

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 | **5:30 PM**

Virtual:	In-Person:
Join zoom meeting Meeting ID: 899 1167 8742 Passcode: 859936 Dial in: 1 855 703 8985	North Bay Boardroom NNDSB Head Office 963 Airport Rd., North Bay, ON.

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land acknowledgement

We would like to open this meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, on which all schools of the NNDSB are situated. The Board Office is specifically located on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation. We value the cultures, histories and relationships with the Indigenous People of Turtle Island. We are grateful to be gathered here today.

1.2 Attendance

Confirmation of Quorum

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2.0 In-Camera

Motion: That the Board move into a Committee of the Whole Private Session in order to discuss items pertaining to The Education Act R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 section 207(2)(b).

3.0 Arise and Report

4.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion: That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 10, 2023, be approved.

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes ✓

5.1 2023 09 12 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion: That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 12, 2023, be approved.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 CSS renaming work- Trustee discussion ✓

7.0 New Business

7.1 Notice of Motion- Vice-Chair Wesley ✓

7.2 Recorded Meetings Report ✓

7.3 Toronto Youth Cabinet- Endorsement Request ✓

8.0 Adjournment

Motion: That on October 10, 2023 we do now adjourn at ____pm.



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Phone: 705.472.8170
Website: www.nearnorthschools.ca

Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The September 12, 2023 **Committee of the Whole Public Session** of the Near North District School Board was held in person at the Head Office and via a Zoom video and/or teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Erika Lougheed, Chair
Howard Wesley, Vice-Chair ®
Ashley St. Pierre
Bill Steer
Chantal Phillips
Jeanie Fuscaldo ®
Julie Bertram
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
Albany Benson, Student Trustee
Dora Chen, Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education ®
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Education ®
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Timothy Graves, Superintendent of Education ®

Other:

Staff, media and community partners

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Lougheed called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 11 trustees were present, including the two Student Trustees.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.0 In-Camera

It is noted there will be no in-camera meeting this evening.

3.0 Approval of the Agenda

Trustees were referred to the agenda included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections, with none rose.

Motion: H. Wesley/ C. Phillips

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 27, 2023, be approved. - **Carried.**

4.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 06 27 Committee of the Whole

Trustees were referred to the minutes included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections, with none rose.

Motion: L. Sargent/ J. Bertram

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 9, 2023 be approved. – **Carried.**

5.0 New Business

5.1 OSBIE Director Nomination

Chair Lougheed invited Director Myles to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the attachments included in the agenda package. Director Myles noted that SBO Van Haesendonck has expressed an interest in being nominated for a seat on the Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) Northeast Regional Board of Directors. Together with the full executive team, Director Myles expressed his full support for SBO Van Haesendonck's nomination. It is noted that this reflects very positively on the board, under the pursuit of the strategic commitment to Excellence in Relationships. It is noted that NNDSB requires trustees to support the nomination. Chair Lougheed opened for comments, with none rose. It is recognized that consensus has been expressed to support SBO Van Haesendonck's nomination.

It is noted that individual members of OSBIE must appoint a voting delegate to cast a vote regarding the director nominations. Director Myles noted he would be pleased to accept this role in his capacity as the Board's Secretary, should an OSBIE vote be required.

Chair Lougheed opened the floor for comments on this suggestion, with none rose. It is recognized that consensus has been expressed to appoint Director Myles as the OSBIE Voting Delegate on behalf of NNDSB. The Board will pass a resolution in the regular session.

5.2 2023-24 Board Meeting Schedule

Chair Lougheed invited Director Myles to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the attachments included in the agenda package. Director Myles noted that under The Education Act, trustees must fix the times and places for the meetings of the board and the mode of calling and conducting them and ensure that a full and correct account of the proceedings is kept. Attention was called to the monthly meeting dates, the method of virtual attendance and the location of in-person meetings. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- It is recognized that the March meeting overlaps with the March Break. Consensus to move the meeting to occur one week later, on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 to ensure fulsome participation.

- It is noted that there is no regular business meeting proposed in November, as this time is used for the organizational meeting. A suggestion was raised to also schedule a regular meeting on this date. Consensus to add November 14, 2023 to the list of regular meeting dates as well.
- Chair Loughheed called for any final comments on the videoconference/ teleconference service or in-person meeting location, with none rose.

It is noted that consensus has been achieved on the 2023-24 Board meeting schedule dates, times, and modes. A resolution will be passed in regular session to confirm the decisions.

