
RESOLUTIONS # 1-11

APPROVE

Moved by: Shawn Xaviour

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Seconded by: Brea Corbet

Topic: **Technology Funding**

Whereas: Technology is progressively more prevalent and infused throughout curriculum delivery; and

Whereas: Technology is increasingly linked to equity of access and student engagement, provides students with equitable access to 21st century inquiry-based learning, and supports Catholic digital citizenship and student achievement; and

Whereas: The Ministry of Education's funding for technology and related infrastructure fluctuates from year to year, and previously provided Technology Learning Funds (TLF) have been discontinued despite the Ministry's focus on increasing the amount of e-learning in secondary schools; and

Whereas: The ever-increasing threat of cyber risks posed by threat actors requires continuous protection and monitoring. Board technologies, related programs, and overall board infrastructure require replacement on a regular basis, particularly a vis-à-vis aging hardware and software that should be retired due to performance and security risks they pose to the board; and

Whereas: Core Education Funding does not address technology needs for corporate functions, including Financial, Plant and Maintenance work order systems, payroll systems, student information systems, Human Resources, and Employee Relations Reporting

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to support learning through increased and sustainable technology infrastructure funding.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: Luz del Rosario

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Seconded by: Darryl D'Souza

Topic: **Student Transportation Funding**

Whereas: Pursuant to the Education Act R.S.O.1990, School Boards may provide home-to-school transportation services for their students; and

Whereas: School bus transportation is an essential service for some students to access safe and timely travel to and from school every day; and

Whereas: The Ministry of Education's 2024-2025 Core Education Funding for transportation services does not align with the costs of the distance criteria thresholds for student transportation (the funding eligibility is based on home-to-school distance: 0.8 KM or more - Kindergarten, 1.6 KM or more - Grades 1 to 8, 3.2 KM - Grades 9 to 12); and

Whereas: Funding for transportation for Regional Programs by the Ministry of Education has not been considered for consistency across the province; and

Whereas: Issues related to driver retention, late bus routes, and cancelled bus routes have impacted many families who rely on student transportation services to transport their children, including some of our most vulnerable students with special needs; and

Whereas: Costs associated with transportation have increased substantially across the province (i.e., bus operator contracts, fuel costs, cap and trade program, fleet costs, etc.); and

Whereas: The new funding model changes are still not sufficient in providing the funding required to provide efficient and effective transportation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to review the current transportation funding model and increase funds to allow school boards to provide equitable access for all students, including access to Regional Programs.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: Tracey Weiler

Waterloo CDSB

Seconded by: Robert Sikora

Topic: **Student Transportation**

Whereas: OCSTA has delivered a prebudget presentation to representatives of the Ministry of Finance, including the Minister of Finance and key PC MPPs, on OCSTA's priorities for the forthcoming provincial budget, and

Whereas: OCSTA has highlighted their priorities related to Student Transportation including:

- that the Ministry of Education carefully review the student transportation funding model and establish short term transitional funding available to school boards in managing the new costs of the model;
- a revision to the new funding model to include inflationary costs for bus operators and adjust formulas for the calculation of driver wages and the driver recruitment amount;
- that the competitive procurement process be revised so as to restore school board autonomy and flexibility in negotiating school bus operator contracts;
- that the Ministry increase funding within the Local Priorities component to reflect the additional costs associated with the new reporting and data requirements, and

Whereas: The funding formula for transportation is in part based on a walking distance guideline of 1.6 km for elementary aged students; and

Whereas: Parents with children who do not qualify for transportation drive their children to school if it is too far to walk; and

Whereas: Traffic congestion around schools creates an unsafe environment for students who walk to school, unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions, disruption to neighbours living around schools; and

Whereas: Many school boards have reduced walking distances for students in JK to Grade 3, recognizing that 1.6 km is too far for 3 and 4 year old students to walk twice per day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA include student transportation as a priority in their lobbying efforts and advocacy work.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: Chris Saunders

Halton CDSB

Seconded by: Helena Karabela

Topic: **Increase Funding to the Temporary Accommodation Allocation**

Whereas: Temporary accommodation funding is a static amount distributed pro rata across the province based on each board's temporary accommodation requirements; and

Whereas: This allocated amount has not increased for several years, yet provincial needs have changed substantially due to: increased enrolment in high-development areas, delays in funding permanent structures, significant construction cost increases; and

