

Motion Regarding Safe-Arrival Program for Schools

Moved by: Councillor Maleeha Shahid

Seconded by: Councillor Rhonda Mulcahy

Whereas the Government of Ontario instituted a Safe-Arrival Policy for schools in 1999 requiring each district school board, school authority, and the Provincial Schools Branch to develop a safe-arrival program to report unexplained student absences in a timely manner to parents, guardians, or caregivers; and,

Whereas there is no requirement for Provincially licensed child care providers to have safe-arrival programs in place; and,

Whereas requiring safe-arrival programs for Provincially licensed child care providers may help prevent avoidable tragedies involving children, such as the June 2022 death of a toddler who was unintentionally left in a hot car for a prolonged period of time when his parent reported to work after failing to deliver the child to his daycare provider.

Now therefore be it resolved:

1. That the Council of the Region of Durham requests the Province of Ontario to require a Safe-Arrival Policy be developed and implemented by provincially licensed child care providers to enhance the safety of all children enrolled in their programs by reporting unexplained child absences in a timely manner to parents, guardians, or caregivers; and,
2. That the Clerk be directed to send this resolution to Premier Ford, the Minister of Education, and all Durham MPPs.