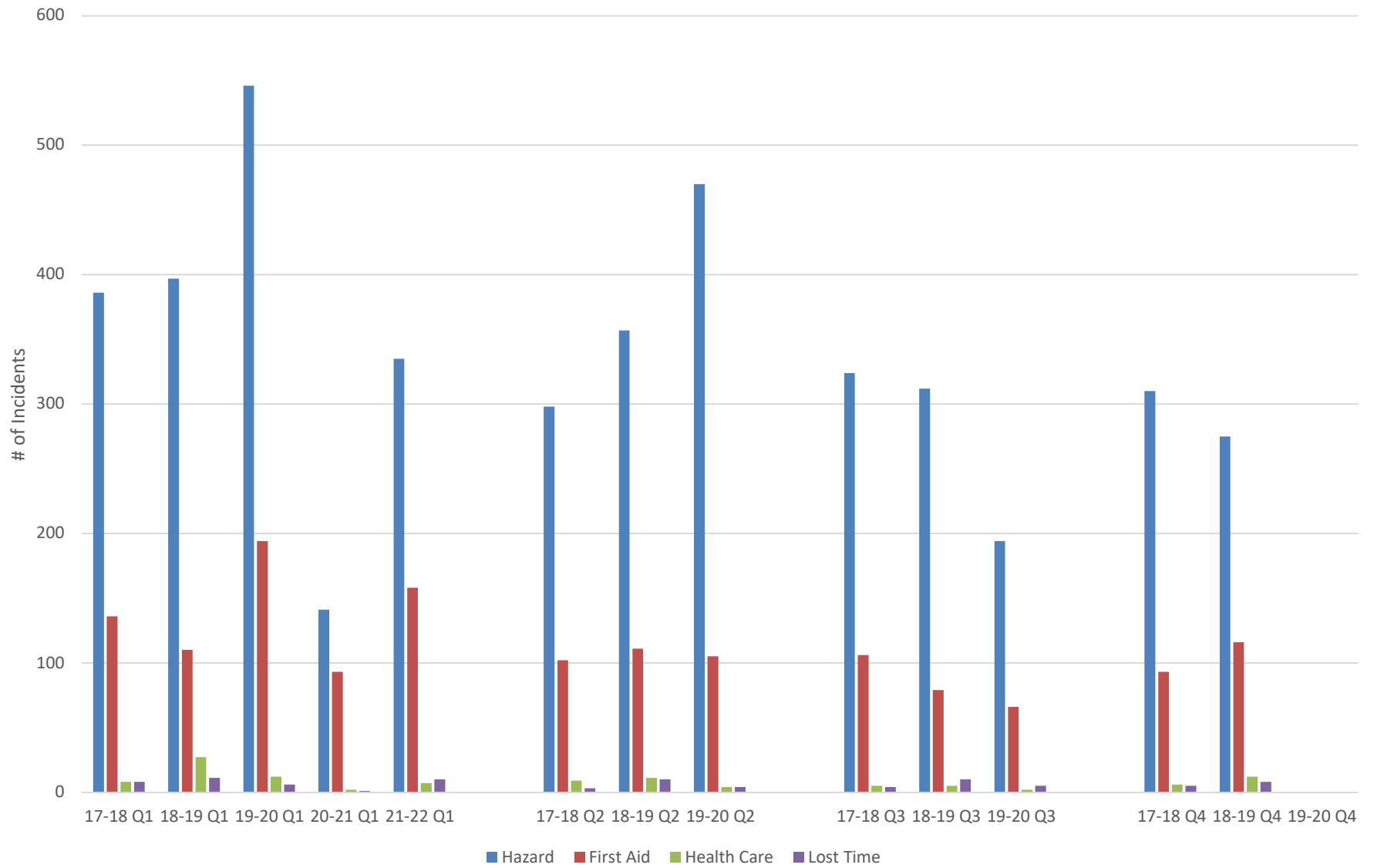
Appendix 'A' – Total Incidents 2017-2021 Q1 Grouped by Quarter

Appendix 'B' – Types of Incidents by Quarter 2017 - > 2021 Q1 Grouped by Quarter

Prepared by: Graham Shantz, Coordinating Superintendent of Human Resources & Equity Services, Justin Brown, Senior Manager, Human Resources Services, Shannon-Melissa Dunlop, Manager, Health, Safety & Security and in consultation with Coordinating Council,



Appendix 'B': Types of Incidents by Quarter
 2017 -> 2021 Q1 Grouped by Quarter





Report to Board

December 13, 2021

Subject: 2022 Board Committee Membership

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the 2022 Board Committee Membership Structure as outlined in Appendix A of the report titled "2022 - Board Committee Membership Structure" dated December 13, 2021.

