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April 1, 2020

Hon. Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
5th Floor  
438 University Ave.  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister,

Thank you again for meeting with MPP Doly Begum and I last week. We appreciated the opportunity to share the concerns and questions of Ontario families, students and education/childcare workers, and the discussion that ensued.

Following up on that meeting, I look forward to reconvening shortly to discuss details of the announcement that was made yesterday regarding the continuation of school closures and Phase 2 of the government's learning plan.

Many parents, students and educators have already been in contact with me to share their questions and concerns, and in the spirit of ongoing collaboration at a very difficult time, I would respectfully submit the following for your consideration:

1. Will educators be involved in all aspects of the planning and development of the courses?
2. How will this strategy recognize families' differing capacities to support their children's learning, including essential workers and parents who are working from home, as well as newcomer families and families where English is the second language?
3. Has a final decision been made on assessment/grading or is the Ministry open to other models, such as a pass/fail model with feedback? Many universities have shifted to a pass/fail outcome measure for students.
4. How will grading/assessment work for students in Full Day Kindergarten, where learning is play-based and assessment is based on observation?
5. What consideration is being given to supporting teachers and other education workers who have children at home, caregiving responsibilities or who, themselves, may become ill?
6. How will these programs support vital learning beyond the 3Rs? For example, how is the government proposing to approach the delivery of arts – including dance and drama – courses through Phase 2?
7. What factors were considered in the "hours per week" assignment for each grade?

8. What will Boards do when students can't meet these expectations? Some educators and parents have expressed concerns about the ability of some students to use remote tools, and failure to recognize that families (as noted above) have a range of capacities.
9. What plan is in place to support students with special needs and students with IEPs? What is the Ministry's vision of how Boards should provide this support? Including the work of professionals, para-professionals and educational assistants?
10. Is *Learn at Home* mandatory for all students?

Thank you again, Minister, for your openness to working together to find the best solutions at a very challenging time. I think we all appreciate the enormity of the task ahead. It is so very important that we continue to collaborate and seek the input of educators, staff, experts to serve the best interests of our students and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marit Stiles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marit Stiles  
MPP Davenport  
Official Opposition Education Critic