



July 30, 2018

### **Statement regarding Ontario's Health & Physical Education Curriculum**

Recently, the Ontario government announced that the revised provincial Health and Physical Education curriculum implemented in 2015 will be replaced in September 2018 by the curriculum that was in place from 1998 to 2014. While we await formal communication on the next steps from the Ministry of Education, we want to assure our school communities that the Avon Maitland District School Board (AMDSB) remains committed to our two core Strategic Priorities: to create positive, inclusive learning environments, and to maximize outcomes for our students.

These Strategic Priorities highlight the fact that the Avon Maitland District School Board is fully committed to ensuring that all of our students feel safe, welcomed and included in our school communities, including our LGBTQ+ students. In addition, we have a responsibility, under the Human Rights Code, the Education Act, and AMDSB's policies and procedures to continue to create safe and accepting environments for all students and we will continue to do so.

We have heard a number of concerns and have received inquiries regarding the impact of the curriculum changes in our schools, and for our staff and students. At this time we have received no formal direction from the Ministry. As clarification of details of any upcoming curriculum changes unfold, we will provide this information back to our community, however it is our expectation and belief that important topics related to gender, consent and online safety will continue to be part of curriculum instruction. In addition, we expect that details and resources needed by teaching staff to implement the changes to the curriculum will be released in a complete and timely manner.

In conclusion, the Avon Maitland District School Board welcomes the opportunity to shape any proposed revisions and we are committed to working with the government of Ontario to do so. We also invite parents, families, students, staff or any member of the community who wishes to inquire about how to offer input on this process, to contact their Member of Provincial Parliament or the Minister of Education and we thank everyone who has expressed an interest in this matter.