Status

On December 8, 2021, the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Past Chair, along with the Manager of Corporate Services, met to review the responses and provide the recommendations as attached (Appendix A). Each trustee has been selected for the committee they indicated as their first choice.

Background

On December 2, 2021, trustees received a link to the Trustee Committee Preference 2022 Survey and were asked to submit their committee preferences to the Manager of Corporate Services by December 7, 2021. The survey requested trustees rank their committee choices in order of preference.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Communications

The new committee membership structure will be posted on the website and communicated to staff responsible for these committees through the Office of the Chairperson.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services
for Chairperson S. Piatkowski

2022 - BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

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

<p>Accessibility Committee <i>Appointed Annually 2 Trustees Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Meissner • L. Tremble 	<p>Internet Content Filtering Working Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Whetham 	<p>Fiscal Task Force <i>Appointed Annually 2 Trustees Meets monthly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Smith • L. Tremble
<p>French Immersion Review Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Piatkowski • K. Smith • L. Tremble 	<p>Policy Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Piatkowski (Chair) • L. Tremble • J. Weston • K. Woodcock • PLUS: One trustee rotating alphabetically 	<p>Linda Fabi Bursary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Piatkowski (Chair) • K. Woodcock (Vice-Chair) • J. Weston (Past Chair)
<p>Parents Reaching Out Grant Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Meissner 	<p>Mental Health and Addiction Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Tremble 	<p>Tim Walker Memorial Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Meissner
<p>Director Performance Appraisal (In Camera)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Piatkowski (Chair) • K. Woodcock (Vice-Chair) • J. Weston (Past Chair) 	<p>Trustee Self Evaluation Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Herring • C. Millar • K. Smith 	<p>Committee Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Piatkowski (Chair) • K. Woodcock (Vice-Chair) • J. Weston (Past Chair)
<p>Huron Natural Area Advisory Committee <i>Appointed Annually Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Meissner 	<p>Waterloo Education Foundation Inc. <i>Appointed Annually Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Piatkowski (Chair) • K. Woodcock (Vice-Chair) 	



Report to Board

December 13, 2021

Subject: OPSBA 2022 Director and Voting Delegate

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees confirm or appoint the 2022 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Director and Alternate Director; and

Confirm or appoint the Voting and Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2022 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Annual General Meeting.

Status

To confirm or appoint trustees to positions within the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

Appointment of OPSBA Director/Alternate Director (January to December 2022)

The constitution and bylaws of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association entitle certain member boards to appoint a trustee representative to the Association's Board of Directors. The Waterloo Region District School Board meets the criteria to be eligible to appoint one Director, as well as one Alternate Director who would act only in the absence of the Director.

Voting Delegate/Voting Alternate – 2022 Annual General Meeting

For the Annual General Meeting, this Board must appoint one member to serve as the Voting Delegate and a second member to act as an Alternate in the absence of the Voting Delegate in preparation for the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held from June 9-11, 2022 in Ottawa, Ontario.

Background

The voting process can be found as Appendix A.

The Board's 2021 trustee appointments to OPSBA are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| • Director | L. Tremble |
| • Alternate Director | J. Weston |
| • Voting Delegate | J. Weston |
| • Alternate Voting Delegate | L. Tremble |

Note: Should trustees be willing to continue serving in their current roles with the Association, there is nothing within OPSBA's procedures that would prevent re-appointment and the nomination/voting process will be consistent with that followed at the Board's Inaugural Meeting.

Financial implications

No financial implications.

Communications

Confirmations and/or appointments will be communicated by the Manager of Corporate Services to OPSBA following Board approval.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services on behalf of
Chairperson, Scott Piatkowski.

Appendix A

CLARIFICATION OF VOTING PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF OPSBA POSITIONS FOR 2022

The information below is provided for clarification of the voting process, if required, for the election of the Director, Alternate Director, Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate positions at the Board Meeting on Monday, December 13, 2021. Trustees will be using the same process outlined in the Bylaws for Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Please review this document carefully as the process changed with our virtual environment.

