



Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.
Schumacher Board Office and Microsoft Teams Meeting

AGENDA

Item	Topic	Presenter	Page
1.0	Call to Order		
1.1	Territorial Acknowledgement		
1.2	Quorum		
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the absence of the following Trustees from the October 6, 2026, meeting of the Board:		
1.3	Approval of the Agenda		
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the agenda for the Meeting of the Board dated October 6, 2026.		
1.4	Declaration of Conflict of Interest		
2.0	Consent Agenda		
2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held September 8, 2026		3
2.2	Taxation By-Law No. 42		8
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the consent agenda		
3.0	Items for Information Only		
3.1	Minutes of the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee meeting held May 4, 2026	CEO Dye	10
3.2	Minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee meeting held June 16, 2026	CEO Dye	14
3.3	2026-2027 Principal and Vice-Principal Selection Process	Superintendent McLean	17
4.0	Unfinished Business		
5.0	Chair's Report		18
6.0	Board Committee Reports		
6.1	Governance and Policy Committee Chair Report Draft Policy 1.2.1 – Employee Use of Social Media Draft Policy 1.2.19 – Records and Information Management		21
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the following policies: Draft Policy 1.2.1 – Employee Use of Social Media Draft Policy 1.2.19 – Records and Information Management		
6.2	Audit Committee Chair Report Compliance Report Annual Report to the Board Annual Report to the Ministry of Education		25
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the 2025-2026 Compliance Report, Annual Report to the Board and the Annual Report to the Ministry of Education		
7.0	CEO's Report		30

8.0	Staff Reports		
8.1	Strategic Plan Vignette	Communications Manager Denis	
8.2	Strategic Plan Actions	Executive Council / Communications Manager Denis	31
9.0	Student Trustee Report		
10.0	Reports from Advisory Committees and Statutory Committees		
11.0	Other Business		
11.1	Letter of Resignation - Trustee Pye-Reasbeck		32
11.2	Letter of Resignation – Trustee Meunier		33
11.3	November 3, 2026: Meeting of the Board		
	Motion: THAT the Board approve the cancellation of the November 3, 2026, Meeting of the Board		
12.0	Trustee Motions for Consideration (Introduced at a Previous Meeting)		
13.0	Trustee Notices of Motion (Discussion for Next Meeting)		
14.0	Correspondence / Announcements		
14.1	2026-09-15 Letter to Minister Calandra re: Moratorium on School Closures		34
14.2	2026-09-21 Letter from Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins Council		38
14.3	2026-09-28 Letter to Minister Calandra re: Special Education Funding		39
15.0	Items for Future Meetings		
16.0	Adjournment		
	Motion: THAT we do now adjourn		



Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:15 pm
Schumacher Board Office and Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Bob Brush
Jonathan Byer, Chair
Dennis Draves
Crystal Hewey – Vice-Chair
Brian Peever
Rosemary Pochopsky
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck
Doug Walsh
Larry Wiwchar

EXCUSED TRUSTEE ABSENCES

Howard Archibald
Steve Meunier

STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Sawsan Alahmed
Bella Cheechoo-Wesley
Jordanna Brazeau

STUDENT TRUSTEES ABSENT

NIL

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Lesleigh Dye	CEO
Kirsten Elvestad	Superintendent of Education
Christopher Gerosavas	Acting Superintendent of Business/Finance and Treasurer
Al McLean	Superintendent of Education and Human Resources
Chad Mowbray	Superintendent of Education

RECORDING SECRETARY

Melanie Demers	Executive Assistant to the CEO Lesleigh Dye
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STAFF PRESENT

Melanie Demers	Executive Assistant to the CEO, Lesleigh Dye
Andréanne Denis	Communications Manager
Larry Soulière	Information Services Coordinator



1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting of the Board was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Byr

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The meeting opened by respectfully acknowledging being situated on the Traditional Territory of the Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree people of the Mattagami First Nation, located in Treaty 9 Territory, and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area.

1.2 Quorum

9429-26 HEWEY / WALSH

THAT the Board approve the absence of the following Trustees from the September 8, 2026, Meeting of the Board:
Trustee Archibald
Trustee Meunier

CARRIED

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

9430-26 PYE-REASBECK / PEEVER

THAT the Board approve the agenda for the Meeting of the Board dated September 8, 2026.

CARRIED

1.4 Conflict of Interest

Board members declaring a conflict of interest were asked to do so in writing, with a log kept on file by the Chair.

Board members declaring a conflict are to disconnect from Microsoft Teams at the time of the discussion and will receive a text from the Director of Education / Secretary of the Board when they are welcome to join.

1.5 Student Trustee Declaration and Oath of Office

Student Trustees recited the Declaration and Oath of Allegiance.

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

9431-26 HEWEY / WALSH

THAT the Board approve the consent agenda.

CARRIED

3.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

3.1 Personnel Report: May

3.2 Cash Disbursement Report: May, June, July

3.3 Minutes: Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee Meeting held May 19, 2026

3.4 Minutes: Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee Meeting held June 16, 2026

3.5 Minutes: Finance and Property Committee Meeting held May 5, 2026

3.6 Minutes: Finance and Property Committee Meeting held May 26, 2026

3.7 Minutes: Governance and Policy Committee Meeting held May 26, 2026

3.8 Minutes: Governance and Policy Committee Meeting held June 16, 2026

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NIL



5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Byer provided an update on the upcoming Trustee elections and provincial education governance changes. He noted that of DSB1's 10 trustee positions, most candidates were acclaimed, with only Timmins requiring an election (four candidates for three positions) and one vacancy remaining in Cochrane. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a full complement of trustees to ensure a strong trustee voice in public education governance.

Chair Byer also discussed ongoing developments related to Bill 101, highlighting that while the legislation is in effect, several supporting regulations had not yet been released. As a result, uncertainty remains around matters such as Trustee honoraria, Trustee expenses, and the future number of Trustees permitted on a board. He encouraged Trustees to continue reviewing updates from OPSBA as new regulations become available.

