



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

- Trustees Present: Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn , Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz, Lynn Scott, AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada, (Student Trustee) , Charles Chen (Student Trustee)
- Staff Present: 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), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Reg Lavergne, (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Susan MacDonald, (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Sandra Owens (Manager of Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central AV Technical Specialist), Leigh Fenton (Board/Committee Coordinator)
- Non-Voting Representatives Present: Christine Moulaison (OCASC), Christine Lanos (OCEOC), Steve Spidell (OCSSAN), Susan Gardner (ETF), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF), Kelly Granum (OSSTF-Secondary Occasional Teachers), Pat Dixon (OCEOTA), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF-District 25), Seema Lamba (ACE) Lili Miller (IEAC)

1. Call to Order - Vice-Chair of the Board

Vice-Chair Penny called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He 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 Agenda

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the agenda be amended to move item 8.3 to follow item 8.6.

Defeated

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Delegations (Oral)

3.1 Sara-Lynn Levine/Cantor Jason Green, re Antisemitism

Ms. Levine and Cantor Green expressed concern that the Jewish community has experienced a rise in antisemitic behaviour. Cantor Green announced that Jewish children are experiencing harm in schools. They requested that the following be adopted by the District:

- Formal discipline of any OCDSB faculty or staff who publicly engage in hate speech online. This discipline would include a warning, personnel notice and education and training for the offender up to and including disciplinary action, suspension and termination;
- Adding specific language regarding "antisemitism" to the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap;
- Mandatory teacher training with comprehensive and accurate information to tackle antisemitism from acknowledged and respected subject matter experts;
- Ensuring a safe space for all Jewish students and staff;
- Jewish representation in equity roles and committees within the Board;
- Mandatory training on antisemitism related to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition for all OCDSB employees (i.e. Administration, Teachers, EA's, ECE's);
- Celebrate Jewish History Month, in a similar manner to others; and
- To issue a clear and unequivocal statement against antisemitism, in all forms.

Ms. Gardner noted that, at the annual meeting of Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (OCETFO), delegates supported the formation of a new task force to examine issues of antisemitism. She encouraged the District to take action to address all

other forms of discrimination that impact school communities. Ms. Levine confirmed that the Jewish community is beginning to track anecdotal instances of discrimination and will provide a tracking document to school boards moving forward.

3.2 Shira Waldman, re Antisemitism

Ms. Waldman indicated that her children have been experiencing antisemitism at school and are hesitant to disclose their Jewish and Israeli identity. Her recommendations to combating antisemitism included broader life skills training such as digital citizenship, defining hate speech, and how to criticize government policy without spreading hate. She suggested educating the children on media literacy and guidance on how to fact-check sources, changing technology contracts to guard against online bullying, and implementing professional development for teachers on diffusing antisemitism in the classroom.

3.3 Talia Freedhoff, re Antisemitism

Ms. Freedhoff, a student at Sir Robert Borden High School, attested to having witnessed and experienced antisemitism from both peers and teachers within the school board. She noted that the rise of antisemitism in the recent months has reinforced the need for increased education and awareness for students, faculty, and the OCDSB community as a whole.

Her recommendations for the resolution of the issue were as follows:

- Increased education for both students and staff within the OCDSB on antisemitism, improved Holocaust education, and a focus on how to recognize and address antisemitism both within and outside of the classroom;
- Mandatory staff training and workshops regarding antisemitism in order to ensure that teachers are equipped to confront and correct incidents in the school;
- The adaptation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism by the OCDSB; and
- Enforced measures that prohibit antisemitism in the classroom.

Trustee Scott asked Ms. Freedhoff for suggestions on ways teachers could improve in advocating for Jewish students. Ms. Freedhoff wished that all teachers could identify antisemitism and were able to address discrimination without a student having to request that it be addressed.

3.4 Lisa Lawr, re COVID-19 Health Concerns and the Return of Extra Curricular Activities

Ms. Lawr presented her delegation on re-introducing extracurricular activities, along with suggestions for improved safety amidst COVID-19

concerns. She highlighted that at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) extracurricular activities are permitted and the infection rates in Toronto are higher than in Ottawa. She expressed the view that truncating extracurricular activities diminishes the lives of healthy children and deprives them of their potential.

Director Williams-Taylor agreed that extracurricular activities are a vital part of the school experience for physical and mental health and well-being. She noted that every year, extracurricular activities do not begin upon the opening of schools and typically occur later in the fall. After consulting with local health partners and other area school boards, it has been determined that the safe operation of in-person extracurricular activities requires consideration of cohorting, group transportation and volunteers.

