



**April 6, 2021 - Notice of Motion – Supporting Our Diverse School Community (B. Agnew)**

**WHEREAS**, our schools should be safe spaces for anyone that walks through our doors.

**WHEREAS**, many of our students, parents, caregivers, staff and community members identify as LGBTQ+.

**WHEREAS**, our strategic plan emphasizes that the well-being for all of our students and staff are met through a focus on equity and inclusion.

**WHEREAS**, raising the Pride flag demonstrates this commitment to our students, staff, parents, caregivers and community members.

**WHEREAS**, Pope Francis has told parents of LGBTQ+ children that “God loves your children as they are” and “the church loves your children as they are because they are children of God.”

**WHEREAS**, Mark 10:13-16 states “People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.”

**WHEREAS**, there are students and staff within our Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) community who identify with the LGBTQ2+ and

**WHEREAS**, we as a Board wish to ensure all the students and staff attending our schools and their families, know that we support and are welcoming of all students, staff and community members,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Director of Education and the Secretary of the Board direct all HCDSB schools including the Catholic Education Centre to fly the Pride flag during the month of June starting with 2021 and to work with Student Senate and Staff in organizing events throughout the month that focus on equity and inclusion for all.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each class in each HCDSB school be mandated to have a safe space poster, to ensure that students in the 2SLGBT community are supported throughout the entire school year.