

BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 8:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

- Trustees: Lynn Scott, Keith Penny, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Sandra Schwartz, AmaturRaheem Salam-Alada (Student Trustee), Charles Chen (Student Trustee)
- Staff: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Reg Lavergne, Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nancy Brady (Superintendent of Instruction), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk, (Manager of Planning), Joan Oracheski (Manager of Research, Evaluation & Analytics Division), Sandy Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Emily Balla (Mental Health Lead), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Darren Gatley (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territory and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Delegations

3.1 Faiz Jan, re Provision of Mental Health Care

Mr. Jan, the co-chair of the Peace of Mind coalition, noted that his organization released a report regarding analyzing the accessibility and funding considerations relating to the provision of mental health care of students. He noted that his coalition has six policies intended for the provincial government and school boards to adopt to ensure that the mental health needs of students are met.

Mr. Jan provided a presentation and the following policies were suggested:

- Providing all students access to at least 26 sessions of Cognitive/Dialectical Behavioural or Psychodynamic Therapy annually;
- Providing one annual mental health check-in provided by a registered therapist to every student;
- Legally prohibiting the discrimination of an individual for the purposes of employment, social opportunities, or registration in schooling due to previous efforts to access mental healthcare of any form;
- Adding a full section of the elementary/middle school health curriculum dedicated solely to the topic of understanding mental health, illness, and neurodiversity to reduce stigma and create awareness of supports;
- Developing and enforcing training for peace officers, teachers and healthcare professionals in cooperation with mental health experts to teach how to identify mental illness, those at risk of mental illness, and how to effectively help citizens overcome barriers to mental wellness; and
- Mandating professional mental healthcare workers to participate in training for a culturally responsive approach.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell, Mr. Jan noted that the funding requirements in the report were verified independently by multiple policy analysts, economists, as well as consultation with communities of equity seeking groups. He noted that consultation with sources was cited at the end of the report.

In response to a query from Trustee Scott, Mr. Jan noted that he is only affiliated with Peace of Mind and has reached out to Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, Toronto District School Board, and York Region District School Board. He noted that Peace of Mind has reached out and

has been working with the Ministry of Health and the official opposition to implement the policies outlined by Peace of Mind.

4. Report from the Board (In Camera)

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

Moved by Trustee Jennekens

Seconded by Trustee Penny

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

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Trustee Jennekens

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a human resources matter.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott expressed her gratitude for the schools within the District that held food drives, raised money, and hosted other initiatives for charities and community organizations. Chair Scott thanked staff for teaching students about kindness and giving back to the community and for those who made donations.

Chair Scott reported that celebrations of Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Years are upcoming and hoped that all resolve to advance a culture of caring, equity and inclusion in schools, making them safer and more welcoming, free of bullying, discrimination and racism.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor reported that in January 2022, the OCDSB is preparing its annual kindergarten and secondary school registration campaigns. The

District will be hosting virtual parent information sessions and will launch an advertising campaign. More information will be shared in January 2022.

Director Williams-Taylor reminded all families that 17 December 2021 will be the last day of school before the winter break and that school will resume on 3 January 2022. Students and staff are reminded to take their personal belongings and learning materials home on 17 December 2021 and that all schools will be closed during the break. She reported that OCDSB offices will also be closed from 24 December 2021 until 3 January 2022. Director Williams-Taylor hoped that all will have an opportunity to rest and relax during the break and that the District looks forward to welcoming students and staff back to school in the new year.

7. COVID-19 Update

Director Williams-Taylor introduced the COVID-19 update.

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

- COVID-19 cases are primarily attributed to the elementary grades; however, there have been an increase in cases at the secondary level;
- Half Moon Bay Public School was closed for two weeks due to an outbreak;
- Case management practices will be modified over the winter break. During this time, any questions from the community should be directed to Ottawa Public Health (OPH);
- Ottawa continues to lead the province in 5 to 11 year olds being vaccinated;
- Ministry-supplied antigen screening kits will be distributed to in-person students between 15 and 17 December 2021;
- Staff noted that the federal government is considering additional travel restrictions and asked that families who are traveling to consider any federal requirements;
- Secondary schools will return to the four course per day semester model beginning in February 2022 and schedules are being finalized before being shared with the community;
- It was clearly communicated that the family decision for students to attend schools in-person or through the Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) campus would remain in effect for the entire 2021-2022 school year; however, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis;
- The District anticipates that students will return to in-person classes after the winter break but have asked students and staff to take home their belongings as a precaution should schools be directed to pivot to virtual learning;

- In response to a query from Trustee Bell, Associate Director Reynolds noted that he would bring forth concerns to Ottawa Public Health (OPH) regarding educator use of N-95 masks that were not fit-tested; and
- An update on the schedule for non-semestered schools will be provided before 17 December 2021.