The Board's bylaws state:

6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- 6.1. The Chair and Vice-Chair for the ensuing year, shall be elected at the first meeting in December each year (*Education Act*, section 208).
- 6.2. The Director shall preside over the election of the Chair.
- 6.3. With the Director presiding, or if absent, the Director's designate, the Board shall proceed to elect a Chair for the ensuing year.
- 6.4. The Director, or if absent, the designate, shall name two scrutineers appointed for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.
- 6.5. Election Process
 - 6.5.1. The Director or designate shall call for verbal nominations for the office of Chair. No seconder is required.
 - 6.5.2. After a suitable length of time, and after a motion to close nominations has been supported by a majority vote, the Director or designate shall declare nominations closed.
 - 6.5.3. After all nominees have been identified, in random order they will be asked to declare whether they accept the nomination.
 - 6.5.4. An individual who is absent may be considered a candidate if the individual has previously indicated in writing to the Director a desire to stand for election if nominated.
 - 6.5.5. The nominees shall be offered the opportunity to speak to their nomination in random order for a maximum of two minutes each.

- 6.5.6. A vote by secret ballot shall then be conducted with each Trustee present able to cast one vote.
- 6.5.7. The Trustee receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected, but the count shall not be declared.
- 6.5.8. Should no Trustee receive a majority of the votes cast, the Director or designate, shall announce the names of the Trustees remaining on the ballot with the name of the Trustee receiving the fewest number of votes being dropped from the list of candidates.
- 6.5.9. should there be a tie vote between candidates with the least number of votes, there will be a vote including only the candidates with the tie votes to eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes. In the event there is a tie vote after the candidate with the least number has been withdrawn, the Director or designate will call for the drawing of lots. The candidate whose name is drawn will be declared the Chair of the Board for the ensuing year.
- 6.5.10. A Trustee may voluntarily withdraw their name between votes.
- 6.5.11. By motion, the ballots shall be destroyed.

Instructions for a Virtual Secret Ballot:

Trustees were provided an opportunity to practice the online voting process. In order to limit everyone to one vote, you are required to be logged in with your WRDSB email and password. It may work better for you on your Chromebook or laptop rather than your phone.

Trustees will receive an email for each secret ballot from the Manager of Corporate Services. Please be sure to select the correct ballot. The ballot is a Google Form to be completed. Once the ballots are completed, the scrutineers will turn off their video and audio in the Zoom meeting and count the ballots. They will confer with each other by phone or text. They will provide the Chair with the name of the successful candidate by Zoom private message. The Chair will then announce the name of the successful candidate.

However, if a successful candidate is not determined through the first vote, the ballot process must be repeated in accordance with Bylaw Articles 6.5.8 and 6.5.9. If the drawing of lots is required, one scrutineer will be selected to do so.

The process will be repeated for each vacant position.

Please contact the Manager of Corporate Services if you have any questions regarding the process.



Bluewater District School Board

351 1st Avenue North – PO Box 190
Chesley ON N0G 1L0
Telephone: (519) 363-2014 Fax: (519) 370-2909
www.bwdsb.on.ca

November 26, 2021

Dear School Board Chair:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Bluewater District School Board, please consider supporting the following motion passed at our Regular Meeting of the Board held on November 16, 2021:

That Bluewater District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding the recent memo 'Next Steps for De-streaming: Grade 9 Course Codes and Descriptions for the 2022-2023 School Year', questioning the impact on class sizes, staffing, and what funded support will be provided to ensure student success. The letter is to be copied to MPPs, official opposition, OPSBA, union partners, and chairs of English public school boards, and asking boards to support letter.

Attached for your reference is our letter regarding de-streaming that has been sent to Minister of Education Stephen Lecce. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jane Thomson'.

Jane Thomson
Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jan Johnstone'.

Jan Johnstone
Vice-Chair

/jp

Dawn Danko

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

ddanko@hwdsb.on.ca

289.775.0269

HWDSB

November 19, 2021

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
315 Front Street, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

Re: Access to Free Menstrual Products

Dear Minister Lecce,

We are writing to share important information about the menstrual product initiative in Ontario school boards.

First, we would like to thank you for supporting access to free menstrual products for Ontario students. This is an important commitment to equity, student health and removing barriers so that all students can attend school. Many of us, including our Student Trustees, have advocated for this. We appreciate the Ministry's support.

However, we want to make you aware of some barriers as we plan to make this initiative sustainable.

On June 14, 2021, Trustees passed a motion: "That HWDSB prepare a report to provision free menstrual products in the washrooms of all schools in the same barrier-free, equitable fashion that other sanitation products are made available no later than the 2022-23 fiscal budget and that staff report back to the Board of Trustees."

With this, staff began gathering data to determine the number of dispensers required to have menstrual products accessible in any washroom that would be accessed by someone who menstruates. Staff intended to include the financial requirement in the 2022-23 budget.