6.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: C. Phillips/ B. Steer

That we do now adjourn at 6:11 PM. – **Carried**

Title:	Notice of Motions – Chippewa Renaming
Contact:	Julie Ann Bertram
Date Submitted:	October 10, 2023
Mandate:	In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, Trustee Bertram provided notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the Oct.10 Committee of the Whole meeting.
Background:	<p>Whereas the September 26, 2017, resolution was to rebrand, not rename;</p> <p>Whereas the December 13, 2022, report did not contain Indigenous representation;</p> <p>Whereas the Rename Committee has not been transparent in its process;</p> <p>Renaming schools that honoured racists and architects of residential schools is indeed an act of reconciliation. Removing names that are not considered offensive to Indigenous communities, and without appropriate consultation and collaboration, is not an act of reconciliation. The name, Chippewa, is not offensive as was claimed in the December 13, 2022 report. After the Accommodation Review, consolidating 3 schools into 2, the September 26, 2017 Board resolution only mentions rebranding, not renaming: “the Board of Trustees approve the consolidation of 3 North Bay secondary schools into West Ferris and Chippewa sites including the rebranding of both schools” The Trustees in 2017 did not move to rename, but the December 13, 2022 motion to Establish a Naming Committee stated that the name Chippewa is an equity issue, yet no Indigenous representation was in the supporting report.</p> <p><i>“We continue to hear about communities disturbed by the name of a street, a sports team, a building, or a monument. This [OHRC] policy statement (New proposed policy on the Discriminatory display of names, words, and images) is being designed to help foster a better understanding of the human rights issues involved and to prompt communities to <u>work together</u> in a respectful way to overcome these issues” OHRC Chief Commissioner, Patricia DeGuire.</i></p> <p><i>A human rights-based approach means that individuals and communities should be fully supported to participate in the development of decisions, policies, and practices. Instead of speaking on behalf of First Nations, the NNDSB must improve our relationships by involving First Nations in discussions about issues that affect their lives.</i></p>

The following points concern the transparency and effectiveness of the Renaming Committee:

- The students of the 3 consolidated schools, Chippewa, West Ferris, and Widdifield, have since graduated.
- The school name claimed as an equity issue was not brought to the board by any Indigenous person or group.
- The rebranding of Chippewa began in 2012 in respectful consultation with Nipissing First Nation.
- No formal poll was taken at Chippewa Secondary School about renaming it.
- The December 2022 report states that the name 'Chippewa' was twisted into a derogatory term [by unknown individuals] - removing the name does not address acts of discrimination. The OHRC states: "For the CODE to apply the item must show *intent* to discriminate or harass, or an *intent to provoke others* to discriminate or harass"
- The report did not contain any historical references to the relationships built over many years between Chippewa Secondary School and First Nations communities, including Nipissing First Nation and First Nations in James Bay.
- The term Chippewa was found not to be "offensive" as stated in the report.
- On January 10, 2023, the previous motion to establish a Naming Committee became a motion to appoint 2 Trustees to the Renaming Committee.
- "Next Steps" in the report stated: "the process as outlined in Administrative Guidelines [2020] will be followed to rename and rebrand Chippewa Secondary School"; Administration Guidelines, which informed the Trustees in their vote to establish a Naming Committee, are being changed mid-way through the process.
- The draft of the new Administration Guidelines verge into Governance by using a singular interpretation of the Human Rights Code and how it applies to this matter; a discussion by Trustees about how the Human Rights Code applies is important – the draft also directs Trustees on how to vote; these are beyond the purview of the Administration.

