

October 25, 2019

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the board of trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board, I would like to thank you for your recent visit to J.W. Gerth Public School, and we look forward to working with you on the new policy regarding service animals.

Our board and management is committed to working with you and your team towards a mutual goal of providing a world-class education for all students in Ontario regardless of their background or personal circumstance.

I am writing to you today to support the concerns that have been raised by a host of education stakeholders including the Peel District School Board, concerning TeachON. As you are aware, TeachON established itself in our province to "address the disparity in government funding for families whose children attend an independent school in Ontario best suited to their educational needs."

As public school trustees, we are proud to support -and are elected to ensure-the learning needs of *all* students are met and this letter is written on behalf of the students, and their families and caregivers that we represent.

Campaigns and organizations that advocate for private school funding inaccurately portray the public school system to be of poor quality and an inferior option for families. Our board, like other Public Boards in the province, is proud of the education and support we offer our 64000 students annually, as our students can pursue individual pathways that reflect their interests, develop skills for the future, and succeed in reaching their potential.



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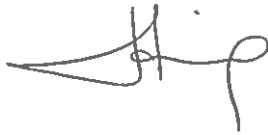
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Any diversion of the crucial funding we currently receive risks the reduction of essential services required for us to provide our students with a world-class education. Our board and our entire community of educators and staff are dedicated to the pursuit of a public education system that is aligned in its mission of meeting the needs of those we serve.

For this ambition to be realized we need to rely on consistent public funding that will ensure our board and others continue to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all students. This is a key element in your government's goal to ensure continued prosperity in Ontario and maintain its leadership position as a jurisdiction of excellence.

We urge you and your government to continue to invest in public education and we are committed to working with you and all stakeholders to realize the success of our students- each and every one of them.

Sincerely,



Jayne Herring
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

Cc:
WRDSB Trustees
Chairs of Ontario English Public School Boards
Ontario Public School Boards' Association



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