



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

**Tuesday, June 22, 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), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent of Instruction), 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), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk, (Manager of Planning), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Julie Cyr (Manager, Early Learning), Sandy Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Amy Hannah (Principal, Learning Support Services), Janet MacDonald (Planner), Marc Labelle (Planner), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Rebecca Grandis (Senior Board Coordinator), Darren Gatley, Michael Guilbault (AV Technician)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:04 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

Trustee Schwartz requested that debate be ended to ensure that appropriate time is allotted to address the fulsome agenda without the addition of any new items.

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT debate on the agenda be closed.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Presentation to Dorothy Baker

Chair Scott recognized Superintendent Dorothy Baker, leader of the Indigenous Education, Equity and English Language Learning Team, staff liaison to the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE), and Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC). Chair Scott noted that Superintendent Baker has worked to advance human rights, equity, and inclusion in OCDSB policies and practices. Chair Scott added that Superintendent Baker has furthered many relationships with community partners, promoted students' mental health and well-being, and has fought against racism and marginalization.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that Superintendent Baker has exemplified humility, service, courage, and grace as a senior leader of OCDSB. She noted that Superintendent Baker has provided her time and talent for the outcomes of all students and has supported equality opportunities and care for students that have barriers to their own potential. Director Williams-Taylor added that Superintendent Baker's care for colleagues and staff is another hallmark to her leadership as she reminds staff that positive outcomes for students are inextricably tied to the sense of efficacy and well-being of staff that engage with students. On behalf of the senior team and OCDSB, Director Williams-Taylor thanked Superintendent Baker for her years of service.

Superintendent Baker thanked the District and noted that it was her honour to work with all those involved. She drew attention to the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan and the work that it encompasses. She added that centering relationships with students, staff, families, and the community is the root of the work that the District undertakes.

4. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Liu and Chen introduced the Bi-Annual student trustee report, which highlighted their accomplishments to date and future plans.

In response to a request from Trustee Bell, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff will work with the administrative team that supports the Student Senate to best determine the method for providing student senate meeting notes to trustees, starting in the fall of 2021.

5. Presentation to Student Trustees 2020-2021

Chair Scott noted that Student Trustee's Chen and Liu had many accomplishments for the 2020-2021 school year and elevated student voice in Board discussions. She noted that the student trustees improved communications with students and led initiatives such as the menstrual equity (ME) project, a school spirit initiative, and a peer tutoring initiative.

Chair Scott advised that Student Trustee Liu is graduating from Colonel By Secondary School and will be attending Yale University in September 2021 and that Student Trustee Chen will be returning for another term as student trustee in September 2021. Chair Scott noted that Student Trustee's Chen and Liu will receive a honourarium and an award commemorating their service as student trustees for 2020-2021.

6. 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 Jennekens

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a Financial Matter.

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)

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the tentative settlement between the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Professional Educators and Child Care Staff, which will form a collective agreement dated 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022, be ratified.

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)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the tentative settlement between the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Bargaining Unit which will form a collective agreement dated 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022, be ratified.

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)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a Human Resources Matter.

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)

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a Human Resources matter.

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)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a Human Resources matter.

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)

7. Delegations (Oral)

7.1 Drew Klein, re Return to School in September

Mr. Klein suggested that schools be fully reopened to counter the generational academic and social regression that students have endured over the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed the view that the COVID-19 pandemic is over and that schools should return to the normalcy seen before the pandemic occurred. He suggested that unless there is a large outbreak, schools should not close as this is not an effective strategy. He suggested that the District should address those who believe that school closures and lockdowns are reasonable measures for COVID-19 containment.

Mr. Klein suggested that cohorting has negative impacts on students as it promotes segregation and that the virtual platform and quadmester model is challenging. He added that masks should be optional and only be used in close proximity situations and that students should stay home if feeling unwell. He asked that families and trustees advocate to local and provincial public health authorities, the Ministry, and the unions for a return to normalcy.

In response to a query from Trustee Fisher, Mr. Klein noted that his suggestions were based on research from medical journals. He added that the World Health Organization (WHO) suggested that those under 18 should not receive the vaccine and offered to share his research with trustees.

