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October 27, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, M.P.P.
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, M.P.P.
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter, M.P.P.
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Premier Wynne, Minister Hoskins and Minister Hunter,

As Chair of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees to express our deep concerns about recommendations proposed in the *Public Health Within an Integrated Health System* report from the Minister's Expert Panel on Public Health.

This report recommends that public health units be integrated with Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). The proposed boundaries for these new public health/LHIN units would divide the City of Toronto into three and divide some Toronto District School Board wards. This would mean that students in neighbouring schools in our city could be receiving public health services – like vaccinations and vision, hearing and dental screening – on different schedules or in different ways.

While schools in downtown Toronto would be clustered together, schools in Scarborough would be part of a health unit that extends to Peterborough while schools in North York and North Etobicoke would be part of a unit that includes York Region.

This structure would mean TDSB staff would need to liaise and co-ordinate with three individual public health entities in order to ensure students have access to these programs that are essential to health and well-being.

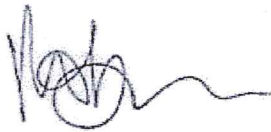
Combining public health units with LHINs would require more staff time and resources. Moreover, separating our schools and our students into three separate public health units could be inefficient and unnecessarily complex.

Finally, in other jurisdictions where public health units have been combined with clinical/hospital care, public health measures have been neglected in order to focus on clinical care. This could result in cuts to public health services for students and families in the TDSB.

Our board opposes both the proposal to integrate public health units with LHINs and the recommended change in structure as these measures could have a negative impact on programs that are vital for student health and well-being.

On behalf of the TDSB Board of Trustees, I urge you to reject these recommendations and to put student health and well-being first.

Thank you for your time and attention,



Robin Pilkey,
Chair, Toronto District School Board

Cc: Members, City of Toronto Board of Health
John Tory, Mayor, City of Toronto
Michael Barrett (Chair, Durham District School Board)
Cathy Abraham (Chair, Kawartha District School Board)
Loralea Carruthers (Chair, York District School Board)
Angela Kennedy (Chair, Toronto Catholic District School Board)
John Rinella (Chair, Durham Catholic District School Board)
Michele Griepsma (Chair, Kawartha Catholic District School Board)
Carol Cotton (Chair, York Catholic District School Board)
Jean-Francois L'Heureux (Chair, Conseil scolaire Viamonde)
Zaahirah Atchia (Chair, Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud)