



## **BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Board Room  
Administration Building  
133 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trustees: Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Erica Braunovan, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Wendy Hough, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz, Lynn Scott, Ganaaboute Gagne (Student Trustee), Prasith Wijeweera (Student Trustee)
- Staff: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent of Instruction), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Olga Grigoriev (Superintendent of Instruction), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), Susan Baker (Acting Manager of Board Services), John MacKinnon (Audio-Visual Technician), Nicole Guthrie (Senior Board Coordinator)
1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board  
Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territory and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.
  2. Approval of the Agenda  
Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Chair Scott requested that the presentation to Trustee Fisher be deferred to the 22 October 2019 Board meeting.

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.**

**Carried**

3. Presentation to Frank Wiley

Chair Scott thanked Frank Wiley for his guidance and caring support for thousands of students over the course of his career. She highlighted his grace, modesty and respect as hallmarks of his leadership which are rooted in the concern for the well-being of students.

Mr. Wiley expressed his appreciation to Director Williams-Taylor for her extraordinary leadership. He remarked on the changes that are occurring in the District and the Director's ability to embrace and harness change. He wished his colleagues well.

4. Report from the Board (In Camera)

The Board met in camera this evening and Vice-Chair Braunovan reported that there were no recommendations.

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott announced that the first speaker series event on concussion management will take place on Rowan's Law Day, 25 September 2019 at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School. Led by Dr. Andrée-Anne Ledoux, attendees will learn the causes of concussion, how to recognize a concussion, the neurobiology of a concussion, symptoms, recovery trajectory and concussion management protocols on return to learn and play.

Chair Scott noted that the District is home to a wide range of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, and on behalf of the Board, she wishes those celebrating upcoming holidays joy and happiness.

- Rosh Hashanah – September 30, 2019
- Dussehra (Vijayadashmi) – October 7, 2019
- Yom Kippur – October 9, 2019

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor announced that on 23 September 2019, the District in partnership with Global Child Care Services, Art Studio Plus and Fallingbrook Community Elementary School students, unveiled a new outdoor mural. The

school applied for and received funding through Crime Prevention Ottawa's Paint it Up! Program, sponsored by the City of Ottawa. The program aims to support youth empowerment, graffiti prevention, community safety and the beautification of Ottawa neighbourhoods.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the one-of-a-kind masterpiece and its artistic vision was inspired, guided, sketched and painted entirely by the Fallingbrook Community ES students. The mural project provided students with an incredible opportunity to demonstrate their skills and responsible citizenry. She congratulated the Fallingbrook Community ES team for their outstanding work.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that many students may attend the Global Climate Strike rally planned for 27 September 2019. She noted that the District remains committed to building a culture of social responsibility and that it encourages its students to develop well-informed opinions regarding social issues, such as climate change, and to be able to express those views appropriately. She added that, should students decide to participate in the event, they should provide notice to the school and follow the regular sign-out procedures. Students should not be penalized for choosing to participate in this event and staff should avoid scheduling any major assessments on 27 September 2019.

Director Williams-Taylor announced that the District will celebrate Orange Shirt Day on 30 September 2019. She noted that Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for First Nations and non-First Nations to raise awareness about the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the Communications team compiled an infographic outlining the 2019 summer work that occurred in the District. The infographic outlines infrastructure and facilities investments as well as professional development and student learning.

## 7. Delegations

### 7.1 Thom Dawson, re Childcare Space Rental

Mr. Dawson advised that the Westboro Village Cooperative Preschool, a licensed, non-profit cooperative owned and operated by the parents of the children attending the preschool, has operated in the community for over forty years. He expressed the view that District policy P.059.SCO Child Care Programs in Schools, allows childcare providers with existing relationships with the District the first right of refusal for new space opening up within a school. As such, local childcare providers are unable to compete for available space in local schools. Mr. Dawson noted that they are aware of vacant space at Churchill Alternative School, and the Westboro Village Cooperative Preschool is unable to compete in a request for proposal (RFP) process as they are not currently a provider within the

District. Mr. Dawson requested that the policy be amended to include alternatives so other providers can compete as potential tenants.