3.5 Steven McRoberts, re Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for Students and Adding to the Mandatory Vaccine List

Mr. McRoberts expressed his opposition to the motion by Trustee Lyra Evans to request vaccine requirements for eligible students. He spoke in opposition of the motion by Trustee Campbell to advocate for the addition of COVID-19 vaccinations to the list of compulsory vaccines. He and his family are vaccinated with all approved vaccinations under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (IPSA). They requested families have the choice to vaccinate later. Should vaccines become mandatory within the OCDSB, they will remove their children from the District. To support his stance, he noted that messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccines are approved for emergency and temporary use in children in the US and Canada. He noted that the long-term data on the effects of the experimental vaccination has yet to be collected. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that children and adolescents tend to have milder infections compared to adults. Unless specific children are part of a group at higher risk of severe COVID-19, it is less urgent to vaccinate them.

In response to a query from Trustee Ellis, Mr. McRoberts responded that he would feel more confident about vaccinating youth when the emergency measures issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are lifted and the temporary measures for vaccination use from Health Canada are removed.

Mr. McRoberts advised that with the protective measures in place in schools, he is not concerned about their children becoming infected with the COVID-19 virus.

3.6 Maria Kurylo, re COVID-19 Vaccinations

Ms. Kurylo expressed her opposition to the motion by Trustee Lyra Evans to request vaccine requirements for eligible students. She urged the

trustees to wait for more clinical evidence on the long term effects and possible impact of the vaccination before proceeding to mandate the administering of a medical procedure which is still in a clinical trial phase. She reminded trustees that the District must demonstrate where it derives its authority to override the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code, which outlines that all children have the right to an education without discrimination. She stated that any decision the District takes with respect to mandating experimental medical procedure is in direct violation of the Nuremberg Code, 1947. She noted that COVID-19 vaccines are currently in clinical trial phase until 2022-2023 and are only being administered under temporary emergency measures.

In accordance with Section 11.3 b) of the OCDSB Bylaws and Standing Rules she asked that the answers to the following questions be publicly disclosed in writing by Sept 27th, 2021:

1. From where does the Board derive the authority to mandate a medical procedure that is still in clinical trial phase and is only being administered as a result of emergency measures;
2. From where does the Board derive the authority to override the Canadian Bill of Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code, which outlines that all children have the right to an education without discrimination;
3. To publicly disclose the supporting scientific evidence (not political policies) behind any decision the Board makes regarding health protocols (masking, testing, hand-sanitizing and mandated SARS-Cov2 experimental vaccines) for the public school system;
4. To demonstrate that the supporting documentation provided with her delegation submission has been received and reviewed by all Board Members prior to voting;
5. To provide proof of receipt of the open letter sent 13 September 2021 by Associate Professor of viral immunology, Dr. Byram W. Bridle, to the Board of Trustees requesting a delay on the formal vote requiring mandatory vaccination until he has had a chance to confer with the Board;
6. The School Board is reminded that any decisions it takes with respect to mandating experimental medical procedures is in direct violation of the Nuremberg Code, 1947; and
7. She asked that the Board demonstrate that it understands the legal implications if it chooses to mandate experimental vaccines related to SARS-Cov2 - that all members of the Board and all of its employees,

schools, principles, teachers and staff may be held legally and financially liable.

In response to a statement from Trustee Ellis, Ms. Kurylo stated that the vaccinations are under clinical trial status until 2022-2023 and therefore all COVID-19 vaccinations are experimental.

In response to a question from Student Trustee Salam-Alada, Ms. Kurylo noted that vaccinations do not block the transmission of the COVID-19 virus and stated that she is confident to send her unvaccinated children to school to participate in extracurricular activities.

Trustee Ellis noted that there is a reference in Ms. Kurylo's written delegation to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) database in a way that it is not meant to be used. VAERS is simply a reporting and collection tool where the data is then confirmed through other means.

3.7 James Graham, re Vaccinations for Eligible Students

Mr. Graham expressed his concern with the notice of motion by Trustee Lyra Evans on mandatory vaccines for eligible students. He stated informed consent is a rule of law for any medical practice. Given that science and the medical community must operate under the guiding principles of objective, unbiased inquiry, open conversation, and debate of conflicting views, he argued that parents and guardians are not being given the opportunity to have informed consent. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Universal Declaration of Bioethics gives Canadian citizens the right to consent to any medical intervention after being fully informed about intention risks and benefits. He urged trustees to vote against any motion which requires new vaccination requirements until concrete evidence appears on the benefits and risks to avoid any undue harm to the students and staff.

3.8 Drew Klein, re Vaccination Risks for Children

Mr. Klein expressed his disapproval of the notice of motion by Trustee Lyra Evans which requests a mandatory vaccine requirement for eligible students.

He noted that there have not been any COVID-19 related deaths in school-aged children in Ottawa. There have not been any long term studies to show the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccination. He contended that children have the right to a normal education, the right to bodily autonomy and informed consent and the right to not be coerced into any medical intervention for fear of reprisal. He maintained that parents have the right to make decisions on behalf of their children. He advised that school board trustees do not have the right to overturn the decisions made by families.

4. Delegations (Written)

Chair Penny advised that a number of written delegations were received and are attached to the agenda for trustees to review. He thanked the community for their thoughtful submissions.

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott addressed the subject of antisemitism in OCDSB schools, noting that it was deeply troubling to hear delegations express their fears about safety at school and experiencing hatred because of their faith. She noted that a statement from the District on antisemitism was shared with families and students. She shared a message, on behalf of trustees, condemning all forms of antisemitism, racism, discrimination and hate.

Chair Scott recognized the very special time of year for the Jewish community. Rosh Hashanah was last week and Yom Kippur begins Wednesday evening. She shared best wishes to all families who are marking these important days.

Chair Scott thanked all staff in the District for their work in getting schools ready to receive students. She noted that adjustments in transportation continue as the District works to finalize classes and is working with the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) to manage route cancellations.

Chair Scott thanked families for entrusting their children to the OCDSB each school day. She acknowledged the daily challenges that families are currently facing to ensure their children arrive at school sites. She advised that staff are working diligently to resolve transportation issues.

Chair Scott commended families for going above and beyond to support their children's learning and the Board is proud to receive the very best students.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor thanked all staff who helped bring the students back to school.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that September 30th will mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. This is a day to reflect on Canada's shameful legacy of residential schools in an age-appropriate manner. She reflected that, while the trauma and tragedy is very real, it is important to emphasize the strength, beauty and brilliance of Indigenous knowledge and culture. The lessons of this day will continue throughout the year.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the OCDSB Virtual Night School Program for Fall 2021 is open for registration. Information can be found on the District website.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that OSTA continues to face bus driver shortages and has cancelled some routes. Families are reminded to register for the OSTA parent portal to receive notices of change or cancellations. She asked

that drivers slow down and be extra vigilant around school sites and that families review traffic safety with children.

In response to a query about the plan for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, Superintendent Smith reported that the Indigenous Education Team is working with colleagues across the District to ensure that the learning continues throughout the year on Truth and Reconciliation and the harmful impacts and ongoing legacy of residential schools. Communication to the District will be very clear that 30 September is a day of reflection and learning. There will be collaboration between the Indigenous Education Team and District staff. Guidance will be provided to staff on the selection and curating of resources to be used. Superintendent Smith noted that 30 September is a day that Indigenous students may access leave related to days of significance and holy days.

In response to a query about music programs, Associate Director Reynolds advised that the music program is being taught with recommended restrictions on woodwind and brass instruments in indoor spaces. Staff continue to work with Ottawa Public Health (OPH) on this issue. Associate Director Reynolds noted that band classes are operating and some have virtual components. He advised that courses can be completed and credits obtained online.

7. COVID-19 Update

Director Williams-Taylor and Associate Director Reynolds provided an update on COVID-19 and the reopening of District schools. It was noted that opening of schools was done under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and public health partners.

The following topics were highlighted:

- Updated OPH procedures are online and available to the public;
- OCDSB COVID-19 Dashboard is published daily on the District website;
- There are currently eight active cases of COVID-19 in District schools;
- The Vaccination Attestation Form for staff was launched prior to the beginning of the school year. Human Resources staff are following-up with those who did not submit a form;
- In accordance with the Ministry requirements for the Immunization Disclosure Policy, staff who remain unvaccinated, with or without a medical exemption, will be subject to regular testing and those without a medical exemption will participate in an educational program. Test kits and requirements are being distributed;
- A regular visitor attestation vaccination form is being launched;
- Testing options for staff and visitors include: assessment centers, take home kits (PCR), testing for non-vaccinated (rapid antigen) twice a week, high

school test for targeted surveillance. The OCDSB is not a participating school board in the pilot project;

- The Ministry released guidance on medical mask wearing and is working to update the COVID-19: Health Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools 2021-2022;
- The District website features school-specific information on ventilation, including a standardized school Ventilation Measures Report.

In response to questions the following points were noted:

- Masking in any indoor interscholastic sport is mandatory;
- During periods of active eating over the lunch break, students are required to unmask. In secondary schools, students can eat their lunches outdoors, weather permitting;
- There have been multiple changes and cancellations to transportation services for students in the region. The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) continues to work on managing routes. Families must access the portal to find out about changes;
- A District decision was made to not issue Community Use of Schools (CUS) permits in September 2021. There will be restrictions on the number of groups in a building to allow for proper cleaning regimes due to COVID-19 protocols. This District is giving priority to youth groups rather than adult groups; and
- One cohort at a time has access to play structures.

8. Matters for Action:

8.1 Report 21-065, Westwind Public School - Fernbank Area Elementary Interim Accommodation Measure #2 (M. Carson)

Your committee had before it Report 21-065 seeking approval of a second temporary elementary school attendance boundary redirection of new students moving in to the Fernbank area, west of Terry Fox Drive and east of Robert Grant Avenue in Stittsville (interim Westwind Public School boundary area), who will be directed to the new Fernbank elementary school upon its opening.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Carson noted that growth continues in the Fernbank area. He advised that the approval for a new school in the Fernbank area was not provided in time to be ready to receive students in the fall of 2021. CFO Carson advised that it is necessary to relieve enrolment pressure at John Young Elementary School (ES) and Westwind Public School (PS), the two schools that receive students from the Fernbank area.

Manager Carty Ostafichuk presented Report 21-055 and outlined the recommendations within the report. She noted that funding for the new Fernbank elementary school was announced in June 2021 and staff look forward to being able to relieve enrolment pressure at existing area schools.

Moved by Trustee Scott,

- A. THAT future students moving into the Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, who are in kindergarten (year 1) through grade 6 be directed to Stittsville Public School as of 4 October 2021, subject to sibling provisions outlined in Recommendations B and C to Report 21-065;
- B. THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who had older sibling(s) in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (2019-2020) attending John Young Elementary School be provided a one-time option to attend at John Young Elementary School;
- C. THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who currently (2021-2022) have older sibling(s) in year 1 kindergarten, year 2 kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 attending Westwind Public School be provided a one-time option to attend Westwind Public School;
- D. THAT Recommendations A through C to Report 21-065 shall remain in effect until such time as the new Fernbank elementary school is opened or until other accommodation measures are approved;
- E. THAT upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school all of the students who reside within the Fernbank elementary school attendance boundary and are enrolled at John Young Elementary School, Westwind Public School or Stittsville Public School, move in a block (year 1 kindergarten through grade 5) to the new Fernbank elementary school; and
- F. THAT the only exception to the redirection outlined in Recommendation E to Report 21-065 shall be those students entering grade 6 and their younger siblings who are attending John Young ES or Westwind Public School, having exercised a one-time option to remain.

Trustee Scott acknowledged that the growth in the Fernbank area has been challenging.

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

- Manager Carty Ostafichuk advised that John Young ES has a utilization rate (120%) than staff would prefer, but the growth at the school has stabilized. Westwind PS has a utilization rate of 150%;
- Manager Carty Ostafichuk noted that discussions have occurred with families in the Fernbank area, who are registered in Kindergarten classes at Westwind PS, about voluntarily moving their children to Stittsville PS. Staff are contemplating this as an option but the movement of students would be limited. Manager Ostafichuk noted that it would be staff's desire to provide transportation to all eligible students in the Fernbank area but that is a challenge due to the driver shortages OSTA is experiencing in the west end of the City; and
- The Extended Day Program (EDP), a third-party provider at Stittsville PS will, as much as possible, accommodate new students coming to the school.

Trustee Scott advised that the start of construction on the new Fernbank elementary school is imminent and she hoped the school would be ready to receive students in September of 2022. She advised that the measures recommended in Report 21-065 would be temporary until the new school is opened. Trustee Scott noted the community concern about the overcrowding at Westwind PS and she urged her fellow trustees to support the recommendation.

Moved by Trustee Scott

- A. **THAT future students moving into the Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, who are in kindergarten (year 1) through grade 6 be directed to Stittsville Public School as of 4 October 2021, subject to sibling provisions outlined in Recommendations B and C to Report 21-065;**
- B. **THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who had older sibling(s) in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (2019-2020) attending John Young Elementary School be provided a one-time option to attend at John Young Elementary School;**
- C. **THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who currently (2021-2022) have older sibling(s) in year 1 kindergarten, year 2 kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 attending Westwind Public School be provided a one-time option to attend Westwind Public School;**
- D. **THAT Recommendations A through C to Report 21-065 shall remain in effect until such time as the new Fernbank elementary**

school is opened or until other accommodation measures are approved;

- E. THAT upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school all of the students who reside within the Fernbank elementary school attendance boundary and are enrolled at John Young Elementary School, Westwind Public School or Stittsville Public School, move in a block (year 1 kindergarten through grade 5) to the new Fernbank elementary school; and**
- F. THAT the only exception to the redirection outlined in Recommendation E to Report 21-065 shall be those students entering grade 6 and their younger siblings who are attending John Young Elementary school or Westwind Public School, having exercised a one-time option to remain.**

Carried

8.2 Report 21-069, Supervisory Officer Selection Process (J.McCoy)

Your committee had before it Report 21-069 seeking approval to proceed with a selection process for a supervisory officer position as provided for in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Policy P.087. HR, Selection of Supervisory Officers.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that a vacancy has been created as a result of Superintendent Eric Hardie accepting a new role in another school board. Director Williams-Taylor noted that if the recommendation presented in Report 21-069 is approved, in principle, staff would like to proceed with posting the vacancy on 15 September 2021. The Director did acknowledge that there would be a need to establish a selection committee with trustees as advisors. The trustee advisors will be selected at the Board Meeting of 28 September 2021.

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

- A. THAT the Board authorizes staff to proceed with initiating the supervisory officer selection process, including a job posting, as outlined in Appendix A to Report 21-069 Policy P.087. HR, Selection of Supervisory Officers, effective immediately.**
- B. THAT the Board confirm the continuation of the trustee members of the selection committee appointed by the Board for the most recent selection process.**

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

- Policy P.146.HR, Equitable Recruitment and Hiring and Promotion would apply to the selection of a supervisory officer;
- Director Williams-Taylor noted that staff had commenced a discussion about the hiring process and that a third party would be engaged to undertake the selection process and to provide guidance to staff to align the selection with the directives outlined in Policy P.146.HR;
- Director Williams-Taylor advised that there are explicit qualifications for a supervisor officer, as outlined in *The Education Act*. She noted that staff are providing flexibility for candidates by stating that the position does not require the supervisory officer qualification to fill the role but that the candidate must be in a position to undertake the qualification process. It is anticipated that this flexibility will open the field to additional candidates;
- Staff have commenced outreach, through the search firm, to organizations that engage with people in other school districts that are in the supervisory officer program training or individuals who are in a position to receive the training program; and
- It is hoped that the measures that have been implemented will help to draw a diverse pool of candidates;
- Director Williams-Taylor advised that there are initiatives being discussed within the District and also in a provincial group, of which she is a member, to examine ways to mentor members of under represented groups to be able to fill positions, such as supervisory officers;
- Director Williams-Taylor reported that the selection committee is composed of three members of the senior team with herself as Chair of the committee. The Chair of the Board and two other trustees participate as advisors. There have been varying degrees of representation in previous committees. The representation from senior staff has rotated providing an opportunity to build capacity in mentorship. Director Williams-Taylor confirmed that selection committee members will have training for biases; and
- Trustee Boothby advised that she was a member of the last selection committee and will be unable to participate in the upcoming selection process.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

That Part B of the motion be revised to read as follows”

THAT the Board confirm the trustee members of the selection committee at its next Board meeting.

Carried, friendly

Moved by Trustee Campbell

- A. **THAT the Board authorizes staff to proceed with initiating the supervisory officer selection process, including a job posting, as outlined in Appendix A to Report 21-069 Policy P.087. HR, Selection of Supervisory Officers, effective immediately.(Attached as Appendix A)**
- B. **THAT the Board confirm the trustee members of the selection committee at its next Board meeting.**

Carried

8.3 Notice of Motion re Request for Vaccine Requirement for Eligible Students (Trustee Lyra Evans)

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT eligible students be required to be partially vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus or provide proof of a medical exemption as of 30 September 2021 and be fully vaccinated as of 20 November 2021 to continue to attend in person classes. Any student who is not vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus after this date will be re enrolled in the virtual school.

In introducing the motion, Trustee Lyra Evans advised that she moved the motion recognizing that Ottawa has a significant population of students under 12 years of age who are unable to participate in the vaccination program. The Ottawa region also has a disproportionate number of students who are immunocompromised, compared to most school boards in the province, because the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) is located in the city. Many families move to Ottawa when their children have complex medical needs. She noted that COVID-19 may have a low death rate amongst students; however, she expressed the view that with comorbid conditions, the risk of contracting the virus is elevated. She reminded the committee that a legal opinion was sought, the summary of which has been released to the public, which discloses how the District has the legal authority to implement such a policy and makes reference to the responsibility in loco parentis. Trustee Lyra Evans reported that she does not believe that the province of Ontario will act to mandate vaccines, nor amend the *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* to include the COVID-19 vaccine. She believes that mandating the vaccines will be a decision for trustees to make.

Trustee Fisher noted the following factors were influencing his views on the motion: the key component of educating the population on the benefits of the vaccine, the limitations provided in the legal opinion, that children do

have a right to attend school under *The Education Act*, health experts have indicated that the ISPA is governed by the province of Ontario, and the Ontario human rights laws balance rights to non-discrimination and civil liberties with respect to public health and safety, and they provide limitations when there are serious pandemics in terms of how rights are protected.

Trustee Schwartz contributed that she believes that parents should have the option to vaccinate their children, and also believes that the population should be vaccinated as fully as possible.

Student Trustee Chen shared that his main concern was that the motion was preventing unvaccinated students from attending school in person. He stated that the students may not be vaccinated for a variety of reasons, including their parents' hesitation.

Within the purview of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board By-laws and Standing Rules (the bylaws), Student Trustee Chen advised that he and Student Trustee Salam-Alada have collaborated to suggest the following amendment: THAT students eligible for COVID-19 vaccination who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 20 November 2021 be required to undergo regular testing for COVID-19. Student Trustee Chen highlighted that this suggestion for an amendment was a compromise between keeping students safe while appreciating the complexities of vaccinating 12 to 17 year old students.

Student Trustee Salam-Alada voiced her support for educating and encouraging students to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program. If students are unable to be vaccinated they should undergo regular testing.

Trustee Scott indicated her preference to make a clear decision on mandatory vaccinations for students and did not intend to move the suggested motion by the student trustees. She noted that it is premature to be making a decision to mandate vaccinations for eligible students. She expressed concern about the equity issues that would be associated with the directive in terms of a student's ability to learn effectively online, as opposed to attending school in-person. She drew attention to the fact that the COVID-19 vaccination is different from other vaccinations currently covered under the ISPA. It is not known yet how many or how often booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccinations will need to be administered. Without having an understanding of where the vaccination fits into the scheme of vaccination protocols for disease in general, she noted her reluctance to vote in favour of mandating vaccinations for students or directing the unvaccinated students into Ottawa-Carleton Virtual School (OCV).

Trustee Campbell spoke against the motion noting that he had heard Dr. Brent Moloughney, Deputy Minister of Health for Ottawa Public Health

(OPH), in the Committee of the Whole meeting on 24 August 2021, advise that OPH would discourage the vaccination of students. Dr. Moloughney mentioned the legal primacy of the IPSA. Dr. Moloughney raised an equity concern where, should school boards delve too far into the matter, it may impair OPHs effort to develop relationships with communities and families.

Trustee Hough noted that the vaccination rate amongst children 12 -18 years old in Ottawa is 90%.and contemplated why the remainder were not vaccinated, suggesting that there could be equity issues involved in the reasoning.

An amendment moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT students eligible for COVID-19 vaccination who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 20 November 2021 be required to undergo regular testing for COVID-19.

Chair Penny ruled the motion to be out of order on the basis that all amendments must be in the spirit of the original motion per the language in the bylaws.

Trustee Ellis spoke in favour of the motion, noting that some parents may not feel comfortable with their vaccinated children being sent to school with unvaccinated children.

Trustee Boothby observed that school boards are tasked to educate and protect the well-being of students. She reflected that sending students into an on-line learning environment may be limiting children's opportunities for education and potentially the well-being of some students who struggle with remote learning.

Trustee Scott assumed the Chair.

Trustee Penny spoke against the motion noting that the directive does not give staff the ability to accommodate those who may need accommodations, He expressed the opinion that it is prejudicial towards underrepresented students, there may be exposure to legal risks and that the tone of the motion is far too punitive.

Chair Penny resumed the Chair.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

THAT the debate be ended.

Carried

Trustee Lyra Evans submitted that the directive in the motion stands to ensure that schools remain open for a longer period and reduce the cases of COVID-19 in schools. She urged her fellow colleagues to see the equity lens of the immunocompromised people who may be further protected by vaccinating students through a mandatory practice.

In response to a request from Trustee Ellis to have a recorded vote, Chair Penny ruled that the OCDSB Bylaws and Standing Rules state in Rules of Committee under section 12.15 (a) iv. that "votes shall not be recorded in committee, except by request of trustee at Committee of the Whole, Budget".

Trustee Ellis noted his preference that the vote be recorded to provide transparency to the public and requested that the virtual screen display voters in "the gallery view" when the question is called on the motion.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans

THAT eligible students be required to be partially vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus or provide proof of a medical exemption as of 30 September 2021 and be fully vaccinated as of 20 November 2021 to continue to attend in person classes. Any student who is not vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus after this date will be re-enrolled in the virtual school.

Defeated

Ms. Miller objected to a statement that Chair Penny uttered when speaking to the motion.

Chair Penny apologized to the committee.

8.4 Notice of Motion re Access to School Board Property (Trustee Lyra Evans)

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT policy P.032.SCO, Safe Schools be amended such that:

- A. Section 4.18 be amended to read "Subject to subsections 4.19 to 4.22, the following persons shall be permitted on school/Board premises";
and
- B. A new clause that reads "Persons from sections b, d, e, f, and g of 4.18 shall only be allowed on school/Board property provided they are fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and provide said proof upon request" be added to section 4.0.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted the intent of the motion was to protect vulnerable students who cannot be vaccinated, by ensuring visitors to the school have the approved COVID-19 vaccination.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

That the motion be revised to read as follows:

THAT staff develop and implement by 30 October 2021, for as long as Ontario's COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy for the education sector continues to apply, a COVID-19 mandatory vaccination protocol and strategy, of a nature similar to that directed by the Board for its employees at its meeting of 1 September 2021, which would broadly require mandatory COVID-19 vaccination, subject to such extraordinary individual exemptions as may be granted by authorized staff, for the following individuals regularly attending school premises in order to work directly in-person with either staff or students:

- students on educational placement, including professional services students on a placement / work-integrated learning visit,
- volunteers,
- those who provide professional services to children at school
- visitors, including third-party contractors

Trustee Campbell contended that there should not be temporary changes in policy. The substitution amendment binds staff and visitors to the same rule. He noted that in the proposed amendment, the same groups of people that are included within the Ministry guidance on the immunization status disclosure policy. The revised wording focuses on the protection of staff and students in terms of regulations for those people actively visiting schools, but would not include parents, guardians or contractors working on weekends or nights when the school community is not present.

Superintendent McCoy confirmed that the proposed amendment is not inconsistent with the approved recommendation from the 31 August 2021 Board meeting concerning the now mandatory protocol which reads that any volunteer must provide proof of full vaccination against the COVID-19 virus.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT“ staff develop and implement by 30 October 2021” be replaced with “staff develop and implement by 30 September 2021”

Trustee Lyra Evans highlighted that all staff are expected to be vaccinated by 30 September 2021 and the same expectations should be applied to the defined list of individuals.

Superintendent McCoy commented that given that there would be additional operational requirements for staff, the flexibility of a later timeline would be appreciated.

Trustee Ellis requested that all votes at the Committee of the Whole be conducted in gallery view for the public.

Trustee Scott noted that the people contained within the defined list are not necessarily in regular contact with the school community and the District does not hold their records as it does for staff and she maintained that this was sufficient reason to leave the date at 30 October 2021.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT “staff develop and implement by 30 October 2021” be replaced with “staff develop and implement by 30 September 2021”

Defeated

CFO Carson reported that renovation work is being sequestered away from students and contractors would not necessarily meet that definition of regularly attending school premises in order to work directly in-person with either staff or students. He noted that the construction industry is encouraging all trades people to become fully vaccinated.

CFO Carson explained the necessity to review the applicability of third party childcare operators in the context of the proposed motion; however they are licensed under the Ministry of Education and are subject to the guidelines outlined in the immunization status disclosure policy.

Director Williams-Taylor emphasized that directives have come from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education on protocols for bus drivers. The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is working with bus operators on compliance expectations.

Trustee Lyra Evans remarked that the trustee votes are not being recorded on YouTube and voting hands may not be evident in the gallery view. She recommended the use of a voice vote.. Trustee Schwartz requested that the matter be discussed in agenda planning.

Speaking to the amendment, Trustee Campbell maintained that motions that supersede Ministry directives or other guiding regulation are precarious. He has sought to limit the individuals in the bulleted list to those who are not regular attendees on school premises.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT staff develop and implement by 30 October 2021, for as long as Ontario's COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy for the education sector continues to apply, a COVID-19 mandatory vaccination protocol and strategy, of a nature similar to that directed by the Board for its employees at its meeting of 1 September 2021, which would broadly require mandatory COVID-19 vaccination, subject to such extraordinary individual exemptions as may be granted by authorized staff, for the following individuals regularly attending school premises in order to work directly in-person with either staff or students:

- *students on educational placement, including professional services students on a placement / work-integrated learning visit,*
- *volunteers,*
- *those who provide professional services to children at school*
- *visitors, including third-party contractors*

Carried

Trustee Scott queried the difference between the directives contained in the motion and the expectation under the Ministry directive around vaccination and rapid testing.

Superintendent McCoy responded that in order to operationalize this directive, there would need to be an addition to the current disclosure requirements and assembly of a test station, asking non-employee groups to disclose their vaccination status and barring them from access to the premises unless they were able to attest that they were fully vaccinated and provide the appropriate proof of vaccination.

Trustee Scott expressed concern that the directive may compromise services to students. Superintendent McCoy noted that considerations would need to be extended to groups under the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The District is a service provider and has certain obligations as an organization. She highlighted that the motion does make reference to extraordinary individual exemptions, as may be granted by authorized staff, which provides for staff discretion to allow access under certain conditions, depending on the circumstances, depending on the hardship, either in terms of the impact on our students or staff or on those categories of individuals who are covered by this motion.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans

THAT staff develop and implement by 30 October 2021, for as long as Ontario's COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy for the education sector continues to apply, a COVID-19 mandatory vaccination protocol and strategy, of a nature similar to that directed by the Board for its employees at its meeting of 1 September 2021, which would broadly require mandatory COVID-19 vaccination, subject to such extraordinary individual exemptions as may be granted by authorized staff, for the following individuals regularly attending school premises in order to work directly in-person with either staff or students:

- **students on educational placement, including professional services students on a placement / work-integrated learning visit,**
- **volunteers,**

- those who provide professional services to children at school
- visitors, including third-party contractors

Carried

* * * The 10:30 p.m. vote did obtain the required 2/3 majority to continue the meeting * * *

8.5 Notice of Motion re Letter to the Ministry Advocating the Addition of COVID-19 Vaccination to List of Compulsory Vaccines (Trustee Campbell)

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the Chair write a public letter to the Minister of Education to advocate for an evaluation by provincial health authorities as to the wisdom of

- adding the COVID-19 vaccination to the list of compulsory vaccinations for all eligible students; and/or
- the provision of provincial direction to school boards requiring a COVID-19 vaccination disclosure policy for eligible students

Trustee Campbell noted that the motion would bring the District into alignment with the public statements and declarations of other school boards. He clarified that the list he was referring to was the ISPA list. He is suggesting that the Chair of the Board write a letter to the Minister of Education to ask provincial health authorities to evaluate whether the approved COVID-19 vaccinations should or should not be added to the list. His intent was to refer the question to competent medical authorities.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the "Minister of Education" be amended to "the Ministers of Education and Health".

Carried, friendly

Trustee Fisher noted that sound health advice comes from numerous sources, such as the Science Advisory Table, which is not a provincial health authority. He suggested adding the words " and experts" after provincial health authorities.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Fisher,

That the words "and experts" be added after "provincial health authorities".

Carried, friendly

Trustee Scott requested that separate votes be taken for Parts A and B of the motion.

Trustee Scott raised concerns about the potential for stigmatizing students who are unvaccinated and the capacity to safeguard health information, which is not currently part of the District's regular data collection on students.

Trustee Campbell noted his concern about the vaccinations of students and for this reason, he did not propose that mandatory vaccinations be endorsed for students but has sought the considerations of health experts.

Student Trustee Salam-Alada requested a non-binding recorded vote.

In response to a request by Trustee Ellis, staff agreed to provide information on the procedure for recorded votes for both trustees and student trustees.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

THAT the Chair write a public letter to the Ministers of Education and Health to advocate for an evaluation by provincial health authorities and experts as to the wisdom of

A. adding the COVID-19 vaccination to the list of compulsory vaccinations for all eligible students, and/or

Carried

B. the provision of provincial direction to school boards requiring a COVID-19 vaccination disclosure policy for eligible students.

Defeated

A non-binding recorded vote was held on part A of the motion and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

For: (13) Trustees Scott, Boothby, Blackburn, Hough, Campbell, Ellis, Jennekens, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Schwartz, Penny, Student Trustee Salam-Alada, Student Trustee Chen

Against: (0)

Abstain:(0)

A non-binding recorded vote was held for part B of the motion and the motion was defeated by those present:

For: (4) Boothby, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Salam-Alada, Chen

Against: (7) Scott, Blackburn, Hough, Jennekens, Fisher, Schwartz, Penny

Abstain: (0)

In summary, the following motion was approved:

Moved by Trustee Campbell

THAT the Chair write a public letter to the Ministers of Education and Health to advocate for an evaluation by provincial health authorities and experts as to the wisdom of adding the COVID-19 vaccination to the list of compulsory vaccinations for all eligible students.

Carried

8.6 Notice of Motion re Empowering Young People to Take Action for Their Own Health (Trustee Lyra Evans)

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

- A. THAT the Director work with Ottawa Public Health to create and deliver an education campaign to empower students to make informed medical decisions related to the COVID-19 vaccine; and
- B. THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board work with Ottawa Public Health towards a goal of ensuring every eligible student has the opportunity to get fully vaccinated through a school-based clinic should they not already be vaccinated.

In her introduction Trustee Lyra Evans stated that it was important to teach young people about the efficacy of vaccines, their role in society and how herd immunity protects those who are immunocompromised, helping them to understand the existing case law in Ontario, ensuring that they understand their capabilities of making their own medical decisions when they feel competent and a medical practitioner feels they are competent to make those decisions themselves.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that the District is considered an expert in education and an expert in helping people understand the material that is being taught. She suggested that a collaboration between the District and OPH to communicate their shared specialties, may assist in an education plan deliverable to the students.

Trustee Campbell noted that the motion was exclusively focused on students, as opposed to families, communities and staff. He commented that there was an opportunity to broaden the motion to include all aforementioned categories.

Executive Officer Giroux advised that the coterminous boards and OPH meet weekly, both as COVID-19 leads and communication professionals.

The two organizations share messaging and strategies on communication and weekly generate messaging strategies for the community at large, for parents, and, in particular, for students. She queried whether the motion proposes an expansion on the communications system currently in place.

Trustee Lyra Evans elaborated that it was her intent to ensure that every student had briefings in classrooms about the impacts of health decisions with targeted teaching towards the student population.

Associate Director Reynolds confirmed that all vaccination education programs are developed by OPH and he expressed a reservation that the motion may infringe on the work of OPH.

Executive Officer Giroux shared that the Ministry has provided an educational program video for implementation. At this time the District is determining the video rollout and how to track the completion of the program by employees.

Director Williams-Taylor expressed the opinion that the intent of the motion is that instruction that occurs in classrooms and is about not only the value of the vaccine, but their capacity, as students who are 12 and over to make the decision to access the vaccine and that instruction is guided by materials that are developed in partnership with OPH.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the curriculum that is delivered in classrooms is guided by policy. She noted her concern about the District's capacity for educators to deliver material that is outside of the curriculum. Director Williams-Taylor cautioned that an education campaign about informed medical decisions would fall under the jurisdiction of health care professionals.

Moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the Committee of the Whole meeting of 14 September 2021 continue past 11:00 p.m. to complete the item on the floor.

Defeated

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

At the time of adjournment the following items had not been dealt with:

8.6 Notice of Motion re Empowering Young People to Take Action for Their Own Health (Trustee Lyra Evans)

8.7 Notice of Motion re Use of Health Canada Approved Respirators (Trustee Bell)

9. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

9.1 Advisory Committee on Equity, 27 May 2021

9.2 Special Education Advisory Committee, 2 June 2021

- 10. Information Items
- 10.1 Report from OPSBA
- 10.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update
- 10.3 OSTA Update

Keith Penny, Chair