

# GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## ADVOCACY POINTS 2020/21

One of our key roles as a Board is to advocate on behalf of our students, our parents and our staff. We believe the best people to establish local priorities and to make choices for local communities and local stakeholders are local people.

We value the work we do with our local stakeholders. Our ability to connect directly with students, parents and communities allows us to more deeply understand the positive and negative impacts of our decisions. We appreciate the level of accountability this gives our communities and they, in turn, appreciate the direct impact their feedback has on important decisions. We believe this principle of *local voices and local choices* works best for our schools.

Check out our website to learn more about our [Board of Trustees](#).

### 1 SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

- The number and complexity in our population of students requiring specialized supports has continued to grow. Funding for these students has not increased, in fact overall, this funding has decreased.
- The current funding framework, that uses external demographic data, does not accurately represent our local needs or provide accurate comparative data between our context and situations elsewhere.
- We need special needs funding that more accurately recognizes actual student populations and the supports required.
- One of the central pillars in the new funding framework is the calculation for enrollment based on a weighted moving average (WMA). The rationale behind this approach is to provide predictable sustainable funding.
- We believe this approach is flawed and that enrollment funding calculations should be based on actual school year enrollments. When services must be provided to all enrolled students, accurate enrolments must be used for funding in order to provide predictability in our operations. We cannot staff our schools based on an average of enrollment, they must be staffed on actual enrolment.
- We need assured per pupil funding based on actual annual enrollment. This allows us to build a scalable budget model for instruction and student support that will work predictably, regardless of potential fluctuations in student numbers.

### 2 SUPPORT FOR OUR STAFF

- Local bargaining has allowed us the opportunity to build positive relationships and address issues important to our employees in our local context.
- **We need to retain the ability to bargain meaningful issues with our staff and maintain local decision making that impacts management rights, employee working conditions and professional support and development for all our teachers and other staff.**

### 3 SUPPORT FOR OUR FACILITIES

- We appreciate the recent one-time Capital Maintenance Renewal (IMR) capital funding support, however base funding to maintain our buildings is still at ¼ of the industry standard.
- We would appreciate flexibility in the use of ALL facility enrollment funding. We need the flexibility to transfer funding between instruction and facilities and vice versa.
- **We want government to eliminate red tape and other approval processes to access existing funds for emergent or planned projects. Our school divisions need flexibility and agility to adjust project spending based on emergent issues and local needs.**



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