



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

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2022 January 13

Hon. Stephen Lecce Minister of Education  
315 Front Street, 14th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

**Re: Recommendation To Allow Student Trustees To Present Motions**

Dear Minister Lecce:

This is a letter is to inform you of a motion approved by Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) at its December 14th, 2021, meeting of the board. The motion relates to the recommendation to amend the Education Act to allow Student Trustees the ability to introduce items by way of a motion for discussion. The move, which was brought forward by TVDSB student trustees Harini Satheeskumar, Hanzala Subhani and Niigonii White-Eye is part of an Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA) initiative.

Giving students the ability to influence learning is integral to everyone's success. We want our schools to be places where students take ownership of their learning and their school environment.

As you are aware, student trustees across Ontario are not allowed to move or second motions.

Currently, Section 55(4) of the Ontario Education Act states:

***A student trustee is not entitled to move a motion, but is entitled to suggest a motion on any matter at a meeting of the board or of one of its committees on which the student trustee sits, and if no member of the board or committee, as the case may be, moves the suggested motion, the record shall show the suggested motion.***

By allowing our student trustees the ability to move motions for discussion, they will be better able to complete their job fully, respond and meet the requests of the students they represent. Thames Valley District School Board values student voice and believes that if student trustees are able to move motions, this voice becomes stronger in school boards.

The full motion is detailed here:

***To request that the Chair send a letter to the Ministry of Education asking for the amendment of the Education Act to give Student Trustees the right to move and second motions.***

***WHEREAS per section 55(5) of the Ontario Education Act student trustees have the right to partake in certain in-camera sessions closed to the public, demonstrating the high standing and trustworthiness of student trustees, and;***

***WHEREAS the student voice is most effectively communicated by granting student trustees equal opportunities to participate in Board functions as other Board trustees, and;***

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**Thames Valley District School Board - Office of the Chairperson**

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*We build each student's tomorrow, every day.*

***WHEREAS per section 55(7) of the Ontario Education Act student trustees receive equal opportunities to Board trustees, including access to professional development, resources and training, and;***

***WHEREAS student trustees are elected representatives, and are to be held accountable to the student body, and;***

***WHEREAS the student voice must be articulated fairly and expressively for the benefit of the school board, and;***

***WHEREAS the student voice must be represented fairly and articulated expressively for the benefit of the school board and to accurately reflect the students' in decision-making, and;***

***WHEREAS student trustees further desire the right to move and second motions, to incite discussion:***

***WHEREAS doing so furthers the dynamic and effectiveness of student representation across Ontario, as students can begin the discussions surrounding items that they feel are most pertaining to their constituency without the need to request for support.***

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Chair of the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education on behalf of the Thames Valley District School Board with copies to local MPPs and other school boards, requesting the Ministry of Education to push for the recommendation in allowing student trustees the right to independently move and second motions during board meetings.***

The Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board appreciate your attention to review the Education Act as it pertains to the participation of student trustees and motions. We value the importance of student voice at the Board table and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lori-Ann Pizzolato, Chair  
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Trustees  
M. Fisher, Director of Education  
E. Hardeman, MPP Oxford  
J. Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London  
T. Armstrong, MPP London-Fanshawe  
T. Kernaghan, MPP London North Centre  
P. Sattler, MPP London West  
M. McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex