

October 24, 2025

To the Avon Maitland Board of Trustees,

The state of extended day programs in our region deserves a failing grade. Currently, [50% of elementary schools in Huron County](#) do not offer extended day programming of any kind: Bluewater Coast ES, Brookside PS, Exeter ES, Hullett Central PS, North Woods ES and Stephen Central PS.

On September 9, 2025, I submitted a request asking the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) to pilot board-operated Before and After School Programs (BASP) at Bluewater Coast and Exeter Elementary Schools. Unfortunately, the response I received did not address this request, and the board stated that a search for a third party would continue.

Today, I am presenting a **petition with 450 signatures** from concerned parents and community members requesting board operated BASP from Avon Maitland District School Board, following the operating model used by Waterloo Region, Waterloo Catholic, Halton and Ottawa Carleton District School Boards.

### **This is a School Board Responsibility**

While we appreciate that the search for a third-party operator is ongoing, and that one organization is in the process of obtaining a license, this approach leaves us without a contingency plan should that provider be unable to move forward in 2026.

In 2023, the YMCA closed BASP programs at three Huron County schools. Two years later, Hullett Central PS is still without a provider. We would like transparency on what planning and conversations have taken place since then to support these families and why a solution has not yet been implemented.

Since September 2017, [Ontario has required school boards](#) to provide BASP for children up to age 12 in all publicly funded elementary schools serving students up to Grade 6, where there is sufficient demand.

Despite this requirement, our request for board operated BASP has been met with opposition. The responsibility for BASP has been offloaded to co-operatives, community groups, and municipalities, including: Clinton & Seaforth Co-operative Childcare, Bayfield Community Centre, the Municipality of North Huron, and Howick Township.

We cannot continue with this piecemeal approach and lack of accountability. It time for AMDSB to show leadership on this issues and fill this essential gap in childcare.

### **Our Request**

Today, along with our petition of 450 parent and community member signatures, we ask that the Board:

1. **Begin the licensing process** with the Ministry of Education to enable:
  - a. Board-operated BASP where no third-party provider is available.
  - b. The Board to step in immediately if a third-party provider ceases operations, ensuring uninterrupted service for students and families.
2. **Provide a proposed fee structure** that would make a board-operated BASP financially viable.
3. **Ensure the provision of BASP in all AMDSB where a third party is not available.**

This is an excellent opportunity for Avon Maitliand District School Board to do the right thing for the region of Huron-Perth. This will attract young families, assist with the recruitment of qualified teachers and early childhood educators and boost enrolment in our communities.

Thank you for your time,

Marnie Van Esbroeck  
Parent in Huron County