

From: **Rishi Bandhu** <[rishi@blpc.ca](mailto:rishi@blpc.ca)>  
Date: Wed, Jan 11, 2023 at 2:21 PM  
Subject: Re: OTHS - meeting request  
To: <[newtonj@hdsb.ca](mailto:newtonj@hdsb.ca)>

Ms. Newton,

I represent Scot Miller, and 2 other parents, as I believe you are aware.

I write in reference to your letter of yesterday's date, attached.

Perhaps you did not see the proposed agenda for the meeting that Mr. Miller is seeking to call. I've attached it to aid the reconsideration of your position.

In addition, you should note the following:

1) On December 19th, I sent the Board a detailed letter outlining the statutory provisions giving School Council advisory rights with respect to "any matter". That letter also set out the Board's mandatory obligations to consult the School Council with respect to policy revisions and to respond to the recommendations of council.

2) Minister Lecce heard us. In response, he directed the Board, among other things, to "listen to the parents."

Yet, the Board continues to attempt to silence parents. It ignored its consultation obligations.

You can see that the agenda is aimed at establishing a general mandate for council consistent with the Act, establish mandatory bylaws (which are not in place), allow parents to voice their legitimate concerns with the Board and create sub-committees to advise the Board. Those entitlements are well within the parents' "statutory authority." Frankly, if bylaws were in place there would be no dispute about the proper role of council.

It is not clear to me the basis on which you are suggesting that council cannot meet more than the number of times that were initially agreed to. Where in the Act are the number of school council meetings capped? This special meeting is necessary, in part, because the Board interfered with earlier ones. The evidence is readily available if you'd like to see it.

Kindly reconsider your letter and advise Mr. Miller. If you have specific questions or concerns, he is happy to discuss them. The agenda may be revised as appropriate. However, the Board is not going to silence the parents. If your position remains the same, kindly confirm that in writing. Otherwise, please advise when the meeting can be held next week and when Mr. Oliver can deliver an agenda in accordance with his statutory obligation.

Regards,

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