We were encouraged when, on October 8, 2021, the Ministry released B Memo 2021: B21 "Enhanced Student Access to Free Menstrual Products in Ontario Schools." The Ministry announced that a donation from Shoppers Drug Mart Incorporated would support this work across Ontario schools.

For HWDSB, this announcement meant that we could implement this plan a year earlier than planned. The Ministry will provide us with 22 dispensers, to be installed in single-use secondary school washrooms. The Ministry will provide 134,000 menstrual pads.

This was a welcome donation, but it is just a fraction of what we need to make this sustainable. Rather than 22 dispensers with 134,000 pads, staff estimate that our schools will require:

Dawn Danko

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

ddanko@hwdsb.on.ca

289.775.0269

HWDSB

- 750 dispensers to equip all female and single-use washrooms in each school, and 1,846 napkin disposal receptacles in all stalls where they are not currently provided. The total one-time cost will be about \$300,000 for the hardware required for this initiative.
- In addition, there will be two main annual operating costs – for pads and liners for receptacles – which staff estimate at \$100,000 to \$125,000.

We are appreciative of any support but want to be clear: In year one of this initiative, HWDSB faces a cost of about \$425,000 that is not covered by the Ministry.

Donations are always welcome when they support our students. But donations are not a stable and sustainable funding source.

We are respectfully requesting that the Ministry find a predictable funding source for this initiative, so that our students know that we are committed to their long-term well-being and an inclusive school environment.

We hope the Ministry will confirm the importance of this initiative and their commitment through long-term stable funding that addresses the needs at boards across the province.

Sincerely,



Dawn Danko
Chair of the Board



November 29, 2021

To: Minister of Education Stephen Lecce

Cc: OPSBA; Chairs of all public school boards in Ontario

Support for OPSBA Advocacy and a Recovery Plan for Students and Schools

Dear Minister Lecce,

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, the Board of Trustees passed a motion that directed me, Chair of the Board, to advocate for a return to a regular semester for Semester 2 starting in February 2022 and the immediate release of pandemic funding for the second half of the school year. However, just prior to sending our letter to your office, we were pleased to hear about the Ministry's announcement on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, which supports our requests mentioned above. On behalf of the Toronto District School Board, thank you. Despite this recent news, I felt it was important to honour my commitment and share the letter that was originally going to be shared. For your viewing, please see below.

As you know, the Toronto District School Board continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health to protect our students and staff from the spread of COVID-19. However, with vaccination rates high among secondary staff and students, case numbers low and rigorous health and safety measures in place at schools, we believe our students would greatly benefit from a return to normal semesters.

Students and their families, as well as staff, have voiced their frustration and challenges with modified semesters and virtual learning. While these changes were made to allow a safe re-opening of schools, we have come a long way in pandemic recovery and students would benefit greatly both academically and socially with a return to a traditional semester model. This is especially true for students in specialized programs and students who may require more attention. We ask that your government allow for local decision-making so the TDSB can return to a regular semester in February while of course, continuing to prioritize the health and safety of our school communities.

As the uncertainty of the pandemic continues, it is also evident that students need stability and support, now more than ever. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am also requesting that you release pandemic funding for the second half of the school year as soon as possible, so that the TDSB can plan accordingly. It's important that school boards are provided with adequate time to implement changes in pandemic protocols and procedures, for the benefit of our students, their families and staff.

Please note that the concerns and asks highlighted above echo the letter that was issued by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association on October 28, 2021. Thank you to President Cathy Abraham and OPSBA for their ongoing advocacy for the health, safety and well-being of students and staff.

As always, I would be happy to continue this conversation at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,



Alexander Brown
Chair, Toronto District School Board

Cc: OPSBA; Chairs of all public school boards in Ontario



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

November 30, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce,
 Minister of Education
 Mowat Block, 22 Floor,
 900 Bay St.,
 Toronto, Ontario
 M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce,

The SEAC of the Thames Valley District School Board is again writing to highlight the urgent need for education and action in preventing, identifying, and serving individuals impacted by Prenatal Alcohol Exposure (PAE), especially in our schools.

Research shows that identification and support by age six is an important protective factor in improving outcomes for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/facts.html>). Throughout the pandemic, rates of drinking have increased – population studies from 2014 show a prevalence of over four per cent of the population (May et. al., 2014) – and it has been linked with over 400 comorbid conditions (Popova et. al., 2016), including learning challenges, mental health conditions and many physical ailments.