During discussion following the report, Trustees raised the need for local professional development and orientation for the incoming board to ensure a common understanding of Bill 101 and governance requirements. CEO confirmed that a new board will be constituted following the election, Trustees will take a new oath of office, committee memberships will be re-established, and planning is underway for enhanced Trustee onboarding and orientation.

6.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Finance and Property Committee Chair Report

Trustee Brush reported that the committee's recommendations regarding staffing, capital funding, and the 2026-2027 operating budget had been approved by the Board. He expressed appreciation for the contributions of former superintendent Lisa Edwards, thanked committee members for their support during his tenure as Chair, and welcomed Christopher Gerosavas as the Board's new Chief Financial Officer.

6.2 Student Achievement and Well-Being Committee Chair Report

Trustee Pochopsky reported on committee discussions regarding the final mathematics report, special education, cybersecurity, and the Smooth Rock Falls Public School decision. The written committee report was provided in the Board package.

6.3 Governance and Policy Committee Chair Report

Trustee Peever reported that the committee was recommending three revised policies for Board approval: Policy 1.1.9 Policy Development, Policy 1.2.6 Principal and Vice-Principal Transfer, and Policy 1.1.14 Trustees' Access to Board Meeting Recordings.

9432-26 PEEVER / WALSH

THAT the Board approve the following policies:

1.1.9 – Policy Development

1.2.6 – Principal / Vice-Principal Transfer

1.1.14 – Trustee Access to Board Meeting Recordings

CARRIED



7.0 CEO'S REPORT

CEO Dye reported on several positive developments to support the Board's strategic priorities. She highlighted the addition of a recruitment and onboarding position within Human Resources, ongoing efforts to address persistent student absenteeism, and a significant partnership with Agnico Eagle that is supporting the development of a new multi-sport court at Kirkland Lake District Composite School. She expressed appreciation for the community partnership and the opportunities it will create for students

8.0 STAFF REPORTS

- 8.1 Strategic Plan Year-End Monitoring
- 8.2 Strategic Plan Vignette – Leadership
- 8.3 Summer Learning 2026
- 8.4 Transportation
- 8.5 Chief Education Officer Role

9.0 STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustees provided updates on school and student leadership activities. Sawsan Alahmed shared student perspectives on new attendance, participation, and assessment requirements and reported that Student Senate would be meeting in person early in the school year. Bella Cheechoo-Wesley highlighted preparations for Orange Shirt Day, including efforts to secure funding and shirts to support student participation in Truth and Reconciliation activities.

10.0 REPORTS FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND STATUTORY COMMITTEES

NIL

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS

NIL

12.0 TRUSTEE MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION (Introduced at a Previous Meeting)

NIL

13.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION (Discussion for Next Meeting)

NIL

14.0 CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 14.1 2026-09-01 Letter to Minister Calandra re: Special Education Funding

9433-26 POCHOPSKY / WALSH

THAT the Board write a letter of support for Halton District School Board to Minister Calandra re: Special Education Funding, highlighting specifics for Special Education in DSB1, as well as the recommendation for provincial working group.

CARRIED

15.0 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

NIL



16.0 ADJOURNMENT

9434-26 POCHOPSKY / WIWCHAR

THAT we do now adjourn

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

CHAIR OF THE BOARD



By-Law No. 42: Taxation

A By-Law to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the *Education Act*.

Adopted this 6th day of October 2026 (Motion #)

Dr. Jonathan D Byer, Chair of the Board

Lesleigh Dye, CEO

BY-LAW NO. 42: Taxation - 2

THAT the Board approve Financial By-Law No. 42, being a By-Law for the purpose of levying education taxes for 2027:

Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the Education Act (Act) requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act;

And whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under section 257.12(1) of the Act;

Now therefore the Board enacts as follows:

The rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2027 are hereby levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act.

Having been read once, twice and a third time in open session of the Board, Financial By-Law No. 42 is hereby enacted on this 6th day of October 2026.



Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee

May 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams

COMMITTEE (QUORUM) MEMBERS PRESENT

Howard Archibald	First Nations Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East (Chair)
Dennis Draves	Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East
Margaret Edwards	Director of Education, Apitipi Anicinapek Nation
Richard Kearney	Director of Education, Timiskaming First Nation
Kayla Slow	Education Portfolio Counsellor, Beaverhouse First Nation
Larry Wiwchar	Trustee, District School Board Ontario North East (joined at 11:24 a.m.)

COMMITTEE (QUORUM) MEMBERS ABSENT

Neil Iserhoff	Education Director, Taykwa Tagamou Nation
Dereck McKay	Education Director, Mattagami First Nation
Lynn Mongrain	Representative, Temagami First Nation
Velma Stanger	Education Director, Matachewan First Nation

RESOURCE PERSONS & GUESTS PRESENT

Chris Acton	Métis Nation of Ontario Temiskaming Council
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ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Lesleigh Dye	CEO, District School Board Ontario North East
Andréanne Denis	Communications Manager, District School Board Ontario North East
Lisa Edwards	Superintendent of Business, District School Board Ontario North East
Lisa Innes	Indigenous Lead, District School Board Ontario North East

RECORDING SECRETARY

Melanie Demers	Executive Assistant to Director Dye
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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. by Howard Archibald, Chair of the Committee.

The meeting opened by respectfully acknowledging being situated on the Traditional Territory of the Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree people of the Mattagami First Nation, located in Treaty 9 Territory, and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area.

DRAVES / SLOW

THAT the agenda for the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee meeting dated May 4, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED

SLOW / DRAVES

THAT the minutes from the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee meeting dated January 12, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED

Business arising from the Minutes

NIL

Chair Updates (Howard Archibald)

The September Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in Apitipi Anicinapek.

The role of Trustee remains within the Ministry of Education, with slight revisions planned when there is royal assent, which is expected to provide a clear understanding of the role of Trustees as well as advisory committees.

KEARNEY / SLOW

THAT the Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee receive the Chair updates.

