A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of July 4, 2017 be approved.

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

C. PRESENTATIONS

Centre for Education Update – Superintendent of Business Bazinet

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Child Care Update

2. Capital Funding Outcomes

   a) Motion:
   That the implementation dates for motions 17-R35, 17-R43 17-R44, 17-R45 and 17-R46 be changed to September 1, 2019.

   b) Motion:
   That Rainbow District School Board approve an amount not to exceed $1.36 million to supplement the Ministry of Education funding for the construction of a new gym addition at Confederation Secondary School ($600,000 from the proceed of disposition reserve and up to $760,000 from the Student Focused Initiatives Reserve).

3. Previous Minutes

   a) Motion:
   That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on May 23, 2017 be approved.

   b) Motion:
   That the minutes of the Special Board Meeting - Budget held on May 30, 2017 be approved.
4. **Tenders/Requests for Proposals**  

Motion:  
That the Board award the contract for Inspection and Testing of Life Safety Systems - Various Locations - tender #2017-24 to ________________ for $___________.

5. **Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees**  

**2017/2018 Budget**  

Motion:  
That the Rainbow District School Board 2017/2018 budget be approved.

F. **NEW BUSINESS**  

1. **Requests for Leave of Absence**  

Motion:  
That ___________ be granted a leave of absence from the July 4, 2017 Board meeting.

2. **Director’s Remarks**  

Presentation to outgoing Student Trustee Katie Yao

3. **Other Items**  

OPSBA Delegate  
Student Trustee

4. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**  

Reminder: Trustees who require detailed information on specific questions are encouraged to contact the Director prior to the meeting.

5. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

G. **INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

1. **Reports from Officials and Staff**

2. **Non-Staff Communications**  

Letter from Hastings and Prince Edward DSB dated May 5, 2017  
Letter to MPP M. Mantha dated May 10, 2017  
   Email response from MPP M. Mantha’s office dated May 17, 2017  
Letter from Waterloo Region DSB dated May 16, 2017  
Letter from Peel DSB dated May 29, 2017  
Letter from Thames Valley DSB #1 dated May 30, 2017
H.  **FUTURE MEETINGS**

   *Chair

   Board Meeting August 29, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom
   Strategic Planning Committee September 12, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom
   First Nation Advisory Committee September 28, 2017 10:00 am Boardroom

I.  **ADJOURNMENT**

   *Chair

   Motion:
   That we do now adjourn at p.m.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Capital Funding Outcomes - System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
<td>Dennis Bazinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Submitted:</strong></td>
<td>July 4, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandate:</strong></td>
<td>Acquire capital funding from the Ministry of Education to implement accommodation review decisions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Background and Process:** | The Ministry of Education released memo 2016:B19 Request for School Consolidation Capital Funding Submissions on December 1, 2016.  

Through the School Consolidation Capital Funding Program, capital funding is available to school boards for projects that reduce a school board’s excess capacity. This funding will be allocated on a business case basis for new schools, retrofits and additions that support consolidations.  

At the November 24, 2016 Special Board Meeting, staff presented the Capital and Accommodation Plan Final Staff Report following public meetings for accommodation reviews in six planning areas.  

Based on the Capital and Accommodation Plan Final Staff Report, the following requests for school consolidation capital funding were submitted to the Ministry of Education:  

1. Valley North Planning Area  
   Chelmsford Valley District Composite School retrofit  
2. New Sudbury Planning Area  
   New French Immersion Elementary School  
3. Valley East Planning Area  
   Confederation Secondary School  
   Addition for new gymnasium as well as interior renovations  
4. New Sudbury Planning Area  
   Revitalization of Churchill Public School  
5. Central Sudbury Planning Area  
   New dual track elementary school on the Queen Elizabeth Public School site  
6. Valley North Planning Area  
   Right-sizing of Levack Public School  

