



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 6:30 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, 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), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Programming and Learning K-12), Nancy Brady, Reg Lavergne, Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Sandy Owens (Manager of Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Engy Abdel Masieh (Policy Analyst), Paula Hall (Principal), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio Visual Technical Specialist), Darren Gatley (Board/Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Thomas Holloway (OCASC), Stephanie Borrens (OCEOC), Steve Spidell (OCSSAN), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF-District 25), Kelly Granum (OSSTF-District 25 ALT), Susan Gardner (ETFO), Pat Dixon (OCEOTA-ALT), Seema Lamba (ACE), Lili Miller (IEC), Suzanne Lyon (PIC)

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

Vice-Chair Penny called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 Blackburn,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

3. Delegations (Oral)

3.1 Sam Hersh, re Police Support to Schools

Mr. Hersh expressed his dismay that the time frame allotted for delegations was reduced. Mr. Hersh expressed the opinion that he was opposed to the District working with Ottawa Police Services (OPS) and the possibility of reinstating the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program.

3.2 Hailey Dash, re Police Support to Schools

Ms. Dash expressed concern that the OCDSB could cause harm to racialized students and families by reestablishing a relationship with OPS. Ms. Dash urged the Board to follow ethical practices that do not contradict the Office of Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility (OHREA) and Aislu Collective's reports.

3.3 Mae Mason, re Police Support to Schools

Mae Mason expressed concern that police in schools have a negative impact on racialized students and families. Mae Mason urged the Board to use an equity lens when considering the outcome that a relationship with OPS would have on racialized students.

On a point of privilege, Trustee Blackburn expressed the opinion that some of the comments made by the delegate were disrespectful, and that the chair should have intervened.

3.4 Julia Hamer, re Police Support to Schools

Julia Hamer expressed the view that the SRO program should not be reinstated in OCDSB schools due to potential harm that the program may have on students, families, and the community.

3.5 Robin Browne, re Police Support to Schools

Mr. Browne expressed the view that Trustee Blackburn's notice of motion is not required as the Board previously passed a motion to have a community consultation with police. He noted that schools should be a safe and welcoming place for all students and that reinstating the SRO program would negatively impact the school community.

4. Delegations (Written)

Chair Penny noted that the written delegations were provided for information

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott advised that the agenda contains important, sensitive topics and reminded all participants to be respectful to each other without personalizing the debate or making comments that are inflammatory or triggering for the members of the committee or the community.

Chair Scott reported that 2022 Summer School Program registration for students in grades 6 to 8 is now open. She noted that two non-credit programs are available for OCDSB students currently in grades 6-8, as well as some reach ahead credit courses for grade 8 students entering grade 9. Details can be found on the OCDSB website.

Chair Scott reported that the OCDSB is fortunate to be able to offer students two outdoor education centres, in the east and west ends of Ottawa. She noted that on 14 May 2022, the MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre, east of Cumberland Village, is having its annual Open Trails event from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Chair Scott reported that on 18 May 2022, the OCDSB will be hosting the 17th annual Rainbow Youth Forum. This virtual evening will include workshops and opportunities for students to connect with each other. She noted that registration is open to all 2SLGBTQ+ OCDSB students, staff, community organizations, and families.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the OCDSB announced the recipients of the 2021-2022 Director's Citation and Employee Recognition awards and encouraged the community to read more about these individuals on the OCDSB website. She noted that nominations of volunteers for the Community Recognition Awards will be announced in June 2022.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that students from Canterbury High School and John McCrae Secondary School earned top prizes at the inaugural Euro Challenge Canada Competition.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the Ontario provincial elections are scheduled for 2 June 2022. She noted that Elections Ontario will be using approximately 60 OCDSB schools as polling stations. She acknowledged that some members of the community have concerns about this activity. She advised that the OCDSB is required to make schools available as polling stations and noted that staff is working with Elections Ontario to ensure that access is as safe and seamless as possible.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the District has considered requests to move the Professional Activity (PA) Day from 3 June 2022 to 2 June 2022 and advised that the OCDSB will not be making this change for the following reasons:

- The planned PA day is elementary only, and one third of the facilities scheduled for use are secondary schools;

- The movement of the PA day would incur a transportation cost to the District unless the coterminous board made the same decision; and
- The change in dates would be disruptive to families for childcare and scheduled programming.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that on 17 May 2022, the OCDSB will be hosting a speaker series event for a discussion on stress and anxiety in children. She noted that presenters will be Dr. Kristin Schaub, Supervisor of Psychological Services at the OCDSB, and Jeremy Doucette, a registered psychological associate with the College of Psychologists of Ontario.

