

September 10, 2021

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 August 30, 2021, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) agreed to write to you to strongly urge the Ministry of Education (Ministry) to provide and fund an enhanced level of mask, equivalent or similar to KN95 or N95 respirators, for staff and students. In addition, the WRDSB requests the Ministry support school boards with the costs associated with the proper fitting of these masks.

Given the prevalence of the COVID-19 Delta variant and recent research proving the COVID-19 virus is aerosolized, with higher transmission rates and the potential to cause more serious illness, this an urgent concern.

KN95 and N95 respirators provide greater protection against exposure to respiratory viruses compared to ASTM rated medical face masks. The use of KN95 and N95 respirators will provide protection for those who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated in school communities and will result in a safer learning environment for all students, staff and their families.

Minister Lecce, we ask for your serious consideration of this request, as it will protect the health and safety of all students, staff and their families in the WRDSB and throughout Ontario, thus ensuring students continue to have the opportunity to learn in-person.

Sincerely,



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

CC:

MPP Belinda Karahalios, MPP Laura Mae Lindo, MPP Amy Fee, MPP Michael Harris, MPP Catherine Fife,
Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Ontario Public School Boards, Ontario Student Trustees' Association
Sent by email: minister.edu@ontario.ca



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