Whereas: Significant inflation has doubled the cost of temporary accommodation, such as portable classrooms.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to amend the provincial funding allocation for temporary accommodations to align with provincial changes in demand and the impact of inflation.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: Tracey Weiler

Waterloo CDSB

Seconded by: Robert Sikora

Topic: **Temporary Accommodation Funding**

Whereas: School boards manage student accommodation pressures at school sites with portables and or the lease of temporary spaces. In recognition of this practice, the province provides Temporary Accommodation Funding in the amount of \$40M annually. Boards receive a portion of the \$40M based on their share of the total number of portables in the province, and

Whereas: The Temporary Accommodation Funding table amount has not been increased since the 2012-13 school year. Accounting for inflation between 2012 and 2024, boards should be receiving \$52.8M, a difference of 32.3%, and

Whereas: Providing a proportional share of a fixed funding amount forces school boards to offset portable costs by reducing spending in other areas where limited flexibility exists. A formula that better recognizes boards' actual costs and need to be responsive should be developed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to provide increased funding for temporary accommodation. For the 2025-26 school year, the total table amount used to allocate funds to boards for temporary accommodation costs should be updated to reflect inflation between 2012 and 2024 and during the 2025-26 school year, the Ministry of Education engage with sector representatives to review boards' funding requirements for temporary accommodation and develop a new funding formula for school boards effective for the 2026-27 school year.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: David Dunkley **Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB**

Seconded by: Shelly Warren

Topic: **Trustee Honoraria**

Whereas: The method and process for determining Trustee Honoraria for Board Members is outlined in Ontario Regulation 357/06.

Whereas: The base amount of trustee honoraria has not significantly increased since 2006.

Whereas: A Board of Trustees serve to act on behalf of the ratepayers as a whole, establishes communication links with the English Catholic community, and are accountable to the public for the collective decisions of the board and for the delivery and quality of educational services as outlined in the Education Act.

Whereas: As strong advocates for publicly funded Catholic education and the communities they serve, Trustees govern as a whole to enact an important role in maintaining public confidence as they carry out many important duties outlined in the Ontario Education Act (169.1) including but not limited to: the development and monitoring of the multi-year strategic plan (MYSP) focused on student achievement and well-being, exercising a high level of fiduciary responsibility, and facilitating the new performance appraisal of the Director of Education.

Whereas: The current Trustee honorarium amount does not adequately reflect the increased roles and responsibilities of the role. Over the past two decades, the landscape of publicly funded Catholic education has changed significantly, resulting in an ever-expanding scope of the role of Trustee as an elected official. For example, the number of meetings, responding to important provincial issues, parent and/or public inquiries in an increasingly polarized political context, professional development requirements, and Ministry regulated requirements has necessitated more time from Trustees which also encompasses time outside of the school calendar year and into the summer months.

Whereas: The cost of living and inflation has risen over the years, and the Trustee honoraria should be adjusted to reflect these economic changes to ensure Trustees are fairly compensated for their service.

Whereas: A review and equitable adjustment to Trustee honoraria are essential to attract and retain highly qualified individuals who are highly committed to serving the mission and vision of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to review and amend Ontario Regulation 357/06 to establish a more equitable and fully funded honoraria structure for Trustees reflecting the increased scope of their roles and responsibilities in support of current and future service in these important roles.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: Bruno Iannicca

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Seconded by: Anisha Thomas

Topic: **Municipal Voting**

Whereas: It is a right for citizens in Ontario aged 18 years or older to participate in democratic municipal elections; and

Whereas: Included in the municipal election process is the election of Ontario Catholic School Board Trustees by Catholic School Supporters/Ratepayers; and

Whereas: In several jurisdictions it has been found that Catholic School Supporters/Ratepayer lists are out of date, incorrect and/or defaulting Catholic School Ratepayers to the Public School Supporters list, meaning that some Catholic School Supporters/Ratepayers are not provided the appropriate candidate list to vote on; and

Whereas: This is an infringement of some Catholic School Supporter's/Ratepayer's rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition Elections Ontario through the Ministry of Education to address this issue immediately by ensuring that the processes for compiling voter lists is improved, with more quality assurances put in place so that accurate voter lists be developed.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

Moved by: Trustee Michael D’Amelio **Simcoe Muskoka CDSB**
Seconded by: Trustee Tanya Da Silva
Topic: **Removing Barriers to School Closures or Merging of Underutilized Facilities**

Whereas: the Ministry placed a moratorium on school closures in 2017 preventing Boards from closing or merging underutilized facilities; and

Whereas: the moratorium was supposed to be temporary, pending a review of how decisions are made; and,

Whereas: the Ministry has not indicated that a review has or will be completed or when the moratorium will be lifted; and

Whereas: Boards have areas of declining enrolment where the current Core Education Funding model limits the ability of Boards to maintain under-enrolled schools properly; and

Whereas: Boards face operational challenges at under-utilized and under-enrolled schools impacting the overall budget expenditures of the Board; and

Whereas: Boards require the resources, both financial and human, to maintain or close under-enrolled schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to remove the moratorium on school closures or merging of underutilized facilities and release any required Pupil Accommodation Review guidelines or templates.

Committee Recommendation

Approve.

RESOLUTIONS # 12-28

APPROVE & REFER TO COMMITTEE(S)

Moved by: Stefano Pascucci

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Seconded by: Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi

Topic: **Review Moratorium on School Closures**

Whereas: It is incumbent on school boards to be fiscally responsible and work within funding structures provided by the Ministry of Education; and

Whereas: Ministry of Education funding is maximized when schools are operating at or close to full utilization; and

Whereas: School boards across the province are operating underutilized schools that still require significant investments to staff to operate and maintain; and

Whereas: Underutilized schools limit a school's ability to provide equitable programming and extra- curricular activities; and

Whereas: School boards are finding it increasingly difficult to balance budgets without the ability to address the ongoing investment required to operate surplus pupil places in underutilized schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to lift the moratorium on school closures thereby providing school boards with the opportunity to maximize Ministry funding and programming opportunities by addressing the ongoing investment required to operate underutilized schools.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Marvin Duarte **Halton CDSB**

Seconded by: Helena Karabela

Topic: **Funding for K-12 STEM Education**

Whereas: Interest and demand for STEM Education is growing across Ontario to meet the growing needs of the job market now and in the future; and

Whereas: Changes to the Gr. 1 - 9 Science and Mathematics Curriculum include many references to interdisciplinary STEM education, and the Ministry of Education describes K-12 STEM Education as "enabling students to become innovators and leaders of change in society and the workforce, and creates opportunities in our diverse communities to foster integrative thinking and problem solving"; and

Whereas: There is strong alignment between the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and STEM Education; and

Whereas: Adequate funding for STEM education, including technology, software, staff, training, and devices, is necessary to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate and innovate in STEM education; and

Whereas: The Ministry of Education identifies Technological Education and STEM as a provincial priority, but there is no funding specifically earmarked for STEM programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Comprehensive and sustained funding for technology, software, staff, training, and devices for K-12 STEM education is necessary to ensure our students are future-ready and Boards have the necessary tools, resources and trained staff to offer comprehensive STEM programs.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: L. Agro **Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB**

Seconded by: J. Valvasori

Topic: **Catholic Artificial Intelligence Framework**

Whereas: The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies presents both opportunities and challenges for staff, students and Catholic school boards;

Whereas: AI has the potential to enhance student faith formation, achievement and well-being by offering personalized learning that can support greater student engagement;

Whereas: AI-driven assistive technologies can support students with distinct learning needs e.g., English Language Learners, students with special education needs;

Whereas: The potential opportunities and risks for Catholic school systems associated with AI applications are significant and necessitate a proactive governance and distinctly Catholic approach;

Whereas: There is no current comprehensive framework that governs the development and use of AI tools and technologies that provides a standard of practice for Ontario Catholic schools;

Whereas: In the context of publicly funded Catholic education, there is recognition of the need for moral and ethical standards in AI development that “place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre” of students’ learning experiences; and,

Whereas: Ontario’s Catholic schools are uniquely positioned to educate young people so as to promote the dignity of each human person;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to provide funding and the necessary resources to support the development of a Catholic Education Artificial Intelligence framework that:

- safeguards students and staff against potential risk in the use of Artificial Intelligence technologies;

- enhances student faith formation, achievement and well-being through innovative uses of Artificial Intelligence technologies in classrooms and schools;
- Prepares students for the moral and ethical uses of Artificial Intelligence for the betterment of humanity;
- Promotes the Catholic Identity of publicly funded Catholic education; and,
- Promotes the Dignity of the Human Person.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Shawn Cooper **Simcoe Muskoka CDSB**
Seconded by: Trustee Janice Hutchison
Topic: **Operating Funding Supplied to Boards through the Core Education Funding Allocation**

- Whereas:** the Ministry supplies Operating Funding for utilities, snowplowing, grass cutting and various maintenance repairs to Boards as part of the Core Education Funding allocation to operate and maintain schools and central staff buildings; and
- Whereas:** the Ministry has recognized an exponential increase in construction costs over the last five (5) years resulting in a discrepancy between the funding benchmarks and actual construction costs; and
- Whereas:** the tasks to operate and maintain schools and central staff buildings are subject to the same labour and supply chain issues that have impacted construction costs; and
- Whereas:** Boards are struggling to supply the necessary operation and maintenance within the current Ministry funding allocation model; and
- Whereas:** service to schools is being compromised as Boards are being forced to prioritize the critical needs for the operation and maintenance of the schools leaving the schools more vulnerable to system failures and reduced life cycle due to reduction in preventive maintenance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to review the operating funding portion of the Core Education Funding model and adjust them comparably to the increases already recognized in the Capital Priorities program to ensure that school buildings are adequately maintained and operated.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Nancy Crawford

Toronto CDSB

Seconded by: Trustee Garry Tanuan

Topic: **Ministry to Fully Fund Previously Approved Childcare Centres**

Whereas: quality childcare is essential to child and parent well being. Integrating child care spaces in schools alleviates the stress families face when planning for their child’s care and educational journey and reduces the emotional strain associated with finding child care providers in proximity to their child’s prospective school.

Whereas: integrating child care spaces in schools facilitates a seamless transition from early learning into the broader education system, and fosters a stronger connection with the school community. It is in the best interest of the Ministry of Education to provide a solid introduction to learning to all Ontario children.

Whereas: school Boards are well positioned to have a pivotal role bridging the crucial gap between child care operators and the education system. The best practice for quality childcare is to locate Childcare Centres in schools.

Whereas: schools are not merely structures; they are woven into the social fabric of communities, offering families a comprehensive support system throughout their educational journey. They serve as hubs for community gatherings, celebrations, and, most importantly, as safe places for children to develop essential skills during their formative years.

Whereas: it is in the best interests and well being of Ontario families to have ready access to quality childcare spaces wherever they live in the Province.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to fully fund previously approved childcare capital projects and to review the funding benchmarks to bring them up to date to fund childcare projects today and into the future.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Maria Rizzo

Toronto CDSB

Seconded by: Trustee Nancy Crawford

Topic: **Funding for Air Conditioning**

Whereas: as the planet continues to warm, we do see a significant increase in extreme weather events and due to these climate change effects, winters continue to shorten and schools are dealing with a higher proportion of months with warmer weather;

Whereas: children cannot learn in extreme heat;

Whereas: classrooms kept at a suitable temperature by air conditioners help students concentrate and be more productive;

Whereas: air conditioning units also help to enhance indoor air quality and help to protect students from the impact of seasonal allergies: and

Whereas: the Ministry of Education does not directly fund air conditioning in all schools in new builds/additions or school renewal budgets.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA request the Minister of Education to provide funding for air conditioning in school buildings.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Markus de Domenico **Toronto CDSB**
Seconded by: Trustee Nancy Crawford
Topic: **Shortfall of Provincial Funding of Statutory Benefits and Employee Deductions**

- Whereas:** boards have an obligation to maintain a balanced budget each year;
- Whereas:** boards have an obligation to fund statutory benefits and employee deductions such as Employment Insurance (EI), Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and OMERS;
- Whereas:** the Ministry of Education has not kept up with the inflationary rises in the costs of these programs; and
- Whereas:** School boards experience shortfalls each year due to inadequate funding of these programs. (For example, TCDSB experienced an 18 million dollar shortfall last year.)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to fund School Boards across Ontario for the actual current costs to fund statutory benefits and employee deductions such as EI, CPP and OMERS.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Tracey Weiler

Waterloo CDSB

Seconded by: Robert Sikora

Topic: **Cost of Sick Leave**

Whereas: The cost of sick leave to school boards continues to grow with a limited ability for school board leaders to intervene, and

Whereas: To ensure budgets are not overspent, funds are redirected from other programs and services that are intended to support students, and

Whereas: The cost of sick leave is not just financial. Programs and services for students are less effective when there is no consistent educator available in classrooms, and

Whereas: When staff are absent, their colleagues cover classrooms using their planning time periods; this creates a workload and morale issue. Missed planning time must also be paid as a further cost to school boards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to work with sector leaders to implement temporary funding supports for school boards to offset the increased costs of sick leave, and as part of the 2026 central negotiations, the province must renegotiate sick leave provisions for employee groups to ensure school boards' classrooms are staffed consistently and costs are contained.