- On March 8, 2023, the Renaming Committee unanimously voted to amend the Terms of Reference to remove the sentence “The new name of Chippewa will not be Chippewa”
- The only data the Renaming Committee received was from the public survey showing “Chippewa” in one form or another as the most recommended name.
- The possibility of Chippewa as part of the new name is still under consideration by members of the Renaming Committee.
- Media releases about the renaming process were not discussed or seen by renaming committee members until after they were published.
- Over 3000 community members signed a petition, former Principals of the school and Nipissing First Nation leaders publicly disapprove of [or are indifferent to] removing the name.
- Public accountability is a cornerstone of Ontario’s education system; the Education Act states that all meetings of the board shall be open to the public [s. 207(1)] with certain exceptions - the Chippewa Renaming Committee, called an Ad-hoc committee, does not fall under those exceptions [s. 207(2)] – Transparency in this process is paramount for public accountability, closed meetings about controversial topics do not support the data received by Nanos Research (which informed the creation of the MYSP) that “Stakeholders want NNDSB to make transparent decisions and provide sufficient information to the public.” Requests from the public to attend meetings were denied, and Renaming Committee members did not see letters of concern written to the board regarding the renaming (except one, see next point)
- NNDSB promotes transparency in its decision-making processes, as recommended by the Ombudsman’s Report in 2019 under OPEN MEETINGS, FAIRNESS, AND THE EDUCATION ACT, 100-102 *“Administrative bodies owe a duty of fairness to those whose interests they affect”* - A public statement from the Board that the renaming process “will need to be inclusive and listen to all who wish to share”, yet a self-identifying Chippewa-Anishinaabe alum and parent in the school community was denied a voice to present to the Renaming Committee – He asked that his letter be read to the Renaming Committee by a Trustee so his concerns were shared: it suggested, among many thoughtful points, that changing the name as a meaningful approach to reconciliation doesn’t ring true.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A request by a Trustee to see the legal opinion about the claimed human rights issue of the name Chippewa was denied to Rename Committee members. That legal opinion, used to continue the narrative of Chippewa being an equity issue, should be shared with Trustees. - The Administration, well-intentioned, claiming potential human rights violations, referred to 'new proposed content regarding the discriminatory display of names, images, and symbols', as the reasoning for removing the name Chippewa. However, the policy position of the OHRC states: <i>"Affected individuals may not want names/images/words removed or changed, and may instead want other actions to promote awareness of historical rights violations"</i> – <i>"Service providers may need to get professional guidance to help understand the surrounding context"</i> – <i>"A collaborative approach may be needed to help promote social inclusion of affected groups, and bring communities together to find the best solutions"</i> – <i>"The policy will not take any position for or against the use of a specific name or image in a particular situation"</i>. - Human rights considerations in the matter of 'discriminatory display of names, images and symbols' [particularly in the use of the name Chippewa as it is the name of landmarks and streets as well] should be informed by the Province and/or the City of North Bay and/or Nipissing First Nation and/or affected groups and individuals. - The NNDSB should commit to the ongoing development of relationships with local First Nations - and create a consultation and collaboration protocol for appropriately involving local First Nations in relevant decision-making processes. - The funds earmarked for renaming the school in material ways would be better spent on the revitalization of Anishinaabemwin, the professional development of NNDSB Indigenous teachers, further teaching of the worldviews, history, and modernity of local First Nations, and further education on the harms of discrimination.
Resolution:	<p>BE IT RESOLVED that the renaming of Chippewa Secondary School be suspended unless/until appropriate Indigenous consultation and collaboration informs the Board of Trustees who will then direct the Director of Education to continue the renaming process; the funds that would be allocated to changing the name be used for aiding the revitalization of Anishinaabemwin, the professional development of NNDSB Indigenous</p>

	<p>teachers, further teaching of the worldviews, history, and modernity of local First Nations, and further education on the harms of discrimination; and</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the NNDSB adopts a consultation and collaboration protocol to appropriately communicate with local First Nations, involving the relevant decision-making processes of the Board and Administration; and</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that Chippewa Secondary School continues the process of rebranding.</p>
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Title:	NOTICE OF MOTION- Safeguarding Rural Education
Contact:	Howard Wesley
Date Submitted:	October 10, 2023
Mandate:	In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, Vice-Chair Howard Wesley provided notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the October Committee of the Whole meeting.
Background:	<p>Bill 98, Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023 received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023.</p> <p>Various amendments are made to the <i>Education Act</i>, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amendments are made addressing when a board may or must sell, lease or otherwise dispose of a school site, part of a school site or school property, and giving the Minister various powers over such dispositions, including regulation- making powers.
Resolution:	<p>WHEREAS the Near North District School Board places significant value on its diverse rural communities and their vital role in shaping public education;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board recognizes the immense benefits of providing rural schools that students can easily access by foot or a short bus ride, fostering healthy living and engagement in before and after-school programs;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS rural elementary schools serve as a hub for educational, cultural, and community activities, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among students, families, and residents;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, despite a previously declining enrolment, the Board has demonstrated exceptional operational efficiency and worked closely with the Ministry of Education to maintain the operation of rural elementary schools;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to ensure equal access to quality education for all students, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background;</p>



AND WHEREAS Bill 98 outlines the circumstances under which a board may be required to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of a school site, part of a school site, or school property, granting the Minister various powers in such dispositions, including the authority to create regulations;

AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board currently possesses vacant space that could potentially lead to the consolidation or closure of rural elementary schools;

AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board was required to close and integrate two rural elementary schools to secure funding for a new capital school project in the Town of Parry Sound;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Near North District School Board hereby strongly implores the Ministry of Education not to exercise their authority granted by bill 98 for the closure of rural elementary schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to OPSBA Northern Caucus and the Ministry of Education for their consideration.

