

Halton school boards get a provincial boost

By **Melanie Hennessey**
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The province is dishing out over \$100,000 in Halton to bolster projects that promote parent involvement in local schools.

The funds will be dispersed through Parent Reaching Out Grants to local school councils in both the public and Catholic school boards and will be used to support a total of 117 projects, such as bullying prevention workshops and parent resources on mental health.

The Halton District School Board is slated to receive \$73,715 for 75 projects, while the Halton Catholic District School Board will get \$40,604 for 42 projects.

I think this investment really demonstrates our commitment to helping find local solutions to get parents more involved and get parents more engaged, said Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris to a crowd of students and educa-

tion professionals during Thursday's (Sept. 8) funding announcement at Irma Coulson Public School.

The recently-named Associate Minister of Education (early years and child care) added, We can't create the proper learning environment for our kids without the help of parents.

Irma Coulson School Council Chair Stephen Hurley lauded the funding and reflected on an aspect of parent engagement that he noticed on the first day of school this week.

There's a space that happens on a daily basis when parents hand their kids off to teachers, and it's built on trust and held open by trust. I think that's where our conversations about parent engagement have to begin, in that space, he said.

According to the Ontario government, the funding is designed to drive local solutions that help parents overcome barriers to get-

ting more involved in their children's learning.

Among the examples of projects the Province cites that could be funded by Parents Reaching Out Grants are: parent support for their children's mathematics learning, workshops for newcomer parents to learn about Ontario's education system, parent resources on mental health and well-being and family health nights to promote active lifestyles.

Parents Reaching Out Grants make it easy for parents to become engaged in their child's education, said Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter.

The funding they receive gives them the opportunity to create local, community-specific solutions that will help encourage more parents in their children's learning in support of student achievement and well-being.

About 2,200 schools across Ontario will receive the grants in the 2016-2017 school year.



Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris announces funding to bolster projects that promote parent involvement in local schools.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey



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