

**Name: Elena Davis**

**Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:**

The lack of EDP as part of EPR; and the impact on women in the workplace

March 17, 2025

To: All OCDSB Trustees

Cc: Pino Buffone

RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED MODEL CHANGES TO THE OCDSB

IMPACT ON EPR AND DAYCARE

To OCDSB Trustees,

I provide this written material to voice my opposition and concern to the proposed changes to the OCDSC, slated to come into effect in the fall of 2026. While I have concerns about numerous aspects of the EPR, I will exclusively focus this letter on the EPR's impact on EDP and child care for children.

### INTRODUCTION

For many parents, daycare or EDP go hand in hand with their child's education. While some parents are able to either drop off their children at school and pick them up when the school day ends; many parents are not able to do so.

I am one of those parents. My job requires I commute to my office, and be onsite. I am not able to leave my place of work when my child's school day ends. I rely on daycare to supervise my child until my work day ends. I am not alone in this situation.

The proposed EPR will see thousands of students reassigned to a different school. Many of these students are JK-3 aged students that are currently in some form of daycare or EDP. At most schools there are more students needing EDP than there are placements. Such is the situation at my child's current school. I am fortunate that there is a private daycare just across from the school that I can send my child to.



There are often long waitlists for spots in EDP. In my case, I applied as early and possible and was not able to secure a spot. Again, I am not alone in this situation. Many parents have spent years on a waitlist for a spot in EDP before one has become available and many parent have spent years waiting to get accepted into a daycare. What is to happen to my current spot on the waitlist for EDP at my child's school when she is forced to go to another school? Will I go to the bottom of that list? That hardly seems equitable that my place on a waitlist should be penalized as a result of a forced school transfer.

Is the OCDSB prepared to guarantee EDP spots for any child that is relocated as a result of the EPR?

### EPR AND EDP

Many parents rely on EDP (and daycare) both before and after school to make it feasible to maintain employment.

The EPR will move numerous students from schools where they are currently in EDP to a school where there would be no guarantee of a spot in EDP.

Women are disproportionately impacted by these EPR changes and the collateral impact to students losing their existing EDP spot. Women are more often the parent or caregiver that tasked with childcare, daycare arrangements, or EDP drop offs and pick ups. This EPR causes disproportionate negative impacts to working women (and other caregivers) that will be left without EDP or daycare at a new school. It may very well force women (and other caregivers) to choose between their current jobs and childcare. Although some trustees have claimed that children are "resilient" and will adapt to the changes [I do not share that opinion], not all parents can be "resilient" and change their employment or career to accommodate child care needs.

The fact that numerous families will see their children sent to different schools (as a result of the EPR) will only exacerbate the challenges of needing EDP any daycare. Parents will need to navigate applying for two different daycare or EDP locations (which assumes that EDP spots are even available). Even assuming that EDP was available for children of the same family at different schools, the logistics of managing two different drop off and pick ups are not feasible for all families. I ask you as trustees to give significant and due consideration to this fact.



### PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

On a personal level, the proposed school changes will have a significant and negative impact on my family's wellbeing.

Currently, our child attends a French Immersion elementary school. It has an early start time, with the school bus picking her up at 7:30 am (as school starts at 8:00 a.m.) Of note, despite applying as soon as the EDP list opened, our child did not receive a spot in the EDP program at her school. Accordingly, she attends a private daycare across the street from her school. Given the early start time of her current school, we do not need daycare in the morning, but we do need it after school.

Under the new proposed boundaries for 2026, our child, and our second child will be forced to attend a different school. That school has a start time of 9:15 am. There are no private daycares near this school. Unless both of our children get both morning and afternoon EDP at this school, we have no viable way of bringing our children to and from school. The reality is that both myself and my spouse cannot work from home and must both work onsite, and need to be onsite long before a 9:15 am start. Neither of our jobs will be able to accommodate us arriving at a later time to get our children to school for 9:15 am. This is not a situation where as a parent I am complaining about my child going to a "bad school" as some trustees have characterized the "complaints" of parents. But rather, the plan removes my children from an environment where we have childcare in place.

As mentioned, there are no private daycares near the school our children will be forced to attend. In all honesty, unless both of our children each get morning and afternoon EDP, there is no way we can change our work or jobs to accommodate this. The most realistic consequence is that we will be forced to consider a different school board or a school that that offers daycare. In effect, by forcing our children to attend a different school under the supposed logic of it being closer to our house, it may very well end up forcing us out of the neighbourhood altogether and into a different school board. Some trustees have undermined these concerns from parents, and made comments to the effect that parents are bluffing when they say they will leave the Board. I find these gas lighting style comments dismissive of the true needs of parents. I am not bluffing when I say that for my children to go to school there must be daycare in place. This is simply the reality of the needs of our family (and many others). Ask yourselves as a parent, and answer honestly, if your children were forced to change schools and not have daycare in place, would this be a benefit to



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## Delegation 6.17.b

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your family? Is this “equity in access” when you cannot access the school because there is no daycare or EDP?

I am not alone in facing these issues surrounding child care from the EPR.

### CONCLUSION

I ask you not to support the EPR and to vote no. I ask you to give significant consideration to the negative impact this EPR will have on the caregivers of students that need EPR and daycare. The absence of daycare and EDP is not a minor issue for many parents; for many parents the absence of EDP and daycare is determinative if their child can go to school (and remain in the OCDSB).

Sincerely,  
ELENA DAVIES