

Sent by Email

May 1, 2026

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy  
MPP Pickering-Uxbridge  
1550 Kingston Road, Suite 213  
Pickering, ON L1V 1C3  
[Peter.BethlenfalvyCo@pc.ola.org](mailto:Peter.BethlenfalvyCo@pc.ola.org)

Subject: Corr. 06-26  
Tracy Brown, Chair, Board of Trustees, Durham District School Board  
Re: Request for Provincial School Board Governance Consultation Process

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The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on April 27, 2026 and adopted the following resolution:

1. That Corr. 06-26, from Tracy Brown, Chair, Board of Trustees, Durham District School Board, dated March 26, 2026, regarding a Request for Provincial School Board Governance Consultation Process, be received and endorsed; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Durham Region MP's, Durham Region MPP's, John Henry, Regional Chair, The Regional Municipality of Durham, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), all Ontario Municipalities, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, and all Durham District School Board Trustees.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

A copy of the original correspondence is attached for your information.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel  
City Clerk

SC:am

Encl.

Copy: Juanita Nathan, MP Pickering-Brooklin  
Jennifer McKelvie, MP Ajax  
Ryan Turnbull, MP Whitby  
Rhonda Kirkland, MP Oshawa  
Jamil Jivani, MP Bowmanville-Oshawa North  
Jacob Mantle, MP York-Durham  
Hon. Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham  
Rob Cerjanec, MPP Ajax  
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby  
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa  
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock  
John Henry, Regional Chair, The Regional Municipality of Durham  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
All Ontario Municipalities  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
Durham District School Board Trustees

Chief Administrative Officer



## Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6

Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

March 26, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier  
Premier's Office  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

And

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
315 Front Street West, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca); [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Re: Request for Provincial School Board Governance Consultation Process

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Durham District School Board, I am writing to request that a province-wide consultation process take place before making any governance changes or decisions that would result in the elimination of school board trustees.

The potential elimination of trustees is concerning and represents a significant shift in Ontario's education governance. Trustees serve as a longstanding, essential democratic link between local communities and the public education system. Any change of this magnitude should not be considered without seeking input through evidence-based research and meaningful public engagement.

It is essential that communities have an opportunity to fully understand and respond to the implications of a proposal that would remove school board trustees, which may have unintended negative consequences on the communities that we are elected to serve. We understand you have recently heard from a number of other boards across the province, and we strongly agree with the statement from our colleagues at Avon Maitland DSB that *"transparency regarding the rationale, objectives, and anticipated outcomes of this proposal is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring informed dialogue."*

Durham Region includes diverse, urban, suburban, and rural communities, all with vastly varying histories and needs. Local representation ensures the unique needs of each of our communities are considered and met. As a Board of Trustees, we are firmly and proudly



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committed to promoting meaningful learning, connected communities, and well-being, being responsive to the priorities of the local community in carrying out our duties and responsibilities.

In parallel to this letter, we are also writing to the Ombudsman's Office to request an immediate review of the potential impacts of removing school board trustees with respect to fairness, openness, transparency, and accountability.

We thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Brown".

Tracy Brown  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Durham District School Board

cc.

Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) for Durham Region  
Members of Parliament (MPs) for Durham Region  
Regional Chair, Mayors and Council for Durham Region Municipalities  
Ontario Public School Boards' Association and Members Board  
DDSBS Board of Trustees



@DurhamDistrictSchoolBoard



@DDSBSchools

[ddsbs.ca](http://ddsbs.ca)