7. COVID-19 Update

Associate Director Reynolds reported that class closures have decreased. He advised that as of 10 May 2022, there were 22 active cases of COVID-19. He noted that Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has indicated that the wave of COVID-19 in Ottawa has plateaued and is possibly rescinding. Associate Director Reynolds noted that students, staff, and families are encouraged to continue daily self-assessment and to use the most current screening tool.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell whether Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has provided additional information on the effectiveness of the mask mandate given the statistics of the sixth wave of COVID-19 in the Ottawa area, Associate Director Reynolds clarified that OPH did not directly advise staff that there should be a mask mandate and that it was the Chief Medical Officer that made the suggestion. Associate Director Reynolds noted that the OPH has indicated they will share epidemiological information with the District to help inform the decision to discontinue the mask mandate. Associate Director Reynolds expressed the opinion that OPH is hesitant to make an explicit recommendation on the mask mandate.

Trustee Campbell expressed concern about putting the Board in a position to review epidemiological information when considering mask mandates and queried whether Dr. Etches would have made the same mask mandate recommendation had she considered the current COVID-19 data in Ottawa.

In response to a query from Trustee Bell whether the election officials at OCDSB sites would be wearing masks, Director Williams-Taylor noted that Elections Ontario is overseeing the election process; however, staff have informed them of the OCDSB's masking mandate.

8. Matters for Action:

8.1 Report 22-037, Vimy Ridge Interim Accommodation Measures (M. Carson)

Your Committee had before it Report 22-037, seeking Board approval of a plan to manage accommodation pressures at Vimy Ridge Public School (PS) by approving the direction of all new elementary students new to the

Findlay Creek area by directing them to Robert Bateman PS, grades Kindergarten to 6, or Roberta Bondar PS, grades 7 to 8.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Carson introduced the report and noted that the report reflects feedback from the working group consultation.

Manager Ostafickuck presented Report 22-037 to the committee.

Moved by Trustee Jennekens,

- A. THAT commencing on 1 January 2023 and thereafter until new boundaries can be established for Findlay Creek #2 Elementary School, students moving into the Vimy Ridge PS attendance boundary on or after the date established (by means of a executed deed or rental agreement) will be directed to Robert Bateman PS for grades K-6, and will feed to Roberta Bondar PS for grades 7-8.
- B. THAT younger siblings of existing Vimy Ridge PS students, or students who can demonstrate they moved into the Findlay Creek community before 1 January 2023 or for those who moved within Findlay Creek at any time but can establish residency in the community prior to 1 January 2023, attend Vimy Ridge PS until the boundaries for said school may be amended.

In response to a query from Trustee Lyra Evans as to when an accommodation review would occur, Manager Ostafichuk noted that the Findlay Creek area is stable due to the careful consideration of schools built in the area and that the next study in Findlay Creek would be a boundary study. Manager Ostafichuk added that staff would view it as a boundary review and not as an accommodation review to manage community growth as part of planning for the future.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT in part A of the motion, the words “and the new school opened” be inserted after the word “established”.

Carried, friendly

In response to a query from Trustee Scott regarding concerns of heavy traffic at the Findlay Creek PS, Manager Ostafichuk noted that staff were unclear if the redirection of students would alleviate the traffic issue; however, staff have been working with the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) to resolve the issue.

In response to a query from Trustee Fisher on whether Robert Bateman Public School and Roberta Bondar Public School (PS) have the necessary supports and programming to accept students from Findlay Creek PS, CFO Carson noted that the principals were confident that they and their staff could provide a positive environment for students. CFO Carson noted that schools are reviewed annually to examine circumstances and changes to

a school, such as a redirection of students. CFO Carson added that the principals of Robert Bateman PS and Roberta Bondar PS will undertake significant planning with the principal of Vimy Ridge PS to address any concerns.

Moved by Trustee Jennekens

- A. **THAT commencing on 1 January 2023 and thereafter until new boundaries can be established and the new school opened for Findlay Creek #2 Elementary School, students moving into the Vimy Ridge PS attendance boundary on or after the date established (by means of a executed deed or rental agreement) will be directed to Robert Bateman PS for grades K-6, and will feed to Roberta Bondar PS for grades 7-8.**
- B. **THAT younger siblings of existing Vimy Ridge PS students, or students who can demonstrate they moved into the Findlay Creek community before 1 January 2023 or for those who moved within Findlay Creek at any time but can establish residency in the community prior to 1 January 2023, attend Vimy Ridge PS until the boundaries for said school may be amended.**

Carried

8.2 Report 22-038, Purchase of Replacement Chromebooks (S. Lehman)

Your Committee had before it Report 22-038 seeking Board authorization to purchase approximately 3,130 student Chromebooks, prior to August 2022, to replace aging and unsupported Chromebooks.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the expenditure of \$1,500,000 for approximately 3,130 student Chromebooks be authorized.