In June 2017, the Ministry of Education announced capital funding for Rainbow DSB per the following page.
## School Consolidation Capital Funding Program Requests (January 2017) and Outcomes (June 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Planning Area</th>
<th>Description of Request</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Amount (Millions)</th>
<th>Original Estimated Timelines</th>
<th>Revised Estimated Timelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Valley North Planning Area</td>
<td>Chelmsford Valley District Composite School retrofit (JK-12 school)</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>$ 5.88</td>
<td>Sept 2018</td>
<td>Sept 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Valley East Planning Area</td>
<td>Confederation Secondary School Addition for new gymnasium as well as interior renovations</td>
<td>Approved (Gym only)</td>
<td>$ 1.64</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>New Sudbury Planning Area</td>
<td>Revitalization of Churchill Public School (JK-6)</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>$ 1.64</td>
<td>Sept 2019</td>
<td>Sept 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Central Sudbury Planning Area</td>
<td>New dual track elementary school on the Queen Elizabeth Public School site</td>
<td>Not approved</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Valley North Planning Area</td>
<td>Right-sizing of Levack Public School</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>$ 1.32</td>
<td>Sept 2018</td>
<td>Sept 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 23.06</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At the February 7, 2017 Special Board Meeting, the following accommodation motions were carried:

1. **Central Sudbury Planning Area**

   **Motion: 17-R35, G.Santala/D.Morrison**
   That Grade 7&8 students (English and French Immersion) from Lansdowne Public School be transferred to Sudbury Secondary School for September 1, 2018. – Carried

   **Motion: 17-R36, J.Kosmerly/G.Santala**
   That a new JK to Grade 6 (English and French Immersion) school be built on the Queen Elizabeth II Public School site to accommodate Lansdowne Public School and Queen Elizabeth II Public School by September 1, 2019, subject to Ministry of Education capital funding. – Carried

2. **Espanola Planning Area**

   **Motion: 17-R37, B.Clement/D.Morrison**
   That Webbwood Public School be consolidated into S. Geiger Public School for September 1, 2017. – Carried

3. **New Sudbury Planning Area**

   **Motion: 17-R38, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly**
   That a new French Immersion JK-6 school be built on an existing school site in New Sudbury to accommodate students from Carl A. Nesbitt Public School, Ernie Checkeris Public School and Westmount Avenue Public School for September 1, 2019, subject to Ministry of Education capital funding. – Carried

   **Motion: 17-R39, G.Santala/J.Kosmerly**
   That Lasalle Secondary School be revitalized to accommodate Grade 7&8 students from Churchill Public School (English Program) and Carl A. Nesbitt Public School (French Immersion) for September 1, 2018. – Carried

   **Motion: 17-R40, B.Clement/G.Santala**
   That Churchill Public School be revitalized to accommodate JK to Grade 6 students from Churchill Public School and Cyril Varney Public School for September 1, 2019, subject to Ministry of Education capital funding. – Carried

4. **Valley East Planning Area**

   **Motion: 17-R41, D.Morrison/G.Santala**
   That Grade 7&8 students from Pinecrest Public School be consolidated into Confederation Secondary School for September 1, 2017. – Carried

   **Motion: 17-R42, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly**
   That Redwood Acres Public School offer JK to Grade 6 (currently JK-5) for September 1, 2017. – Carried
5. Valley North Planning Area

Motion: 17-R43, G.Santala/B.Clement
That Chelmsford Valley District Composite School be retrofitted to create a JK to 12 school offering JK to 8 (English and French Immersion) and Grades 9 to 12 (English Program) for September 1, 2018. – Carried

Motion: 17-R44, J.Kosmerly/J.Hunda
That Chelmsford Public School be consolidated into the Chelmsford VDCS building for September 1, 2018. – Carried

Motion: 17-R45, B.Clement/J.Kosmerly
That the French Immersion Program at Levack Public School be discontinued for September 1, 2018 (French Immersion students from Levack Public School will attend the revitalized Chelmsford Valley District Composite School). – Carried

Motion: 17-R46, G.Santala/D.Morrison
That Grade 7 & 8 students from Larchwood Public School be transferred to Chelmsford Valley District Composite School for September 1, 2018. – Carried

Motion: 17-R47, G.Santala/J.Kosmerly
That the French Immersion Program for Grades 9 to 12 be phased out at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School beginning September 1, 2017 (no new French Immersion students will be admitted). – Carried

Motion: 17-R48, B.Clement/J.Hunda
That the French Immersion boundary for Sudbury Secondary School be extended to accommodate French Immersion students from Chelmsford Valley District Composite School beginning September 1, 2017. – Carried

