

April 29, 2020

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Honourable Stephen Lecce:

Re: Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE)

On behalf of the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board and its Special Education Advisory Committee, I am writing in support of the concerns brought forward by both the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and the Greater Essex County District School Board (GECDSB) regarding the current status of the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE). We agree with the statements put forward by both the DDSB and GECDSB, that with the growing number of students with special education needs and complex profiles, MACSE plays an even greater role in providing ongoing information and guidance to school boards and Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs).

Furthermore, we are in agreement with both the DDSB and the GECDSB's recommendations to have representative members selected from each of the SEACs in the six Ministry of Education's regional areas. This approach would allow MACSE membership to be more representative of the varying geographical contexts across the province of Ontario.

We agree that the current structure of MACSE that includes representation of the various exceptionalities is necessary, as these individuals bring vast knowledge and experience and offer valuable input to the MACSE. In addition, in an effort to support MACSE being a more active provincial advisory council, we ask that consideration be made to host MACSE meetings in a virtual environment. This approach would remove potential barriers for those who see much value in being part of MACSE however are unable to travel to face-to-face meetings, thus preventing them from volunteering to be part of the advisory council. This would particularly be helpful for those travelling from the Northern regions of the province.

We kindly request consideration of our suggestions outlined above to fill current MACSE vacancies in a collaborative and equitable way.

Sincerely,



Leo de Jourdan
Chair

- c. Ontario District School Boards SEAC
Hon. Vic Fedeli, MPP - Nipissing
Marie Derosier, NPSC SEAC Chair
Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education