



February 20, 2020

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

Honourable Stephen Lecce

The Ministry Advisory Committee on Special Education (MACSE) plays a vital role in providing feedback and advice to the Minister of Education and other ministries on special education programs and their delivery.

We are supporting the concerns of the Durham District School Board (DDSB) in regard to the current inactive status of MACSE. We strongly agree with the statement put forward by the DDSB that with the growing number of students with special education needs and complex profiles, now more than ever, MACSE plays a vital role in providing ongoing information and guidance to the provinces 72 school boards.

We are also in agreement with DDSB's recommendation that moving forward, six of the voting members be selected from the Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) in the six Ministry of Education's regional areas. This method would not only be more expedient in identifying members to sit on MACSE but it would also ensure geographical and exceptionality representation with knowledgeable and experienced individuals who bring valuable SEAC experience to the advisory committee role.

We call on the Ministry of Education to move forward and fill outstanding MACSE vacancies so that the committee, mandated by the Education Act can resume its previous duties. In order to make this happen, we too, would be willing to make a representative available from the GECDSB's SEAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Omstead".

A. Omstead
Chair, SEAC
Greater Essex County District School Board