



April 23, 2024

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
438 University Ave., 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce,

Re: Request for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding for Publicly Funded School Boards

At our Board meeting on April 3rd, 2024 the following motion passed unanimously:

Be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education to request the reinstatement of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding for publicly funded school boards in Ontario.

On behalf of the Halton District School Board (HDSB), I am requesting that the Ministry of Education reinstate the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). From the implementation of renewable energy projects to allowing for energy-efficient upgrades, this funding is crucial for school boards to effectively act in light of the increasing urgency of addressing climate change.

The request to write this letter was brought forward by our Student Trustees, Shrena Sribalan and Sultan Alimzhanov, and received unanimous support from HDSB Trustees.

The HDSB is committed to fostering environmental sustainability in an effort to reduce Halton's carbon footprint. We have actively pursued such endeavours through our 2020-2024 multi-year strategic plan commitment to Environmental Leadership, and the HDSB student-led climate declarations in 2020, empowering youth sustainability initiatives.

Although we take pride in our achievements, there is a great need for additional efforts to decrease our carbon footprint. Achieving this goal would necessitate a substantial financial commitment, especially considering current economic circumstances marked by rising rates of inflation.

Educational institutions have a critical role in shaping the attitudes and behaviours of children and youth toward sustainability and environmental responsibility. It is imperative to empower our schools with the

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essential tools and resources to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions actively. By doing so, we not only foster a more sustainable future but also provide invaluable hands-on learning experiences for our students, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate a world where climate leadership will be imperative.

We encourage the Ministry to consider the voice of HDSB students in recognizing the presence of the climate crisis as well as its impact on the current generation of young people, and taking the steps necessary to address this issue through the reinstatement of the GGRF.

Sincerely,

Amy Collard
Halton District School Board Chair
Burlington, Ward 5 HDSB Trustee

CC: Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, Natalie Pierre
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Andrea Khanjin
Leader of the Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma
Environment, Conservation and Parks Critic, Sandy Shaw
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