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Cecile Marcino
Chair of the Board
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August 6, 2020

To Parents, Families, Stakeholders and Communities,

We believe in the importance of a well-funded education system.

The safety of our students, staff, and school communities is, and has always been, our top priority. We know the pandemic has had an impact on the mental health and the lives of our children, and as medical experts have said, it is important to get kids back into school.

As you know, the Ministry of Education recently announced [provincewide school reopening plans](#) for September. You can view more details on our local plans by [clicking here](#). Information is being added to this section of our website daily.

Highlights of the ministry's plans include:

- Elementary school children from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will attend schools five days per week, with one cohort for the full day, including recess and lunch.
- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in common spaces.
- Students in Grades 4-12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks while in school.
- Secondary schools will open in a conventional model, with enhanced cleaning and mask requirements.
- Medical masks will be provided for teachers and all other school staff. Additional Personal Protective Equipment will also be provided for staff where needed.

Additional information can also be found in this [letter](#) to parents/guardians from Minister of Education Stephen Lecce. I also encourage you to review the ongoing advocacy of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, of which our board is a member, which can be [found on the Association website](#).

Our board is working closely with our local public health unit(s) to ensure we are doing all we can to keep students and staff safe in September. In terms of provincial government financial support, we know from Minister Lecce's announcement that "the province is providing over \$300 million to purchase masks and personal protective equipment, add new teaching positions, provide enhanced cleaning supplies and more staff for schools and school buses and health and safety professional development for staff."

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The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board puts students first by creating a culture of learning.

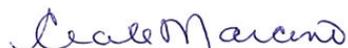
As a trustee who cares deeply about our community and the students and staff in our schools, I continue to advocate for sufficient funding to support the safe reopening of our schools.

We have advocated, and will continue to advocate, our provincial leaders to address school board, student, staff and parent/caregiver concerns as soon as possible. It is not possible for our board to obtain more funds for the return-to-school without provincial help.

I urge you to contact your local Members of Provincial Parliament, as well as the Premier and Minister of Education's offices, calling on them to provide adequate funding support for the reopening of our schools.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cecile Marcino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Cecile Marcino
Chair of the Board