Superintendent Grigoriev noted that the language of the policy and the reference to third-party partners indicates that they are pre-existing partners. Director Williams-Taylor noted that staff will review the policy.

Mr. Dawson advised that the Westboro Village Cooperative Preschool is interested in operating the pre-school in Churchill Alternative School.

## 7.2 Martin Pall, re Biological Effect of Radiation from Cell Phones

Speaking on behalf of Prevent Cancer Now, Mr. Pall and Ms. Sears shared the following information with the Board:

- The effects of WIFI and cell phone tower radiation are more active in children than adults owing to the following rationale:
  - Children have higher surface to volume ratios, so their tissues are much more exposed to electromagnetic fields (EMFs);
  - Children have very high densities of stem cells which are particularly sensitive to EMFs; and
  - The developing brain appears to be especially sensitive to EMFs.
- The list of health impacts as a result of elevated EMFs are well documented;
- EMFs have significant neurological and neuropsychiatric effects such as insomnia, fatigue, headache, concentration/cognitive dysfunction, anxiety and stress;
- EMFs also contribute to cardiac effects on the electrical control of the heart;
- Safer alternatives exist with wired fibre-optic systems; and
- The District is encouraged to minimize and phase out the use of wireless technology.

In response to questions from Trustees Lyra Evans, Penny, and Schwartz, the following information was provided:

- In regards to the epidemiological studies on causal criteria a copy of the published paper will be distributed to trustees;
- The World Health Organization has not updated their perspective on the impact of EMFs or radiofrequency radiation (RFR) since 2005; and
- The delegates volunteer their time and effort to this environmental health issue and have no conflict of interest. Mr. Pall and Ms. Sears

indicated the health of children as a primary motivator for providing the information.

7.3 Michelle Myer, Biological Effect of Radiation

Ms. Myer speaking on the biological effect of radiation noted that her son, despite access to organic food, filtered water, and other interventions prescribed by her as a naturopathic doctor, was diagnosed with brain cancer. She urged trustees to keep researching and listening to speakers. She stressed the importance of taking the issue seriously and pointed to a strong relationship between the encouraged use of cell phones and an increase in cancer and attention deficit disorder (ADD). She noted the high concentration of electromagnetic waves from cell phones that exist in the school ecosystem.

8. Matters for Action

8.1 Confirmation of Board Minutes, 24 June 2019

Moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Ellis,

THAT the 24 June 2019 Board minutes be confirmed.

Trustee Ellis requested that his vote, as recorded on folio 17, should be against.

**Moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Ellis,**

**THAT the 24 June 2019 Board minutes be confirmed, as amended.**

**Carried**

8.2 Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 24 June 2019 Board minutes.

8.3 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 17 September 2019

Moved by Trustee Braunovan, seconded by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 17 September 2019, be received.

Trustee Boothby requested that her request on folio 39 be amended to add "and impediments to hiring."

Student Trustee Wijeweera noted his name was spelled incorrectly on folio 33.

**Moved by Trustee Braunovan, seconded by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 17 September 2019, be received, as amended.**

**Carried**

8.3.a Approval of Chapman Mills Public School Area Consultation Plan

**Moved by** Trustee Blackburn

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**A. THAT the Board affirm that a Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) under Board Policy P.118.PLG is not required for this review; and**

**B. THAT the Board approve the timeline and consultation plan attached as Appendix B and C to Report 19-077 in order to consult with local school communities and the public. (Attached as Appendix A and B)**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Braunovan, Boothby, Campbell, Ellis, Evans, Hough, Penny, Schwartz and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

8.3.b Approval of Supervisory Officer Selection Process

In response to a query from Trustee Boothby, Director Williams-Taylor noted that the direction undertaken by staff on the matter enables the District to follow through as required with the selection process.

**Moved by** Trustee Evans

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**THAT the Board authorizes staff to proceed with initiating the supervisory officer selection process, including a job posting, as outlined in Report 19-086, effective immediately.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Braunovan, Boothby, Campbell, Ellis, Evans, Hough, Penny, Schwartz and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

8.4 Report 19-088, Provisions for Calling Extraordinary Meetings of the Board and Appointing Trustees to a Strike Management Committee

Your committee had before it Report 19-088 seeking authorization for the calling of extraordinary meetings of the Board and the appointment of two trustees to the Strike Management Committee to deal with collective bargaining issues, as required.

Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Braunovan, nominated Trustee Boothby. Trustee Boothby accepted the nomination.

Trustee Schwartz, seconded by Trustee Braunovan, nominated Trustee Blackburn. Trustee Blackburn accepted the nomination.

Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Ellis, nominated herself.

Following an election, Chair Scott declared Trustee Boothby a member of the Strike Management Committee. The first ballot did not declare the second member by a clear majority, therefore, a second ballot was required.

After a subsequent election, Chair Scott declared Trustee Blackburn the second member of the Strike Management Committee.

**Moved by** Trustee Schwartz

**Seconded by** Trustee Campbell

**A. THAT the Board invoke the provisions of Section of the Board's meetings of the Board, for the purpose of dealing with issues related to collective bargaining, for the period from 24 September 2019 to 31 December 2019.**

**B. THAT the Board appoint Trustee Boothby and Trustee Blackburn as members of the Strike Management Committee.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Boothby, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Evans, Hough, Penny, Schwartz and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

8.5 Report 19-090, Approval of the Board Work Plan and Key Areas of Focus for 2019-2020

Your committee had before it Report 19-090, seeking approval of the Board Work Plan and Key Areas of Focus for 2019-2020. Director Williams-Taylor advised that the plan is a synthesis of the work undertaken by the Board during their annual evaluation and reflection which was held on 5 September 2019. She added that the Board's Work Plan must be approved by the end of September 2019.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the 2019-2020 Board Work Plan and Key Areas of Focus as outlined in Appendix A to Report 19-090 be approved.

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the Board adopt the Rules of Committee.**

**Carried**

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT "a commitment to environmental understanding" be added after "equitable practice" in the culture of social responsibility key area of focus.

Executive Officer Giroux advised that the language in the key areas of focus in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan was approved at the 24 June 2019 Board meeting.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that the request for the amendment is not unreasonable, given the present focus on climate change.

Trustee Campbell noted that while he appreciated the sentiment and the interest in the matter, he would not be in support of the amendment. He would consider adding a reference to the environment to learning opportunities or as a part of the fiduciary responsibilities.

Trustee Schwartz suggested that the phrase "responsible stewardship" highlighted in key areas of focus covers the environment.

Trustee Hough advised that environmental stewardship must be taken seriously and it requires more attention. She noted that whether or not it is specifically addressed in the Board Work Plan, the list will not move the matter forward.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT "a commitment to environmental understanding" be added after "equitable practice" in the culture of social responsibility key area of focus.

Defeated



An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT “Evaluate additional costs associated with climate-friendly alternatives to current practices” be included as a fiduciary responsibility.

Trustee Lyra Evans in introducing the amendment noted that it is practical to review matters through an environmental lens.

Trustee Schwartz, while supportive of the amendment in principle, suggested that it requires some parameters to ensure it is not too broad and challenging for staff to manage. She suggested that a singular project may be evaluated within the context of the energy management report.

Trustee Blackburn advised that she was not in support of the amendment as it would be difficult for staff to operationalize.

CFO Carson advised that staff, as a matter of practice, question and review climate-friendly alternatives formally and informally in their daily work. He noted that staff could explain the process followed and, where reasonable, ensure that it is referenced in the energy management report.

Trustee Campbell expressed concern that the amendment emphasizes one issue when the Board has weighted other matters as equal.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Braunovan,

THAT “understand the evaluation of additional costs associated with climate-friendly alternatives to current practices” be included as a learning opportunity.

Trustee Braunovan withdrew the sub amendment.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT “Evaluate additional costs associated with climate-friendly alternatives to current practices” be included as a fiduciary responsibility.

Defeated

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the second last bullet under learning opportunities be amended to add “where climate-friendly alternatives can be incorporated into current practices and projects.”

Trustee Schwartz expressed the view that she was in support of the amendment as it signals to staff that trustees want to review this type of information and that it may change intention and practice.

