

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 Boardroom, Building 2, 1st Floor, 51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, on **Monday, April 24, 2023, 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 March 8, 2023

Receive Minutes - Board Meeting of March 30, 2023

Approve Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 19, 2023

Receipt/Approval of Monthly Reports:

21 Staffing Information – Retirements and Resignations

G. Shantz

25 Staffing Information – Appointments

G. Shantz

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

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Delegations

Staff Follow Up

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32 2022-23 Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship

Trustee F. Meissner

Board Improvement and Equity Plan Update: Mathematics

S. Miller / C. Hill / B. Chatha

Board Reports

Special Education Advisory Committee Update

Trustees F. Meissner / M. Synder

Board Communications

36 Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education

37 Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education

Other Business

**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.

Question Period (10 minutes)

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

Adjournment



Report to Board of Trustees

April 24, 2023

**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, Associate Director, in consultation with Leadership Council.

Staffing Statistics – Retirements
Current at April 24, 2023

Retirements: Elementary Teaching Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Kathy	Berwick	Consultant, Special Education	June 30, 2023	38
Philomena	Bonis	Teacher, Silverheights PS	June 30, 2023	35
Laura	Briant	Teacher, Riverside PS	June 30, 2023	34
Paul	Campbell	Teacher, John Mahood PS	June 30, 2023	18
Anne	Carroll	Teacher, Queensmount PS	June 30, 2023	33
Kerry	Casey	Teacher, Stanley Park PS	June 30, 2023	31
Anne	Dahmer	Teacher, Chicopee Hills PS	June 30, 2023	33
Clark	Day	Teacher, Sunnyside PS	June 29, 2023	31
Kelly	Dybowski	Teacher, Williamsburg PS	June 30, 2023	35
Laurie	Eles	Teacher, Hespeler PS	April 28, 2023	20
Elizabeth	Fisher	Teacher, Franklin PS	June 30, 2023	29
Sharon	Flanders	Teacher, Northlake Woods PS	June 30, 2023	23
Carolee	Fox	Teacher, Conestogo PS	June 29, 2023	32
Murray	Fox	Teacher, Courtland Avenue PS	June 19, 2023	31
Krista	Frey	Teacher, Wilson Avenue PS	June 30, 2023	31
Carolyn	Frid	Teacher, MacGregor PS	June 30, 2023	24
Ron	Heald	Teacher, Cedar Creek PS	June 30, 2023	28
Donni	Jamieson	Teacher, Sandhills PS	June 30, 2023	21
Kimberly	Johnstone	Teacher, Bridgeport PS	June 29, 2023	30
Bettina	Kraemer-Gorrie	Teacher, Northlake Woods PS	June 30, 2023	32
Laurie	Kraft	Teacher, Sandowne PS	June 30, 2023	33
John	Lee	Consultant, Learning Services	June 30, 2023	24
Allison	Lupton	Teacher, Tait Street PS	June 30, 2023	33
Patti	McKendrick	Teacher, Silverheights PS	May 18, 2023	12
Shelly	Porteous	Teacher, Sandhills PS	June 30, 2023	22
Scott	Purdie	Teacher, Linwood PS	June 30, 2023	36
Colin	Read	Teacher, Suddaby PS	June 30, 2023	32
Leanne	Robertson	Teacher, Lincoln Heights PS	June 30, 2023	30
Pamela	Silcox	Teacher, Elementary Remote	June 30, 2023	37
Diana	Smith	Teacher, Chicopee Hills PS	June 30, 2023	31
Verlisa	Tang	Teacher, Sandhills PS	June 30, 2023	31
Natalie	VanSchaik	Teacher, Brigadoon PS	June 30, 2023	31
Alma	Watts	Teacher, Queen Elizabeth PS	June 29, 2023	13

Retirements: Elementary Teaching Staff Cont'd				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Lee	Wideman	SERT, Mary Johnston PS	June 30, 2023	32
Bianca	Wildfong	Teacher, Sandowne PS	June 28, 2023	24
Marlene	Zieske	Teacher, Elementary Remote	June 30, 2023	28

