



District School Board Ontario North East

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October 21, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Ave, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Lecce,

The Trustees of District School Board Ontario North East unanimously approved motion 8040-21 moved by Trustee Henderson, seconded by Trustee Meunier, at the meeting of the Board on October 19, 2021:

THAT the Board direct Chair Brush to write a letter to Minister Lecce regarding the Amendment to Immunization of School Pupils Act.

A mandate is not currently in place for eligible students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Provincial and local public health authorities as well as the COVID-19 Science Advisory Table's expertise are readily available as Ministers to integrate and assess the evidence on the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

The addition of COVID-19 as a "designated disease" within the Immunization of School Pupils Act will provide a mechanism for exemptions that includes parental education on vaccines. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the safety and wellbeing of Ontario students and families as well as their access to education, to devastating effect. The revision to the Immunization of School Pupils Act will serve to increase uptake of the vaccine providing protection for those who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated. This will result in a safer learning environment for students, staff, and families.

District School Board Ontario North East supports Ontario Public School Board Association, People for Education as well as other various school boards. We respectfully request that the Immunization of School Pupils Act be amended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Brush".

Bob Brush
Chair, District School Board Ontario North East