

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

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 Program and School Services Committee on February 19, 2020 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...

September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month

Whereas, there is no safe amount, no safe time, or no safe kind of alcohol that an individual can drink during pregnancy; and

Whereas, the term Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) describes the range of disabilities that may affect an individual who was exposed to alcohol in utero/uterus during pregnancy; and

Whereas, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects, such as physical and mental disability and behavioural, executive functioning and/or learning challenges; and

Whereas, the exact number of people affected by FASD is unknown, but it is estimated that two to three (four to five) percent of the population are born annually with the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure; and

Whereas, the estimated cost of FASD in Canada is \$4 billion per year covering education, health, mental health, social services and justice costs; and

Whereas, about half of all pregnancies are unplanned meaning developing fetuses are inadvertently exposed to alcohol; and

Whereas, people around the world began observing International FASD Awareness Day on September 9 each year beginning in 1999, in order that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy it is important to abstain from alcohol; and

Whereas, the Government of Ontario officially recognizes September as FASD Awareness Month; and

Whereas, with Bill 44, *An Act to amend the Education Act in relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)*, the Province of Ontario provided for board activities to promote awareness and understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including best practices to support pupils who may have FASD; and

Whereas, with Bill 172 2020, *An Act in relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)*, if given Royal Assent, the Province of Ontario will require school boards to develop policies and guidelines respecting FASD, provide training in the signs and symptoms of FASD, as well as provide strategies to accommodate the needs of children who have diagnosed or suspected FASD;

Whereas, the Toronto Catholic District School Board decided that it would annually recognize September as FASD Awareness Month and September 9th as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day (FASD); and

Whereas, the health and well-being of students are enhanced by the support of a broad effort to educate about and prevent FASD;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Toronto District School Board annually recognize September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month and September 9 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day to:

- (i) increase acceptance, accommodation and support for those individuals so affected,
- (ii) minimize further effects,
- (iii) maximize academic success for FASD affected students,
- (iv) ensure healthier communities in the future.