Retirements: Secondary Teaching Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Yvonne	Clifford	Teacher, Jacob Hespeler SS	June 30, 2023	31
Kimberley	Flood	Teacher, Grand River CI	June 30, 2023	26
Cherilyn	Gill	Teacher, Jacob Hespeler SS	June 30, 2023	32
Ruth	Hibbard	Teacher, Huron Heights SS	June 30, 2023	19
Mark	Mendensky	Teacher, Grand River CI	June 30, 2023	34
David	Okum	Teacher, Bluevale CI	June 29, 2023	32
Stathoula	Paleshi	Teacher, Elmira District SS	June 30, 2023	36
Lois	Skirrow	Teacher, Glenview Park SS	June 30, 2023	31
Kathy	Smith	Teacher, Kitchener CI	June 30, 2023	31

Retirements: Administrative & Support Staff				
First	Last	Position/Location	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Anne	Atkinson	Educational Assistant, Wellesley PS	June 30, 2023	19
Michele	Craddock	Educational Assistant, Centennial PS (W)	August 31, 2023	20
Judy	Freund	Vice Principal, Huron Heights SS	June 30, 2023	26
Teresa	Hargreaves	Educational Assistant, Eastwood CI	August 31, 2023	16
Ann	Hunsberger	Library Clerk, Suddaby PS	July 4, 2023	20
Deborah	Kerr	Supervision Monitor, Elmira District SS	June 29, 2023	25
Jane	McWilliams	Vice Principal, Galt CI	June 30, 2023	26
Nancy	Murovec	Principal, Sandhills PS	June 29, 2023	31
Natasa	Sender	Educational Assistant, Forest Hill PS	April 30, 2023	22
Barb	von Hausen	Application Programmer, ITS	March 31, 2023	36
Chris	White	HR Assistant, Human Resource Services	July 31, 2023	22

Staffing Statistics – Resignations
Current at April 24, 2023

Permanent Staff Resignations			
First	Last	Position/Location	Resignation Date
Natalie	Arbuthnot	Elementary Teacher, Hillcrest PS	June 30, 2023
Stella	Felso	Educational Assistant, Doon PS	June 29, 2023
Cassandra	Fuchs	Educational Assistant, Rosemount	August 31, 2023
Jeff	Huff	Secondary Teacher, Bluevale CI	June 30, 2023
Jennifer	Huggins	Head Secretary, Janet Metcalfe PS	April 14, 2023
Stephanie	Jordan	Elementary Teacher, Lester B Pearson PS	August 31, 2023
Rizwan	Kiyani	Application Programmer, ITS	May 5, 2023
Laura	Krulicki	Educational Assistant, Elmira District SS	April 6, 2023
Stefanie	Perri	Secretary, Jacob Hespeler SS	March 31, 2023
Kerry	Purdon	Elementary Teacher, Sir Adam Beck PS	May 1, 2023



Report to Board of Trustees

April 24, 2023

Subject: Staffing Information – Appointments

Recommendation

This report is provided for information of the Board.

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 been advised of the appointments.

Prepared by: Graham Shantz, Associate Director, in consultation with Leadership Council.

Staffing Information – New Appointments
Current at April 24, 2023

New Appointments: Administrative and Support Staff			
First	Last	Position / Location	Effective Date
Sandra	Custodio	Library Clerk, Sandhills PS	April 3, 2023
Dianne	Davison	Custodian, Centennial PS (W) / Keatway PS	April 17, 2023
Terry	Galway	Custodian, Cameron Heights CI	April 11, 2023
Melissa	Giroux	Communications Officer, Strategic Communications	March 21, 2023
Helen	Han	Budget Officer, Finance	April 17, 2023
Jordan	Kennedy	Grounds Technician, Maintenance	April 11, 2023
Delia	Loveless	Communications Officer, Student Engagement	April 24, 2023
Robert	Pepall	Custodian, Waterloo CI	March 24, 2023

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

Human Resources & Equity Services



Report to Board

April 24, 2023

Subject: Education Development Charge By-law - Annual Update

Recommendation

This report is for the information of the Board.

Status

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) (or the Boards) have jointly entered into a process for the review of their respective [Education Development Charges](#) (EDC) By-laws.

The WRDSB and the WCDSB have been reviewing their EDC by-laws and rates due to the increasing price of land in the Region of Waterloo.