CARRIED

Community Partner Updates

Apitipi Anicinapek Nation

- Finished the goose hunt and will smoke them next weekend
- Hosted events for students on professional activity days including a scavenger hunt and job assistance and training for their future
- Program for water workshop demonstration in planning stages, with preference to host at the community centre
- Three students are attending conference in Toronto this week for skills Ontario

Beaverhouse First Nation

- Continue to offer food security for food aged kids as well as a monthly basket
- Early learning program offering readiness for school
- Land-based learning on professional activity days for kids



Métis Community Council

- Held a winter event hosted by the early learning and childcare section of council, titled "Kids vs the Wild"
- Horse draw sleigh ride to an area of the woods at a local farm, where student were gifted snowshoes and instructions prior to a hike
- Instructions on first aid and survival and were taught how to build a quasi structure
- How to navigate with and without a compass, where they were gifted a compass
- Enjoyed Bannock, moose stew, chili and maple syrup

Taykwa Tagamou Nation

- Covered dome in the community collapsed in January due to snowfall. Community is looking to replace with a full-size arena in the coming years
- Pathfinders program service department involved in promoting activities for students and youth
- Transforming previous junior rangers camp into healing and learning
- Hosted winter fast, encouraging youth to participate or volunteer for community hours
- Had four teams participate in little NHL this year, where previously were in Mush Cup in Timmins
- Youth experience various cultural programming

Timiskaming First Nation

- Hosted first ice fishing activity days with multiples days and groups
- Earth day hosted many activities for youth and families
- Goose hunt weekends with youth

Indigenous Lead Update

Lisa Innes, Indigenous Lead, provided a presentation surrounding the successes and direction of the Indigenous Portfolio.

Director of Education / Superintendent of Education Update

Director Dye provided an update surrounding the Indigenous Portfolio.

Reciprocal Education Agreements

Any interested Education Directors are welcome to reach out and complete Reciprocal Education Agreements

Terminology: Indigenous or First Nation, Métis, Inuit

From the previous meetings, there were discussions surrounding shifting language from Indigenous, to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit. The Ministry continues to use the word Indigenous. Education Directors are welcome to speak with Chief and Council regarding preferences and speak with Indigenous Lead or Director Dye.

Students from Kashechewan First Nation

CEO Dye provided an update on DSB1's support for students displaced from Kashechewan First Nation, noting that the Board has worked closely with the community's Education Authority to ensure students continue to access education while away from home. Through the leadership of Elizabeth Innes, registrations were completed directly with families in Timmins to reduce barriers



and stress, while accommodations such as exempting newly arrived elementary students from EQAO assessments were implemented to support student well-being and ease the transition during a challenging period of displacement.

Student Success Initiative to be extended to Kapuskasing District Secondary School, with grades 9-12 focus.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Meetings are from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and at least 4 meetings a year are encouraged.

- September 14, 2026 (AAN)
- November 2, 2026 (Virtual)

Other Business

8.1 Draft 2026-2027 Budget

Superintendent Edwards presented preliminary information regarding Indigenous Education funding. Although the Ministry had not yet released the 2026–2027 funding formula, members reviewed the current funding structure and consultation feedback. Key priorities identified through public consultation included:

- Cultural learning and language preservation.
- Increased access to Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- Mental health supports.
- Additional Indigenous Student Advisor supports.
- Experiential and land-based learning opportunities.

The board's 2025–2026 Indigenous Education allocation totaled approximately \$2.42 million, supporting staffing, Indigenous education programming, and student success initiatives.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Wiwchar / Kearney

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE



Governance and Policy Committee

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Bob Brush
Jonathan Byer
Crystal Hewey – Vice-Chair
Brian Peever - Chair
Doug Walsh

OBSERVERS

Rosemary Pochopsky
Larry Wiwchar

APPROVED TRUSTEE ABSENCES

NIL

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Andréanne Denis	Manager of Communications
Lesleigh Dye	CEO
Kirsten Elvestad	Superintendent of Schools
Al McLean	Superintendent of Schools and Human Resources
Chad Mowbray	Superintendent of Schools

RECORDING SECRETARY

Melanie Demers Executive Assistant to the CEO, Lesleigh Dye



1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

1.1 Territorial Acknowledgement

The meeting opened by respectfully acknowledging that we are situated on the territorial lands of the Cree, Ojibway and Oji-Cree people of the Mattagami First Nation, located in Treaty 9 Territory, and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area.

1.2 Attendance

All Trustees of the Committee were in attendance.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

BRUSH / WALSH

THAT the agenda for the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting dated June 16, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED

1.4 Conflict of Interest

Board members declaring a conflict of interest were asked to do so in writing, with a log kept on file by the Chair.

Board members declaring a conflict are to disconnect from Microsoft Teams at the time of the discussion and will receive a text from the CEO / Secretary of the Board when they are welcome to join.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

BYER / BRUSH

THAT the Governance and Policy Committee Approve the minutes of the meeting being held May 26, 2026, as amended.

CARRIED

3.0 DELEGATIONS

NIL

4.0 STAFF REPORTS

The committee reviewed and revised board policies presented by staff, with key discussions focusing on clarifying language, ensuring consistency, and addressing procedural transparency;

4.1 Draft Policy 1.1.9 – Policy Development

4.2 Draft Policy 1.2.6 – Principal / Vice-Principal Transfer

4.3 Draft Policy 1.1.14 – Trustee Access to Board Meeting Recordings

4.4 Draft Policy 3.1.7 – Trustee Expenses

BYER / WALSH

THAT the Governance and Policy Committee recommend that the Board approve the following draft Policies:

1.1.9 – Policy Development

1.2.6 – Principal / Vice-Principal Transfer

1.1.14 – Trustee Access to Board Meeting Recordings

CARRIED



5.0 NEW BUSINESS

CEO Dye provided an update regarding Bill 101, English Public Boards are reviewing Board meeting structures with most districts moving towards four or five meetings per school year. With revisions in the regulations, there will be a recommendation at the subsequent Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

6.0 TRUSTEE MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

NIL

7.0 TRUSTEE NOTICES OF MOTION

NIL

8.0 RISE AND REPORT

WALSH

THAT the Governance and Policy Committee now
rise and report to the Board on September 8, 2026.
CARRIED

Rise and report at 5:05 p.m.

