

September 20, 2006

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Education
Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Wynne:

On behalf of the Peel District School Board, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Ontario's new Minister of Education. Our entire board joins me in extending a very warm welcome to you and wishes you well in your new responsibilities.

As you assume your new responsibilities, I anticipate that establishing a clear understanding of board issues and concerns will be a priority for you. For some time, we have been working with former Ministers and Ministry staff to establish a fair and equitable student transportation funding model. To date, no successful resolution to this problem has been achieved and our Board is, again this year, confronted with a multi-million dollar shortfall in student transportation funding.

The Peel District School Board together with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board implemented an integrated Student Transportation Department in 1994. Student transportation services have been provided, through this integrated department, since that time and we are confident that our student transportation operation is one of the most effective and efficient operations in the province. Despite establishment of this integrated delivery model, the Peel District School Board has and continues to experience substantial funding shortfalls in the area of student transportation.

We are aware that effectiveness and efficiency reviews are being planned as part of the Ministry initiated consortia requirements for school boards. We have received assurances from the Ministry that the review of our student transportation operation would occur on a priority basis. Our Board is prepared to go through this efficiency review process immediately as we are confident that the results of this assessment will verify that our student transportation service is operating efficiently and cost effectively.

The Peel District School Board is currently projecting a \$9.5 million deficit for student transportation services in 2006/07. In addition, since the establishment of this funding formula in 1998, Peel's transportation expenditures have exceeded Ministry funding by approximately \$39 million.

Trustees

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Ruth Thompson, Vice-Chair
Valerie Arnold-Judge
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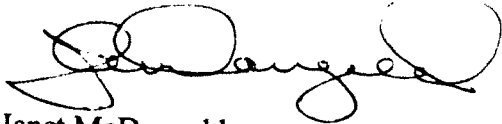
Director of Education and Secretary
Jim Grieve

Associate Director,
Instructional Support Services
Judith Nyman

Associate Director,
Operational Support Services
Wayne McNally

We have reached a critical point in the process of rectifying the funding deficiency in this area and there is urgency to resolving this issue. On behalf of the Board, I am asking you to follow through with the Ministry commitment to begin an efficiency review of our transportation services this fall. I would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you as soon as possible to discuss this matter more fully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet McDougald', written in a cursive style.

Janet McDougald
Chair

- c Peel MPPS
Peter Ferreira, Chair, Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board