In May 2021, the Boards committed to annually reviewing various EDC inputs, including land value assumptions. Cushman & Wakefield, an appraiser, was retained by the Boards to review current land values and compare them to the appraised values used in the 2021 EDC Background Study.

In 2022, the land values appraised by Cushman & Wakefield increased between 69% and 81%, contributing to a rise in the WRDSB's total maximum eligible charge from \$2,708 to \$4,423 per residential unit and \$1.66 to \$2.72 per non-residential square foot (refer to Appendix A). The updated 2023 appraised value of sites to be purchased to meet growth-related enrolment needs dropped between 7% and 14% this year but remained above the original 2021 values.

Despite the change in land values, the annual increase in EDC rates is capped under [Ontario Regulation \(O. Reg.\) 20/98](#) (refer to Appendix B). The maximum eligible charge established as part of the [2022 by-law amendment](#) (\$4,423 per residential unit; \$2.72 per non-residential square foot) is sufficient to allow the board to increase its EDC charges annually, in compliance with O. Reg. 20/98. As such, no further increase to the maximum EDC charge is being recommended at this time.

Background

An EDC is a charge levied on new development to be paid by a developer/permit taker when the municipality issues the building permit. EDCs are the WRDSB's primary funding source for property acquisition needs, given enrollment growth within the jurisdiction exceeds the available capacity.

On March 29, 2019, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) issued O. Reg. 55/19, which amended O. Reg. 20/98; the latter is the regulation that governs EDCs. Further amendments were made by O. Reg. 371/91 on November 8, 2019.

These amendments to O. Reg 20/98 removed a temporary freeze on EDC rates and imposed the following restrictions on annual rate increases:

- In year 2 of the By-law and each subsequent year, the residential rate can increase by a maximum of \$300.00 or 5% of the previous year's EDC rate or \$0.10 per square foot of GFA, whichever is greater. The non-residential rate can increase by a maximum of 5% of the previous year's non-residential EDC rate.

On May 10, 2021, the WRDSB adopted a jurisdiction-wide Education Development Charges By-law. It is effective from June 1, 2021, to May 31, 2026; a term of 5 years. The EDC charge is imposed on residential and non-residential development within the Region of Waterloo. At the time the 2021 EDC by-law was established, the following EDC rates were set for residential and non-residential units:

- Residential rate of \$2,548.00 per unit
- Non-residential rate of \$1.61 per square foot

The EDC rates calculated in the 2021 EDC Background Study established a maximum of:

- Residential rate of \$2,708.00 per unit
- Non-residential rate of \$1.66 per square foot

School boards may review the prescribed maximum EDC rate to ensure that inputs such as the price of land are consistent with the assumptions made in the original study. The regulation permits school boards to increase the quantum of the EDC rate once per year via an amendment.

The following motion, passed on May 10, 2021, directs staff to annual review the rates:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct staff to annually review land values and provide a report to the Board if land values support an amendment to the Education Development Charge By-law (2021) to increase residential and non-residential charges.

In [May 2022](#), a report was brought to the Board recommending amendments to the EDC by-law to increase the maximum EDC charge allowable:

- Residential rate of \$4,423.00 per unit
- Non-residential rate of \$2.72 per square foot

Staff will report to the board in 2024 on the next annual review and any further change in the charge which may be warranted at that time.

Financial implications

The per acre appraised acquisition values have dropped since January 1, 2022. The January 1, 2023 values range from \$1,395,125 to \$1,902,875 for sites in Waterloo Region, whereas 2022 values previously ranged from \$1,630,000 to \$2,183,063 per

acre. However, the appraised values increased between 62% and 82% from December 2020 to January 2023 (Appendix A).

The board's EDC consultant (Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.) has recalculated the EDC rates, incorporated the increased land values, and updated each board's EDC reserve fund to reflect current balances. Based on the amended 2022 EDC By-law rates and approved 2021 rates, the WRDSB would reach the maximum of \$2,708 in Year 3. Based on the \$300 residential and \$0.10 non-residential per year increase cap, the new maximum rate of \$4,423 would allow the WRDSB to continue to charge the full phase-in value for the duration of the 5-year by-law without reaching the maximum rate (see Appendix B).