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Principal/VP Selection Process, 2026-2027 September 2026

Process to include:

- Virtual information session to explain the process via Teams
- Application Package: resume, cover letter, 4 references, one page highlighting the three priorities of Achieve, Belong, Create.
- References to be contacted if the application package meets the criteria
- Virtual or in-person site visit (one hour visit to the school by a SO, elementary P and secondary P) if the references meet the criteria
- Interview for candidates who met the criteria during the site visit

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

- Send out internal and external posting for interested P/VPs and include virtual information session date

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

- Host a virtual information session to explain the process via Teams @ 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- Interested candidates are to email Shanyn Bradford at shanyn.bradford@dsb1.ca for the Teams invitation

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

- Application packages are due

Weeks of October 12 - October 30, 2026

- SOs to score the resume, cover letter and one pager
- SOs to complete reference checks for successful candidates

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

- Information Session re: Site Visits

December 2026/January 2027

- Virtual or in-person site visits (Team to include SO and 2 Ps)

Wednesday, February 10, 2027

- Information Session re: Interviews

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2027

- Interviews and place successful candidates into a P and VP pool
- 5-minute Presentation

Tuesday, May 4, 2027

- Transfer and placements for information to the Board

Chair's Report

October 6, 2026

Achieve: Uphold high expectations in diverse learning and working environments.

OPSBA Board Chair's Meeting Update

Date: September 17, 2026

OPSBA has initiated monthly Board Chair's meetings to provide updates on legislative and regulatory changes related to Bill 101, as well as to create a forum for Board Chairs from across Ontario to discuss common issues and emerging concerns.

Key Discussion Items:

CEO Veto Power

Chairs received an update regarding the proposed regulation related to CEO veto authority. Discussion focused on the implications of the proposal for governance and board decision-making processes.

Reference: <https://www.regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca/proposal/54775>

Trustee Honoraria

OPSBA provided information on a proposed regulation affecting trustee honoraria. The proposal would establish a cap of **\$9,000 annually or an amount based on board enrolment, whichever is lower**. Additional compensation would be available for leadership positions:

- Board Chair: Additional **\$1,000**
- Vice-Chair: Additional **\$500**

It was noted that **student trustees were not included** in the released information.

Staples School Supply Contract

Concerns were raised regarding the provincial sole-source school supply agreement with Staples, a U.S.-based company. Issues identified included:

- Dissatisfaction with the sole-source procurement approach.
- Concerns regarding the use of an American supplier.
- Reports that supply pricing available to teachers under the agreement is, in some cases, higher than retail pricing available in stores.

OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

Discussion centered on recent PISA results, with particular attention to:

- Declining student reading achievement.
- Declining measures of student well-being.

Chair's Report

Labour Relations

OPSBA confirmed that it is **not directly involved in labour negotiations**. Under Bill 101, labour matters are being addressed through the **Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)** structure.

Jordan's Principle Funding

Several boards and First Nations communities continue to experience delays or shortfalls in receiving funding through Jordan's Principle.

For **District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1)**, the current funding shortfall exceeds **\$400,000**.

Student Transportation Funding

I raised concerns regarding the growing gap between provincial transportation funding and actual transportation costs.

Feedback from other boards indicated similar challenges, including:

- Significant transportation funding shortfalls.
- Increased transportation costs during contract renewal years.
- Additional transportation services being provided without corresponding increases in provincial funding.

Given the widespread concern across the province, further discussion is scheduled for the next Chair's meeting on **October 15, 2026**.

Belong: Build inclusive communities where all feel supported and valued.

At the conclusion of your term as a Trustee, please return all Board-issued equipment, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, printers, and any other Board-owned devices, to the nearest Board office.

If you reside outside the Timmins or Temiskaming Shores areas, please return these items to your local school following the municipal election. Alternatively, Trustees may purchase the items as outlined in the Trustee Expense Policy; however, they should be taken to a board office to be wiped prior to purchase.

Create: Foster collaboration, innovation and skill development in all learners.

Please remember that as a Trustee, all DSB1-issued devices and equipment are the property of DSB1. This includes items such as laptops, tablets, cell phones, and other Board-provided technology.



Chair's Report

Use of these devices is governed by the Board's Technology Use Standards Policy. Trustees are encouraged to use Board-issued equipment for Board-related business only and to avoid personal use whenever possible. Information created, stored, or transmitted using Board equipment, including emails, phone records, contacts, documents, and other data, may be subject to Board ownership, retention, and access requirements.

AI Assistance Notice: This document was created with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI). The content has been reviewed and validated by me, Jonathan D Byer, PhD.

Approved: November 6, 2012

Revised: June 20, 2023

EMPLOYEE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1.0 Rationale

This policy provides guidelines for the responsible use of Social Media by all employees of District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1).

Social Media interactions are to be professional and reflect the board's character attributes: caring, co-operative, honest, inclusive, respectful and responsible. There is an ethical responsibility for all Board employees to commit to student's well-being and learning through positive influence, professional judgement and empathy.

Modelling professionalism in all forms of communication is vital to maintaining the public trust. Students and staff want to take the technology they use in their daily lives and integrate it with how they work and learn. More and more, they tell us that they want, and need, their learning experiences in school to reflect this. As the use of Social Media becomes more prevalent and continues to grow, it is important that we all build and model strong online safety skills to establish an appropriate and positive digital footprint.

District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1) recognizes that digital communication and social media are effective tools for learning, community engagement, and celebrating school achievements. All DSB1 employees occupy a position of trust and are expected to uphold the highest standards of digital citizenship, professional boundaries, and ethical conduct.

This policy establishes standards for social media use in alignment with:

- The *Education Act* and *Ontario Regulation 437/97 (Professional Misconduct)*
- The *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*
- The *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)* provisions on workplace harassment
- Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) *Advisory: Maintaining Professionalism – Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media*
- College of Early Childhood Educators (CECE) *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice*

2.0 Definitions

Blended Account: A Social Media account that is used both for personal business and communication, as well as for professional interactions that are school related. Professional interactions include, but are not limited to, communication with parent/guardians, students, the school community, and any other educational stakeholders.