Committee Recommendation

Approve and Refer to Labour Relations Committee.

RESOLUTIONS # 29-44

RECEIVE & REFER TO COMMITTEE(S)

Moved by: Trustee Janice Hutchison

Simcoe Muskoka CDSB

Seconded by: Trustee Tanya Da Silva

Topic: **Streamlining the Process for Building Permit Approval**

Whereas: the Ministry approves Capital Funding based on Board Capital Priorities Submissions; and

Whereas: the Ministry holds Boards accountable for meeting opening dates within specified time frames as outlined in the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*; and

Whereas: Boards rely on municipalities to approve Site Plan Agreements to achieve Building Permit approval; and

Whereas: Boards are facing challenges in achieving Building Permit approval within specified timeframes; and

Whereas: Given the challenges in achieving Building Permit approval, schools remain over capacity in areas of high growth where additional accommodation is desperately needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to request that the provincial government provide a summary of the steps that have been taken and are planned to be taken to streamline site plan approval processes for school boards.

Committee Recommendation

Receive and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Markus de Domenico

Toronto CDSB

Seconded by: Trustee Kevin Morrison

Topic: **Capital Projects Category for Gymnasiums**

Whereas: students are developing increasingly unhealthy living habits due to easy access to poor food choices, a lack of physical activity and exercise, and many hours per day spent using electronic devices;

Whereas: health professionals have declared that society is in an obesity crisis especially children and youth;

Whereas: indoor exercise facilities are needed due to our harsh climate that can limit outdoor activity for many months of the year;

Whereas: gymnasiums are expensive and Boards do not have sufficient funding to build them;

Whereas: many School Boards have schools that are older buildings and have no gymnasiums or small, improperly ventilated, poorly lit gymnasiums. Many schools have had to designate other unsuitable spaces for physical fitness and indoor team sports; and

Whereas: every year the Ministry of Education has a Capital Priority call and invites Boards to submit business cases substantiating the need for new schools and additions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to add a new category to capital funding requests. The new category would be Capital Funding Requests for funding of the renovation and/or building of new gymnasiums or sports facilities in school communities.

Committee Recommendation

Receive and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Tracey Weiler

Waterloo CDSB

Seconded by: Robert Sikora

Topic: **Cyber Security Funding**

Whereas: School boards' number one risk continues to be falling prey to a cyber-attack. According to the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange, one in four boards have reported being compromised in the past 5 years. PowerSchool is the most recent example of a breach that has impacted Ontario boards. Claims have ranged from \$20,000 to \$3M, with most claims exceeding the cyber insurance policy limit; and

Whereas: In addition to the significant impact on a board's financial well-being, victims of a cyber-attack can expect their student and staff personally identifiable information (PII) to be accessed and potentially sold on the dark web.; and

Whereas: Boards that are severely compromised can expect disruption to the continuity of many systems, including, but not limited to: HR and Payroll Systems, Student Management Systems, and Transportation Systems; and

Whereas: The province has made progress in creating supports and educational resources for those in the Ontario Public Sector and Broader Public Sector with its Cyber Security Centre of Excellence hub. The province has moved funding for Broadband Modernization into Core Education Funding which is appreciated, and

Whereas: There remains however a significant gap between funding available for school boards for cyber security and the actual spending required to provide stakeholders with secure infrastructure, and

Whereas: Staff with expertise in cyber security are difficult to attract and retain within the existing funding provided by the province. Because of this, many boards struggle to present a credible cyber posture as they simply do not have ready access to funding to pay for subject matter experts, and

Whereas: School boards' IT practices with respect to the safeguarding of information and systems has evolved significantly in the past five years. Security processes that each board would be expected to employ include multi-factor authentication for network access, a shift away from passwords, use of secure sign-on for cloud-based applications, a regular cyber training/awareness program for staff and students, and a proactive patch management regime. Two specific cyber security platforms are critical to supporting boards' data and systems: Endpoint security, and Cloud security, and