Communications

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. hosted a stakeholder meeting on March 28, 2023. The meeting was attended by 18 individuals, including representatives of the home builders' association, developers, the Ministry of Education and municipalities. Stakeholders were provided background information on EDCs, limitations on the WRDSB's ability to increase rates, factors contributing to the review of land values and maximum eligible rates in 2023.

Prepared by: Lauren Agar, Senior Manager of Planning
Nick Landry, Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board
in consultation with Leadership Council.

2023 Appraised School Site Values
Average Site Value by Municipality

Review Area	2021 Appraised per Acre Value	2022 Appraised per Acre Value	% Difference (2021 to 2022)	2023 Appraised per Acre Value	% Difference (2022 to 2023)	% Difference (2021 to 2023)
Cambridge	\$1,102,000	\$1,954,063	77%	\$1,814,063	-7%	65%
Kitchener	\$1,294,188	\$2,183,063	69%	\$1,902,875	-13%	47%
Waterloo	\$1,244,500	\$2,097,000	69%	\$1,836,167	-12%	48%
Townships	\$902,250	\$1,630,000	81%	\$1,395,125	-14%	55%

Comparison of Phased-in Rates and Maximum Rates

Phased in Rates

Type of Development	2016 EDC Rate	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Maximum Rate
Residential	\$1,948	\$2,248	\$2,548	\$2,848	\$3,148	\$3,448	\$4,423
Non-Residential	\$1.41	\$1.51	\$1.61	\$1.71	\$1.81	\$1.91	\$2.72

Maximum Rates

Type of Development	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Residential	\$2,708	\$4,423	\$4,423	\$4,423	\$4,423
Non-Residential	\$1.66	\$2.72	\$2.72	\$2.72	\$2.72

% Difference, Phased-in Rates vs. Maximum Rates

Type of Development	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Residential	83%	58%	64%	74%	78%
Non-Residential	91%	59%	63%	67%	70%



Board Report

April 24, 2023

Subject: Recipients of the 2022-23 Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship

Recommendation

This report is provided for information.

Status

At a meeting on April 5, 2023, an evaluation committee reviewed the applications submitted by ten schools for the 2022-23 Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship.

The Evaluation Committee was composed of Stephanie and Jim Walker (parents of the late Tim Walker), Trustee Fred Meissner, Student Trustee Vaishnav Raina and Student Kenzy Trustee Soror.

2022-23 Applicants	
Elementary Schools	Project Title
Courtland Public School	Native Shade Trees School Yard Greening
Grand View Public School	Birds and Bugs
Lincoln Heights Public School	Vegetable and Butterfly Gardens
Oak Creek Public School	Community Garden
Rockway Public School	Rockway Edible Food Forest Initiative
Trillium Public School	Learning Gardens Project
Westmount Public School	Garden Map for Pollinator Garden
Secondary Schools	Project Title
Eastwood Collegiate Institute	Closed Loop Hot Compost
Glenview Park Secondary School	Reusable Take Out Containers
Huron Heights Secondary School	Greenhouse Project / Food Forest

The following criteria were taken into consideration:

1. Staff and student involvement (current and future) and environmental stewardship.
2. Impact on student learning/fostering learning and engaging students.



Board Report

April 24, 2023

3. Environmental benefits: shading, greening, waste reduction, recycling, organized action/school environmental club, etc.

The following recipients were selected:

Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship 2022-23 Recipients	
Elementary Schools	Project Title
Lincoln Heights Public School	Vegetable and Butterfly Gardens
Rockway Public School	Rockway Edible Food Forest Initiative
Trillium Public School	Learning Gardens Project
Secondary School	Project Title
Eastwood Collegiate Institute	Closed Loop Hot Compost

Background

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 2022-23 school year is the sixteenth year of the Tim Walker Award for Environmental Stewardship with the initial award made in the 2006-07 school year.

Financial implications

The annual award is \$2,000 and is funded by the Board of Trustees' budget. The award is equally distributed amongst four schools, with \$500 awarded to each recipient.

Communications

The announcement of the Tim Walker Memorial Award recipients will be shared with all schools, staff, students and the public via a Board news release.

Prepared by: jeewan chanicka, Director of Education,
Heather McKinna, Administrative Assistant to Chairperson and Trustees of the Board,
in consultation with Coordinating Council.



