



Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

July 22, 2026

Dallas Wiebe
Board Chair
Hanover School Division
dawiebe@hsd.ca

Dear Dallas Wiebe:

I am sending this letter as a follow up to the meeting on June 15, 2026, where we discussed, among other topics, the board's recent motion regarding the "mature minor" category in the provision of healthcare in Hanover School Division. As you are aware, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning has reviewed the Hanover School Division's recently passed motion that states:

"HSD parents / guardians be regarded as primary healthcare provider for their child. As such the 'mature minor' category is not to be honored in any HSD building".

The department has consulted with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, and we are of the opinion that this motion contravenes provincial statute, as well as *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (The Charter).

I want to acknowledge that while school divisions have the authority to develop local policies, all such policies must comply with provincial and federal legislation. The mature minor doctrine is enshrined within *The Health Care Directives Act* and *The Public Health Act*, in addition to being well recognized and upheld by the common law. Importantly, it must be noted that refusing to provide health care services to a mature minor, where that individual has provided their consent in accordance with the doctrine, could be found to violate sections 7 and 15 of The Charter.

I would further acknowledge that health care practitioners are well placed to evaluate the maturity of a child, their ability to make informed choices, and the importance of keeping parents informed.

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The Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning expects that all school divisions operate within the bounds of all relevant statutes at all times. As outlined above, I have significant concerns that the board's motion regarding the mature minor doctrine is contrary to provincial and federal statutes.

In addition to the legal concerns, I have concerns about the untenable position that this motion places health care professionals working in Hanover School Divisions buildings. It is my expectation that these health professionals continue to meet their legal and professional standards, unfettered, so that students' medical needs are met. I have full confidence in the ability of health care providers to obtain consent within the relevant legal and professional frameworks.

Unilaterally, and likely unconstitutionally, restricting the practice of health care professionals with Hanover students risks having students with disabilities, mental health needs and other conditions go without treatment or accommodation.

You also have responsibility under The Personal Health Information Act. All of this information ought to be known to you and has been shared with you previously. Your presumed knowledge of your legal and constitutional responsibilities would lead a reasonable observer to conclude you passed this motion at best for public attention and at worst to pick a fight. We encourage you to focus on the education of children in your division and leave the health care policy development to the health care experts.

Therefore, I am issuing a directive, under clause 41(1)(y) of The Public Schools Act to the Hanover School Division Board to repeal the motion regarding the mature minor doctrine, to ensure that the division is operating within the applicable law. Failure to comply with this directive, and/or failure(s) to manage the affairs of the board in a satisfactory manner will result in further response, up to and including the appointment of an official trustee, pursuant to s.28 of The Public Schools Act.

I will further note that in discussion with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, that health care providers operating in Hanover School Division buildings, including the clinic operated by Southern Health-Santé Sud in Steinbach Regional Secondary School will continue to provide continuity of services and support for the students and the school environment.

My priority is to continue working collaboratively with the Hanover School Division to support the well being of all students and families and to ensure that all students have access to high-quality education and appropriate health supports within their schools. I welcome any further conversation the board may wish to have on this matter including any question they may have regarding this directive.

Sincerely,



Honourable Tracy Schmidt
Minister
Education and
Early Childhood Learning

- c. Honourable Uzoma Asagwara, Minister of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Mona Pandey, Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning