



Waterloo Region District School Board

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January 7, 2022

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 January 4, 2022, Special Board Meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB), Board of Trustees agreed to write to you to strongly urge the Ministry of Education (Ministry) to request that the same level of N95 respirators that are provided to staff, be provided for students.

Given the pervasiveness of the highly transmissible COVID-19 Omicron variant and research proving the COVID-19 virus is aerosolized, this is an urgent concern.

N95 respirators can provide greater protection against exposure to respiratory viruses compared to ASTM rated medical face masks and cloth face masks. The use of N95 respirators by students and staff will provide greater protection and a safer learning environment for all.

Minister Lecce, we ask for your serious consideration of this request, as it will provide an additional level of safety, protect the health and safety of students, staff and their families in the WRDSB and throughout Ontario. This additional layer will support the province's goal of ensuring students continue to have the opportunity to learn in-person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Piatkowski".

Scott Piatkowski
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

CC: Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Ontario Public School Boards