Title:	Recording Meetings Feasibility Report: Reviewing Transparency Enhancement and Privacy Safeguards
Contact:	Craig Myles, Director of Education
Date Submitted:	October 10, 2023
Mandate:	This report is in support the Board's work advancing its strategic commitment to Excellence in Teaching and Learning by promoting initiatives aimed at realizing the goal of "creating and sustaining a dynamic culture that fosters a relevant and engaging learning environment, inspiring excellence in all stakeholders". Additionally, it represents the Board's dedication to Excellence in Communication by enhancing efforts towards achieving the strategic goal of promoting public confidence and community support in public education through the provision of timely, accurate, effective, and transparent communication.
Background:	<p>At the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 9, 2023, Trustee Bertram introduced a Notice of Motion proposing the recording and posting of public meetings on YouTube. Following a thorough discussion and amendments, trustees reached a consensus on the following resolution:</p> <p><i>Resolution: The NNDSB will live-stream public meetings, make the recorded videos accessible on the NNDSB YouTube Channel, and link them to the NNDSB website. However, this implementation is contingent upon receiving a legal opinion and a comprehensive staff report that will evaluate the logistics. The timeline for implementation will align with the staff report, with an expected completion date in Fall 2023.</i></p> <p>Director Myles, in accordance with the Board's decision, was tasked with overseeing the development of the staff report for review and consideration by the Board.</p>
Benefits of Recording and Posting Public Meetings	<p>As previously noted during the initial discussion by trustees, the decision to record meetings and share them on YouTube may serve as a step toward fostering a more inclusive and informed community. In this regard, the following list reviews additional reasoning in support of this idea:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Transparency and Accountability:</u> Online recordings can demonstrate transparency, holding the Board accountable for its actions and decisions.

	<p>2. <u>Wider Accessibility:</u> YouTube postings remove geographical barriers, which could make meetings accessible to a broader audience.</p> <p>3. <u>Community Engagement:</u> Posting meetings have the potential to encourage community involvement, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for education.</p> <p>4. <u>Counteracting Misinformation:</u> Online recordings could help counter misinformation by providing unedited, accurate information directly from the source.</p> <p>5. <u>Historical Documentation:</u> Meeting postings could serve as a historical record of Board activities, to support accountability for future reference.</p> <p>6. <u>Supporting Broader Access:</u> Recorded meetings could accommodate the schedules of people interested in viewing the meeting who are not available to attend at the specific time it is being hosted.</p> <p>7. <u>Modern Means of Communication:</u> Posting meetings online is a modern communication approach, which may appeal to a tech-savvy audience and aligning with advancing technology standards.</p>
<p>Challenges and Concerns</p>	<p>In follow-up to the potential positive outcomes, the Board is encouraged to consider the potential challenges and concerns linked to this idea:</p> <p>1. <u>Privacy and Confidentiality</u> One of the primary concerns is the privacy and confidentiality of sensitive information discussed during meetings. Board meetings may involve discussions about students, staff, and other sensitive matters. Recording and posting these discussions on a public platform like YouTube could lead to unintended privacy breaches. It is recognized that certain members of the Board (specifically Student Trustees and other students who may periodically attend meetings for various reasons) are under the age of majority to consent to video voice recording.</p> <p>2. <u>Impact on Candid Discussions</u> The knowledge that meetings are being recorded and posted publicly could negatively affect discussions. Trustees, staff or guests may</p>

become hesitant to speak candidly or express dissenting opinions, fearing repercussions or misinterpretation by the public.

3. Permanency and Alterations

Video files posted online can be copied, altered, and edited by end users. Such modifications cannot be controlled by the Board, nor the ultimate use of any such modified video.

