



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

2020 July 21

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

I am sure that you have heard from many citizens of this province that it is time to take action against anti-black racism. Our Trustees have also heard from their respective communities that change is needed now to deal with racism in schools, improve equitable hiring practices and revise curriculum to be reflective of the lives of our students.

At its meeting of June 23, 2020, the Thames Valley District School Board passed an important motion which, in part, reads:

The Chair of the Board, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, the mover and seconder of the motion and staff, send a letter to the Minister requesting the development of the Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM) on equity and diversity in hiring practices as requested by OPSBA. That the Chair communicate in the letter to the Minister support for OBSPA's position to remove Regulation 274/12 as it relates to increasing diversity/inclusivity, credentials and mobility. So that learners can see themselves reflected in the different positions of leadership in our schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Chair of the Board, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, the mover and seconder of the motion and staff, send a letter to the Minister of Education encouraging the revision of the curriculum to better incorporate Black history and Indigenous histories. We ask that the Government honour the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. To collaborate with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators to continue with curriculum revisions across subjects, grades and courses, to strengthen Indigenous content and learning.

Thames Valley has long voiced its support for the removal of Regulation 274/12. With recent events turning the spotlight on anti-black racism, now is the time for the Ministry to take bold action to allow schools to be more reflective of the diverse communities they serve.

We hope you also hear the public's call to action to decisively reverse years of systemic racism and guarantee that Black and Indigenous histories are represented in every area of the Ontario curriculum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Morell".

Arlene Morell, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board

AM:sh

CC Trustees
M. Fisher, Director of Education

Thames Valley District School Board - Organizational Support Services

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We build each student's tomorrow, every day.