Board Report

April 24, 2023

2022-23 TIM WALKER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECT SYNOPSIS

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lincoln Heights Public School – Vegetable and Butterfly Garden

The goal of our school Vegetable garden project is to create a fun learning environment for students while also promoting healthy eating habits. The projects will involve creating raised beds for planting fruit, vegetables, and pollinator plants, installing drip irrigation systems and composting.

The project aims to offer students hands-on learning opportunities about plant growth, food production, soil science, and environmental stewardship. The school garden project will benefit the wider school community by providing fresh produce for the school lunch program, students, families and the local food banks. It also seeks to foster a sense of community involvement and cooperation among students, teachers parents and volunteers.

Overall, the school fruit and vegetable garden project intends to create a sustainable and educative space that will inspire students to become stewards of the environment and health-conscious individuals.

Rockway Public School – Rockway Edible Food Forest Initiative

The Edible Food Forest initiative will allow Rockway to undertake the expansion of our school garden into a biodiverse, edible food forest. A food forest is a plot of land composed of fruit bearing trees, shrubs, herbs, vines, and roots, all working together to create a harmonious ecosystem.

Project Goals:

1. To address issues of food insecurity by utilizing permaculture practices to sustainably produce local foods.
2. To create a green space that encourages student and community engagement.
3. To educate students and community members about all the benefits of food forest planting, including improving biodiversity, reducing runoff, conserving water, reducing carbon emissions, increasing self-sufficiency, and community resilience in the face of climate change.

The Rockway Edible Food Forest initiative will provide a local food source and bring the community together.

Trillium Public School – Learning Gardens Project

Trillium PS is planning for the Learning Gardens Project to be a school-wide initiative. As part of our Learning Gardens Project, we are looking to fund additional vegetable seeds that we can grow in our indoor greenhouses and add new soil and pollinator plants to be planted in our butterfly garden. We believe that adding these plants and new soil will help to rehabilitate this area, ultimately increasing student accountability, responsibility, academics and love of learning outside during the process.



Board Report

April 24, 2023

Placing an emphasis on environmental activities provides a way for elementary school children to interact with nature both inside and outside of the classroom.

We have connected with our kindergarten, primary and junior teams and have highlighted selected learning activities that would best match our curriculum expectations and the interests of our students. We are looking forward to further exploring topics in: plant growth experiments in different conditions, observations of soil life and observations of macro life and plant varieties. We are also hoping to include our community in the use of this space as well, so they can continue to use it after hours.

Eastwood Collegiate Institute – Closed Loop Hot Compost

Our objective is to create a closed loop compost program that can utilize the waste produced by the chickens as well as food waste produced in school. The rationale for this project is we recognized that one of the main costs of our School's Food Gardens is soil inputs.

We are starting to ramp up our Green Industries program at Eastwood which has grown rapidly over this past school year. We currently have 30 students in the program and will have over 70 next year. The Green Industries classes have taken over the management of our on-site School Food Farmer Gardens which were rebuilt last year.

Project Goals:

1. Reduce Food Waste at Eastwood by diverting our food waste into an onsite compost program.
2. Build a 4ftX12ft Polycarbonate Mini Greenhouse to produce more food for our school community.

The main purpose of our Green Industries and School Food Farmer program at Eastwood is to grow more food for our community. Eastwood is located in an area that has economic challenges for many members of our community. We have used the garden to supply food to members of our community through free markets, as well as through our Green Industries program. We will continue this with the expansion of our garden as food security is continuing to be an issue within our school community, therefore more space to grow will provide more food for our community. This of course will directly impact members of our school community in a positive manner.



Rainy River

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

March 27, 2023

EDUCATION CENTRE

522 Second St. E.
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1N4

Phone: 807 274 9855
Fax: 807 274 5078
Toll Free: 1 800 214 1753

The Honourable Stephen Lecce,
Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

VIA Email

Dear Minister Lecce:

RE : Amending s. 55 of the *Education Act*

As Co-Chairs of the Rainy River District School Board's Student Senate, we are writing in support of recent district school boards' requests to amend s. 55 of the *Education Act*. This would allow Student Trustees to move and second motions, enhancing student voice at school board meetings.

Student Trustees bring the perspectives of all students across the school board to Board meetings. In working within the Student Senate and within our Student Leadership Councils, we act as a liaison between students, administration, and the Board of Trustees. To ensure continued good governance, we have participated in strategic planning, the performance appraisal of the Director of Education, and most recently, the new Board of Trustees' orientation.