4. Financial Cost

Recording and posting meetings require additional resources which could be better allocated to more pressing needs within NNDSB. In September, the Board confirmed Zoom as the video and audio conferencing service it would use. To support recordings and storage of past board meetings, NNDSB would need increased cloud storage which would increase its annual cost to \$5,000.00 plus GST for a cloud storage limitation of 10GB. If there is intent to archive past Board meetings, the 10GB limit would need to be increased at an additional cost, as it is expected that a three-hour board meeting would consume all the available storage quite quickly. It is recognized additional costs such as ongoing carrying costs to maintain equipment, upgrade as necessary, repair, etc. are also anticipated and have not been included in the budget.

5. Resource Constraints

In addition to software upgrades, staff time as a resource needs to be considered. It is expected that every recorded Board meeting would need to be reviewed in its entirety, possibly trimmed if an inappropriate disclosure was made, and then uploaded and posted online. This is anticipated to become a new monthly task that consumes several hours of multiple staff members' time. It is recognized that the Board currently requires IT support at Board meetings. This will prompt a change in the process whereby the technologist will be present for the full meeting to pause the recording for any breaks, etc. It is recognized that Informational Technology staff are CUPE employees. This additional call out rate would start at minimum of \$150.00 per hour for a three-hour minimum per meeting.

6. Accessibility and Engagement

While the proposal aims to improve transparency and accessibility, there is no guarantee that posting meetings on YouTube will significantly increase public engagement. It may attract a limited audience, which may not justify the resources and potential drawbacks associated with the initiative. It is further recognized that any guests or members of the

	<p>public attending the public meeting, must be advised to their image, voice or comments being recorded and posted on the internet. A thorough study would need to be undertaken including surveys etc to gauge the level of community buy-in.</p>
<p>Comparative Analysis</p>	<p>In September, members of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) committee of the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) were surveyed regarding whether their boards live streamed public meetings, if/how the files were made available for public view and any further insights to provide. Results indicated that of the 35 participating DSBs, approximately 77% do live stream public Board of Trustee meetings. Highlights of the narrative data providing further insights on the processes follow includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One board noted its live stream is audio and presentation only, with no cameras at this time. • Another board noted its process is that the live stream is posted to YouTube and archived once the meeting minutes are approved • One board shared that they stream to the board's YouTube channel, and post the recording after the communications department ensures AODA compliance • An alternative process was shared by a different board, where it was noted they do not allow the public viewing the stream to ask questions, and the link to the recording is removed the next day. • There was also a concern noted by one board that without a retention schedule in place for the recordings, the FOI requests have increased quite significantly, which has resulted in additional work for the privacy and information management staff in their board.
<p>Legal and Governance Considerations</p>	<p>It is recognized that the legal and governance landscape surrounding recording and posting board meetings is complex.</p> <p>Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) governs the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information. Posting Board meetings on YouTube may involve the collection and disclosure of personal information without proper consent, potentially violating FIPPA regulations. Additionally, the risk of inadvertently leaving recordings rolling during these meetings poses a concern. This runs the risk of trustees, staff, or guests being recorded without their awareness, putting them in a compromising position.</p> <p>As part of Ontario Regulation 463/97, School Boards are required to develop and implement a policy providing for the use of electronic means</p>

