



Creating a Culture...

of Innovation, Caring and Social Responsibility.



REGISTER TO BECOME A DELEGATE

Fostering a Culture of Caring

(Reference: [Ottawa-Carleton District School Board By-Laws and Standing Rules](#))

Individuals or groups are welcome to appear as a delegation to express their concerns, provide comments or ask questions on any matter within the mandate of the Board or Committee. In accordance with the Board's bylaws, delegations shall be permitted up to four (4) minutes to address the Board where the delegation has provided a written submission no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the meeting. Delegations registering after the cutoff shall be granted two (2) minutes. All interested delegates must complete and submit the following form.

Once you have submitted your request, a member of the Board Services team will be in touch with you to confirm the delegation and provide the necessary meeting details and instructions.

If you have any questions regarding the delegation process please contact Nicole Guthrie, Manager of Board Services at nicole.guthrie@ocdsb.ca

Also, please note that the Board and Committee of the Whole meetings are video and audio recorded.

Contact Information

First Name: *

Tim

Last Name: *

Abrey

Address: *

[Redacted]

Address 2:

City: *

Ottawa

Province or Territory: *

Ontario

Postal Code: *

[Redacted]

Phone Number: *

[Redacted]

Email Address: *

[Redacted]

Confirm Email Address: *

Please re-enter your email address.

[Redacted]

Delegation issue information

Fields marked with an * are required

Meeting Type: *

Board

Meeting Date: *

5/31/2022

Please provide a brief summary of main points for the issue/concern: *

I wish to address the recent decision to remove the mask mandate from schools. This decision was made too quickly, without proper consultation with Board of Trustees, and is in conflict with basic principles of democratic justice. This was an important and wise decision made by the Board and its intent should be respected. To remove it without presenting your intentions to this democratically elected body, whose representatives were chosen by the people of this city, is reckless and disrespectful of its authority. You should have alerted the Trustees of your intention with ample time for consultation and deliberation. They have stated a clear interest and position on this policy and that, in the absence of compelling and urgent evidence suggesting a need for a change, should be respected.

By making this announcement with no warning, on a Friday, and implementing it immediately, the administration has also shown enormous disrespect for the parents and residents of Ottawa. Many are still unaware of this change, no doubt, and those who are have had little time to evaluate its consequences, make alternate plans if they feel it is necessary, or even express their views on this change to their elected representatives.

The decision to maintain masking by this board was a just one. It met the most important and most basic requirement of democratic justice: which is, to make policies that respect and lift up the most vulnerable among us. There is no justice if the most vulnerable in society are left behind or neglected by the state or the majority. The masking policy was a simple, effective, proven means of increasing the degree of safety in our schools. To remove it shows a willful and reckless disregard for the safety of our children, teachers, and schools staff. With only a month left in the school year, there is no compelling reason to make a change. I can only imagine what the motivations are, and none of them are good, kind, or just.

Recommendation(s) for resolution of issue: *

I am asking that the Board of Trustees reconfirm their commitment to the masking policy and act in the best interests of the most vulnerable in society. I am asking that they insist that the masking policy remain in place for the remainder of the school year. In the face of the emergence of new Variants of Concern and clear and ample evidence from other jurisdictions of the effects of unmasking on student and teacher attrition, it is the only wise and just decision. I ask you to reverse this unwise, unkind and unjust decision of the administration and maintain the existing policy.

As my daughter--a Grade 11 student in this Board--as she said: keeping masks on is the right decision. It's obvious. It helps keep people safe and it's the right thing to do. Why are the adults having such a hard time just doing the right thing?

My ask is simple: do the right thing.

Date: *

5/30/2022

Personal Information as defined by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) is collected under the authority of the Education Act and the Municipal Act, in accordance with the provisions of MFIPPA. Please be aware that your name and the summary of concern and remedies sought are subject to disclosure by way of publication of the agenda on the Board's website.