

July 24, 2024

Hon. Todd Smith
Minister of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Flr.
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8
Via email: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Smith,

I am writing on behalf of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) and the TVDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to express support for immediately filling vacancies within the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE).

As of July 24, 2024, almost one-third (8 out of 23) voting and non-voting member spots on the Council are vacant. Given the vital role MACSE serves to advise the Minister of Education about programs and services for students with exceptionalities, our Board is concerned the Council, and therefore the Minister, may not be getting valuable information and advice due to these vacancies.

For example, MACSE has specific spots for exceptionalities, representative of students with special needs. Right now, there are vacancies for Behaviour, Gifted and Learning Disability exceptionalities, to list just three. These are all critical areas for TVDSB students and deserve appropriate representation and attention.

With that in mind, TVDSB and SEAC encourages the Minister to fill these vacant positions as soon as possible with consideration for knowledge and lived experience of applicants. In addition, we would be interested in hearing about a timeline to appoint members to vacant MACSE positions.

Sincerely,

Beth Mai
Chair of the Board
Thames Valley District School Board

Alison Morse
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee
Thames Valley District School Board

cc: Mark Fisher, Director Fisher
Trustees
Student Trustees