



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Office of the Chair of the Board

28 September 2011

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, MPP Ottawa South, Premier of the Province of Ontario
The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, MPP Ottawa-Vanier
The Honourable Bob Chiarelli, MPP Ottawa West-Nepean
Yasir Naqvi, MPP Ottawa Centre
Phil McNeely, MPP Ottawa-Orléans
Megan Cornell, Candidate, Carleton Mississipp-Mills
Don Dransfield, Candidate, Nepean-Carleton

Dear Mr. McGuinty, Madame Meilleur, Mr. Chiarelli, Mr. Naqvi, Ms. Cornell, Mr. McNeely and Mr. Dransfield:

It was with some surprise that I received your letter expressing concern about plans by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board "to completely phase out any third party partnerships for before- and after-care in our schools." As the Chair of the Board, I can assure you that the Board has not made any plans to phase out third party partnerships. The Board has made a decision to consult with our community on this important issue so that we might make an informed decision in the months ahead.

Notwithstanding the fact that our Board members and staff have been working with Ministry staff, and with many of you in your elected capacity, there appears to be confusion about the status of our position on offering the Extended Day program. Allow me to provide you with some background information that might be helpful.

As directed by the Ministry of Education, OCDSB staff identified sites for year 1 and year 2 that would not impact on any on-site licenced child care providers. In addition, capital requests for year 3 sites and their subsequent approval means that we will not have to ask any agency to give up their space in the schools identified for that year.

The change in regulation allowing school districts to consider the use of third party providers for the Extended Day program has provided us with additional options with regard to the delivery of the program. To that end, the Board has asked staff to develop a plan to consult with stakeholders this fall which would allow the Board to approve a strategy for the implementation of the Extended Day program. These meetings have been scheduled for October 17 and 27.

I am sure that I speak for the Board in saying that we applaud the initiative of your government to provide Full-Day Kindergarten and the Extended Day services in Ontario schools. Notwithstanding our concerns about funding, the roll-out has been relatively smooth and we recognize that years 4 and 5 will be the most difficult; as they will include those schools where space is not available and a strong capital commitment will be required. I am grateful that you

133 GREENBANK ROAD, NEPEAN, ONTARIO K2H 6L3

Tel: (613) 721-1820 Fax: (613) 820-6968 24-Hour Automated Information Line (613) 596-8222 Web Site: www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca

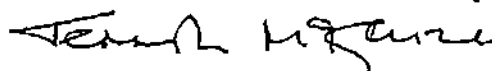
have shared your preferences on our delivery options, and will be equally grateful to receive the funding that will support the required capital commitment over the next two years.

Let me reiterate that no decision has been made on the delivery of Extended Day services at the OCDSB. We truly value the third party providers in our schools and, indeed, most trustees have met with and spoken to providers to hear their concerns and issues first hand.

I believe we are all committed to providing the best possible environment for the children in our schools, both in terms of their learning and well-being and including openness and accessibility to all families. I am confident that the trustees of our board will make a fully considered decision should the issue be brought before us.

Thank you again for your interest in the decisions of the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

Sincerely,



Jennifer McKenzie
Chair of the Board

cc Minister of Education, Hon. Leona Dombrowsky
Nancy Arnold
Trustees and Student Trustees, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Senior Staff, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board