Employees: All staff including, but not limited to, professional teaching staff, support staff, educational assistants, administrative staff, maintenance staff, and student teachers and co-operative education students placed at DSB1.

Personal Account: A Social Media account that is used for your personal use only. An account maintained by an employee for personal, private, and non-work-related expression.

Professional Account: A Social Media account that is dedicated solely to educational, school-related, or board administrative communication. used for carrying out your duties as a DSB1 employee. This includes communicating with community, parents and students.

Social Media: Online technology that facilitates the creation and sharing of information, ideas, career interests and other forms of expression in online communities. Not only do users provide information, but they can also interact with each other using Social Media. Some popular examples include, but are not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat, WhatsApp, YouTube, Reddit, Quora, Pinterest, Flipboard, Yelp, Tumblr, Etsy, Tiktok, Discord. Any online platform, network, or interactive application that facilitates the sharing of information, ideas, and multimedia content.

3.0 Policy

It is the policy of DSB1 to provide guidelines for the responsible, respectful and professional use of Social Media by all Board employees.

It is the policy of DSB1 that all employees maintain distinct professional boundaries, safeguard confidential and personal student information, and preserve public confidence in the education system when engaging online, whether utilizing professional or personal accounts.

Policy 1.2.19

Section 1.2: System Policies and Procedures

Revised: April 21, 2020

RECORDS RETENTION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

1.0 Rationale

District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1) maintains a retention and disposal schedule for all records within its record management program under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Retention and disposal requirements may be driven by legislation, regulation, policy, legal precedent, best practice, or agreement with a third party (such as another level of government). There are prescribed requirements for the length of time a government record must be retained and the appropriate means of disposal at the end of its lifecycle.

District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1) is committed to accountable, transparent, and secure information governance. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), the Education Act, the Ontario Student Record (OSR) Guideline, and other relevant provincial and federal statutes, the Board recognizes information as a vital public asset.

A structured records management program ensures records are systematically managed and retained to support operational needs, legal compliance, fiscal accountability, and historical preservation. Establishing clear retention and secure disposal schedules mitigates privacy risks, ensures regulatory compliance, and supports public transparency and administrative efficiency.

2.0 Definitions

Records retention—BOERMS (Board of Education Records Management System) is a board-wide system for collecting, filing, retaining and disposing of records.

Record: Any unit of recorded information however made or stored, including paper documents, digital files, email and messaging communications, databases, photographs, maps, video recordings, and machine-readable data in the custody or under the control of the Board.

Custody or Control: All records in the physical or digital possession of the Board, or records where the Board maintains the legal right or authority to regulate, manage, use, or dispose of the information, regardless of physical or cloud hosting location.

Records Retention and Disposition Schedule: A comprehensive functional schedule, aligned with the Ontario school board Generic Records Retention Schedule (GRRS), that

sets out the prescribed retention periods, storage conditions, and authorized final disposition methods for all classes of Board records.

Transitory Records: Temporary records that have only short-term, immediate utility and possess no ongoing legal, fiscal, operational, or historical value (e.g., drafts, convenience copies, routine scheduling messages). These may be routinely destroyed once their immediate purpose has been fulfilled.

Legal Hold: A formal directive issued by Legal Counsel or Executive Council that temporarily suspends the scheduled destruction or disposal of specific records relevant to active or reasonably anticipated litigation, audits, investigations, or freedom of information access requests.

Secure Disposition: The permanent destruction or transfer of records at the end of their lifecycle using authorized, secure methods (e.g., cross-cut shredding, certified digital data wiping) to ensure information cannot be retrieved, reconstructed, or intercepted.

3.0 Policy

~~DSB1 is committed to following the required records retention and disposal schedules outlined in the administrative procedure.~~

DSB1 is committed to effective, transparent, and secure information governance. The Board shall maintain a Records and Information Management Program, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (or designate) is authorized to establish an Administrative Procedure containing the Board's Retention and Disposition Schedule (GRRS). All employees and third-party service providers must adhere to these established retention, security, and disposal standards, and no record subject to a legal hold or MFIPPA access request shall be destroyed or altered.

References:

[The Education Act](#)

[The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(MFIPPA\)](#)

[The Ontario Student Record \(OSR\) Guideline](#)



District School Board Ontario North East

District School Board Ontario North East

Compliance Report

September 2026
District School Board Ontario North East
153 Croatia Avenue
Schumacher, ON
P0N 1G0

TO: Audit Committee of the District School Board Ontario North East

RE: School Board Compliance Report

During the 2025/26 fiscal year, nothing has come to our attention that would lead us to believe that District School Board Ontario North East was not compliant with the current federal and provincial Acts, Regulations and Statutes.

Date: _____
Month, Day, Year

CEO



Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for the year ended August 31, 2026

This report summarizes the audit committee's actions for the year ending August 31, 2026.

Audit Committee Members

Following the recruitment and selection process indicated in Regulation 361/10, the following audit committee members were (re)appointed to serve during the next term as follows:

- Jonathan Byer-Trustee-Chair
- Bob Brush-Trustee
- Brian Peever-Trustee
- Jamie Johnston-External Member
- Greg Paquette-External Member

In addition, regular attendees at committee meetings were:

- Lesleigh Dye-CEO
- Lisa Edwards- Superintendent of Business
- Melissa Dodge- Regional Internal Audit Manager
- Derek D'Angelo- KPMG- External Auditor

Assessment

At the beginning of the year and in accordance with recommended good practice various administrative tasks were completed. These included:

- developing a work plan
- developing a meeting schedule and agenda for the year

It was agreed to hold 3 meetings throughout the year with a fourth meeting, from December to May, if necessary. All meetings have been held as planned.