Whereas: To ensure students receive a high quality publicly funded education, modern teaching and learning practices have evolved to incorporate the use of technology and apps, many of which address specific student learning needs. Boards must pay close attention to the terms and conditions of apps where the PII of students and or staff are shared. Vendors may resell PII to third parties, or use it in unethical ways to harm students, staff, and families. The Educational Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO) offers a Vetting of Applications for Security and Privacy (VASP) service to perform this function on behalf of school boards. Unfortunately, there is a limit to how many apps ECNO can review

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to provide funding through Core Education funding:

- For school boards to hire at minimum one dedicated Information Systems Security Manager with the appropriate qualifications and experience to ensure their systems and data are safe. This should be provided to school boards with enveloping provisions to ensure the funds are directed as intended and adjusted on an annual basis with sector salary and benefit benchmarks, and
- For school boards to support the proactive protection of systems and data, each school board should be provided with annual funding for a modern endpoint security platform and tools to manage data stored in the cloud. This should be provided to school boards with enveloping provisions to ensure the funds are directed as intended and adjusted on an annual basis with sector non-salary and benefit benchmarks, and
- For a centralized on-demand Vetting of Applications for Security and Privacy (VASP) which would have the capacity to vet apps within a prescribed amount of time so school boards can deliver effective programs and services to students. The province should work with the Educational Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO) and/or another third party to invest in capacity for the benefit and safety of students.

Committee Recommendation

Receive and Refer to Political Advocacy Committee.

Moved by: Brea Corbet

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Seconded by: Anisha Thomas

Topic: **Funding to Lower Class Sizes in Grades 4 through 8**

Whereas: Class size plays an important role in shaping the quality of education students receive; and

Whereas: Smaller class sizes in grades 4-8 would enable teachers to build meaningful relationships with students that are pivotal in identifying individual strengths and applying timely support; and

Whereas: Smaller classes in grades 4-8 would enable teachers to provide an increased level of individual attention to students who might require it; and

Whereas: Smaller class sizes foster a productive and more engaging learning environment with fewer disruptions, more collaboration, ensuring that instructional time is maximized

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to reduce class sizes through grades 4-8 to create a more effective learning environment amongst elementary school students.

Committee Recommendation

Receive and Refer to Labour Relations Committee.

Moved by: Trustee Markus de Domenico

Toronto CDSB

Seconded by: Trustee Garry Tanuan

Topic: **Comprehensive Review of Sick Leave**

Whereas: under the Education Act of Ontario, school Boards are obligated to balance their operating budgets. The rising rate of absenteeism has had a detrimental effect on a Board's ability to discharge this fundamental obligation; and

Whereas: the government passed the "Putting Students First Act" whereby the Sick Leave benefit system was changed by the government, ending the ability of employees to "Bank" unused Sick Leave for the purposes of a retirement gratuity. In the past decade absenteeism has skyrocketed from an average of 8 days absent to between a low of 10 days to a high of 19 days with the Provincial average currently at 15.6 days.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- a) OCSTA petition the Auditor General of Ontario to undertake a comprehensive review of the impact of sick leave and other absences in the education sector including financial, operational and student achievement implications; and
- b) OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to study the feasibility and potentially positive outcomes associated with the introduction of sick leave programs that incentivize employees in an effort to decrease absenteeism.

Committee Recommendation

Receive and Refer to Labour Relations Committee.

Moved by: Bruno Iannicca

Dufferin-Peel CDSB

Seconded by: Shawn Xaviour

Topic: **Funding to Support Additional Supervision**

Whereas: Schools are experiencing a notable increase in serious behavioural incidents, especially in, but not limited to, washrooms, hallways and other common spaces. These include physical aggression, verbal threats, cyberbullying, vaping, vandalism and other forms of disruptive conduct that contravenes the Catholic Code of Conduct; and

Whereas: These behaviours jeopardize the safety, mental health and well-being of students. They also erode their confidence in feeling safe in washrooms, hallways and common spaces, and negatively impact the overall learning environment; and

Whereas: These behaviours have made it increasingly difficult to provide adequate supervision based on current staffing allocations, particularly in washrooms, hallways common spaces (based on current supervision 'minutes' allocations and administrative responsibilities); and

Whereas: Significant benefits in additional and dedicated supervision throughout the day would ensure students receive continuous supports, fostering a more positive and safe school experience.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to ensure that additional and ongoing funding be provided to school boards to increase dedicated supervision in schools to proactively address and prevent such incidents of student behaviour and support healthy school climates.

Committee Recommendation

Receive and Refer to Political Advocacy and Labour Relations Committees.