Staff noted that the retired Chromebooks would be brought to an environmental recycling company where the devices' memory would be erased, any usable parts would be salvaged for reuse, and then properly disposed of.

In response to a query from Trustee Lyra Evans, Superintendent Lehman noted that staff would consider donating the retired Chromebooks to a charity organization.

In response to a query from Trustee Scott who pointed out that approval of the recommendation would only replace half of the retired Chromebooks, Superintendent Lehman noted that the recommendation for the purchase of the remaining Chromebooks would be presented as part of the 2022-2023 staff-recommended budget.

CFO Carson noted that the budget has a provision for computer equipment replacement and that the 2021-2022 budget had the capacity to cover part of the cost which would alleviate some of the financial pressure from the 2022-2023 budget. He added that the 2022-2023 budget will include a provision for the balance of Chromebooks required and that Superintendent Lehman and Manager Owens are working on a long-term study to determine what the cyclical replacement costs will be for Chromebooks.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans

THAT the expenditure of \$1,500,000 for approximately 3,130 student Chromebooks be authorized.

Carried

8.3 Report 22-035, Approval of New Policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (B. Reynolds)

Your Committee had before it Report 22-035, seeking approval for new *Policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention*.

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT *Policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention*, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-035, be approved.

During the discussion and in response to questions, the following information was provided:

- In response to a query from Trustee Campbell regarding the varying language in the policy of “child” and “student”, staff noted that they would reassess the language in the policy and provide clarification as needed;
- The procedure will provide clarity on reporting allegations. The procedure will also outline reporting concerning behaviour, how these reports are managed/addressed, and to clearly distinguish the difference between reporting concerning behaviour and reporting allegations;
- The aim of the policy is to prevent child sexual abuse within OCDSB and staff are developing educational programs for students to understand what healthy relationships with adults should look like;
- Staff noted that section 4.5 of *Policy P.142.SCO*. could be expanded to include any adult working within the OCDSB;

- Manager Sinclair noted that in the event of misconduct towards a student by a volunteer, the practice of the District is to end relationships with a volunteer and contact the Children’s Aid Society (CAS). He added that if relates to a frequent volunteer, child protection investigators may consult with students and families to obtain a more fulsome understanding of the situation before reporting to CAS or Ottawa Police Services (OPS);
- The procedures will detail when families are informed by the administration when concerning behaviours arise or when allegations are brought forward that may impact a student;

An amendment moved by Trustee Bell,

THAT section 4.1 (b) of *Policy P.142.SCO* be revised to read “building a culture of trust, responsibility, and open dialogue that encourages appropriate behaviour and an understanding of how to appropriately report and raise concerns about questionable and inappropriate behaviour.”

- Trustee Bell noted that it can be challenging when coming forward after witnessing a concerning behaviour and added that she supports a proactive approach that provides trust and responsibility;
- Staff queried if the language in the amendment could be more direct;
- Manager Sinclair noted that the training provided in the Commit to Kids program addresses the intent of the amendment. He noted that the primary focus of the policy is about spotting concerning behaviour so that it is reported with the understanding that individuals who engage in predatory behaviour will not be swayed by training; however, the idea is to train staff to spot this behaviour early so that it can be interrupted;

An amendment moved by Trustee Bell,

THAT section 4.1 (b) of Policy P.142.SCO be revised to read “building a culture of trust, responsibility, and open dialogue that encourages appropriate behaviour and an understanding of how to appropriately report and raise concerns about questionable and inappropriate behaviour.”

Carried friendly

- Trustee Bell noted that she may introduce stronger language to the amendment at the 24 May 2022 Board meeting;
- In response to a query from Trustee Hough regarding the definition of “sexual abuse” in section 2.7 of *Policy P.142.SCO*, staff noted that they would consider making a distinction between physical locations and online environments to ensure clear understanding;

- In response to a query from Trustee Lyra Evans on the definition of “grooming” in section 2.6 of *Policy P.142.SCO*, Associate Director Reynolds noted that he would consult Manager Sinclair to verify the definition;
- In response to a query from Trustee Scott regarding changing the format of *Policy P.142.SCO*. to reflect the new template and changes to *Policy P.001.GOV, Policy Development and Management*, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff will make every effort to reflect the new format before the 24 May 2022 Board meeting;
- In response to a query from Seema Lamba on section 2.8 of *Policy P.142.SCO*. and the definition of “sexual exploitation,” Associate Director Reynolds noted that staff would consider updating the definition to reflect rewards related to the educational environment;
- In response to a query from Seema Lamba on section 3.5 of *Policy P.142.SCO*. and the limited list of grounds, Associate Director Reynolds noted that staff would consider using different language to encompass all grounds;
- It is important to distinguish the difference in reporting concerning behaviours and reporting formal allegations. It was noted that staff may be more inclined to report a concerning behaviour so that administrators are aware earlier and to remove the barrier of staff not reporting a full allegation if they are not entirely sure of what they witnessed;
- Reports of concerning behaviour will be recorded, gathered, and stored. Details on following-up will outlined in the procedures; and
- Trustee Blackburn noted that sexual predators are sometimes the person least expected and that it is important not to be naïve as there can be little to no clear signs of concerning behaviour.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

THAT Policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-035, be approved, as amended (Attached as Appendix A).

Carried

8.4 22-040, OCDSB Policy Renewal Process (M. Giroux)

Your Committee had before it Report 22-040, seeking to approve amendments to *Policy P.001.GOV, Policy Development and Management*

arising from the policy development and approval processes and to discuss next steps in the review.

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

- A. THAT revisions to *P.001.GOV Policy Development and Management*, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-040, be approved; and
- B. THAT staff be directed to prepare a report with recommendations on policy committee structure, models, and terms of reference, to be presented to Board by September 2022.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell in enhancing the definition of section 2.1 (f) *Policy P.001.GOV*, to include language from the second bullet of section 1 of *Policy P.001.GOV*, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff could incorporate that language before it is presented at the 24 May 2022 Board meeting.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell regarding reference to a “tiered model” in *Policy P.001.GOV*, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff would consider replacing the language to “tiered approach.”

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell on section 3.8 of *Policy P.001.GOV*, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff would consider changing the word “should” to “shall.”

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the words “but are not limited to” be struck from section 3.3 of *Policy P.001.GOV*.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that her amendment would limit the Director of Education’s authority to revise policies to a strict list of minor revisions.

Trustee Blackburn noted that the Board should trust the discretion of the Director of Education for minor revisions and noted that Director Williams-Taylor would be held accountable if there was any abuse of revisions. She added that the purpose of the measure is to accelerate the policy renewal process.

Executive Officer Giroux advised that the list in section 3.3 of *Policy P.001.GOV* is to provide a framework and the unamended wording would apply to situations that staff may not be aware of. She noted that this measure is for non-substantive changes and that a reporting mechanism will notify the Board of the details of any changes.

Trustee Campbell noted that a memorandum or regulatory directive could be substantive and that the Board may want to address or debate revisions to a policy.

Suzanne Lyon noted that the OCDSB has an unmanageable number of policies and expressed her support for the option to streamline the policy

renewal process by allowing the Director of Education some discretion to make minor revisions. She suggested that the OCDSB website could consider a synopsis of policies for ease of public understanding.

In response to a query from Trustee Bell regarding the process if a revision from the Director of Education was determined to be substantive, Executive Officer Giroux advised that it could go back to the Director to be addressed or be presented to the Board for further discussion.

Following a break at 9:09 pm the meeting was called to order at 9:15 p.m.

Trustee Hough expressed her support to maintain a defined list of revisions that the Director can make and expressed concern that reporting changes could create extra work for staff.

Thomas Holloway expressed concern that several non-substantive policy revisions could lead to a substantial policy change.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that the list of revisions should be defined and that the Board could include additional revision authorities for the Director in the future. She added that a defined list allows trustees to provide public oversight.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the words “but are not limited to” be struck from section 3.3 of Policy P.001.GOV.

Carried

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the word “five” be replaced with “four” from section 3.6 of *Policy P.001.GOV.*

Trustee Lyra Evans contended that policies should be reviewed every four years instead of five as to align with the term of the Board.

Some trustees speaking against the amendment noted that due to the number of existing policies, considering all policies within four or five years is unrealistic and more aspirational. It was noted that trustees have a greater responsibility than reviewing policies and that policies could be reviewed if there are substantive changes required or as needed. Some trustees noted that timeframes should not be included in policies.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the word “five” be replaced with “four” from section 3.6 of *Policy P.001.GOV.*

Defeated

Trustee Lyra Evans suggested that a policy committee consisting of all members of the Board, but having a low quorum requirement could be considered as this would allow trustees to speak to policies of interest.

