



June 9, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office
Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

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

RE: Support for HWDSB's Response to Proposed Changes to English Public School Board Governance

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

I am writing to express the Waterloo Region District School Board's support for the concerns raised by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) regarding the proposed *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026*. The structural changes to governance outlined in this legislative proposal threaten to fundamentally alter the landscape of public education in Ontario, diminishing local accountability and the role of democratically elected trustees.

The shift toward a corporate administrative model, specifically the re-designation of the Director of Education to a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), represents a significant departure from community-centred governance. Public school boards function best when they are responsive to local needs, values, and priorities. By restricting boards' independent authority to amend or approve board budgets, this legislation risks widening the gap between families and decision-makers.

The potential impact on legislated and non-legislated Indigenous representation is concerning. Structural reforms should not be advanced without authentic consultation that aligns with our shared provincial commitments to Truth and Reconciliation. Similarly, weakening the reach of the Board risks marginalising the contributions of Student Trustees.

Decisions of this magnitude require evidence-based research and broad public consultation across the province. I strongly echo HWDSB's request that the Ministry of



Education pauses the implementation of these governance changes in order to conduct a transparent, province-wide public consultation process with families, educators, sector partners, and Indigenous leaders.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your commitment to an open, public dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maedith Radlein'.

Maedith Radlein
Chair, Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and Member Boards