District School Board Ontario North East

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Schumacher Board Office
Street Address
153 Croatia Avenue, Schumacher, ON P0N 1G0
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1020, Timmins, ON P4N 7H7
705-360-1151

New Liskeard Board Office
198022 River Road
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
705-647-7394

The members in attendance at each meeting were as follows:

Member's Name	Sept 29, 2025	Dec 08, 2025	May 11, 2026
Jonathan Byer-Chair	X	X	X
Bob Brush	X	X	X
Brian Peever	X	X	X
Jamie Johnston	X	X	X
Greg Paquette	X	X	X

Governance

The audit committee operated throughout the fiscal year ending August 31, 2026. All members were independent in accordance with provision 3. (1) and 3. (2) of the regulation.

Internal / External Audit

Relationships with both internal and external auditors were satisfactory and private meetings were held with each.

External Auditors

The external auditors, **KPMG, LLP** presented the scope and extent of their work to the committee for review and approval on **December 08, 2025**. The external auditors have confirmed their independence in the letter dated **December 08, 2025**. The audit committee reviewed and recommended approval of the annual audited financial statements presented on **December 08, 2025**. The audit committee recommended the reappointment of the external auditors for the next fiscal year during the meeting held **May 11, 2026**.

Internal Auditors

The Committee reviewed the results of the risk assessment, as well as the risk-based internal audit plan prepared for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The internal auditors performed the following work during the year:

Planned Audits: Succession Planning Final, Student Mental Health Final

The audit committee received reports from internal audit that assessed the progress towards management's implementation of action plans developed in response to previous



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audits. This enabled the audit committee to engage management in a discussion regarding findings not satisfactorily actioned, as well as encouraging renewed efforts on overdue action plans.

Audit Committee Training

No training sessions were held during the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Summary of the work performed

In addition to the items noted above, the following outlines further work performed by the audit committee in the last 12 months:

- received a report from the internal auditors on their review of the effectiveness of controls across the school board
- confirmed that the external and internal auditors did not encounter any difficulties in the course of their work
- recommended the fees charged by the external auditors in respect of the 2025 audit
- reviewed the financial statements and received a report from the external auditors on the statements
- obtained confirmation from the CEO that the school board was compliant with all current federal and provincial Acts, Regulations and Statutes.
- undertook an evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal audit function, including the performance of the regional internal audit manager and their team
- queried management on their approach to risk management as well as their strategy to manage such risks

By the signature noted below, we attest that we have discharged our duties and responsibilities respecting Ontario Regulation # 361/10.

On behalf of the audit committee

Jonathan Byer, Board Chair
2025-2026 Audit Committee Chair



**District School Board
Ontario North East**

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705-647-7394

**Annual Report to the
Ministry of Education
For the year ended August 31, 2026**

District School Board Name: District School Board Ontario North East

Fiscal Year: 2025/2026

Re: Annual audit committee report to the Ministry of Education as per Ontario Regulation 361/10

During the 2025/2026 fiscal year, the following internal audits or other engagements were started and completed by August 31st:

Succession Planning-Final
Student Mental Health-Final

Based on the internal audit plan, we are not expecting any enrolment audits to be performed.

Date

Signature

Jonathan Byer
Audit Committee Chair

CEO's Report

October 6, 2026

Achieve: Uphold high expectations in diverse learning and working environments.

The EQAO results have been released. The chart below shows the overall achievement for all assessments for the 2025-2026 school year, with the difference from the previous year. We anticipate that the focus on students with a learning disability will help us support more students in achieving provincial standard in the future.

Primary	
Reading	51.3% (-2%)
Writing	36.5% (0.7%)
Math	45.5% (0.3%)
Junior	
Reading	74% (1.1%)
Writing	73% (2.6%)
Math	33.6% (5.1%)
Grade 9	
Math	35.2% (2.4%)
Grade 10	
OSSLT	72.6% (-1.1%)

I had the pleasure of co-presenting with Lead Innes the outcomes from our 2025–2026 Indigenous Student Success Pilot. The session's highlight was an address by graduating Grade 12 student Noah Henderson, who shared how trades education, mentorship, and co-op opportunities empowered his journey toward an automotive apprenticeship. Noah's authentic testimony on resilience and student potential deeply moved attendees, earning him a heartfelt standing ovation from leaders across the region.

Belong: Build inclusive communities where all feel supported and valued.

New Liskeard Public School revealed beautiful artwork depicting the Seven Grandfather Teachings, created by former DSB1 student, Aeshia Hindle. The school collaborated with Aeshia on the overall design and captions for each of the teachings. Meegwetch to Aeshia for continuing to share her talents with DSB1. We will work to having this incredible art installed in our Schumacher Board Room.

The Mental Health Team have created monthly newsletters for families. So far, two issues have been shared with families and have been well received. All issues are available [on the DSB1 website](#).

Create: Foster collaboration, innovation and skill development in all learners.

During the September 28 Professional Activity Day, educators continued to deepen their knowledge into supporting students with a learning disability. This learning will continue throughout the school year as we continue to focus on unlocking each learner's full potential.

2026-2027 Strategic Plan Monitoring
Goals and Actions

Achieve	Belong	Create
Goals		
86% of Grade 9 students and 78% of Grade 10 students who are working towards an OSSD will earn all their credits.	The persistently absent rate will be 40% or lower for all students.	Increase the number of students with learning disabilities who report confidence in understanding, accessing, and utilizing their accommodations.
Actions		
Pathways	Recognition and Voice	Critical Thinking
Support students transitioning from High Support Programs into meaningful post-secondary pathways, employment, and community living.	Build leadership capacity to deliver constructive, growth-oriented feedback to staff.	Modernize DSB1’s corporate processes and management information.
Learning Opportunities	Inclusive Community	Future-Ready Skills
Strengthen district recruitment, hiring, and onboarding practices to attract and retain high-quality staff.	Implement accessible, barrier-free assessment practices for classroom evaluations and EQAO assessments.	Support educators in the implementation of financial literacy graduation requirement.
Learning Environments	Well-Being	Innovative Practices
Enhance primary literacy outcomes by strengthening educator capacity in structured writing instruction and integrating reading and writing development.	Promote the role of the Indigenous Student Advisor (ISA) as a support to students and staff who identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit.	Leverage digital tools and assistive technology to help all learners to access their ability.