Recommendation: That the implementation dates for motions 17-R35, 17-R43, 17-R44, 17-R45 and 17-R46 be changed to September 1, 2019.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Capital Funding Outcomes – Confederation SS Gym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact:</strong></td>
<td>Dennis Bazinet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date Submitted:</strong></td>
<td>July 4, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandate:</strong></td>
<td>Build a new gym addition at Confederation Secondary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Background:</strong></td>
<td>In January 2017, through the School Consolidation Capital Funding Program, Rainbow District School Board submitted a request to the Ministry of Education for capital funding for a gym addition at Confederation Secondary School. In June 2017, the Ministry of Education approved the request and will provide $1.64 million of capital funding for this project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Process:</strong></td>
<td>The estimated cost for the construction of a gym consisting of a regulation high school basketball court, appropriately sized out-of-boundary area, gym storage and retractable bleacher seating is $3 million. The proposed funding sources to supplement the $1.64 million are as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proceeds of Disposition Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Focused Initiatives Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td>The following recommendation is presented for your consideration. That Rainbow District School Board approve an amount not to exceed $1.36 million to supplement the Ministry of Education funding for the construction of a new gym addition at Confederation Secondary School ($600,000 from the proceed of disposition reserve and up to $760,000 from the Student Focused Initiatives Reserve).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chair Dewar requested that cell phones be turned off during the meeting.

Chair Dewar stated “Before we begin our meeting tonight, I would like to ask you to join me in observing a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the explosion at Manchester Arena in Northern England.

May it comfort the community of Manchester to know that we are thinking of them in this time of deep sorrow.”

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 17-R85, J.Hunda/G.Santala
That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of May 23, 2017 be approved.
- Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee Santala declared a conflict with item D on the agenda as his wife is an employee of the Board.

C. PRESENTATIONS

International Education Program

Superintendent Noble introduced Principal Jeff McKibbon, teacher Melanie Bertrand and Bela Ravi to speak about recent recruitment in China, Vietnam and India. Trustees were provided information regarding agent meetings, meetings with commissioners, education trends, the importance of trust between parents, students, principals, directors, and agents, follow-up requirements and upcoming exchange agreements.
International students in Rainbow schools provide diversity in the classroom and the community and we all benefit.

Trustees were appreciative of Bela Ravi’s perspective and the support of the multicultural community in Sudbury.

Three students attending Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School shared stories about their first few months in Canada.

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD

Motion: 17-R86, D.Morrison/R.Ward
That the report from the Labour Relations Committee be approved. – Carried

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 17-R87, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly
That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 25, 2017 be approved. - Carried

2. Tenders/Requests for Proposals

a) Motion: 17-R88, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly
That the Board award the contract for Confederation Secondary School, interior alterations - tender #2017-17 to Prosperi Co. Ltd. for $815,000. - Carried

b) Motion: 17-R89, D.Morrison/R.Ward
That the Board award the contract for CC McLean Public School, renovations - tender #2017-20 to Schutt Restoration Services (Thunder Bay) Ltd. for $206,977. - Carried

c) Motion: 17-R90, B.Clement/G.Santala
That the Board award the contract for S. Geiger Public School, washroom renovations - tender #2017-21 to Durigon Brother Construction Ltd. for $234,000. - Carried

d) Motion: 17-R91, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly
That the Board award the contract for Markstay Public School, partial roof replacement - tender #2017-22 to Douro Roofing & Sheet Metal Contractors Ltd. for $148,700. - Carried

3. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees
a) **Audit Committee**

Chair Dewar called for nominations for the vacant position on the Audit Committee.
Trustee Morrison nominated Trustee Ward.
Chair Dewar asked three times if there were any further nominations.

**Motion:** 17-R92, B.Clement/J.Hunda
That nominations be closed. – **Carried**

Trustee Ward confirmed her willingness to be one of three trustees on the Audit Committee for the remainder of the term.

**Motion:** 17-R93, D.Morrison/J.Hunda
That Trustee Ward be appointed to the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2014-2018 term. - **Carried**

b) **Special Education Plan 2017-2018**

**Motion:** 17-R94, J.Kosmerly/G.Santala
That the Special Education Plan be approved. - **Carried**

F. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

**Motion:** 17-R95, J.Hunda/R.Ward
That Trustee Fox be granted a leave of absence from the May 23, 2017 Board meeting. - **Carried**

2. **Director's Remarks**

On Friday May 5th I was honoured to attend and present at the Sudbury Heritage Fair held at Laurentian University. This is a special event that highlights so many historical contributions from a variety of cultures.

