



Robin Pilkey

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November 21, 2016

Catholic Education Centre
80 Sheppard Avenue East
North York, ON M2N 6E8

Dear Chair Angela Kennedy

Attached is a letter to the Minister of Education with a motion from the Board of Trustees October 26, 2016 meeting *addressing systemic racism and implementing meaningful change through the curriculum review process*.

We hope you will support this motion by discussing this at your board and by sending a letter to the Minister of Education asking for her support.

Please contact or Trustee Neethan Shan Neethan.shan@tdsb.on.ca if you have any questions concerning this motion.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Pilkey'.

Robin Pilkey
Chair of the Board

cc: Trustee Neethan Shan – Ward 21 Scarborough-Rouge River
Ontario School Board Chairs
OSPBA



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The Honorable Mitzie Hunter
Minister of Education,
Government of Ontario
14th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

At the October 26, 2016 meeting of the Toronto District School Board discussion was held on addressing systemic racism and how to implement meaningful change through the Curriculum Review Process.

Among the issues raised were the following:

- the current curriculum being taught in public schools from Grade 1 to Grade 12 does not adequately reflect the ethno-racial diversity of Ontario; and
- many racialized students, parents and educators feel that they, their experiences and their contributions are not represented and reflected in the content of what is being taught in their classrooms; and
- despite the slow progress being made, there is a long way to go in making sure that the staffing of the education system is reflective of the student population; and
- student achievement is tied to how the students feel about themselves and their identities, the level of their self-esteem and the sense of belonging in their schools and in the education system; and
- racial inequities and systemic discrimination continue to be an important issue in the education system;


On behalf of the Toronto District School Board of Trustees, I am writing this letter to bring to your attention the following motion that was passed at our October 26th 2016 Board meeting:

Be it resolved that the Chair send a communication to the Minister of Education requesting that the Ministry undertake an ethno-racial, equity-based, comprehensive review of the curriculum beginning with Grade 1 and continuing to Grade 12 in all major subjects;

- (i) *That the review be conducted with the objective of putting forward concrete recommendations that can help make the curriculum become more reflective and representative of the diverse ethno-racial communities in Ontario;*
- (ii) *That educators, anti-racism advocates, parents/guardians and students from the diverse racialized communities be engaged in the review process;*
- (iii) *That a copy of the request be sent to the Minister Responsible for the Anti-Racism Directorate;*
- (iv) *That a copy of the Board's decision be sent to the chairs of all Ontario school boards, with a request for support;*
- (v) *That a copy of the Board's decision be sent to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association with a request for support and advocacy of the resolution.*

I look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Pilkey', with a stylized, flowing script.

Robin Pilkey
Chair of the Board

cc: Minister for Anti-Racism Directorate
Ontario School Board Chairs
OSPBA