The work of school boards across the province to improve student achievement and well-being is informed by the needs of students. Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Charles Watts

Charles Watts,
RRDSB Student Trustee, 2021-2023

Avery Lundgren

Avery Lundgren,
RRDSB Student Trustee, 2022-2024

c. The Rainy River District School Board of Trustees

WEB SITE:

www.rrdsb.com

DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

March 24, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5
minister.edu@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Lecce,

Need for Greater Provincial Investment in our Schools

At the direction of the Board of Trustees for the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB), I would like to take this opportunity to ensure that you and other elected members of government are aware of the seriousness of our accommodation and over capacity concerns. This is a rapidly escalating issue that is frequently being expressed by our school communities and fellow Board members.

As Ministry of Education staff are aware, the SCDSB has been experiencing record growth for some time now which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. By fall 2023 elementary utilization will exceed 113 percent and secondary utilization will exceed 103 percent. This translates into approximately 6,000 students over the built capacity of our board by this time next year. By 2028, staff are projecting total utilization to be at 124 percent, or approximately 12,500 students over capacity. These estimates take into consideration our approved capital projects currently in the design and/or approval to proceed process.

For added context, on February 22, 2023, the Board approved our annual accommodation plan. In this plan, 15 growth related projects (new schools and additions) were identified that are justifiable today, along with two further renewal related projects. I would like to stress that these are projected needs to address our immediate pressures and do not even account for the expected residential growth which will continue to generate significant numbers of students annually. While the board appreciates the province's initiatives to reduce costs and processes to assist with the development of housing (Bill 108, *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*, Bill 109, *More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022*, Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and Minister's Zoning Order's), this will only further exacerbate the issue unless mechanisms are put in place for school boards to respond accordingly in a timely and logical manner.

As a result of the noted growth in Simcoe County, the board is now at a point where the various strategies and contingencies that have been used to deal with this critical shortage of accommodation are showing signs of failure. The board has undertaken attendance area changes, program relocations, restricted out-of-area attendance, utilizes a fleet of more than 360 portables and has even temporarily located classes on stages, in libraries and in gymnasiums to respond to these pressures. Even with these actions, the SCDSB has numerous schools that have now reached their physical, servicing, and municipal approval limits for the number of portables they can accommodate. The schools that are handling the overflow

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(sometimes in other communities entirely) are also now beginning to reach their accommodation and portable limits as well. In some communities, the board has had to resort to developing contingency plans that could involve temporarily moving specified grade cohorts of classes to other schools that have capacity for additional portables. This is not a sustainable situation.

Significant investment, streamlined Ministry of Education processes, and a reduction in municipal barriers to school development and portable approvals is urgently needed. Even if numerous capital approvals were approved today, it would be several years until these projects would be able to serve our most overburdened communities.

Currently, school boards have very little autonomy or power to address accommodation issues at the provincial (funding) or local (approvals) level. Our communities continue to grow, our capacity cannot keep pace, and staff have diminishing resources and very little approval authority to make up for the shortfall. One of the only remaining tools available to the SCDSB is, as a commenting agency, to object to new housing development applications in communities where accommodation pressures are critical.

The Board acknowledges the provinces competing priorities and challenges in the current fiscal climate as well as its recent endeavors in reducing barriers to capital project development. This, however, does not change the fact that the SCDSB, and other growth school boards, are facing extraordinary pressures where immediate solutions are required. The SCDSB respectfully requests greater and timely investment in our schools along with the necessary tools and reductions in barriers to allow staff to effectively accommodate students temporarily as needed.

As always, the Board and SCDSB staff, are willing to work with the Ministry of Education to find timely solutions to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lloyd".

Jodi Lloyd
Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

c: Hon. Doug Downey, MPP, Barrie, Springwater, Oro-Medonte
Hon. Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North
Andrea Khanjin, MPP, Barrie, Innisfil
Brian Saunderson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York-Simcoe
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
School Board Chairs
All Simcoe County, City of Barrie and City of Orillia Municipal Clerks
Board of Trustees, SCDSB
John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB
Dawn Stephens, Associate Director, SCDSB
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facilities, SCDSB