



Wild Rose School Division

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January 20, 2022

Honourable Adriana LaGrange
Minister of Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Ave.
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6

RE: E-Tutoring Hub and Loss of Learning

Dear Minister LaGrange:

The Wild Rose School Division Board of Trustees wish to express their concerns regarding the learning loss of all students and the ineffectiveness of the e-tutoring hub.

The pandemic has had a profound impact on our schools and students. One of the areas of impact is a loss of learning time for students due to rotating school and class closures, illness and teachers being absent. This learning loss has been supported in Grades 1-3 through a grant to provide in school, teacher-led targeted support for literacy and numeracy. This is an effective strategy and we are very thankful for this additional support from the government.

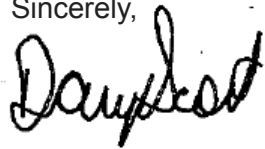
Grades 4-12 have also had significant disruption to their learning. The e-tutoring Hub put together by Alberta Education does not provide the same level of support the in-school Grade 1 to 3 Learning Disruption Grant has provided. Online videos or the proposed online tutoring is not targeted to the individual needs of students. The current videos fail to address any higher level thinking or conceptual learning gaps that our students have. Simple recall knowledge is not where the learning gaps are for our students. They need support in reading skills, math problem solving and making connections between concepts and topics. Video clips do not address these gaps. Targeted interventions and smaller class sizes address these learning gaps. Online tutoring is not the support our students need. They need instruction and support from the educators they already know and trust, instead of a disconnected online person that doesn't know what has been covered in class or any potential learning needs that student may have.

The presentation of the videos is very poor. The cartoon fox as well as the juvenile tone and cadence of the voice are not appropriate for Grade 4-9 students. The current presentation is more for Grade 1 or 2 students. There is no closed captioning, speed adjustment or other tools to support students with special learning needs.

The Wild Rose School Division Board of Trustees encourages the Minister to not put any further time or money into the e-tutoring hub as it is not effective for students. We would instead encourage that funds be provided to school divisions to provide targeted intervention support and smaller class sizes in Grades 4-12. We would encourage the learning disruption grant to be extended for the 2022-2023 school year and expanded to Grades 4-12. We also request that these funds be in place at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year, without the arduous testing and application process. This slows down our ability to provide prompt support to our students. Knowing the funding ahead of time, support can be integrated and in place for the first day of school instead of trying to piece together hiring and planning part way through the school year.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any additional information, clarification, or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daryl Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Daryl Scott,
Board Chair

cc: Alberta School Board Association
Alberta School Board Association, Zone 4 Chair