I recently attended Jean Hanson Public School’s annual Blacklight performance. The work and effort by both staff and students is so amazing. It is a credit to all for providing to the public such a wonderful display of talent, inclusiveness and pure entertainment.

Principal/Vice Principal placements will be announced on June 20th. The ministry has indicated it will make their capital plans known by June 19th, which will have an impact on our principal and vice principal placements.

Information was recently released regarding the Northern Ontario Supports Initiative; 22 million dollars will be allocated to Northern Boards for various Special Education Initiatives. Northeastern Boards will share 4.5 Million. This will be an
annual initiative with a commitment for funding lasting 5 years, more details to follow.

Speak Up project approvals were announced this month and many of our schools will receive ministry funds. This initiative provides students with the opportunity to add their voice in raising awareness in a variety of areas that directly impact on student interests.

Graduations start June 5th and conclude on June 29th. I invite everyone to attend and participate in these culminating ceremonies. It is a wonderful opportunity to share and acknowledge the success of all our students. If required, please check with Heather Thirkill to confirm dates, time and location.

Itinerary:

April 26  School Visit – Alexander Public School
          Agenda Setting
April 27/28  OPSOA - Ottawa
May 1  Exec Council – Budget Deliberations
      Kiwanis Festival Ceremony – St. Andrews Church
May 2  Directors Meeting
      Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
May 3  School Visits with Trustee Ward
      Levack Public School
      Larchwood Public School
      Chelmsford Public School
      Chelmsford VDCS
May 4  Exec Council
      Facilities/HR Meeting
      Student Senate Conference - Cambrian College
May 5  Blacklight Theatre - Jean Hanson Public School
      Sudbury Regional Heritage Fair – Laurentian University
May 8  Capital Planning community meeting – Manitoulin Secondary School
May 9/10  Strong Districts Symposium – Thunder Bay
May 11  Agenda Setting
May 12  School Visits
       C.C. McLean Public School
       Manitoulin Secondary School
       Central Manitoulin Public School
May 15  Principal/Vice Principal interviews
May 16  School Visit – Monetville Public School
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
May 17  Meeting with Councillor Kirwan
May 19  ETFO meeting
Big Bike fundraiser for Heart & Stroke
Minister of Education – Northeastern Public School
May 23  Agenda Setting
Labour Relations meeting
Board Meeting

3. Other Items
OPSBA Delegate – Trustee Clement reported that Trustee Ward will be
representing the Board at the upcoming Annual General Meeting at Blue Mountain
June 8-11, 2017.

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Yao reported that the Stand Up Speak Out
Conference that took place on May 3 and 4 at Cambrian College was very
successful, with over 100 students attending. She shared a video that was taken
at the conference that will be shared with all schools to promote the student
senate. Highlights of the conference included: team building activities, discussion
about what the perfect schools looks like, discussion about what each school does
and discussion about issues at schools. This information will be forwarded to the
incoming student senate to follow up on suggestions from students.

The three keynote speakers at the conference were Wally Shaw, Scott Hammond (a
magician) and Blake Fly (a musician). Topics of the breakout sessions included
woman empowerment, FNMI culture, motivation and the trades pathway.

Student Trustee Yao informed that she and incoming trustee Madeleine Leach
Jarret will be attending the OSTA-AECO Annual General Meeting in Toronto May

4. Trustees’ Remarks/Questions

Trustee Morrison thanked Student Trustee Katie Yao for her contributions to the
Board and spoke about the Big Bike event, a fundraiser for Heart and Stroke that
took place at Delki Dozzi Park on Friday, May 19, 2017. This successful event
brought secondary staff and students as well as board office staff and trustees
together for a successful fundraising event for Rainbow District School Board.
5. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

Rainbow District School Board secondary school students showcased their analytical and critical thinking skills at the 17th annual Mock Trial Competition where they garnered both gold and silver medals and captured a number of individual awards.

