



Chair and Regional Council Members
Halton Region
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

June 7, 2021

Dear Chair Carr and Members of the Halton Regional Council,

At the Regular Meeting of the Halton District School Board (HDSB) on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, the Trustees unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the Halton District School Board recognizes the systems of oppression that exist within society and educational institutions, and has undertaken significant work to address racism and other forms of discrimination in our schools, workplaces and broader society for several years; and,

Whereas, on Feb 19, 2021 the HDSB released an Anti Racism Public statement to the public to affirm its commitment to dismantling and eliminating racism, and provide details about some of our Board's current actions; and,

Whereas on May 19, 2021, Halton Region Council unanimously passed a motion regarding Inclusive Learning Environments, which specifically references HDSB students, staff, policies and procedures; and,

Whereas, that motion was discussed and passed at Halton Regional Council in absence of engagement with HDSB staff or Trustees; and,

Whereas, that motion includes the clause "that the Region of Halton offer support and advocacy to all school boards in their efforts to create safe and inclusive learning environments for students"; and,

Whereas, dismantling and eliminating racism must be a process that involves listening to, learning from, and taking meaningful, collaborative action with people who have lived experience; and,

Whereas, alignment of actions across organizations such as municipalities and school boards is critical to this; and,

Whereas, Trustees reaffirm their individual and collective commitment to actions that dismantle and eliminate all forms of oppression and racism,

Therefore,

Be it resolved that the Chair of the HDSB reach out to the Chair of Halton Region to request the opportunity to deliver a presentation to Halton Regional Council about the ongoing work of the HDSB, the implementation of The Way Forward and its relationship to the HDSB Multi-Year Plan 2020-24, the work of the Student Senate Equity Subcommittee, the Human Rights and Equity Advisory Committee, the bullying prevention and intervention strategy, among other initiatives, with the aim to inform Halton Regional Council about the focused and deliberate initiatives aimed at dismantling racism and other forms of discrimination in all HDSB schools and workplaces, as well as the HDSB stakeholder community; and,

Be it further resolved that the Chair pursue further discussions to gain understanding of the Region's offer of "support and advocacy" and their approach to dismantling and eliminating racism and other forms of discrimination, while reinforcing a whole community partnership approach; and,

Be it further resolved that the Chair invite Halton Regional Chair and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Halton Catholic District School Board to a meeting with the Board of Trustees and the Director, to be led by the Chair, to create processes for communication and sharing of approaches and concerns so that together we can dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination; and,

Be it further resolved that the Board request the Director to enhance the Board's internal and external communication to reach broader audiences on a regular and timely basis with the aim of keeping community members informed about all HDSB initiatives, including those aimed at dismantling systemic racism and other forms of discrimination; and,

Be it further resolved that the Director be requested to establish an HDSB Student Equity Committee for the purpose of engaging students in collaboratively identifying strategies to address concerns and identify actions to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination in the HDSB.

Please consider this letter a request from the Halton District School Board to deliver the aforementioned presentation to Regional Council. Trustees are also keen to pursue further discussions so that we may gain understanding of the Region's offer of "support and advocacy" and its approach to dismantling and

eliminating racism and other forms of discrimination. Please advise who I should contact to determine availability for a meeting involving the Regional Chair, the Halton Catholic District School Board Chair and Vice Chair, the HDSB Trustees and Director as outlined in the recommendation.

It is the perspective of the Board of Trustees that dismantling racism requires a whole-community partnership approach, and that these initiatives will be a valuable step in a process so that all students and citizens can thrive in Halton. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andr ea Grebenc
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Halton District School Board

Cc: Chair Patrick Murphy, Halton Catholic District School Board
Vice Chair Marvin Duarte, Halton Catholic District School Board
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General of Ontario
The Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Jane McKenna, MPP, Burlington
Parm Gill, MPP, Milton
Stephen Crawford, MPP, Oakville
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP, Oakville North-Burlington
The Honourable Anita Anand, MP, Oakville
The Honourable Karina Gould, MP, Burlington
Michael Chong, MP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Pam Damoff, MP, Oakville North-Burlington
Adam van Koeverden, MP, Milton
Conseil scolaire Viamonde, Sylvie Longo
Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir, Andr e Blais
Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Carole Saab
Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Brian Rosborough
Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayor Jeff Lehman
Big City Mayors Caucus (Canada), Don Iveson
Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Rashaad Vahed
Reach Out Centre for Kids (ROCK), Kirsten Dougherty