

Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustee Donaldson, on behalf of Student Trustees Abusaifan, Shafqat and Shallo, and Trustee Mammoliti)

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Senior Manager, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, notice of the following motion was provided at the regular meeting of the Program and School Services Committee on March 31, 2021 and is therefore submitted to the Planning and Priorities Committee for consideration at this time.

5.15.2 A notice of motion will be introduced by a member who is present as an advance notification of a matter at Board or Committee, and will be considered at a subsequent Committee meeting. A notice of motion will not be debated at the meeting at which it is introduced...

5.15.2 (b) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a Board meeting, will be referred to the appropriate committee...

5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting...

Access to Free Menstrual Products for Students in Ontario Schools

Whereas, lack of access due to economic factors - often referred to as “period poverty” - impacts people who menstruate around the world and can be especially damaging at puberty, when school interactions are crucial to a student’s development; and

Whereas, one-third of people who menstruate under the age of 25 in Canada struggle to afford menstrual products, and 70 per cent of people who menstruate say they have missed work or school due to their period¹; and

Whereas, menstrual hygiene products are not a luxury product, and are necessary and essential to menstrual health, comfort and participation in work, school and society; and

Whereas, on August 28, 2019 the Board authorized the Director to enter into a partnership with the charitable organization Brands Canada to secure access to menstrual products at no cost to the Board, and decided that free menstrual products be provided in all elementary and secondary schools beginning in the 2019-20 school year; and

Whereas, in some cases, free menstrual products are provided to students only at a student’s request, which invades student privacy; and

Whereas, the products currently provided in TDSB schools are funded by charitable organizations, and not guaranteed as a right to students; and

Whereas, the Toronto Youth Cabinet has issued a Joint Statement on Promoting Menstrual Equity in Ontario Schools¹ and has invited all 72 Ontario school boards to advocate for access to free menstrual products;

¹ <https://globalnews.ca/news/4239800/canada-cost-of-menstrual-products/>

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Chair write to the provincial Minister of Education requesting that the Government of Ontario provide funding for free menstrual products in schools;
- (b) That the Ontario School Boards' Association be copied on the correspondence noted in Part (a);
- (c) That the Director work with schools to ensure students have equitable access to menstrual products in a way that protects student privacy.

¹ <https://www.thetyc.ca/post/tyc-joint-statement-on-promoting-menstrual-equity-in-ontario-schools>