A Grade 8 student from Pinecrest Public School is one of only 60 students from Ontario to serve on the 2017-2018 Minister of Education’s Student Advisory Council. Rileigh Erbersdobler was selected from more than 480 applicants representing the province’s cultural, social, economic and geographic diversity.

The Minister of Education visited students in the Learning Disabilities class at Northeastern Elementary School on Friday, May 19, 2017, where they are piloting the Empower Reading Program.

On a personal note, I was privileged to attend the inspiring Blacklight performance by the students of Jean Hanson PS. I brought greetings to the Regional Heritage Fair and experienced the pride of our students as they acknowledged our heritage and history. I attended a portion of the Stand up Speak out Conference to witness the poise and self-confidence of our future leaders. And I attended the Big Bike ride for Heart and Stroke. It was extremely gratifying to see students from five Secondary Schools and our Staff enjoying each other as they worked together to raise money for a worthy cause.

Minister of Energy and Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault will visit MacLeod Public School tomorrow, May 24, 2017, to learn about our green initiatives as part of Ontario's EcoSchools program.

Also tomorrow, a delegation from Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School’s Sister School in Shanghai, China will arrive for a two-week stay. They will participate in classes and enjoy local attractions.

The public is invited to support our young entrepreneurs at the Rainbow District School Board Entrepreneur Fair in the Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School gym on Thursday, June 8, 2017 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Also on June 8, 2017, Lasalle Secondary School will host a Citizenship Ceremony for new Canadians.

Students will showcase their proud heritage at the Provincial Heritage Fair from June 9 to 11, 2017, in Toronto. They include Markstay Public School student, Aiden Lippert-Murdoch, for his project on his Great, Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Grandfather, John “Daddy” Hall’s escape from slavery via the Underground Railroad; and Lo-Ellen Park Elementary School student, Kaija Grubber, for her project about a Scottish woman who posed as a man in order to make the journey to Canada, and find work as a fur trader for Hudson’s Bay Company.

The thought for today comes from Vivien Greene,
Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass……. It’s about learning to dance in the rain.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Reports from Officials and Staff
   - First Nation Advisory Committee minutes October 17, 2016 (official)
   - Parent Involvement Committee minutes November 1, 2016 (official)
   - Equity and Inclusive Education Committee minutes February 16, 2017 (official)
   - First Nation Advisory Committee minutes February 23, 2017 (official)
   - Parent Involvement Committee minutes February 28, 2017 (official)

2. Non-Staff Communications
   - Letter from Thames Valley DSB dated April 11, 2017
   - Letter from Thames Valley DSB dated April 11, 2017
   - Letter from Hastings and Prince Edward DSB dated May 8, 2017
   - Letter from Director Blaseg dated May 9, 2017
   - Letter to Rusty Hick OPSBA dated May 10, 2017

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

   - Board Meeting (Budget) May 30, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom
   - Retirement Dinner May 31, 2017 6:00 pm Holiday Inn
   - Strategic Planning Committee June 6, 2016 5:00 pm Sudbury Secondary School Library
   - Board Awards June 6, 2017 6:30 pm Sudbury Secondary School Sheridan Auditorium
   - Special Education Advisory Committee June 7, 2017 12:00 pm LDAS Room at Lockerby CS
   - Student Senate Meeting June 12, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom
   - Student Senate Meeting June 19, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom
   - Board Meeting July 4, 2017 5:00 pm Boardroom

I. ADJOURNMENT

   Motion: 17-R96, B.Clement/D.Morrison
   That we now adjourn at 7:15 p.m. – Carried.
Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), B. Clement, J. Hunda, L. Killens, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison, G. Santala, R. Ward
Absent: G. Fox, Student Trustee K. Yao
Officials: N. Blaseg – Director
D. Bazinet – Superintendent of Business
B. Bourget, L. Dye, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents
N. Charette, H. Thirkill
Others: K. Kozman, G. Gauthier, N. Mousseau, T. Batchilder and members of public

Chair Dewar requested that cell phones be turned off during the meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 17-R97, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly
That the agenda for the Special Board Meeting - Budget of May 30, 2017 be approved. – Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
NIL

C. 2017/2018 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Bazinet provided line-by-line clarification of the distributed 2017/2018 budget presentation.

Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions.

D. NEW BUSINESS

Requests for Leave of Absence

Motion: 17-R98, J.Hunda/D.Morrison
That Trustee Fox and Student Trustee Yao be granted a leave of absence from the May 30, 2017 Special Board Meeting - Budget. – Carried

E. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 17-R99, J.Hunda/D.Morrison
That we now adjourn at 6:35 p.m. – Carried.
May 5, 2017

Dave Wallace, Executive Director
Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC)
170 Research Lane
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 5EW

Dear Mr. Wallace;

On behalf of the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and our 4600 secondary school students, I am writing to express our concern with the implementation of an additional $50.00 fee to students who wish to make changes to their OUAC applications beginning with this year's cohort of applications.

While we are aware that students still have the ability, free of charge, to change programs within the same university, the added fee of $50.00 to change choices of university is, in the opinion of the Board, an unfair financial burden for students who are already struggling with the pending financial commitment of tuition. Further, because a similar fee does not apply to those students changing their choice of institutions at the college level through the Ontario College Application (OCAS), I would suggest that students applying through OUAC are treated inequitably because of their choice of pathway.

On behalf of the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, I would like to strongly urge OUAC to rethink the imposition of a $50.00 “change fee” for the 2017-2018 applicants. Students in the Province of Ontario are amongst the highest performing students in the world, and as a Board of Trustees, we are proud of our graduates and believe they deserve every opportunity to pursue post-secondary studies without bearing the cost of added administration fees imposed by OUAC.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Lucille Kyle
Chair, Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

cc: Laurie French, Ontario Public School Board Association
All Ontario School Boards Chair
May 10, 2017

Michael Mantha  
MPP Algoma-Manitoulin  
Constituency Office  
18 Mary Walk  
Elliott Lake, ON  
P45A 2A1

Dear MPP Mike Mantha:

I acknowledge receipt of your letters to Norm Blaseg, Director, Rainbow District School Board dated April 12, 2017, May 1, 2017 and May 2, 2017.

On behalf of the Board, I would welcome the opportunity to address the concerns expressed in your correspondence.

They require an immediate response based on accurate information.

I would sincerely appreciate your contacting me at your earliest convenience to arrange a meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Doreen Dewar  
Chair

cc: Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education  
    Paul Dubé, Ontario Ombudsman  
    Honourable Kevin Flynn, Minister of Labour  
    Premier Kathleen Wynne  
    Glenn Thibeault, MPP Sudbury  
    Laurie French, President of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)  
    Jennifer McIntyre, Director of Policy, OPSBA  
    Norm Blaseg, Director of Education
Dear Ms. Thirkill:

MPP Michael Mantha wishes to acknowledge and thank Chairperson Dewar for her letter of May 10th requesting a meeting. Mr. Mantha would appreciate an opportunity to meet with Ms. Dewar to discuss the matters of concern. However, he asks her indulgence as this time of year with the Legislative Assembly winding down prior to the summer recess; his calendar does not currently offer any opening until the Legislature rises and he is back in the riding for the summer in early June.

As soon as Mr. Mantha has some appropriate availability we will be in touch to confirm a date to meet.

Thank you again for contacting our office.

Sincerely,

Grant Buck
Constituency Assistant
Office of Michael Mantha MPP/ député
Algoma-Manitoulin, COPE 343
(TEL) 705-461-9710  (Toll Free) 1-800-831-1899 | (FAX) 705-461-9720
mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca
http://www.michaelmantha.com/
https://www.facebook.com/MichaelMantha
https://twitter.com/M_Mantha
May 16, 2017

Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Ministry of Education  
22nd Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

On April 24, 2017, the Waterloo Region District School Board passed a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education in response to a recent correspondence from the Bluewater District School Board. This correspondence requested a comprehensive review of the Ontario Special Education Model that included both the delivery of special education programming and funding.

