



June 21, 2022
Ministry of Education
5th Floor
438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To the Honourable Minister of Education,

At the meeting of May 4, 2022, Trustees of the Halton District School Board passed the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Chair of the Halton District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education recommending the Ministry of Education consider giving Student Trustees the right to independently move and second motions during board meetings.

In 2004-2005, OSTA-AÉCO released a report called, "The Student Trustee: Today and Tomorrow." This report offered recommendations for the current legislature to improve the quality of pupil representation. The OSTA-AÉCO Executive Council sent recommendations to the Government of Ontario which built the foundation for the role of student trustees. School boards across the province have been advocating on behalf of student trustees to provide the opportunity to move and second motions. Heightened importance should be placed on student voice as it has been highlighted as a key area of importance to the Ministry of Education and school boards across the province. Student voice must be represented fairly and be thoughtfully articulated for the benefit of the school board and its students.

Currently, under section 55(4) of the Education Act, Student Trustees are not entitled to move motions. Instead, they may only suggest motions which require the support of their Trustee counterparts in order to be officially put forward. We support the original recommendation made by OSTA-AÉCO and ask that an amendment be made to the Education Act in order to strengthen student voice in all school boards by granting Student Trustees the opportunity to participate fully at the board table. Section 55(7) of the Ontario Education Act recognizes Student Trustees as having the same status as a School Board Trustee with respect to access to board resources and opportunities for training. Student Trustees are elected representatives, and are to be held accountable to the student body. Student voice must be articulated and represented freely, fairly, and expressively for the benefit of the school board to accurately reflect the students in decision-making.

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Thank you for your time and for considering the further empowerment of our students.



Margo Shuttleworth,
Chair of the Halton District School Board

cc: Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP
Natalie Pierre, MPP
Parm Gill, MPP
Stephen Crawford, MPP
Ted Arnott, MPP
Ontario School Board Chairs (English Public, English Catholic, French Public, French Catholic)
Cathy Abraham, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association