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

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 Board on June 19, 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…
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> 5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting…

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Access to Free Menstrual Products

Whereas, lack of access due to economic factors - often referred to as “period poverty” - impacts girls and women around the world and can be especially damaging at puberty, when school interactions are crucial to a girl’s development; and

Whereas, nearly one in seven Canadian girls have either left school early or missed school entirely because they did not have access to the feminine care products they needed to manage their periods; and

Whereas, menstrual hygiene products are not optional and are necessary and essential to women's and girls' health, comfort and participation in work, school and society; and

Whereas, other Ontario school boards, municipal, provincial, and federal governments have already taken steps to provide free menstrual hygiene products to students and staff; and

Whereas, the Board honours student voice and recognizes the many secondary students who have petitioned the Board of Trustees to ask for “free, quality period products in all schools” and further stated, “that this relatively small act would immensely improve the health and well-being of students all over the city who cannot afford the essential products they so desperately need while menstruating.”; and

Whereas, this matter also affects most students before they enter secondary school; and

Whereas, there are existing partnerships with organizations like the Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE Canada) and the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association to provide both educational materials and menstrual products at no charge;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Director be authorized to enter into a partnership with an appropriate organization to secure access to menstrual products and education materials at no cost to the Board;

(b) That free menstrual products be provided in all elementary and secondary schools beginning in the 2019-20 school year.