Primary characteristics may include:

- challenges with impulsivity,
- attention,
- abstract concepts,
- memory,
- processing speed,
- sequencing,
- reactivity,
- receptive language,
- generalizing information,
- sensory input,
- linking actions to outcomes which impact their ability to participate in and benefit from educational programs.

Physical defects may include:

- distinctive facial features,
- deformities of joints,
- limbs and fingers,

- slow physical growth before and after birth,
- vision or hearing problems,
- heart defects and problems with kidneys and bones,
- brain and central nervous system problems. (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/fetal-alcohol-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20352901>)

Since 2017, attempts to recognize and serve those people through the following Bills on FASD have died on the table:

Bill 191 – The Bill would have amended the Education Act to provide for board activities to promote awareness and understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including best practices to support pupils who may have FASD. Introduced by S. Kiwala on December 13, 2017.

Bill 44 – The Bill would have amended the Education Act to provide for board activities to promote awareness and understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including best practices to support pupils who may have FASD. Introduced by S. Kiwala on April 11, 2018.

Bill 172 – The Bill would have required boards of education to develop policies and guidelines with respect to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Teachers' colleges and early childhood education programs shall be required to provide training with respect to FASD. Introduced by K. Wynne on February 18, 2020.

Attached is our letter from June of this year outlining the urgent need and huge benefits that would occur from prevention, recognition, diagnosis, service and supports. We ask for your commitment to act now for the thousands who struggle with FASD in all aspects of their lives.

This is an inter-ministry concern and strategic action by the government is needed to ensure meaningful change. Together we can improve experiences and outcomes through recognition, professional development and appropriate programs and services.

We greatly appreciate the anticipated attention to this matter, from you and your colleagues.

With Kindest Regards,



Barb Yeoman,
Chair, TVDSB SEAC 2021-2022,
Trustee, County of Oxford

Cc: Honourable Christine Elliott, Ministry of Health
Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Rod Phillips, Ministry of Long-Term Care
Chair Lori-Ann Pizzolato, Thames Valley District School Board
Mark Fisher, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board
Chairs, Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

June 17, 2021

Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

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

Dear Minister Lecce,

In 2019, the Chair of SEAC of TVDSB wrote a letter in support of then Bill 44: An Act to Amend the Education Act In Relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Unfortunately, the Bill did not achieve passage at that time. We are very encouraged that Bill 172, Education Statute Law Amendment Act (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder), 2020 has passed second reading and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice. The intent of this letter is to express the support of the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Thames Valley District School Board for Bill 172, which we believe is very important for our students and communities.

Since prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE) impacts all aspects of life, health, education and relationships, increased awareness, understanding, training and improved programs and supports are urgently needed to support individuals and families affected by this neurodevelopmental condition. Recent research shows a prevalence of over 4% of the population (May et al., 2014) and it has been linked with over 400 comorbid conditions (Popova et al., 2016) including learning challenges, mental health conditions, and many physical ailments. The manifestation of these challenges place students at a significant disadvantage in education as they are unable to meet social and academic expectations. The result is often use of discipline and exclusion which lead to greater difficulties. Lack of early identification and accommodation is known to increase these challenges.

In the TVDSB catchment area, we have had some staff trained to support a now defunct (formerly Trillium funded) virtual clinic and have partnered with Community Services Coordination Network (CSCN) and the FASD E.L.M.O. Network to raise awareness and offer additional professional development. Grassroots initiatives unfortunately, are not sustainable without provincial policy, training, and investment. Education is the key to prevention, early identification, services, and successful outcomes for FASD. Adopting a FASD-informed educational approach would meet a key goal of reducing exclusionary practices as the underlying challenges are understood and supported. Prevention messaging could also drastically reduce the numbers of infants born with FASD.

Thames Valley District School Board - Learning Support Services

1250 Dundas Street, London, Ontario, Canada N5W 5P2 Tel. (519) 452-2000 Website: www.tvdsb.ca

We build each student's tomorrow, every day.

We urge the Minister to take the lead to improve programs, services, and outcomes for all students by ensuring that educators have the knowledge and tools to meet the needs of FASD students. On behalf of the SEAC of TVDSB, we are asking for and appreciate your support of Bill 172.

Respectfully,



Barbara Yeoman
Chair, TVDSB SEAC 2021-2022
Trustee, County of Oxford

Cc: Chair Lori-Ann Pizzolato, Thames Valley District School Board
Mark Fisher, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board
Chairs, Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees