

BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Trustees: Lynn Scott, Keith Penny, Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Justine Bell, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Sandra Schwartz, Charles Chen (Student Trustee), Joy Liu (Student Trustee)

Staff: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Julie Cyr (Manager of Early Learning), Sandy Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Darren Gatley, Michael Guilbault (AV Technician)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:02 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 Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Trustee Penny requested that Report 21-052, School Year Calendar Key Dates 2021-2022, Update, be added to the agenda. The item was added and noted as item 8.7 on the agenda.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

3. Delegations

There were no delegations

4. Report from the Board (In Camera)

Vice-Chair Penny reported that the Board met in camera earlier this evening and reports and recommends as follows:

Moved by Trustee Fisher

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT staff be authorized to proceed, as directed in Board in camera, with respect to the renewal of insurance.

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott reported that June 2021 is Pride Month. From 1 June 2021 to 30 June 2021, all OCDSB schools will be flying the Progress Pride Flag. She noted that along with the rainbow, this flag also features black and brown stripes to represent people of colour, and baby blue, pink and white to include the transgender flag in its design. By flying this flag, the OCDSB is reaffirming its values and commitment to creating and sustaining a culture of caring where 2SLGBTQ+ students, families, and staff matter and are welcomed, seen, and represented in the OCDSB. Educators have been provided with resources to discuss 2SLGBTQ+ identities and the importance of representation. Chair Scott noted that on 1 June 2021, the District will host an information session for parents to discuss gender identity and outline supports available at the OCDSB. More details can be found on the OCDSB website.

Chair Scott noted that on 27 May 2021, students, staff, and community members are invited to attend this year's Black Student Forum. The theme is "A Year of Resistance and Resilience: Moving forward with clear vision". The event will include guest speakers and there will be opportunities for engagement. Details can be found on the OCDSB website.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the OCDSB is adding a new Reach Ahead credit course for Black students who have completed Grade 8 as of June 2021. This course will allow students to earn an Academic English credit over the summer before they enter secondary school. The course will have an Afrocentric focus and will include mentoring and leadership opportunities, strong community connections, and a focus on celebrating Black excellence.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that Indigenous students can earn an academic credit while learning from Indigenous teachers, Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders. This opportunity is for Grade 8 Indigenous students looking to earn a credit while transitioning to Grade 9 and is also open to all secondary Indigenous students. Details and registration information will be provided on the District website.

7. COVID-19 Update

Director Williams-Taylor reported that remote learning continues for most students, with the exception of those with complex special education needs. She noted that the most recent provincial announcement did not indicate a reopening plan for schools.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is reporting, as of 25 May 2021, 495,141 vaccines have been administered within the City of Ottawa, providing coverage to 47% of the total community.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that on 23 May 2021, youth aged 12 and over became eligible to book appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals must be 12 years old at the date of their booking. The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada for use in individuals aged 12 and over. She added that OPH provides more information on their [vaccine webpage](#). She noted that the District continues to work with OPH and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) to request timely and clear information for families regarding vaccine awareness and safety.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the District, in partnership with CHEO and OPH, and other area school boards, have been piloting voluntary take-home testing with in-person students. This pilot project is intended to inform testing options which could be in place for the upcoming school year. The voluntary take-home tests are distributed at schools on a Thursday, completed at home and placed in a safe, sealed container and return envelope, and returned to a drop box at the school on Friday. Results from these tests are available to families over the weekend, reducing the likelihood of individuals who test positive attending school on Monday.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that in March 2021, the OCDSB invited families to confirm their attendance for either in-person or virtual learning for September 2021. The Ministry recently advised all school boards to allow parents the opportunity to reconsider that decision until 1 June 2021. All OCDSB families were notified of this opportunity and those families who wish to make a change must notify their school. As of 25 May 2021, 300 change requests have been received (185 elementary and 115 secondary).

Director Williams-Taylor noted that as graduation ceremonies approach in June 2021, the District is excited to celebrate student success, students who are making key transitions, and graduates. Planning is actively underway for virtual

celebrations. For grade 12 students, schools will be holding virtual ceremonies from 23 June to 25 June 2021 inclusive. Families can expect more information from their school by 1 June 2021. She noted that in addition to the commencement ceremony, families can expect all graduating students to receive a graduation cap and a grad gift box. She added that congratulatory signage will be posted at all secondary schools - these were popular for photo opportunities the previous year. All schools will have a graduation webpage and other school based activities. The theme for this year's graduation is "21 and Done!"

During the discussion and in response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Offering families a chance to change their decision regarding attendance for either in-person or virtual learning during the school year is not advised as this could lead to system-wide reorganization which would disrupt stability;
- Families may approach their principal to request changing their attendance for either in-person or virtual learning under exceptional circumstances. The principal would work with the superintendent to determine availability of space and capacity to accommodate requests, and the mechanism would be similar to the process that occurred in the 2020-2021 school year;
- The District is mandated by the province regarding certain planning decisions, such as the continued use of the quadmester model. Flexibility in the use of the octomester model is permitted as some programs require that model. The introduction of a two course day model for secondary students is expected, as well as introducing daily attendance for in-person learning;
- The District does not make planning and structure decisions based on public health data as this information would inform Ministry directives and decisions that govern District practices;
- Through the Ministry directives, if necessary, the structure for adapting the planning model to be more restrictive is possible without having to restructure secondary programs. If directed to move to a full semester four course model, the current quadmester model does not allow this and would require the District to either restructure timetables or wait until 1 February 2022;
- Families new to the District can register for either in-person or virtual learning at the time of registry;
- Schools have sent letters to families regarding the deadline for choosing either in-person or virtual learning and the District has sent notifications on the matter as part of the regular parent and student messaging each Friday with the final reminder expected to be sent 28 May 2021; and

- Staff have been in contact with OPH to discuss the possibility of using schools as vaccination sites for students. Planning is in the initial stages and will be contingent on registration requirements and vaccine availability.

8. Matters for Action

8.1 Confirmation of Board Minutes, 27 April 2021

Moved by Trustee Schwartz, seconded by Trustee Penny,

THAT the 27 April 2021 Board minutes be confirmed.

Carried

8.2 Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 27 April 2021 Board minutes.

8.3 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 11 May 2021

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 11 May 2021, be received.

Executive Officer Giroux noted that section 7.2 was missing the introduction to the motion due to a technical issue and that Board Services staff has addressed the matter.

Trustee Bell noted that the delegation of Murat Erlik be amended to replace “Gloucester Public School” with “Glashan Public School”.

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 11 May 2021, be received, as amended.

Carried

8.3.a Approval of the Consultation Plan for Policy P.100.IT

This was a non-consent item and when dealt with later in the meeting, the following discussion ensued.

Moved by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the proposed consultation plan for the update of Policy P.100.IT - Appropriate Use of Technology be amended to substitute Appendix A to Report 21-038 with Attachment to Memo 21-064.

In introducing the motion, Trustee Ellis noted that the amendment provides trustees with an opportunity to have early input in the process and that the extension of time would allow school councils and other advisory committees sufficient time to provide feedback.

Moved by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the proposed consultation plan for the update of Policy P.100.IT - Appropriate Use of Technology be amended to substitute Appendix A to Report 21-038 with Attachment to Memo 21-064.

Carried, friendly

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff reflected on feedback from the previous policy discussion that indicated trustees' request for opportunities for discussion earlier in the policy review process. In examining the policy early in the process, trustees may identify additional areas to be reviewed in order to help shape discussions and could serve as a model for future policy work.

Trustee Campbell noted that trustee consultation prior to submission and input at the conclusion of the policy development process are of equal importance.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the Board approve the proposed consultation plan for the update of Policy P.100.IT - Appropriate Use of Technology, attached as Appendix A to Report 21-038, as amended.

For (10): Trustee Scott, Trustee Penny, Trustee Blackburn, Trustee Boothby, Trustee Campbell, Trustee Ellis, Trustee Lyra Evans, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Hough, and Trustee Jennekens

Abstain (1): Trustee Bell

Carried (10 to 0)

8.3.a.a Supplemental Information: Memo 21-064 (S. Lehman)

8.4 Non-Consent Items

8.5 Report 21-048, Appointments to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (M. Giroux)

Your committee had before it Report 21-048, to confirm the appointments to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for the period 7 July 2021 to 7 July 2022:

- two directors to the Board of Directors;

- two alternate directors to the Board of Directors;
- a voting delegate for the Eastern Regional Council Meetings;
- an alternate voting delegate for the Eastern Regional Council meetings;
- a voting delegate for the 2022 Annual General Meeting; and
- an alternate voting delegate for the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Executive Officer Giroux introduced the report and noted that trustees annually make appointments to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

Chair Scott called for nominations.

Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Schwartz, nominated Trustee Boothby.

Trustee Schwartz, seconded by Trustee Boothby, nominated Trustee Penny.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT nominations be closed.

