



Office of the Mayor – *Neil Ellis*

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January 23, 2023

**RE: Letter of Support  
Adventure Class Program  
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to offer my full support of the Adventure Class Program at Queen Victoria Public School in Belleville, Ontario. The knowledge of its pending closure was recently brought to my attention and I wholeheartedly entreat you to review this decision or, at least, reconsider the proposed manner and extend the timeline in which the evaluation will be made.

I firmly believe the Adventure Class has a positive impact on youth within our city. Having access to authentic and creative learning experiences allows children most at risk of being left behind in other types of classroom formats to obtain a fulfilling education. This program already enjoys the support of parents and local organizations in our community, not to mention being of equal import to Adventure Class students —past, present, and future. To deny children the option of an alternative form of learning that best suits their abilities could have a negative impact on our youth, Belleville's potential future leaders.

A letter put before the HPEDSB Trustees by the parents of Adventure Class students has been shared with me. I too feel the analysis of this program requires a transparent and established evaluation process conducted by an experienced and knowledgeable professional with no question of bias or conflict of interest. I trust the Board will address and rectify this situation.

Thank you, in advance, for your careful consideration to bring about a better resolution with regards to continuing to offer this dynamic learning environment to the children of our city.

Sincerely,

Neil Ellis  
Mayor