The Waterloo Region District School Board supports the request that the scope for the Special Education Funding Working Group be expanded to include a more robust and comprehensive review. We also support the recommendation that further consultation should include the following groups:

- Minister’s Advisory Council on Special Education
- Provincial Parent Advisory Association Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees
- Special Education Advisory Committees
- Provincial organizations that represent each exceptionality area
- Ontario Teacher Federations
- School Boards
- Trustees
- Parents of students with special education exceptionalities
- Students with special education exceptionalities

The Waterloo Region District School Board also supports the recommendation that a comprehensive review include:

- A gap analysis of our current provincial model for special education delivery and any research on current and future models for special education around the world
- A financial analysis for each area of exceptionality to determine what portion of each special education dollar reaches students and what portion of each dollar goes to administration, communication, the IPRC process and other paperwork
• A narrative that links the "special education model" to the *Learning For All* ministry document

• An analysis of the data that has been collected by the ministry since the inception of Bill 82 to discover patterns and insights that would be applicable to the development of a new or modified model for special education and appropriate funding for that model

• Current directions in neuroscience in the review of the current special education model and development of any future special education model

Sincerely,

Scott McMillan
Chairperson of the Board

Cc: OPSBA
Ontario School Board Chairs
May 29, 2017

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board, I am writing once again to follow up on your April 18, 2017 response to the Peel District School Board’s concerns regarding the reporting of school-based EQAO results.

You will recall that our original concerns related to the fact that, since December 2015, the Peel board has welcomed more than 500 refugees from Syria and beyond. We noted that some of these students arrived in Canada with little or no English language skills, are traumatized by what they experienced and have never had formal schooling. Of course, given their circumstances, these students have been exempted from writing EQAO assessments until they have at least acclimatized to life in Peel. Despite these extenuating circumstances leading to exemption, school results using the All Students method are reported as “no level” which ultimately results in scores of zero for those students exempted from the assessment. It continues to be our belief as a Board of Trustees that this is an unfair reflection of the hard work and focus on student achievement and well-being of schools throughout Peel.

In your April 18 letter, you noted that EQAO reports the results of their assessments in two ways:

“[…] All Students, which accounts for all students in a grade, including those exempted from the assessment, and Participating Students, which reports the results for those students who took part in the assessment […]”

Since our original September 27, 2016 letter to you, we met directly with representatives of EQAO in order to better understand the methodology used to assess students and report on the results. Of course, EQAO staff reinforced what you have stated above — that results of the assessments are reported in two ways, and that these two methods provide different and important information, both to EQAO and to our communities.

Now that we better understand the purpose of the dual reporting methods, we nonetheless continue to believe that the Participating Students method is a more accurate reflection of student performance at a particular school. Currently, while both methods of reporting are available to the public, the All Students method is more clearly highlighted when results are reported, and as a result, it is this method that is often exclusively reported by the media. The Participating Students method is embedded in reports.
It is our suggestion that the order of these methods be reversed in all EQAO reports and News Releases. If, in fact, EQAO continues to value the data and information contained in both methods, surely we can agree that this reversal of the order of the methods would fulfill this requirement while, at the same time, better serving our students, our communities and the educators who work so diligently to ensure students achievement and well-being throughout the Peel District School Board and across the Province of Ontario.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Janet McDougald
Chair

c. OPSBA
   Ontario School Board Chairs
   Peel MPPs

Encl. - Copy of the September 27, 2016 letter
September 27, 2016

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board, I am writing to share concerns we have with respect to newcomer students from Syria and beyond and other excluded/“non-participating” students being included in Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment methodologies reports. In June 2016, the Peel board wrote to EQAO Chief Executive Officer Bruce Rodrigues to express these concerns and to ask that EQAO reconsider this practice as we believe it to be unfair and demoralizing to students and staff.

Since December 2015, the Peel board has welcomed more than 500 refugees from Syria and beyond. As you know, some of these students arrived in Canada with little or no English language skills, are traumatized by what they experienced and have never had formal schooling. Given their circumstances, these students have been exempted from writing the assessments. Their exemption is appreciated. What is not acceptable to the board, however, is that their “not participating” identification is included in school reports, thus negatively impacting the overall scores of the schools they attend and increasing the likelihood that community members will blame newcomer/refugee students for lowering school scores.