	<p>for the holding of meetings of a Board and its committees. The Board must provide members of the public with electronic means for participating in meetings, which permits members of the public to hear and be heard by all other participants in the meeting, and ensure that members of the public who are participating through electronic means do not participate in any proceedings that are closed to the public. NNDSB maintained compliance with these requirements by conducting hybrid meetings with the Zoom platform. The Board's By-Laws currently state "Audio or video recording devices may not be used at any meeting of the Board or its committees without the prior permission of the Chair of the Board, or the Director of Education" as part of BL-118. It is recognized BL-102 strictly prohibits recordings, except for video-voice recordings by Board employees only.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>The Board is encouraged to receive this information and further discuss whether it will proceed with having meetings recorded, and if so, what the scope will entail. If it is decided to move forward, and once the scope is affirmed, it is recognized that further steps would need to be taken to operationalize the Board's decision. This would involve a considerable commitment of time and resources involving the reassignment of staff from their routine duties and the postponement of special projects that have been requested by trustees. The strategic undertaking of these next steps reflects the Board's goal of aligning resources and initiatives as part of its commitment to Excellence in Innovation.</p> <p>To effectively navigate the Board's direction, a comprehensive list of action items is proposed to provide a structured framework that will clarify the process and expectations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legal Assessment and Compliance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek a legal opinion to ensure compliance with applicable laws, including privacy regulations like FIPPA. - Identify any potential legal constraints and requirements for recording and posting meetings. 2. Technology Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess and acquire the necessary technology and equipment for recording and live-streaming meetings. - Ensure technical support and staff training for managing the recording and streaming process. 3. Privacy and Consent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure a clear privacy policy that outlines the collection and handling of personal information during meetings is in place.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish procedures for obtaining consent from meeting participants for recording and posting. <p>4. Records Retention Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a records retention policy specifying how long meeting recordings will be retained and when they will be deleted or archived. - Create an archiving procedure in follow-up to the retention policy. <p>5. Accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that meeting recordings comply with accessibility standards. <p>6. Communication Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a communication plan to inform how data will be gathered from the public, stakeholders, and meeting participants about their interest in the recording and posting of meetings. <p>7. Content Moderation and Comment Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a content moderation policy for comments on YouTube videos to maintain a respectful and constructive online environment. - Assign responsibilities for monitoring and responding to comments. <p>8. Data Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement robust data security measures to protect meeting recordings and personal information from unauthorized access. - Develop a data breach response plan in case of security incidents. - Identify potential risks and challenges associated with recording and posting meetings and develop mitigation plans. - Budget for ongoing monitoring/costs to ensure security advances with technological advancements in society. <p>9. Cost Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocate a budget for equipment, technical support, and ongoing maintenance, training, and more. <p>10. Training and Capacity Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train board members, staff, and meeting participants on the use of recording technology and procedures. - Build capacity for managing and maintaining the YouTube channel. <p>11. Review and Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a regular review process to assess the effectiveness of recording and posting meetings.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stay updated with changes in relevant laws and regulations. <p>12. Timeline and Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a timeline with milestones for the implementation of recording and posting meetings, pending the outcome of the public feedback gathered.
Recommendation	That the Board of Trustees consider the report as presented.



Hello Chairperson Lougheed,

I hope all is well. My name is Stephen Mensah, Executive Director of the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC), City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body. We were established in 1998 by Toronto City Council with the mandate of advocating on behalf of Toronto's over 623,000 youth.

In 2021, NNDSB supported TYC and joined other school boards in sending letters to the Minister of Education backing up our calls for free menstrual products across Ontario schools. We appreciate your board's support on that which led to our ultimate success.

I am emailing in regards to a current initiative we have been working on to address the rising youth mental health crisis facing students in Ontario. As I am sure you may have heard, the government has headed our various recommendations for mandatory mental health literacy in the curriculum, mandatory mental health training for all school staff and so much more! However, there is still lots more work to do in this area to ensure we take all the steps to improve our students' health and well-being.

TYC, also launched our calls for a universal free school breakfast and lunch program across Ontario schools to ensure no child goes hungry.

<https://www.chch.com/advocates-teacher-unions-call-for-free-school-breakfast-lunch-for-ontario-students/>

Ultimately our request is the same in 2021, for your school board to join the other boards across the Province in endorsing TYC's statement and calling on the Minister of Education to implement our recommendations more specifically Mental Health Days for Students etc etc. as well as our statement calling for a universal school food program in Ontario. Both statements are attached. We are requesting the Board to send 2 separate letters.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you soon. I am cc'ing my assistant Vanessa who will be able to respond to any inquiries on my behalf that I may miss.

Best,

Stephen Mensah (pronouns: He/Him)

Executive Director

Toronto Youth Cabinet

Toronto City Hall

15th Floor, East Tower

[100 Queen Street West](http://100QueenStreetWest.com)

<http://thetyc.ca>

April 24th, 2023

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

RE: JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE RISING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FACING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO

Dear Minister Lecce,

We hope this letter finds you well. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected society in many ways, especially the most vulnerable in our communities. Children and youth have been greatly affected by school closures, isolation from peers and other supports, disconnection from community and by the on-going changes to the way in which they attended school. As a result, we continue to witness the devastating impact that COVID-19 has placed on the health and well-being of children and youth.

According to the Children's Mental Health Association, approximately 70 percent of mental illnesses can be diagnosed before the age of 25. This makes adolescence a critical time for mental health promotion and prevention, including early identification, and effective treatment of mental disorders. Mental illness is increasingly threatening the lives of our children; with Canada's youth suicide rate being the third highest in the industrialized world. According to data from Statistics Canada, suicide remains a leading cause of death among children and adolescents aged 10-14, and the second leading cause of death for youth aged 15 to 24. We know that for Black and Indigenous youth these numbers are far greater.

