

Ministry of Education

Minister

315 Front Street West
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministre

315, rue Front Ouest
Toronto ON M7A 0B8



April 15, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to share an update on the provincial supervision of the Near North District School Board.

As you know, persistent critical issues at the board demanded strong action and therefore I took control and charge over the administration of the affairs of the board on December 1, 2025, to get the board's governance back on track and refocus its priorities on student achievement.

I have spoken directly with local parents, teachers and other community members to better understand the chronic mismanagement and deep-rooted dysfunction of the board, which eroded the trust and confidence of parents and the community.

Since those early conversations, I have visited the board and local schools to see firsthand the changes already underway to better support students, educators, staff and the community. There is still important work to be done, but supervision has already helped stabilize the Near North District School Board and begin restoring focus on what matters most: student achievement. With that progress underway, the next step is to ensure this work continues with strong, focused leadership to carry it through.

I have appointed Rebecca Bell as the Supervisor of the board. Ms. Bell will focus on restoring strong leadership at the board and ensuring that decisions are made that put student achievement first and are in the best interest of families and educators. Ms. Bell is a strategic leader with more than two decades of experience working across corporate, nonprofit, and public-sector environments to build partnerships, support sustainable growth and deliver meaningful, long-term community impact, which will be critical in restoring stability, accountability and public confidence in the board.

The ministry will continue to measure the school board's performance based on the outcomes related to implementation of Rebecca Bell's directions, including advancing the construction of the new JK to 12 school in Parry Sound, and of course restoring public confidence in the board.

Our focus remains on delivering a high-quality learning environment and ensuring every child in the Near North District School Board has access to a strong, stable and accountable school system that sets them up for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Calandra", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education