Cindy Pye Reasbeck
85 Lefebvre Peninsula Road, Moonbeam, ON P0L 1V0

Board of Trustees District School Board Ontario North East

To my Colleagues,

I am writing to formally resign from my position as DSB1 Trustee effective September 16th, 2026. Having made the decision not to seek re-election and with Bruce Hayter being acclaimed as my successor, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and wish him every success as he begins this new chapter with our Board.

I will continue supporting students within our Board through my role teaching dual credits with Northern College. As this creates a conflict of interest with my current position as Trustee, I am required to resign one month prior to the end of my term. It was important to me not to lose an entire semester, and this consideration informed my decision to resign one month early.

I want to thank CEO Dye for the unwavering support she has shown me throughout my time as Trustee, Vice Chair and Chair. Your professionalism, courage, and compassion have been inspiring and are deeply appreciated. I also extend my sincere gratitude to our former Chairs Bob Brush, Steve Meunier and current Chair Jonathan Byer. I have relied heavily on your guidance and experience over the years, and you were always generous with your time, wisdom, and always gracious to assist.

In every position I have held with DSB1, I have strived to remain open to new ideas, maintain professionalism under scrutiny, and promote a culture of respect, collaboration, and wellness within the boardroom. As you embark on this new term, I encourage you to continue this as Trustees learn and grow into their responsibilities. When Trustees are willing to step forward into leadership roles, it is important that they feel empowered to develop their skills in a safe and supportive environment.

I am proud of all that we have accomplished together over my two terms in office. I wish each of you continued success as you carry forward this important governance work on behalf of our students, families, staff, and communities.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve. It has been a privilege and an honour.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Pye Reasbeck



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705-360-1151

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September 25, 2026

CEO Dye and Chair Byer,

I hope this email finds you well. I write this letter with a heavy heart to advise that the October meeting of the Board will be my last meeting as a Trustee. As you are likely aware, I have put my name forward to be on the municipal council in the city of Timmins in the upcoming election. Although the election is not till the end of October, I have been extremely busy preparing for this and feel that I am unable to give the time needed to continue as a Trustee, even with only a couple of meetings left in my tenure. The last eight years have been such an incredible experience, and I am grateful for every opportunity that it has given me to be part of this amazing organization. It has been nothing short of an honour serving and I will truly miss it as well as everyone I've had the opportunity to work alongside. I will return the laptop computer assigned to me, my phone and printer on my last meeting night. Trusting this is to your satisfaction.

Thank you again for everything and take good care.

With kindest regards,

Trustee Steve Meunier

September 15, 2026

Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education

Subject: Moratorium on School Closures

On June 2nd, the Board of Trustees passed the following motion unanimously, during our discussion of the 2026-2027 school year budget:

Be it resolved that the Chair of the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to request a review of the moratorium on school closures (Program Accommodation Reviews) to determine how this moratorium can be lifted and that a copy be forwarded to all MPPs and the Ontario Public School Board Association.

It would be beneficial to school boards if the moratorium on school closures is lifted and new guidelines implemented as soon as possible. This would result in numerous benefits to students across Ontario including:

1. Prioritizing student achievement and well-being by ensuring classrooms are robust learning environments with fewer split grades;
2. Ensuring schools have the critical mass necessary to provide students with the whole school experience, including extracurricular activities like sports teams, choirs and bands, and clubs; and
3. Reducing the cost to maintain underused facilities, which would make more money available to invest in supporting student achievement.
4. Opening opportunities for other public (or private) entities to take advantage of the disposed properties, which could be well-aligned with provincial goals.

Another key benefit of exploring the re-opening of the Pupil Accommodation Review processes for Boards, especially urban ones, is that it provides the necessary tool for Boards to continue finding increased efficiencies in the delivery of programs to its students, and ensure that investments in schools is strategic and garners the most optimal outcomes at a cost effective rate.

For the Halton District School Board specifically, our Long Term Accommodation Plan has identified numerous areas in aging neighbourhoods of Oakville, Burlington, and Halton Hills that would benefit from consolidating its aging facilities into existing or rebuilt facilities within close proximity.

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8

Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

Phone: 905-335-3663 | 1-877-618-3456 Fax: 905-335-9802

www.hdsb.ca

For example, the consolidation of a number of K-5/6 and middle school (6/7-8) facilities into a single K-8 school facility, via a new school on an existing site, or a major renovation and addition to an existing school would:

- Result in efficiencies in staffing, operations, and maintenance costs.
- Ensure that new facilities meet accessibility standards as well as the Ministry's upcoming targets on air conditioning.
- Remove a significant number of schools from the 5-15 year renewal backlog.
- Create opportunities for other public entities to secure design-built space in schools (i.e. residential, retirement homes, LTCs).
- Reinvest funds retained from the disposition of lands in other schools.
- Improve distribution of academic resources through larger school facilities.

The ability to remove underutilized schools from school board inventories would ensure a greater financial investment in the classroom, promoting both student achievement and wellbeing. The initial challenges brought forward from the consolidation of schools in a community would be quickly replaced by the benefits that would come from consolidations.

For example, the HDSB has made significant cuts throughout the system to ensure the 2026-2027 budget is balanced. Trustees are concerned that if boards do not have all the necessary tools to identify operational savings, further cuts will need to be made to programs that support student achievement and wellbeing in future years. PARs are a tool that can save school boards hundreds of thousands of dollars for each facility that is closed through the efficiencies that are immediately realised.

Halton Region is no stranger to these projects and initiatives. Since the last round of PARs that were triggered as part of the last set of guidelines, the following successful projects came to life and are being enjoyed by the community due to the investment and opportunities they opened up.

