



April 9, 2026

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

Fr: Heather Pihulak, Deputy CAO/City Clerk

Re: Protecting Local Voice in Public Education

Recommendation:

Whereas locally elected trustees provide essential community representation; and

Whereas rural and northern communities rely on trustees to reflect local priorities, ensure accountability, and advocate for students; and

Whereas proposed changes may reduce or eliminate locally elected trustees;

Therefore be it Resolved That Council of the City of Kenora hereby requests the provincial government to commit to a full-scale, transparent, and province-wide consultation on school board governance models; and further

That a copy of this resolution be shared with the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, Premier Doug Ford, Member of Provincial Parliament for the Kenora-Rainy River District the Honourable Greg Rickford; and further

That copies be sent to Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

Background:

Mayor Poirier received a request from the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board Trustees requesting support for reaffirming the essential role of locally elected public school trustees as the primary community voice in public education.

There are proposals by the Minister of Education to change or eliminate locally elected English public school trustees in Ontario.

Council may choose to support a resolution or a letter of support to the Ministers and Premier directly. The letter received is attached for Council's reference.

Budget: N/A

Risk Analysis: There is a low risk associated with this report and advocacy only.

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: copies to: Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, Premier Doug Ford, Member of Provincial Parliament for the Kenora-Rainy River District the Honourable Greg Rickford, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).