We understand that EQAO reports scores in two ways—one that includes the scores of all students, including those who are identified as “not participating,” and a second method that excludes non-participating students. Unfortunately, although the second method is a more accurate reflection of student performance at a particular school, it is clear to us that this method is not shared publicly or widely, not by EQAO or the media. As such, the reports that are more broadly distributed (method one) can and do dishearten and discourage staff, students and parents of a school community, and negatively impacts the perception of student achievement.
In a recent conversation between Bruce Rodrigues and the Peel board's Director of Education Tony Pontes, we understand that the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, provides the mandate to EQAO on its reporting of student achievement. As such, we ask that the ministry consider excluding non-participating (absent and excluded) students from its EQAO reporting so that what is most widely shared is a true and accurate reflection of student achievement. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Janet McDougald
Chair

c. OPSBA
   Ontario School Board Chairs
   Peel MPPs

Encl. - Copies of letters sent to Bruce Rodrigues, CEO, EQAO, from the Peel board
May 30, 2017

Hon. Mitziie Hunter  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
22nd Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Hon. Michael Coteau  
Minister of Children and Youth Services  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Anti-Racism Directorate  
14th Floor  
56 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto ON M7S 2S3

Dear Ministers Hunter and Coteau:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board to express our profound concerns about funding for children with special education needs.

Specifically, Trustees believe more supports are urgently needed for students with significant behavioural and mental health concerns, including dedicated Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) programs in all communities and more long-term residential programs focusing on early intervention, as well as transitional classrooms for students.

The Province of Ontario has already demonstrated its commitment to Ministries working together in order to address complex needs. This is an example where your two ministries could work together in order to address an urgent and increasing need in Ontario communities.

As elected public school Trustees, we acknowledge the generous commitment this government has made to fund public education in Ontario. However, it is our responsibility to identify what we feel is a serious gap in support for these particularly vulnerable students.

We would be happy to provide you with further details of our concerns at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Reid  
Chair of the Board

c.c.: Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board  
Laurie French, President, Ontario Public School Boards’ Association  
Ontario School Board Chairs
May 30, 2017

Ministry of Education
22nd Floor Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Attention: Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education

Dear Minister Hunter:

I am writing to share with you the complex concerns identified by Thames Valley District School Board Trustees over the capital and ongoing funding for schools in our communities, particularly in rural areas. Let me begin by acknowledging our sincere appreciation for the generous financial support Thames Valley has received from the Ontario government. This has allowed us to build many new schools and additions that are the source of great pride among our students, parents, staff members and community.

We are also keenly aware of the problem of declining enrolment and share your concerns over the subsequent inefficiencies created by thousands of empty pupil places – particularly while facilities age and become costly to maintain. Through careful planning and an extraordinary amount of public consultation, Thames Valley has closed 41 schools since 2006. During that time, 67 new schools have been built or significantly renovated.

After having conducted a large number of pupil accommodation reviews, Trustees have reached the conclusion that, while communities deeply value their schools, the current funding formula puts small schools at a disadvantage. This is particularly true in rural areas where consolidations may result in longer travel times for students.

In some cases, the funding formula requires boards to consider closing smaller schools that are operating at or over capacity and in reasonably good repair – leading the public to ponder whether we are “fixing a problem that does not exist.” As elected Trustees, we find ourselves unable to fulfill the wishes of our constituents under the current capital funding process.

We respectfully request that you realign the funding process and polices for school consolidation. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Matt Reid
Chair of the Board

c.c.: Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board

Ontario School Board Chairs
May 30, 2017

Ministry of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Attention: The Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education

Dear Minister Hunter:

Re: TVDSB First Nations Student Trustee

It is with great excitement that I write you today to inform you that earlier this month our school board approved policy changes that allow for the election of a self-identifying First Nations Student Trustee in the fall of 2017.

I believe this Indigenous Student Trustee position is the first in Canada for a school board. I hope you will encourage other school boards to take similar steps to help articulate their important student voice.

It is also important to note that this policy change came from our current Student Trustee, Stefan Suvajac. This is just one example of the significant work that Student Trustees accomplish in our school boards and province. While Student Trustee Suvajac's term is ending, the positive changes he has made will continue to benefit our students for many years to come.
Thank you for your time. I hope you will join me in congratulating our newest board member in the fall when we complete this important and historic election.

Sincerely Yours,

Matthew Reid
Chair of the Board

c.c.: Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board
Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Chief Leslee White-Eye, Chippewas of the Thames First Nations
Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delware Nation
Chief Randall Phillips, Oneida Nation of the Thames
Laurie French, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario School Board Chairs
Stefan Suvajac, Student Trustee, Thames Valley District School Board