

February 26, 2020

Response to Letters asking Trustees to 'Take Action'

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. As a Board of Trustees at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we continue to advocate for a well-funded public education system to ensure our students are safe and focused on learning.

On many of the issues you have raised – adequate funding, cuts to teachers and higher class size, for example – we have expressed our concerns to the Ontario government and in particular to our local MPPs. Our Board Chair Alex Johnstone has also made several statements of support:

"We urge parents to be informed about the issues, to know what is at stake and to speak out. An increase in class size means fewer caring adults in our schools and a reduction of course offerings in all pathways that lead to graduation: apprenticeships, college, community, university, and work.

If this settlement is reached without provisions to protect class size, generations of students will lose potential opportunities that they otherwise would have received. This is detrimental to our future – both socially and financially. We must continue to preserve the current learning environments for all students.

It is our hope that negotiations will be settled provincially, that there will be no disruption to student learning, and that the highest standard of education will be upheld – it's what Hamilton families want and what our students deserve."

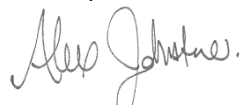
As you may know, all English language public school boards belong to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), which strongly advocates on our collective behalf. HWDSB continues to communicate our positions regarding class size, e-learning, funding local priorities and more to OPSBA. I would direct your attention to their website for a [profile](#) of its advocacy for a strong and well-funded public school system. You can also learn more on the [HWDSB Labour Updates](#) web page, where we update our local community.

Together, we are taking steps to inform and unify Ontario's public school supporters – parents, students, teachers, education workers, trustees and taxpayers – to advocate for a world-class public school system that is well-funded, supported by government and best supports the achievement and well-being needs of our students.

I know that you care about these issues as much as we do. Thank you for speaking out.

Let's continue to work together for the betterment of public education in Hamilton and across Ontario.

Sincerely,



Alex Johnstone, Chair
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board