



To: Committee of the Whole

DATE: 12 September 2023

RE: Air Quality Standards and Guidance for Public School Buildings

Trustee Kaplan-Myrth has given notice that she will move as follows at the Committee of the Whole meeting 12 September 2023, in keeping with section 12.9 of the Board's By-Laws and Standing Rules:

WHEREAS the 'triple threat' of respiratory viruses in Ontario including COVID-19, RSV, and influenza can affect student health, school attendance and overall well-being;

WHEREAS data from Ontario indicates higher and disproportionate rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among lower income and racialized communities;

WHEREAS schools as congregate settings can continue to play a positive and proactive role in reducing the spread of respiratory viruses;

WHEREAS ventilation is one strategy to help reduce the number of contaminants in the air and improve indoor air quality; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) have recently released recommendations and standards to improve indoor air quality in new and existing buildings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Chair write to the Minister of Education, including the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ontario Chief Medical Advisor and Chair of Public Health Board, requesting:
  - I. Updates to air quality standards and guidance for public school buildings to support schools in creating the safest possible learning environments;
  - II. Dedicated capital and operating funding envelopes for reducing the spread of illness in schools.

These are to:

- A. Build from previous provincial investments to support ventilation improvements to build long-term improvements to air quality in all our schools; and

- B. Support continued public health promotion activities in and around schools, in partnership with Ottawa Public Health,
- B. THAT the Director present a report to the Board of Directors, prior to the end of 2023 on:
  - I. Ventilation-related investments, challenges and opportunities; and
  - II. Other opportunities related to reducing respiratory viruses in schools;

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Pino Buffone  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

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Michele Giroux  
Executive Officer, Corporate Services

*Signatures on this Notice of Motion confirm that the Notice was submitted in accordance with Section 12.9 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules.*