Trustee Campbell advised that he was generally supportive of the amendment but suggested that there may be other topics the Board is

interested in and adding the word including would indicate the Board is open to a broad understanding.

*A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,*

*THAT the word "including" be added before "where climate-friendly..."*

*Carried*

*An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,*

*THAT the second last bullet under learning opportunities be amended to add "including where climate-friendly alternatives can be incorporated into current practices and projects."*

*Carried*

Trustee Ellis sought clarification on the reference to an Integrity Commissioner in the Board Work Plan. Executive Officer Giroux advised that the work plan does not bind the District to contract an Integrity Commissioner. The Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee was tasked with reviewing and amending the Board Member Code of Conduct policy as a result of changes to legislation. The Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee is presently developing a policy governing the appointment of an Integrity Commissioner. She anticipated the revised policy would be brought to the Board for approval in October 2019.

**Moved by Trustee Braunovan, seconded by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the Board end the Rules of Committee.**

**Carried**

**Moved by** Trustee Evans

**Seconded by** Trustee Blackburn

**THAT the 2019-2020 Board Work Plan and Key Areas of Focus as outlined in Appendix A to Report 19-090 be approved, as amended. (Attached as Appendix C)**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and was carried on the following division:

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Boothby, Braunovan, Campbell, Evans, Hough, Penny, Schwartz and Scott (9)

AGAINST: Ellis (1)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

8.6 Report 19-083, Appointment of Association Representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee

**Moved by** Trustee Boothby

**Seconded by** Trustee Evans

**THAT Nicole Ullmark, be appointed as the primary member representing Easter Seals Ontario to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the term ending 14 November 2022.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Boothby, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Evans, Hough, Penny, Schwartz and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

8.7 Notice of Motion, Re: Appointment of Trustees to an Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee, Trustee Ellis

Having provided notice, Trustee Ellis moved as follows:

WHEREAS the Board, at its inaugural meeting of 3 December 2018, appointed two trustees as members of the Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee for the period 3 December 2018 to 30 November 2019, following approval of the Board on 20 November 2019 to establish a supervisory officer selection committee;

WHEREAS Section 9.6 of the Board's By-Laws and Standing Rules provides for (a) the establishment of an ad hoc committee with a specific, defined mandate and be expected to complete its mandate by a date specified by the Board at the time of establishing the ad hoc committee, and (e) shall automatically be stood down when the Board determines it has completed its assigned task in accordance with its terms of reference.

WHEREAS the Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee completed its mandate with the appointment of a supervisory officer by the Board at its meeting of 26 February 2019, effectively completing its mandate and automatically stood down;

WHEREAS past practice has been to create a new ad hoc committee for each supervisory officer selection process;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

A. THAT the Board establish an Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee whose mandate shall be to recommend the selection of a supervisory officer; and

B. THAT Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ and Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed as members of the Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee.

Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Boothby, nominated Trustee Penny. Trustee Penny accepted the nomination.

Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Penny, nominated Trustee Boothby. Trustee Boothby accepted the nomination.

**Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Braunovan, THAT nominations be closed.**

**Carried**

Chair Scott announced that Trustee Boothby and Trustee Penny were appointed by acclamation.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell, Director Williams-Taylor advised that staff has posted the advertisement for the supervisory officer position and will create an eligibility list recognizing that the District will require a second supervisory officer. The wording of the motion will not impact the mandate of the committee.

Executive Officer Giroux noted that the committee may recommend one candidate for each vacancy.

**Moved by** Trustee Ellis

**Seconded by** Trustee Schwartz

**A. THAT the Board establish an Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee whose mandate shall be to recommend the selection of a supervisory officer; and**

**B. THAT Trustee Penny and Trustee Boothby be appointed as members of the Ad Hoc Supervisory Officer Selection Committee.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Boothby, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Evans, Hough, Penny, Schwartz and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

9. Matters for Discussion

9.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from OPSBA representatives.

10. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

11. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

Student Trustee Wijeweera noted that subsection 4(2) of Ontario Regulation 7/07 regarding the election dates for one-year and two-year terms of office for student trustees has been revised. Section 6 has also been amended to provide for the staggering of the terms of its student trustees. Both amendments take effect on 1 January 2020.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board