

Attention: \_\_\_\_\_ School Board, (the “School Board”)

In line with the recent statement made by Ontario Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, I am writing to request that the School Board review its policies on parental involvement and consent particularly regarding gender identity for students. I/we ask that the School Board’s gender identity policies and procedures be revised to include parental consent for the use of preferred pronouns, alternate names, alternate sex bathroom use, and alternate sex sports and extracurricular participation for students.

Education Minister Lecce was clear when he stated that “parents must be fully involved and fully aware of what’s happening in the life of their children” and I/we agree. This board’s policies and procedures, particularly regarding Gender Identity and the use of alternate names and pronouns for students, must reflect transparency to parents regarding school curricula, classroom teachings and conversations, and third-party programs and information. As Education Minister Lecce emphasised on behalf of the Province of Ontario, “school boards need to be transparent with parents, they are the legal guardians, they love their kids...” and “... we would expect school boards to be transparent with parents...”.

Lecce goes on to say that “often there are health implications”. Social transition-- the changing of names, pronouns, washroom/changeroom use and opposite sex presentation-- is a serious psychological intervention and is the first step toward medical transition. Rainbow Health Ontario identifies the elements of social transitioning ( [What does “social transition” mean? - Rainbow Health Ontario](#)), moving directly into the reader’s surgical goals. I/we ask that social transition be recognized in school board policies and procedures as a serious psychological intervention-- very often followed by medical interventions with permanent and physically damaging effects-- and be recognized as a process beyond the school’s scope of qualification and responsibility.

In his announcement, cited below, Ontario’s Education Minister correctly stated that “... these can be life changing decisions...”. School board policies must be revised to inform and gain consent from parents prior to participating in or initiating name changes, use of opposite sex or other pronouns, allowance for opposite sex washroom/changeroom use and any other measures taken toward the child’s social transition.

In response to the concern for children’s safety in the home, should his or her parent(s) disagree with the social and medical transitioning of minors, Stephen Lecce pointed out that there are already processes in place should harm be suspected to be occurring, stating that, “... there are exceptional circumstances where there can be situations of potential harm to a child, educators are well versed on exactly what to do...”. The vast majority of parents whose children are adopting gender identities are not abusive and school board policies need to reflect that, rather than an accusatory position that paints parents in general as abusive until proven otherwise.

A recent article by the [Toronto Sun](#) explains that a “...new poll by the Angus Reid Institute showed that 78% of respondents across the country agreed that parents must be told before such changes are made.” I/we ask that all school board policies and procedures reflect respect for parental rights and the best interest of the child in regard to social transition, ideological teachings, access to sexualized materials and participation in politicized and sexualized classroom discussions, assemblies, programs and events.

The political and ideological nature of the current school environment is unacceptable and must be examined and revised through school board policies and procedures that uphold, rather than undermine, parental rights. I/we ask that all School Board policies and procedures that guide the day to day interactions with students in the classroom and in extracurricular contexts are revised to reflect the biological sex of students unless explicit

parental consent has been given. I/we advise that Ontario's Education Minister's words, "I'm just affirming to you the Province's position on the matter quite clearly, which is parents have a right to know and we will respect parental rights and we think boards must do the same", be taken into great consideration and create an opportunity for this board's examination and revision of its gender identity policies and procedures.

References:

<https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/vast-majority-say-parents-must-know-about-school-gender-change>

<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/parents-must-be-fully-involved-in-student-s-decision-to-change-pronouns-ontario-education-minister-says-1.6537959>

<https://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/trans-health-knowledge-base/what-does-social-transition-mean/>

Additional Information:

(Add your comments, provide further information, or cite school/board policies here)

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In Support of Parents Rights and the Best Interests of Their Children,

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