According to data from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), one in seven Ontario students in grades 7 to 12 say they harmed themselves on purpose in the past year, with one in six having serious thoughts of suicide. Research conducted continues to sound the alarm on the growing mental health crisis that Ontario youth are facing. The time to take vigorous and urgent action on this front is long overdue.

We acknowledge that the Government of Ontario has made some investments to address youth mental health, however we must redouble our efforts to deal with this urgent crisis. Therefore, we are asking you Minister Lecce, to build upon what has been done, and go further by supporting students' mental health in Ontario by implementing the following immediately:

1. Mandatory Mental Health Literacy in the Curriculum

It is critical to ensure that all students receive the necessary education around mental health and school boards must prioritize mental health literacy to ensure that all students are successful. Mental health literacy will help children and youth identify signs and symptoms to better understand their own mental health and identify when help is needed. In addition, normalising these topics and conversations can address the stigma around mental health that still exists among young people. There must be mandatory age appropriate mental health literacy from K-12 in our curriculum and we must ensure that educators have access to extensive mental health resources and on-going professional development to support the cultural shift that we are seeking.

2. Mental Health Days for students.

The Government of Ontario must make changes to the Education Act to allow students to be absent from school for mental or behavioural health reasons; under an excused absence as outlined in the Education Act. The government must also ensure that students who do choose to take *Mental Health Days* are not required to provide their school with a doctor's note. Currently there are seven legally excused absences a student can take from school, and while mental health may be included under the "sickness excused absence" another category will not only emphasize the importance of self-care and prioritizing mental health but will also aid in destigmatizing mental health and allow for more open conversations amongst students, parents and teachers.

3. Additional mental health clinicians, and student support staff, such as; mental health professionals, school psychologists, child & youth workers, social workers, nurses, guidance counsellors, and mental health crisis intervention workers.

The current ratio of social worker/child and youth worker to student, school psychologist to student, guidance counsellor to student and mental health worker to student exceeds the recommended average of 1:250, 1:700 and 1:375 respectively. Not only is there a need for additional staff, but we are calling on the province to ensure that these staff are representative of the school populations. Access to culturally appropriate mental health supports, will ensure that all students are able to receive the best support possible from individuals who share their lived experiences. There is also a need to boost up community support, to ensure that a wrap-around of services are available for students to access to the broader system of mental health care.

4. Collection and reporting of data on mental health supports and services in schools.

Currently, there is a lack of publicly available data, therefore, we are asking for a province-wide reporting system to track mental health supports and services to ensure that students in need receive support in a timely manner. Examples of data that should

be included in the report are: the ratio of mental health clinician to the number of students, how often they are available to see those students, how long student wait times are from request of support to receiving support, how many students are accessing support, and what students are accessing support. There must also be data to measure the overall mental health status of students. This data should be made available to the public and should be collected in a disaggregated way to expose hidden trends and enable the identification of which students are more vulnerable and may require more support.

5. School-based culturally appropriate mental health screening for all grades.

Culturally appropriate social-emotional screening should be utilised in schools and done throughout a students' education. Screening students in their early years will help in early identification and intervention as well as serve as a preventive measure, with a focus on maintaining wellness.

The recommendations highlighted above have been researched, tested and proven to improve students' mental health. We have seen other jurisdictions take these steps and we must ensure here in Ontario we act on them all expeditiously. These recommendations are inter-connected, and so acting on one without taking action on the other will be detrimental in our quest to improve student mental health in Ontario. We must also ensure that any implementation of these recommendations be done in consultation with students, teacher and education unions, children's mental health stakeholders and other relevant partners.

On January 26th the Toronto Youth Cabinet released their student mental health survey informed by the participation of 1,042 students from across Ontario between the ages of 12 to 19 on the state of their mental health. The data collected provided insights into how best the provincial government and school boards can better address the rising youth mental health crisis.

The results of our survey are as follows:

- 94.9% of students said they would be supportive of mandatory mental health literacy in the Ontario curriculum.
- 98.2% of students said they would be supportive of mandatory mental health training for teachers and all student-facing staff.
- 43.7% of students said their school does not have a mental health professional.
- 79% of students said they struggled to access mental health support in schools.
- 67.7% of students said access to BIPOC mental health workers is important to them.

The full details of the survey can be found on the Toronto Youth Cabinet website.

