



OSSTF District 21 – Hamilton-Wentworth
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Mr. John Malloy
Director of Education
HWDSB
100 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON

Ms. Judith Bishop
Chair
HWDSB
100 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON

April 5, 2011

Dear John and Judith:

On Tuesday, March 22, 2011, Teachers' Council passed the following motion:

Be It Resolved that the OSSTF District 21 Teacher's Unit inform the Board and Trustees that we are opposed to the elimination of the vocational programs and the loss of the hands-on facilities associated with them, and that we do not believe the needs of these students can be accommodated in the regular school system.

As the President and spokesperson for the Teachers' Unit, I am writing to pass along this position. Much of the discussion amongst our Branch Presidents focused on the needs of students currently enrolled in vocational programs. Our members who work with these students believe it is important to advocate for them, as they fear that their voices and the voices of their families are not often heard. As such, members have opted to request that OSSTF convey their concerns to the Board on their behalf. They do not wish to see these students become lost in the regular school system.

It is our understanding that some of our members have engaged in meaningful dialogue with the Board on this issue, and that their ideas have been well-received. We urge the Board to act upon their input, as we believe that the experiences of our members are a rich source of insight as the Board moves forward.

Sincerely,

Chantal Mancini

President, Teachers' Unit
 OSSTF District 21 Hamilton-Wentworth