

# Welcome to the 2023/24 School Year – Put Students First and Protect Your Parental Rights!

## Parents, there is more work to be done! Protect your parental rights!

We hope you had a restful summer and are recharged for the 2023/2024 school year. Here's what's on the radar for HDSB parents and community members this month.

### A Quick Recap:

- The HDSB Trustees voted down the creation of a Professionalism Policy at the June 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting, citing redundancy. Parents wait to see if they will ensure that Administrative Policies are strengthened to prevent a recurrence of the 2022/23 school year disruptions to students.
- The HDSB Board of Trustees confirmed that OTHS Shop Teacher K. Lemieux is no longer employed with the HDSB and has returned to the Hamilton board. Reporters have confirmed that Lemieux's 'female attire' is no longer being worn to school. No explanation has been provided. Media reports called [Ontario's school system a joke](#).
- School training under the branding of "*Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*" is facing serious scrutiny after the tragic death of TDSB Principal, Richard Bilkstzo. You can read the full story and listen to the audio recordings from the training sessions [HERE](#). **The Lean Out** with Tara Henley podcast featured a comprehensive discussion – [The death of a Toronto school principal](#). Worth the 30-minute listen! Unfortunately, the HDSB Board of Trustees failed to adopt a motion put forth by one of its members at the Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to scrutinize DEI-related resources and training providers. Look for further commentary on this matter in a separate communication to follow.
- Parents across Canada are speaking out about [Gender Ideology](#) in schools. Governments in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan have taken action. Parents in Ontario are now waiting to see if the Ministry of Education will move forward on some transparency and accountability concerns raised by parents now that Bill 98 has been passed. Read the HDSBs Gender Identity Policy [HERE](#) - it is up for review in October.

- Many parents across Canada are preparing to take to the streets in peaceful protest this year. The [1 Million March 4 Children](#) is happening **on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Students First Ontario endorses the right of all Canadian parents to engage in peaceful protest, advocate for parental rights and child safe-guarding. A summary of some of the events can be found [HERE](#).

More parents are beginning to understand what is happening in our education system across Canada and are finding their voice. Your energy, awareness and involvement is needed now more than ever!