

OCSTA MOTION

MOVED BY: Trustee Maria Rizzo

SUBJECT: Electric School Buses

Whereas: Approximately 20,000 school buses carry over 833,000 students to school every day in Ontario; and

Whereas: Over 90% of these buses run on diesel fuel; and

Whereas: Pollution Probe, The Delphi Group and Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment (CPCHE), with the support of the Trotter Family Foundation, have released a new white paper on opportunities for accelerating school bus electrification in Ontario; and

Whereas: In 2021, the Government of Canada launched the Zero Emission Transit Fund, investing \$2.75 billion to support public transit and school bus operators to transition to zero emission vehicles, from planning to purchasing vehicles and building infrastructure; and

Whereas: Air pollution from diesel buses has been linked to serious health and educational impacts on the children they transport each and every day; and

Whereas: The rapid deployment of electric school buses across Ontario's school boards would protect children's health, reduce carbon emissions, and strengthen the province's automotive manufacturing industry; and

Whereas: Beyond the numerous benefits electric school buses can provide, they offer a rich opportunity for community collaboration; and

Whereas: The time to get dirty diesel school buses off the road is now

Therefore be it resolved that OCSTA request the Province of Ontario to take the necessary actions to bring together school boards, school transportation providers, manufacturers across the supply chain, policymakers at the local, provincial, and national levels, and academia conducting research on the benefits and logistics of school bus electrification; and

Be it resolved that OCSTA urge the Government of Ontario accelerate the adoption of electric school buses in the province for the health of children and to contribute to the fight against climate change.