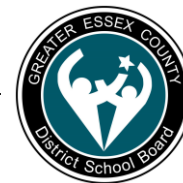


Greater Essex County District School Board

451 Park St. W., P.O. Box 210, Windsor, ON N9A 6K1 · 519-255-3200



August 14, 2020

VIA Email

Mayor Larry Snively
Town of Essex
33 Talbot Street South
Essex, Ontario N8M 1A8
Email: lsnively@essex.ca

Dear Mayor Snively:

The Greater Essex County District School Board has been working earnestly to meet the needs of our students, their families and our staff with a comprehensive plan to reopen schools for the 2020-21 school year and we could use your assistance.

Our primary goal is to minimize risks and increase safety for everyone while continuing to provide the service and success that our families demand and our students deserve. However, our Board of Trustees is adamant that the model conceived and decreed by the Ontario Ministry of Education is unsafe for students and staff. Their guidelines require *a full, 5 day per week schedule for elementary students* (Grades K-8).

Physical distancing is an essential measure to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and under this design and with current level of funding provided, it will be impossible to ensure that students and staff can maintain the appropriate, safe spacing. Many elementary classes will have more than 15 students plus at least one adult in the room. A class size of no more than 15 students would be much more reasonable and provide an acceptable level of safety. But to do that, we require more financial support.

We are asking that you, as a leader in your municipality, back our efforts to have the Ministry of Education, through the provincial government, provide a substantial increase in funding that will allow us to offer the health and safety standards our school communities and your municipal residents deserve.

I am at your disposal to discuss ways in which you may support our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ron LeClair", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron LeClair
Chairperson of the Board