February 26, 2020

École Sir John A Macdonald School Advisory Council
Kingston, ON

**Letter of Solidarity with Educators**

Our school advisory council (SAC) is writing to express our support for educators and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) during labour action at our school and across the province.

Educators are vital in shaping our children’s lives, and we stand in solidarity with them through their work-to-rule action and withdrawal of service. We want our publicly funded education to be inclusive, nurturing, enriching, and safe. Our concerns include:

- Increases to class sizes
- Changes to full-day kindergarten programs
- Cuts to resources and funding for special education
- A lack of mental health support for educators and students
- A rise in the number of violent incidents in schools

We urge the Ontario government to engage at the bargaining table and to negotiate a fair agreement for our students and their educators.

Many of our SAC members have stood with and supported ESJAM’s educators during job action and will continue to do so. We encourage others in the ESJAM community and across the province to share their support as well, now and in the future.

Primarily, we call on the government to show our students, through their example, how to resolve conflict through meaningful and purposeful dialogue.

Sincerely,

ESJAM School Advisory Council

CC:
Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Sam Oosterhoff, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education
Debra Rantz, Director of Education, LDSB
Suzanne Ruttan, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, LDSB
Laurie French, Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, LDSB
Bob Godkin, Trustee, LDSB
Ian Arthur, MPP, Kingston and the Islands
Marit Stiles, MPP, Education Critic
Sam Hammond, President, EFTO
Annie Kidder, Executive Director, People for Education