



Bluewater District School Board

351 1st Avenue North – PO Box 190
Chesley ON N0G 1L0
Telephone: (519) 363-2014 Fax: (519) 370-2909
www.bwdsb.on.ca

Sent by email: stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

June 23, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are reaching out to express support for the important work being done by the Toronto Youth Cabinet to address period poverty in Ontario schools. We share their concerns and request for the provincial government to fully fund feminine hygiene products in schools across Ontario.

In Bluewater District School Board, we are currently working to provide feminine hygiene products in female school washrooms and those designed for gender-neutral use. While these products have always been made available to our students upon request, we believe such items should be more widely accessible for students in washrooms to ensure privacy. Easy access to free high-quality products is fundamentally a human rights issue and crucial to student health, well-being, and success by increasing confidence, respecting dignity, reducing potential financial burden, and mitigating student absences.

We are thankful to our student senators and others in our school communities who have been longtime advocates for the prioritization of accessible feminine hygiene products in our schools. Our staff have also been working diligently and creatively to coordinate the installation of dispensers and provision of products. While we are doing everything we possibly can to accommodate this essential need, we strongly believe that ongoing provincial funding is required to ensure sustainability, promote equity, and eliminate barriers for all who must access these products.

As always, our commitment remains focused on providing a quality education for every student in a safe, accepting, and caring environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane Thomson'.

Jane Thomson
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jan Johnstone'.

Jan Johnstone
Vice-Chair

cc: Stephen Mensah, Executive Director, Toronto Youth Cabinet

/jp