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THE EDUCATION CENTRE - AURORA

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September 1, 2018

Kate Diakiw  
Superintendent of Education  
Student Services

Dear Kate,

The Board of Trustees and the Senior Team have worked collaboratively with our community to renew our Strategic Plan. As a leadership team, we have aligned the Director's Annual Plan and Board Improvement Plan to meet the priorities and goals outlined by trustees. Additionally, we have successfully put into routine practice the Minister's Directions. In short, our leadership team is poised to align our efforts and work, to collaborate with precision and diligence to ensure positive outcomes are met for students, families and staff.

As the Superintendent of Student Services, you support the development, implementation and monitoring of the board's Well-Being Strategy; oversee special education programs and services; collaborate with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to develop the board's special education plan; and ensure students are provided support from regulated professionals.

To enhance our alignment of purpose, I am asking that you work on the following specific priorities during the 2018-2019 school year that complement your role as Superintendent of Student Services.

- Review the board's claims-based funding practices for Ministry funding
- Continue to support SEAC to elevate parent and advocate voice for the betterment of programs and services and align SEAC by-laws to legislation and effective practices
- Lead the refinement of the board's Well-Being strategy to reflect a tiered model of support for students and leverage the resources developed by Mental Health ASSIST
- Review third party supports for students and align the board's practices to legislation and other obligations while maximizing support for students and families
- Maximize student attendance at school by developing, implementing and monitoring effective practices that support student needs
- Continue to innovate, implement and monitor programs, supports and services (such as the Executive Functioning Pilot) to inform our practice
- Lead the creation of a department plan that is aligned to the Director's Annual Plan and includes all elements of a logic model inclusive of data and evidence
- Embed evidence gathering and monitoring in all elements of your practice.

I ask you to consider the above priorities and develop an implementation plan that includes timelines, outcomes and performance indicators. In our meetings, I will ask that you provide updates to progress as appropriate.

Thank you for your leadership Kate and I look forward to working alongside you in the 2018-2019 academic school year.

Sincerely,

*Louise Sirisko*

Louise Sirisko  
Director of Education  
York Region District School Board