



March 11, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education

Subject: Request for Province-Wide Consultation Regarding Governance Role in English Public School Boards

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Halton District School Board (HDSB), I am writing to formally request that the Ministry of Education undertake a comprehensive, province-wide consultation process prior to advancing any legislative reforms that would result in changes to the role or number of locally elected English Public School Board Trustees. The consultation should include the voices and perspectives of students and parents, school board staff, public school board trustees, and education partners.

At the March 3 Board meeting of the HDSB, Trustees unanimously voted in favour of the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education and the Premier requesting that a formal, province-wide consultation process be developed and implemented before making any decisions that would result in changes to the role or number of locally elected English Public School Board Trustees. The letter will also request that the government conduct research to ensure evidence-based decision-making regarding the best governance model to support the English Public education system, while also promoting open discussions that include Trustees from across the province, OPSBA, and other education stakeholders as required, and that this letter be sent to all MPPs, MPs, and OPSBA Member Boards.

On September 24th of last year, our Board sent you a letter inviting the Ministry to work in collaboration with School Board Trustees across the province to identify and propose solutions to systemic issues and reach province-wide consistency while respecting local realities.

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We support this review of the role of School Board Trustees; a periodic review with full public transparency is essential for any role in the public sector. However, conducting such a review without requesting input from the individuals who currently serve in this locally-elected office, or from families whose students will be impacted by any changes made within the education system, is not collaborative, and is not likely to result in the best solution for Ontario's students.

A strong publicly funded education system is the cornerstone of a robust society, and is critical to the success of every student and our province as a whole. Ontarians deserve the opportunity to be fully engaged in any decisions made regarding locally-elected School Board Trustees as this impacts them directly, even if they don't have school-aged children.

School Board Trustees are the only elected officials charged with the responsibility to represent students' needs and best interests by focusing on student achievement and well-being. We do not ask for this consultation to "save our jobs"; but rather to preserve democracy at the local level. Strong democratic representation at the local level results in better decision-making.

Working together makes us stronger.

Sincerely,

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

CC:
MPPs
MPs
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Boards