1. The recent closure of two major secondary school facilities (Robert Bateman and Lester B. Pearson) created the following opportunities:
 - a. M.M. Robinson Secondary School: An addition and major renovations, including the adjoining City of Burlington Community indoor pool.
 - b. Robert Bateman Community Centre: After the consolidation and closure of the school in 2019, the property was later acquired by the City of Burlington, and was completely renovated the facility to accommodate:
 - Brock University's Education Campus (relocated from Hamilton)
 - Techplace (small business incubator)
 - Burlington Public Library
 - Halton District School Board's Gary Allan Learning Centre and Alternative Education programs (moved into a smaller right-sized facility)

- c. Lester B. Pearson HS: Its closure allowed other public and private entities to take advantage of the facility after its closure in 2017. This included the HCDSB, Brock University, and HDSB when doing major renovation to another elementary school project.
2. St. Michael Catholic School: Consolidation of St. John CES into St. Michaels, allowing for the construction of a new addition and a 3 room child care. St. John CES has since been circulated as part of O. Reg. 374/23, and may be acquired for another purpose that will be beneficial to the community.
3. St. Nicholas Catholic School: Consolidation of St. Joseph CES and St. James CES, which allowed the construction of a brand new facility in south Oakville, and relocated an Adult Education Centre from a leased facility into a board-owned facility. Also removed a significant amount of renewal and accessibility costs from future projects.
4. QEW Park: Closure of the high school allowed the redevelopment of the space into a community centre owned and operated in the Town of Oakville
5. Lorne Skuce PS: Its closure allowed CSViamonde to enter into a lease-to-own option on the site, allowing them to open both an elementary and secondary school on site (Ecole Elementaire DuChene et Geatan Gervais), the latter of which later moved to a site adjacent to White Oaks Secondary School after a portion of the lands were disposed by HDSB.

The above are simply a few examples of the benefits the communities have received in exchange for the closure and consolidation of schools in the Region of Halton, and does not include all those that have been felt in other urban communities throughout Ontario. Re-opening the Pupil Accommodation Review process will continue this work, and will also give more opportunities to the Province in meeting its other strategic plans, such as but not limited to:

1. New schools for Boards in need
2. Affordable housing
3. Long-term Care Homes and/or Retirement homes
4. New childcare projects purpose-built into schools

We would also be remiss to not acknowledge that the closures and consolidations did in fact cause tension in more rural communities, where the distance between schools and the reliance on the area municipalities on providing public spaces were also strained. This remains a valid challenge that needs to be addressed. However, in urban areas where there are numerous schools, Pupil Accommodation Reviews will enable boards to create numerous benefits to the overall community and the Province as a whole.

For the above reasons, we respectfully request that the Minister of Education and the Government of Ontario consider re-opening PARs in urban areas until a more detailed plan can be developed for the rural areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to discuss further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

CC:
MPPs
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Boards



Métis Nation of Ontario
Nation Métisse de l'Ontario -Timmins

347 Spruce Street South
Phone: 1-705-264-3939 Fax: 1-705-264-5468

Monday, September 21, 2026

Dear Trustees, Leadership, and Staff of DSB1,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to District School Board Ontario North East for flying the Métis flag across all your schools on September 19th, as well as for your thoughtful posts across your social media channels highlighting the significance of Powley Day.

Publicly recognizing and honoring Métis culture and history in this way is a powerful step forward in our shared journey toward Truth and Reconciliation. By embedding these meaningful acknowledgments into school communities and public communications, DSB1 demonstrates a genuine commitment to creating inclusive, respectful learning environments where Métis students, families, staff, and community members feel seen, respected, and valued.

The Métis flag as well as Powley Day hold profound meaning for Métis people. Seeing the infinity flag raised proudly across DSB1 schools sends a strong message to the next generation about the power of heritage, identity, and mutual respect. Thank you once again for your leadership, allyship, and dedication to honoring Indigenous heritage across Northeastern Ontario.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Seod', written in a cursive style.

Métis Nation of Ontario Timmins Council
Councillor and Education Representative



September 28, 2026

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education

Subject: Special Education Funding & Recommendation for a Provincial Working Group

Minister Calandra,

Following a motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees of District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1) at our regular Board meeting on September 8, 2026, we write to express our strong support for the advocacy initiative brought forward by the Halton District School Board (HDSB) regarding provincial Special Education funding.

Like the HDSB, DSB1 recognizes that current provincial Special Education funding models fail to keep pace with the growing operational costs and complexity of student needs across Ontario. While HDSB's June 2026 motion highlights challenges such as minority reports from their Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and local funding shortfalls, DSB1 faces acute pressures unique to our geographic and demographic context.

As a Northern Ontario board with fluctuating overall enrolment, basing Special Education allocations primarily on total pupil counts severely penalizes rural and Northern regions. While overall enrolment shifts, our population of students requiring complex accommodations and intensive supports continues to rise disproportionately. Currently, 31% of students at DSB1 have special education needs. This rate is significantly higher than the national average, the provincial average and the average of our coterminous boards. Students on the Autism Spectrum Disorder represent 7% of the student population at DSB1. A per capita funding model is not representative of our needs.

Serving expansive northern communities creates significant logistical hurdles and inflated costs for delivering professional supports. We experience persistent shortages and prohibitive recruitment costs for Educational Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists, Psychoeducational Consultants, and Child and Youth Workers. This is compounded by staffing shortages at local agencies and community partners.

At DSB1, we have the highest percentage of students with special education needs in our region and the gaps between local revenue and actual student needs restrict our capacity to offer early intervention, ongoing academic supports, targeted reading and writing programs, and specialized technology, directly impacting classroom integration and student outcomes.

DSB1 strongly echoes HDSB's recommendation urging the Ministry of Education to establish a **Provincial Working Group on Special Education Funding**.



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Mailing Address

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To ensure a comprehensive and realistic funding model, this working group should include:

1. **School Board Representatives:** Board trustees, operational staff, and special education experts from diverse regions (including Northern, rural, and declining-enrolment boards).
2. **Community & Advocacy Agencies:** Members from organizations supporting students with diverse learning needs.
3. **Ministry Representatives:** Key officials tasked with restructuring funding formulas to reflect actual service delivery costs rather than broad per-pupil metrics.

Sustainable and realistic funding is essential to ensure every student across Ontario, regardless of location or board size, receives the intensive support required to achieve their full potential. We urge your Ministry to take immediate action on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees

District School Board Ontario North East (DSB1)