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Beth Mai

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**Student Trustees:**  
Jana Anan  
Frederick Nicholas  
Savrup Saran

**Director of Education:**  
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June 27, 2024

Hon. Todd Smith  
Minister of Education  
315 Front Street West, 14th Flr.  
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8  
Via email: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Smith,

On behalf of the Thames Valley District School Board and in collaboration with Student Trustees, I am writing about the implementation of the National School Food Policy and funding at the provincial level.

We commend the Ministry of Education's support of a federal initiative to address student nutrition and well-being throughout the country. We believe it is essential that funds distributed under implementation of this policy are handled with a focus on equity to ensure the most vulnerable students receive the support they need.

Like many other districts in Ontario, we serve a diverse array of students, many of whom come from underprivileged backgrounds.

At TVDSB's May 28, 2024, Board meeting, we passed the following motion: THAT the Chair of the Board write a letter in collaboration with the Student Trustees to the Minister of Education requesting that any funding allocated to TVDSB through the new National School Food Program be enveloped with distribution prioritized for the school communities with the most need by 2024 June 21.

With this motion in mind, to effectively meet student needs, we recommend the following:

**Enveloped Funding:** Guarantee that the budget allocated for the implementation of the National School Food Policy is used exclusively for school food and nutrition programming, preventing re-allocation to other K-12 budget lines.

**Equity-Driven Allocation:** Allocate funds with a focus on socio-economic disparities, ensuring schools and communities facing the greatest challenges receive adequate support.

We believe these measures will increase the policy's effectiveness, benefiting all students and creating a healthier, more inclusive learning environment. Our board's commitment to equity aligns with the Government of Canada's National Food Policy consultations, which emphasize the importance of special dietary considerations, including faith-based and culturally appropriate diets. This is also supported by the Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services' Student Nutrition Program Nutrition Guidelines (2020).

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your support in ensuring the implementation of the National School Food Policy is both effective and equitable. Together, we can make significant improvements in the lives of our students.

We appreciate your consideration.



Beth Mai  
Chair of the Board  
Thames Valley District School Board

Jana Anan  
Student Trustee for City of London  
Thames Valley District School Board

Savrup Saran  
Student Trustee for county schools  
Thames Valley District School Board

Sir Frederick Nicholas  
Indigenous Student Trustee  
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Mark Fisher, Director Fisher  
Trustees  
Student Trustees