8. Matters for Action

8.1 Confirmation of Board Minutes:

8.1.a 23 November 2021

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the 23 November 2021 Board minutes be confirmed.

Carried

8.1.b 1 December 2021 Board Organizational Meeting

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the 1 December 2021 Board Organizational minutes be confirmed.

Carried

8.2 Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 23 November 2021 Board minutes or the 1 December 2021 Board Organizational meeting minutes.

8.3 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report

8.3.a 7 December 2021

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the Committee of the Whole (COW) report, dated 7 December 2021, be received.

Trustee Scott noted that on page 13 of the 7 December 2021 COW minutes that the word “substituting” be replaced with “replacing” to read as follows: THAT section B of the motion be amended by replacing “addition of non-voting representatives” with “change to non-voting representation.”

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 7 December 2021, be received, as amended.

Carried

8.3.a.a Approval of the Vimy Ridge Interim Accommodation Review Consultation Plan

Moved by Trustee Jennekens

Seconded by Trustee Penny

- A. **THAT the Board affirm that a Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) under Board Policy P.118.PLG is not required for this study; and**
- B. **THAT the timeline and consultation plan attached as Appendix B and C to Report 21-097, be approved in order to consult with local school communities and the public. (Attached as Appendix A and B)**

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

Carried (11 to 0)

8.3.a.b Approval of the Electoral Boundaries-Recommended Model

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

Trustee Lyra Evans expressed the view that elected officials should not draw their own boundaries.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

- A. **THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board approve the new electoral zone boundaries, labelled Model 6 – Recommended Model and attached as Appendix A to Report 21-093 which will come into effect for the 2022 municipal elections, as amended. (Attached as Appendix C); and**
- B. **THAT staff be directed to prepare and submit the trustee distribution and determination process based on this model and submit the required documentation to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act, the Education Act and any related regulations.**

For (10): Trustee Scott, Trustee Penny, Trustee Bell, Trustee Blackburn, Trustee Boothby, Trustee Campbell, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Hough, Trustee Jennekens, and Trustee Schwartz

Abstain (1): Trustee Lyra Evans

Carried (10 to 0)

8.3.a.c Approval of amendment to Policy P.010.GOV, Community Involvement-Standing Committees

Moved in Trustee Campbell
substitution by

Seconded by Trustee Penny

- A. **THAT the Parent Involvement Committee appoint a non-voting representative to each of Committee of the Whole and Committee of the Whole (Budget) until such time as Policy [P.010.GOV](#) Community Involvement on Board Standing Committees has been reviewed;**
- B. **THAT there be a moratorium on any further change to non-voting representation at COW and COW (Budget) pending review and revision of Policy [P.010.GOV](#);**
- C. **THAT as soon as reasonably can be done, Policy [P.010.GOV](#) be reviewed and revised, such review to include consideration of the purpose for having non-voting representatives at COW and COW (Budget), criteria for the choice of groups to be represented, and expectations for the roles and responsibilities of non-voting representatives.**

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

Abstain (1): Trustee Bell

Carried (10 to 0)

8.4 Selection of a Non-Voting Volunteer to the Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) (Deferred from 1 December 2021 Board Organizational Meeting)

Chair Scott advised that she consulted with Chair Manatch of the Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) regarding the selection process of a non-voting trustee delegate to IEAC and how it related to the Algonquin Protocols. She noted that IEAC had no concerns on the process for the appointment of a non-voting delegate to IEAC.

Chair Scott noted that when the provincial government mandated that each school board have an IEAC to provide advice on Indigenous education, no information was provided on who was responsible for the formation of the committee and the effective operation of the committee in partnership with the Board.

At the time of deferral, both Trustee Ellis and Trustee Hough had volunteered to be the non-voting delegate at IEAC. Chair Scott noted that Trustee Ellis informed her that he has withdrawn his name at this time.

By acclamation, Chair Scott declared Trustee Hough the non-voting trustee delegate for the Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

9. Matters for Discussion

9.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

9.2 Ministry Update (if required)

There was no new Ministry update.

10. Board Work Plan

The Board Work Plan was provided for information.

Chair Scott noted that a report will be presented at a future meeting to address the policy review process.

11. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

12. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board