Trustee Ellis requested permission to correct a statement regarding Mr. Klein's account that the World Health Organization (WHO) did not recommend that youth under 18 be vaccinated. Trustee Ellis noted that the WHO's website indicated that "children and adolescents tend to have a milder disease when compared to adults and unless they are part of a group at higher risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms, it is less urgent to vaccinate them than older people. More evidence is needed on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children to be able to make general recommendations on vaccinating children against COVID-19". Trustee Ellis noted that although he was not familiar with the article that Mr. Klein referred to, he welcomed him to provide this information to support his statement.

7.2 Joanne Doucette, re Return to School in September

Ms. Doucette, a parent of two secondary school students and a social worker with over 20 years of experience in the field of mental health, expressed concern on the impact that school closures have had on

students. She noted that the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and other pediatric institutions have expressed concern and confirmed that, although kids and teens have not suffered severely with COVID-19, statistical increases of attempted and successful suicides have occurred. Eating disorders, mental health issues including anxiety and depression, students at home with abusive parents and/or witnessing domestic violence are occurring without having the safety of school or access to available in-person mental health resources. She suggested that students with special education needs and those who are from marginalized communities are experiencing a larger gap in learning achievement which may have negative long term effects. Ms. Doucette noted that Quebec and British Columbia have alternate models without cohorting or quadesters while resuming extracurricular activities. She recognized that the District is waiting for further instruction from the Ministry; however, she urged trustees to be courageous and use their leadership to challenge what does not protect the vulnerable in society. She added that not returning students to a normal school year can cause irreversible damage.

7.3 Michelle Ward, re Return to School in September

Ms. Ward, a pediatrician at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), an associate professor at the University of Ottawa and the parent of two secondary school students, has engaged first-hand with students and families that have experienced negative circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that admissions to hospital for suicide attempts, substance use disorders, and eating disorder rates have doubled and 70% of youth aged 6 to 18 report a worsening of their mental health. She noted that the cross-sectoral committees that she belongs to indicate that there are dozens of students that have been lost to the education system during the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Ward urged the Board to plan for a full return to school, with clubs and athletics. She urged the District to use metrics when planning, clearly communicate planning decisions to parents, and to enlist aid from outside experts for consultation in child health and COVID-19, many of which are parents within the District. She suggested that the District could have a phased reopening plan congruent to the four phase COVID-19 reopening plan for Ontario.

In response to a query from Trustee Bell, Ms. Ward indicated that she and other parents would like to receive more information regarding the District's plans to address gaps in student mental health and education.

In response to a query from Trustee Fisher, Ms. Ward suggested that the District should urge Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and the Ministry to provide information such as what vaccination levels would be required to return to normal or any other milestone requirements acceptable from a health perspective in order to assist with planning. She added that the

District should hold those accountable who provide this information in order to make better decisions.

8. Delegations (Written)

8.1 Larry Gauthier, re Crisis Response and Student Safety

Larry Gauthier, a social worker who worked for the District, expressed the view that the introduction of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program initiated a more “heavy handed” approach to discipline and that school administrators were increasingly more dependent on SRO’s in dealing with at-risk students. He recalled instances of negative impacts that SRO’s had on students and families which further alienated those who had existing problematic relationships with schools. He added that there is an opportunity to fund an alternative crisis team to assist the OCDSB in responding to the situations that involve student safety.

9. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott congratulated the recipients and nominees for the Community Recognition Awards. She expressed her thanks for the contributions of community members, parents, and businesses.

Chair Scott announced the following recipients:

- Karen Bridge, Chair’s Award;
- Dr. Aliaa Dakroury, Excellence in Equity Community Award;
- Carolyn Kropp, Distinguished School Council Award;
- Kahmaria Pingue, Community Partnership Award;
- Jacquie Samuels, OCDSB Community Award; and
- Robert Weir, Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chair Scott encouraged the community to read more about the recipients and nominees on the District website.

Chair Scott announced the recipients of two scholarships from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA). Luna Flores from Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School is the recipient for the 2020-2021 Eastern Region Public Property Assessment Network Scholarship. In addition, Student Trustee Joy Liu joins a student from the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) in winning the Ontario Public Student Trustee Leadership Scholarship. The intent of this scholarship is to recognize outstanding achievement for a graduating student. The award highlighted Trustee Liu’s efforts with the ME project to fund free menstrual products in OCDSB schools.

10. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the 2020-2021 school year has shown students across this District working incredibly hard under challenging circumstances. Students have shown innovation, creativity, caring and compassion. Director Williams-Taylor noted that students have raised their voices on important issues, including Indigenous rights, climate change, equity, human rights, mental health and well-being. Director Williams-Taylor expressed her thanks to all students and recognized their strength, perseverance, and motivation.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that in early June 2021, staff announced the recipients of the 2021 Student Recognition Awards. She noted that the recognition awards celebrate excellence in student leadership. Students are chosen by their principals and/or vice-principals for their demonstration of initiative, supported by the will to succeed, the dedication to finish what they started, and the commitment to achieve their personal best. Director Williams-Taylor encouraged the community to visit the District website to learn more about the recipients of the Student Recognition Awards and recipients and nominees for the Excellence in Equity Student Recognition Awards. She added that each of these students has made a difference in supporting their peers and school community as a whole. Director Williams-Taylor thanked the students for their contribution on behalf of the OCDSB.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that helping young people identify and manage stress is key to building essential life skills, and to promote positive social and emotional development. She noted that OCDSB mental health professionals will be leading a special program over the summer of 2021 for students in grades 7 to 9 to learn more about how to manage stress and build resilience and positive coping skills. More information is available on the District website.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the inaugural Somali Heritage Week in Ontario will occur from 25 June 2021 to 1 July 2021. The Somali community enriches school communities and the city through partnership, leadership, and influence. Somali Heritage Week allows the community to focus on the contributions and lived experiences of Somali people locally, nationally, and globally.

11. COVID-19 Update

Director Williams-Taylor reported that COVID-19 continues to play an active role in planning for September 2021.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that as of 22 June 2021, the City of Ottawa announced the following:

- A record 17,549 vaccine doses were administered 21 June 2021 in Ottawa;
- 77% of residents 18 and older have received a first vaccine dose and 21% second vaccine doses; and

- 75% of residents 12 and older have received a first vaccine dose and 20% second vaccine dose.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that these are important milestones in building community immunity in Ottawa and helping the community get back to school for September 2021. The District continues to work in partnership with Ottawa Public Health (OPH) to promote awareness of vaccine availability and to provide spaces for vaccine clinics as required. Information about vaccines, eligibility, accelerated timelines and more is available on the OPH website.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the OCDSB continues to monitor COVID-19 restrictions and to work with organizations and groups interested in booking facility permits over the summer. Permits are made available within the parameters of COVID-19 restrictions, space availability, and construction in schools. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Community Use of Schools.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that staff continue to plan for September 2021 and look forward to a return to in-person learning. For elementary schools, the plans are similar to what was in place during the 2020-2021 school year, with resumption of activities in accordance with public health directives. Secondary schools will be moving away from the quadmester model for most schools.

Secondary schools will be organized using a modified semester model for the 2021-2022 school year and will offer 300 minutes of direct in-person instruction daily with a lunch break. There will be two in-person classes a day of 150 minutes each. At this time, staff are planning for classes to rotate week-over-week throughout the first semester, for example, classes A and B one week with classes C and D the following, then repeat.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that Colonel By Secondary School and Merivale High School will have the same instructional days as semestered schools but will be organized on a yearlong model to align with the International Baccalaureate Program, with classes rotating on a week over week basis on a four week cycle instead of the two week cycle in semestered schools. She noted that the Province has clarified that secondary schools may only organize at this time using a two class a day model. Should that direction change and allow a return to four classes daily, these models would allow that to occur more quickly than quadmestering or octomestering. Director Williams-Taylor noted that the Province has informed the District to expect guidance on re-opening by August 2021 and staff will refine plans based on that information. Information will be shared with trustees, students, staff and families later in the summer. She added that if the District is informed to move to a full semester four course model before 1 February 2022, this model allows the District to transition to in-person more effectively.

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

- Non-semestered schools prior to the pandemic would have eight courses per day for the entire school year. The current model will retain the eight course model with two courses occurring per day which complies with the Ministry's expectations. This model allows for flexibility and seamless transition to the full eight courses per day regular model if there is an opportunity to do so;
- Students are expected to return in September 2021 in full class sizes as determined by the collective agreements. A midsummer announcement from the Ministry will determine if there will be a return to the A and B cohort structure and the District has planned to accommodate for both options;
- Provincial guidelines are restrictive and outline which decisions OPH and school boards can make. Indicators for what parameters must be met to reduce restrictions would need to be determined by the Ministry;
- Ministry guidance documents are made public and links to these are on the District website. Data that guides decision making regarding health restrictions can be found on health platforms such as OPH and Ministry of Health websites;
- If the Ministry midsummer update provides a substantial departure from what has been considered in planning for September 2021, staff will consider what will be required and request that the Board meet as needed to make decisions before the start of the 2021-2022 school year;
- The District has been working on developing a plan to address student mental health for September 2021 and has worked closely with School Mental Health Ontario. Support for students regarding stress management and coping, are provided with mental health professionals continuing to offer services over the summer. Transition programs and reengagement strategies will also be available over the summer to provide a proper frame of mind for students to return to school in September 2021. School mental health supports are working on providing an educator resource roadmap to support educators and school based staff for student reengagement. A parent/family resource, With Care, supports families by identifying early signs of mental health concerns in children. Staff have also recognized that the pandemic has had different impacts on different communities across Ottawa and will incorporate this work into future plans. The Ministry has provided three professional learning days at the beginning of the year to prepare staff for the upcoming school year;
- The Learning Support Services (LSS), Program and Learning K to 12, and Equity, Indigenous and Human Rights departments are working together in supporting professional learning for educators. Learning intervention and learning recovery has been considered by these departments in creating diagnostic assessments in literacy and numeracy to identify key skills, content, and learning to be successful for a students' current grade of

learning. Educators will be working together with coaches in assessments and learning diagnostics to determine areas of focus and next steps. A common scoping sequence has been created for all curricular areas up to grade 8 and scoping sequences are also being worked on for secondary grade levels. These measures will aid in assessing and monitoring student needs in addressing gaps;

- The District has developed a re engagement strategy for students who disengaged from school over the 2020-2021 school year through funding from the Ministry and reallocating District resources;
- The Ministry provided \$685,000 in funding for student reengagement and the District further augmented the funding with an additional \$1.0 million to effectively reengage students. The eight secondary schools with higher marginalized student populations referred to as the "G8" will be the primary focus of this re engagement strategy;
- OPH adheres to guidelines determined by the Ministry of Health in the same manner that the District follows guidelines from the Ministry of Education. OPH and the District work together within these guidelines when determining plans for reopening schools in September 2021;
- The District is anticipating further guidelines at the Ministry midsummer update regarding reengagement of Daily Physical Activity (DPA) and the arts;
- Elementary students in the Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) school will have daily 20 minutes of synchronous, moderate to vigorous, DPA. 100% of DPA requirements will be in place up to grade 8 in addition to the physical education curriculum, and secondary students will adhere to their physical activity requirements;
- Trustee Fisher expressed interest in returning to the Board Room for meetings in September 2021 as there is value in in-person engagement;
- Virtual meetings have provided opportunities for increased community participation and although there is no timeline established, staff expect a hybrid meeting format of virtual and in-person to occur in the future; and
- The Board Room has more physical space than other meeting rooms at 133 Greenbank; however, these rooms will need to be outfitted with cameras and other measures before any type of in-person meetings can occur. Staff are working with architectural teams to plan for space requirements.

Following a break at 9:17 pm the meeting was called to order at 9:25 p.m.

12. Matters for Action

12.1 Confirmation of Board Minutes:

12.1.a Board, 25 May 2021

**Moved by Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,
THAT the 25 May 2021 Board minutes be confirmed.**

Carried

12.1.b Special Board, 15 June 2021

**Moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,
THAT the 15 June 2021 Special Board minutes be confirmed.**

Carried

12.2 Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 25 May 2021 Board minutes.

12.3 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Reports

12.3.a Committee of the Whole, 8 June 2021

**Moved by Trustee Penny, Seconded by Trustee Schwartz,
THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 8 June 2021,
be received.**

Carried

12.3.b Committee of the Whole, 14 June 2021 Continuation of Committee
of the Whole 8 June 2021

**Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,
THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 14 June 2021,
Continuation of Committee of the Whole 8 June 2021, be
received.**

Carried

12.4 Receipt of Special Committee of the Whole Report, 14 June 2021

**Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,
THAT the Special Committee of the Whole report dated 14 June 2021,
be received.**

Carried

12.4.a Suspension of the School Resource Officer Program

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

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Penny,

- A. THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board immediately and completely end its engagement with the School Resource Officer program;
- B. THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) provides notice to Ottawa Police Service that as of 1 September 2021, the OCDSB shall only meet its minimum statutory obligations under the relevant provincial protocols and acts until further evaluation is complete;
- C. THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) issue a formal apology, published on the OCDSB website, social media, and in the local papers, to the communities and students who have been harmed by the School Resource Officer program;
- D. THAT the Chair of the Board write a public letter to the City of Ottawa containing the following elements:
 - i. A direct ask of the strongest language, not asking the city to consider;
 - ii. Asking the City of Ottawa to reallocate the funds previously assigned to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board share of the School Resource Officer program into the formation of a mobile crisis team for youth;
 - iii. This team could operate 24/7, but should be available for schools to call upon in need as a non-police alternative to behaviours which may require it;
 - iv. This team should consist of people with a counselling, social work, and/or reconciliation background;
 - v. This team must not contain any police officers or be funded, administered, or operated through OPS; and
 - vi. While the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has approximately 65% of the students in the Ottawa area, we recognize that fewer people in the School Resource Officer role might require those remaining to cover larger areas, so we are requesting only 50% of the total previously allocated be diverted to this new team, or 1.6 million dollars.
- E. THAT the Board adopt a do no harm approach as a guiding principle when an incident or a series of incidents arise that involve harm, especially related to anti-racism, human rights, equity, and inclusion;

- F. THAT the Board of Trustees reaffirm its commitment to incorporating an intersectional and anti-racism analysis lens as new policies are adopted and existing policies are updated; and
- G. THAT the Board of Trustees commit to undertake anti-racism and decolonization training with support from Board Services.

Trustee Lyra Evans requested that section D of the motion be debated separately.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that the District must be accountable to community needs and requirements. She noted that there have been negative impacts on those affected by the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and that the District should apologize to those impacted. She added that the District should promote alternative options and build a better system.

Trustee Schwartz requested that trustees vote on the individual sections of the motion.

**Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,
THAT the Board adopt the rules of committee.**

Carried

An amendment moved by Trustee Penny,

THAT in section A of the motion, “immediately and completely end” be replaced with “suspend”.

In introducing the amendment, Trustee Penny noted that completely ending the SRO program would remove millions in funding and student services that could not be refunded in the future. He suggested that the District work with Ottawa Police Services (OPS) and racialized communities to reinvent the program in order to better serve the community. He recognized that the SRO program has negatively impacted racialized communities and that the program needs to be reviewed and noted that permanently ending the relationship with OPH could do more long term harm as there would be little opportunity for OPH to conduct school based community building with at-risk students. He added that access to the Diversion Program and the Jasmine Crescent Initiative would be ended if the SRO program funding were to be terminated and that in-school student conviction rates could significantly increase when not dealt with by an SRO. He noted that the SRO program needs to be reevaluated in context of the upcoming fulsome policies reviews and that ending the SRO program too quickly without considering other options could be counterproductive.

Trustee Lyra Evans expressed concern that there is a lack of trust between marginalized communities and the police. She noted that police need to rebuild trust in the community and not in schools as it could affect the mental health of students.

Trustees speaking in favour of the amendment noted that there is value in “keeping all doors open” in the community, and although the current SRO program has been harmful, the District, community, and OPS need to work together to improve the program and to build relationships and trust.

Trustees speaking against the amendment drew attention to the Human Rights and Equity Advisor’s (HREA)’s report, Policy and Practice Review of Police Involvement in Schools and delegations from the community that have suggested ending the SRO program.

Members noted that SRO’s play an important role in supporting and evaluating lockdown drills for student safety. Staff noted that SRO’s aid in preparing students and staff for emergency measures by devising plans and practices, whereas patrol officers may not be willing or able to do this.

Trustee Blackburn recalled her experience as a social worker and her work in the Young Offenders Program and the effectiveness of diversion programs which rely heavily on relationships. She suggested that apprehensions between students and police should be discussed between the two parties to amend and improve the relationship.

Trustee Ellis quoted, for the record, a segment of the written delegation from Larry Gauthier “As a school social worker I witnessed first-hand, the traumatic impact that the SRO’s and police had on minoritized students in particular, as well as with the general student population and their families. Frequently, I met with students following an intervention with the SRO and they would be in tears or enraged as they shared their experience. Being part of a team in Learning Support Services at the OCDSB, I could be involved in the crisis response in my schools related to student violence, threats and risks. As part of the follow up to those situations, I acknowledge that I also caused harm to students when intervening with the SROs, as I was perceived as their ally. The Board should never allow this again where school board staff are compromised when assisting in police interventions. It has to be a separate process.” Trustee Ellis expressed the view that students view staff as allies of the police and that the District should send a

clear message to the police that they are failing to make the positive impacts that the SRO program was supposed to do.

Trustees speaking against the amendment noted that not completely ending the SRO program could be viewed as backtracking on the commitment to marginalized communities in recognizing their various traumas. Members suggested that the Board needs to be firm in their decision to end the SRO program and not only suspend it in order to demonstrate the District's commitment to the community.

The 10:30 vote received the required 2/3 majority to continue

Trustee Campbell noted that if the SRO program were to be ended, OPS would still participate in youth engagement within the community. He suggested that nothing is compromised regarding student safety as each mandatory provision for police intervention such as drugs, injury, or threat will continue to be answered by the police.

Trustee Jennekens pointed out that the Policy and Practice Review of Police Involvement in Schools report indicated that the SRO program has compromised students' mental well-being and academic success.

Trustee Blackburn recalled an Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) meeting where Algonquin Elder Albert Dumont stated that if there are issues between students and police, that they need to sit and discuss their concerns. Trustee Blackburn noted that she has not received a single complaint regarding the SRO program in her zone over her 10 years as a trustee. She expressed concern that the Board has not had feedback from families of students with special education needs as the SRO's have built critical relationships and trust with these students and are able to more effectively serve them in situations such as safely returning them to school when they leave.

Moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT debate be closed,

Carried

Trustee Schwartz called point of order as she was not ready to vote and had remaining questions.

Trustee Penny expressed concern that OPS may not want to re-engage with the District if the SRO program is ended. He noted that if the SRO program is ended, that at risk students encountering

patrol officers could lead to higher rates of arrest instead of engagement as the SRO relationships with these students would be ended. He noted that the Policy and Practice Review of Police Involvement in Schools report only provided the perspective of those negatively affected by the program and that there were voices that were not included. He noted that the program could be rebuilt with proper funding; however, the removal of the program could end the funding that the District would have access to. He added that the SRO program should be suspended, rebuilt with the community and OPS, and once consultations have occurred, to reintroduce the program when all parties are content with the revision.

Student Trustee Liu requested a recorded vote for the amendment.

An amendment moved by Trustee Penny,

THAT in section A of the motion, "immediately and completely end" be replaced with "suspend".

FOR: Trustees Blackburn, Penny (2)

AGAINST: Trustees Boothby, Hough, Campbell, Ellis, Jennekens, Lyra Evans, Bell, Fisher, Chen, Liu (9)

ABSTENTIONS: Trustee Schwartz (1)

Defeated

Moved by Trustee Ellis,

THAT a continuation of the Board meeting of 22 June 2021 be scheduled for 24 June 2021 to continue the discussion on the recommendation of 14 June 2021 Special Committee of the Whole.

Carried

12.5 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Budget Reports

Moved by Trustee Schwartz, seconded by Trustee Hough,

THAT the Committee of the Whole Budget reports dated 26 May 2021, 1 June 2021, 9 June 2021, and 15 June 2021, be received.

Carried

12.5.a 26 May 2021

12.5.b 1 June 2021

12.5.c 9 June 2021

12.5.d 15 June 2021

12.6 Report 21-051, New Half Moon Bay Elementary School-Approval of Grade, Program Offering and Attendance Boundary (M. Carson)

Your committee had before it Report 21-051 seeking approval of the grade structure, program offering and attendance boundary for a new elementary school located in the Half Moon Bay community of Barrhaven and revised attendance boundaries for Half Moon Bay Public School in association with the opening of the New Half Moon Bay elementary school.

Manager of Planning Carty-Ostafichuk introduced the report and noted that when the Board approved the boundary for the first Half Moon Bay Public School, the boundary was intentionally designed to accommodate Half Moon Bay Elementary School. She noted that there were three meetings with the working group that included Half Moon Bay Public School, Cedarview Middle School, and community associations involved in the area. She noted that these consultations provided feedback and the boundary was altered slightly as a result of the consultations. She added that the community expressed interest in intermediate programming and Middle French Immersion (MFI), and although staff has no objection to these requests in the future, staff currently does not see the required critical mass student population to offer robust programming at this time.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Bell,

- A. THAT grade, program offering, and attendance boundaries for the New Half Moon Bay Elementary School be approved as per Appendix C of Report No. 21-051, with the school offering a JK to 5 grade structure upon opening, with a phase in of Grade 6 students the following year.
- B. THAT, a revised attendance boundary for Half Moon Bay Public School be approved as per Appendix C of Report No. 21-051.

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

- Staff is closely monitoring student populations in the Half Moon Bay area schools for future programming decisions;
- Half Moon Bay Public School has 674 pupil places and staff expect similar numbers for the new Half Moon Bay elementary school which would provide the critical mass necessary for a dual track program. A recent study of school feeding patterns in the Barrhaven area indicate that there is not yet a critical mass of students to support a third MFI program in the area; and

- Staff do not expect double or triple split grade English classes at this time and that current programming is robust. Staff will continue to monitor and revisit programming needs as required.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Bell

- A. **THAT grade, program offering, and attendance boundaries for the New Half Moon Bay Elementary School be approved as per Appendix C of Report No. 21-051, with the school offering a JK to 5 grade structure upon opening, with a phase in of Grade 6 students the following year. (Attached as Appendix A)**
- B. **THAT, a revised attendance boundary for Half Moon Bay Public School be approved as per Appendix C of Report No. 21-051.(Attached as Appendix A)**

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)

12.7 Report 21-054, Special Education Plan 2020-2021 and Special Education Report 2021 (P. Symmonds)

Your committee had before it Report 21-054, seeking approval of the Special Education Plan 2020-2021 and the Special Education Report 2021.

System Principal Hannah introduced the report and noted that after consultation with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), a modified review process for the Special Education Plan was undertaken, including changes in consultations and opportunities for independent review, virtual learning platforms, staffing positions created for reporting staffing information, professional development opportunities, and transportation standard changes.

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Schwartz

- A. **THAT the 2020-2021 Special Education Plan, attached as Appendix A to Report No. 21-054, be approved; (Attached as Appendix B) and**
- B. **THAT the 2021 Special Education Report, attached as Appendix B to Report No. 21-054,(Attached as Appendix C) be approved.**

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)

12.8 Report 21-053, Approval for the Chair and the Director to Approve Contracts for the Summer Period (M. Carson)

Your committee had before it Report 21-053, seeking approval to provide authorization for the 2021 summer period, to the Chair and Director, to sign necessary contracts above the regular signing authority limits of \$500,000 for specific contracts: notwithstanding, existing policy, P.007.FIN, Signing Authority and Spending Controls policy.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Carson introduced the report and noted that he and Sandra Lloyd, Manager of Supply Chain and Risk Management discussed the possibility of entering into contracts beyond the standard signing authority. He noted that a similar request was put forth in the past for significant projects following a western district area review and that this report follows the same model. He added that this request is to assist with the significant facilities work that the District will undertake over the summer and fall of 2021 and to address volatile pricing and supply availability issues.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT notwithstanding the provisions of P.007.FIN, Signing Authority and Spending Controls policy:

THAT the Chair (or designate) and Director (or designate) be given authority to award necessary contracts above the regular spending signing authority limits of \$500,000, up to a limit of \$2,500,000 per contract without prior Board approval, for the 1 July 2021 to 15 September 2021 period subject to the following conditions:

- i. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) certify that the appropriate procurement policies have been followed and the amounts have been approved in the budget; and
- ii. That staff will inform the Board in October 2021 of any contracts awarded under this temporary authority.

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

- Staff predicted that the total amount expected to be spent would be between \$5-8 million; and
- If a cap were to be placed on the total funds spent, staff would be required to identify any over expenditure early in the process to allow for a Special Board meeting, to seek approval on any over expenditure and establish a new cap for future contracts.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Schwartz

THAT notwithstanding the provisions of P.007.FIN, Signing Authority and Spending Controls policy:

THAT the Chair (or designate) and Director (or designate) be given authority to award necessary contracts above the regular spending signing authority limits of \$500,000, up to a limit of \$2,500,000 per contract without prior Board approval, for the 1 July 2021 to 15 September 2021 period subject to the following conditions:

- i. **The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) certify that the appropriate procurement policies have been followed and the amounts have been approved in the budget; and**
- ii. **That staff will inform the Board in October 2021 of any contracts awarded under this temporary authority.**

For (11): Trustee Scott, Trustee Penny, Trustee Blackburn, Trustee Boothby, Trustee Campbell, Trustee Ellis, Trustee Lyra Evans, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Hough, Trustee Jennekens, and Trustee Schwartz

Abstain (1): Trustee Bell

Carried (11 to 0)

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board