

Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees Chernos Lin and Doyle)

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

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, the following motion was provided as notice at the special meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee on June 15, 2021 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 (b) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a Board meeting, will be referred to the appropriate committee...

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

Return to Semesters

Whereas, the quadmester model has been a practical model used during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure student safety through limited cohorting to allow high school students return to school in-person during the 2020-2021 school year; and

Whereas, we have heard from students, parents and staff about concerns around the quadmester model creating excessive stress, compressed learning opportunities, and extreme challenges in keeping up should students need to miss school; and

Whereas, the modified semester timetable is an improvement on the quadmester timetable, the modified semester not only still presents barriers to continuous learning and curriculum retention, but also provides significant challenges in meeting the needs of our special education students; and

Whereas, vaccines are now widely available to staff and high school students, and uptake appears to be strong with vaccine rollout progressing well;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education indicating:

- i. that if by mid-summer vaccination rates are strong and case counts low, that every consideration be given to moving to a traditional semester model;
- ii. that such decision be provided to Boards by August so that schools would be able to organize to safely receive students in this model in a timely manner.