

**Durham District School Board**

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

March 26, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Premier's Office
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

And

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca; minister.edu@ontario.ca

Re: Request for Provincial School Board Governance Consultation Process

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Durham District School Board, I am writing to request that a province-wide consultation process take place before making any governance changes or decisions that would result in the elimination of school board trustees.

The potential elimination of trustees is concerning and represents a significant shift in Ontario's education governance. Trustees serve as a longstanding, essential democratic link between local communities and the public education system. Any change of this magnitude should not be considered without seeking input through evidence-based research and meaningful public engagement.

It is essential that communities have an opportunity to fully understand and respond to the implications of a proposal that would remove school board trustees, which may have unintended negative consequences on the communities that we are elected to serve. We understand you have recently heard from a number of other boards across the province, and we strongly agree with the statement from our colleagues at Avon Maitland DSB that *"transparency regarding the rationale, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of this proposal is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring informed dialogue."*

Durham Region includes diverse, urban, suburban, and rural communities, all with vastly varying histories and needs. Local representation ensures the unique needs of each of our communities are considered and met. As a Board of Trustees, we are firmly and proudly





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committed to promoting meaningful learning, connected communities, and well-being, being responsive to the priorities of the local community in carrying out our duties and responsibilities.

In parallel to this letter, we are also writing to the Ombudsman's Office to request an immediate review of the potential impacts of removing school board trustees with respect to fairness, openness, transparency, and accountability.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tracy Brown
Chair, Board of Trustees
Durham District School Board

cc.

Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) for Durham Region
Members of Parliament (MPs) for Durham Region
Regional Chair, Mayors and Council for Durham Region Municipalities
Ontario Public School Boards' Association and Members Board
DDSB Board of Trustees



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