We acknowledge that the government recently took steps to commit to mandatory mental health training for educators and we thank them for listening to students' voices. An overwhelming majority of students surveyed indicated they support this initiative. It is essential that all staff are

able to not only recognize when a student needs mental health support, but is able to appropriately respond in urgent situations. The province must guarantee that schools are provided with the sufficient resources and funding to ensure that staff are trained and are able to support students' mental health concerns.

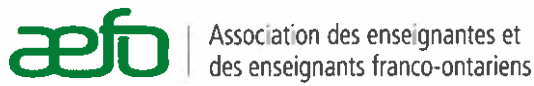
Young people made it clear that a prerequisite to their academic success is good mental health. Together we the underlying signatories, stand in solidarity and demand action on the recommendations highlighted. Thank you Minister Lecce for your attention on this matter. We hope for immediate action on this.

CC: Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael A. Tibollo
Minister of Health Sylvia Jones
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Patrice Barnes
Leader, Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma
Mental Health and Addictions Critic, Lisa Gretzky
Health Care Critic, France G  linas

Sincerely,

1. Toronto Youth Cabinet
2. Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO)
3. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
4. Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)
5. Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
6. People For Education
7. Wellesley Institute
8. Jack.org
9. Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario

NOTE: Toronto Board of Health during their April 17, 2023 meeting endorsed this statement.



May 24th, 2023

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

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

**RE: JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE RISING FOOD INSECURITY FACING
CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO**

Dear Minister Parsa and Minister Lecce,

We hope this letter finds you well. Ontario and all parts of Canada and North America are seeing a cost of living crisis, with rising inflation and unaffordability of basic necessities. In Canada, food inflation is at 10.6% as of February 2023, more than double the rate of overall inflation.

According to a 2022 report by Feed Ontario, 30 percent of food bank clients are children and youth under the age of 18. A study by the University of Toronto on food insecurity found that 1 in 5 children are food insecure in Canada. In Toronto according to the Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest Food Bank, 1 in 4 of their users were children in March. The first time in 25 years.

Ontario is facing a calamitous hunger crisis that calls on the government to act, and act urgently to address it. In Ontario the base funding of \$28 million for student nutrition programs has remained consistent since 2014, despite the cost of food having increased dramatically over the last decade.

Across the province student nutrition programs are at a breaking point, with many having to reduce meals given to students or close down operations despite increased demand by schools. No young person should go hungry, but the simple truth is that far too many children are. The ramifications of food insecurity are far-reaching and have a profound impact not only on the health and well-being of individuals, but also the quality of education they receive. Simply, we can not expect a hungry student to do good in math, be focused and attentive, happy and ready to learn.

We acknowledge that the government took steps last year to mandate food literacy and nutrition across all grades and into the science curriculum to ensure students are taught and more knowledgeable of the benefits of locally grown food, different approaches to agriculture and so much more. However, it is indefensible to solely learn about food and its benefits, while being deprived of accessing it yourself.

That is why the Toronto Youth Cabinet and all underlying signatories are calling on the Province of Ontario to provide a universal free school breakfast and lunch program to all Ontario students. The province must also guarantee that schools are provided with the sufficient infrastructure, resources and funding to hire and train staff who will be responsible for preparing these nutritious meals.

In a province as wealthy and abundant as Ontario, it is unacceptable to have children be deprived of their right to food and adequate nutrition in supporting them to reach their full potential. Although I recognize that with rampant inflation, the government will be wary of increased spending, a universal school food program has the huge potential to support families in a meaningful way who are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The benefits of such a program are far-reaching, not only is it a cost-effective way to drive economic growth by investing in local Ontario farmers and producers and creating a healthier society, it has proven to contribute to increased student achievement, reduced absenteeism and increased health promotion.

Thank you Minister Parsa and Minister Lecce for your attention on this matter. We hope for immediate action on this. Let us continue to work towards making Ontario's publicly funded education system much stronger, more equitable and the best in the world!

CC: Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Logan Kanapathi
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Patrice Barnes
Leader, Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Children, Community and Social Services Critic, Monique Taylor
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma

Sincerely,

1. Toronto Youth Cabinet
2. Food Banks Canada
3. Breakfast Club of Canada
4. Feed Ontario
5. Daily Bread Food Bank
6. North York Harvest Food Bank

7. Food Share Toronto
8. Food Secure Canada
9. Second Harvest Food Rescue
10. Coalition for Healthy School Food
11. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
12. Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)
13. Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
14. Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

