



Waterloo Region District School Board

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February 23, 2024

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

Dear Minister Lecce,

At its meeting on November 27, 2023, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express support for the Thames Valley District School Board letter dated November 7, 2023 regarding Ministry Timelines.

The letter kindly requested that staff be given as much time as possible to complete the submission process of the Capital Priorities Program in the future given the request for additional upfront information and competing priorities for staff.

The letter also requested that the timing of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) announcement return to pre-pandemic timing of late March, or earlier, to allow Boards to plan appropriately for the upcoming budget year. With staffing related deadlines in early spring, a GSN release that is later than March becomes extremely problematic and reduces the flexibility to adapt to any funding changes.

Finally the letter echoed the sentiments of other school boards, which are having challenges implementing curriculum updates within the given timelines.

The WRDSB supports the above timeline recommendations and respectfully requests the Ministry of Education consider these recommendations for the WRDSB and other Ontario public school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Local Members of Provincial Parliament