

Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees Donaldson and Story)

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Manager, Board Services, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, notice of the following motion was provided at the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole on September 18, 2019 and is therefore submitted for consideration at this time.

5.15.2 A notice of motion will be introduced by a member who is present as an advance notification of a matter to be considered at a subsequent Board or Committee meeting. A notice of motion will not be debated at the meeting at which it is introduced...

5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting...

Mandatory ELearning in Schools

Whereas, the Minister of Education announced on March 15, 2019 the policy of at least four mandatory eLearning courses of the thirty credits needed to graduate to be implemented in the 2020-21 school year; and

Whereas, the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan seeks to provide equity of access to learning opportunities for all students; and

Whereas, the Board's most recent student census resulted in some students expressing challenges with issues of mental health, belonging, and access to caring adults in schools, and the role of technology in relation to their overall well-being; and

Whereas, this policy raises as yet unanswered questions regarding equitable access to technology, and students, parents and teachers have already identified access issues; and

Whereas, the Halton District School Board and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association have surveyed their communities about the issue of mandatory eLearning; and

Whereas, the Board honours and values student voice as well as parent and staff feedback; and

Whereas, it is our obligation to provide the Ministry of Education with input about the repercussions of this policy on the Board's elementary and secondary schools, and on student success overall; and

Whereas, the Ministry has indicated that implementation is next school year and yet no framework or implementation details have been provided from the Ministry of Education, nor have the results of the government's own consultation on the matter;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director conduct a random sample of the Board's secondary school students, parents and staff to determine their thoughts about the implementation of mandatory eLearning;
- (b) That the TDSB survey platform - the Pulse - be used to conduct the survey;
- (c) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education and the presidents of both the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association:
 - i. to express the Board's concerns about the implementation of the Ministry's major policy change in its schools regarding mandatory eLearning;
 - ii. to advise that the TDSB is surveying its community and will then report back to the province when the results become available in winter 2020.