Carried

By acclamation, Chair Scott declared Trustee Boothby and Trustee Penny as the two directors to the OPSBA Board of Directors, the voting and alternate delegates for the Eastern Regional Council meetings, and the voting and alternate delegates for the OPSBA Annual General meeting for the period 7 July 2021 to 7 July 2022. Second Item for alternate Directors.

Chair Scott called for nominations.

Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Jennekens, nominated Trustee Campbell.

Trustee Schwartz, seconded by Trustee Boothby, nominated Trustee Jennekens.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT nominations be closed.

Carried

By acclamation, Chair Scott declared Trustees Campbell and Jennekens be appointed as the two alternate directors to the OPSBA Board of Directors for the period 7 July 2021 to 7 July 2022.

8.6 Report 21-037, Provisions for Calling Extraordinary Meetings of the Board (M. Giroux)

Your committee had before it Report 21-037, to recommend adopting a resolution authorizing the calling of extraordinary meetings of the Board for COVID-19 and Labour Relations matters, for the period of 25 May 2021 to 01 December 2021, if required.

Executive Officer Giroux introduced the report and noted that approving the motion provides a mechanism for emergency meetings to be called within six hours' notice. She noted that although this mechanism is not typically used, it is recommended to be moved in case authority is required for emergency decisions in the event of extraordinary circumstances.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Penny,

THAT the Board invoke the provisions of Section 8.6 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules regarding the calling of extraordinary meetings of the Board, for the purpose of dealing with issues related to planning as a result of COVID-19 and Labour Relations matters, for the period from 25 May 2021 to 01 December 2021.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell, Executive Officer Giroux noted that the emergency provision would be used to alter dates of meetings within 6-48 hours to ensure there is quorum when planning emergency meetings.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the Board invoke the provisions of Section 8.6 of the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules regarding the calling of extraordinary meetings of the Board, for the purpose of dealing with issues related to planning as a result of COVID-19 and Labour Relations matters, for the period from 25 May 2021 to 01 December 2021.

For (12): Trustee Scott, Trustee Penny, Trustee Blackburn, Trustee Boothby, Trustee Campbell, Trustee Ellis, Trustee Bell, Trustee Lyra Evans, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Hough, Trustee Jennekens, and Trustee Schwartz

Carried (12 to 0)

8.7 Report 21-052, School Year Calendar Key Dates 2021-2022, Update

Your committee had before it Report 21-052, seeking approval of the revised 2021-2022 elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

Superintendent Towaij introduced the report and noted that the District received the following two additional information items from the Ministry to be included in the school year calendar:

- On 01 March 2021, school boards were advised to plan for three professional activity (PA) days prior to the start of the school year; and
- On 04 May 2021, school boards received the content of the Ministry priority PA Days, as well as a recommended number of focus areas to be delivered prior to the start of the school year.

She noted that areas of focus identified by the Ministry to take place on priority PA days include: student health and well-being, anti-discrimination, anti-racism, instructional and assessment approaches for in-person and remote learning, anti-bullying, health and safety, mathematics, grade 9 math destreaming curriculum, and learning recovery and intervention.

During the discussion and in response to questions, the following points were noted:

- There is a high level of alignment with the school year calendars of the four coterminous school boards;
- The first day of school for students was moved from 7 September 2021 to 9 September 2021 to accommodate the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashana;
- Staff unable to attend training for religious reasons on PA days will have training opportunities provided on alternate dates;
- Moving a PA day prior to the start of the school year was considered; however, staff did not want to make school-based staff return earlier than the anticipated 3 September 2021 staff start date;
- There are three days of misalignment from the coterminous boards school year calendars;
- There are a number of misaligned days built into the transportation authority contracts to allow for some flexibility, and costs for these days would equate to \$40,000-\$50,000; and
- The coterminous boards will also have costs associated with the misaligned days.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

Seconded by Trustee Blackburn

THAT the revised school year calendars (Appendix A and B) be submitted to the Ministry of Education as the official 2021-2022 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.

For (12): Trustee Scott, Trustee Penny, Trustee Blackburn, Trustee Boothby, Trustee Campbell, Trustee Ellis, Trustee Bell, Trustee Lyra Evans, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Hough, Trustee Jennekens, and Trustee Schwartz

Carried (12 to 0)

9. Matters for Discussion

9.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

9.2 Ministry Update (if required)

There was no Ministry update

10. Board Work Plan

The Board Work Plan was provided for information.

11. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

12. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

Trustee Blackburn urged trustees to attend the Rainbow Youth Forum and thanked those who created the event.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board