



**July 23, 2020**

**The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
5th Floor  
438 University Ave  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2K8**

**Dear Minister Lecce,**

**On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board, I am writing to request a delay in the implementation of the new math curriculum, announced the final week of this past school year, until a time at which the operation of school boards across Ontario is no longer significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**In light of the unprecedented, pandemic-related school closures of this past school year, now is not the right time to introduce a new math curriculum for students and staff across the province. Our staff, from educators to central staff, will be fully tasked with efforts to help our students and their families transition back to school. In addition, we will be directing significant administrative time and resources to support our staff in the unprecedented endeavour of returning to our schools in a pandemic. The complexity of this situation cannot be overstated – from additional funding for distance learning and additional mental health and well-being support, to coordinating the implementation of countless new health and safety protocols and policies related to COVID-19.**

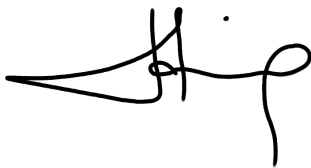
**In addition to these considerations, it's important to keep in mind that due to labour interruptions and the COVID-19 pandemic, the WRDSB has had to delay the implementation of planned professional development opportunities for staff during the past school year. As a result, it would be poorly timed to be implementing a new curriculum now for a subject at the core of our students' learning.**

**We are in agreement with [the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens \(AEFO\)](#), [the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario \(ETFO\)](#), [the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association \(OECTA\)](#), and [the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation \(OSSTF/FEESO\)](#) that the current timeline put forward by the Province is unrealistic. Our priority needs to be on helping our**

system reopen while prioritizing the health, safety and well-being of all those in our school communities.

In the Waterloo Region District School Board, our students are first - each and every one. Introducing an entirely new math curriculum, at the outset of an already incredibly challenging school year, is not the right approach if we want to put the learning and well-being of our students first.

Sincerely,



**Jayne Herring**  
**Chairperson of the Board of Trustees**  
**Waterloo Region District School Board**

CC:

- OPSBA
- Ontario Public School Boards
- Local MPPs



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