In response to a query from Seema Lamba on what happens to the staff report that accompanies a policy, Executive Officer Giroux advised that the report does not get attached to the policy; however, it is retained in the document archives with the public agenda. Executive Officer Giroux added that the discussion is captured in the minutes of the meeting, the policy is posted on the website, and that further discussion on the matter will occur in September 2022.

In response to a query from Seema Lamba who expressed concern that a number of policies are not consulted on with the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) due to the ACE meeting schedule, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff will continue to examine how and where policies are available for consultation.

Executive Officer Giroux noted that some changes, such as posting policies on the OCDSB website to be discussed during a school year, are to facilitate a broader understanding of the Board work plan. She added that staff are looking to create a balanced approach as committees may be interested in certain policies and not others.

Trustee Lyra Evans suggested that the Board could commit to a five year policy review by determining which policies will be reviewed over this time. She added that this would allow for a clear long term schedule for the Board and committees.

Trustee Blackburn noted that policy reviews can be mandated by the Ministry. She suggested that if a committee is interested in being consulted on a policy, the committee could reach out to request to be included in the discussion.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT in section 3.6 of *Policy P.001.GOV*, the words "should be considered for review at least once every five years" be replaced with "policies must be regularly considered for review."

Trustee Campbell noted that timelines should not be in policies and that it is unrealistic to review each policy every five years and that the Board could consider a policy prioritization approach.

Trustee Lyra Evans expressed the view that it is important to put timelines into policies for public accountability and that timelines would set aspirational goals.

Some trustees speaking against the amendment noted that section 3.6 of *Policy P.001.GOV* does not require each policy to be individually reviewed

within the five year timeframe, but rather that policies should be examined to determine which ones need to be reviewed in more detail.

Trustee Campbell noted that “regular review” could indicate that policies are to be reviewed by a number of approaches and that this should be discussed further in the fall of 2022 when it is represented to the Board.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT in section 3.6 of *Policy P.001.GOV*, the words “should be considered for review at least once every five years” be replaced with “policies must be regularly considered for review.”

Defeated

Lilli Miller noted that advisory committees often are not provided with enough time to provide adequate consultation on policies. She added that many policies need an equity lens.

Trustee Campbell suggested that a special purpose committee, with steps to apply an equity lens, could be implemented.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

- A. **THAT revisions to P.001.GOV Policy Development and Management, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-040, be approved, as amended (Attached as Appendix B); and**
- B. **THAT staff be directed to prepare a report with recommendations on policy committee structure, models, and terms of reference, to be presented to Board by September 2022.**

Carried

8.5 Notice of Motion, re Police Support to Schools (Trustee Blackburn)

Trustee Blackburn noted that she has heard the concerns of the community regarding her notice of motion and clarified that she was not asking for the return of the Student Resource Officer (SRO) program, but rather that the Board authorize Director Williams-Taylor to engage in discussions with Ottawa Police Services (OPS) to improve police service to schools when needed. Trustee Blackburn reported that the decision of the Board to remove the SRO program has meant that administrators must now call 911 when incidents occur at OCDSB schools. She expressed the opinion that this approach does not provide positive outcomes for students, staff, or the community. She added that the Director of Education has over 30 years of experience and expressed the view that Director Williams-Taylor would not cause harm in her discussions with OPS. Trustee Blackburn advised that incidents and other

illegal activities are occurring on OCDSB property at night, incidents of student-on-student violence, and other situations need to be addressed. She noted that student victims of these incidents are receiving less service than they were previously and OPS have processes that can be beneficial.

Moved by Trustee Boothby,

THAT consideration of the motion regarding police support to schools by Trustee Blackburn be postponed indefinitely.

Trustee Boothby noted that part d of the motion passed at the 24 June 2021 Board Continuation meeting, states:

“D. THAT the OCDSB invite other Ottawa school districts, the City of Ottawa, Ottawa Police Services, and community partners representing equity-seeking groups and groups that experience discrimination and oppression, to work collaboratively through a process that is guided by a human rights based approach on improving services and supports for youth in crisis, in alignment with our shared commitments to The United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.”

Trustee Boothby expressed the view that the proposed notice of motion is not required and that raising the issue may cause further emotional pain in the community. She added that the Board previously offered an apology to the community regarding this matter.

In response to a query from Trustee Scott whether deferring the motion would not allow for a discussion to occur to address OCDSB property issues, Director Williams-Taylor noted that the District does not require a Board motion to have these manner of discussions. Director Williams-Taylor advised that staff have a number of responsibilities regarding the safety and security of OCDSB buildings before, during, and after the school day, noting that these conversations occur as needed with OPS.

In response to a query from Trustee Blackburn whether principals can invite police onto school property as they deem necessary, Director Williams-Taylor noted that since the removal of the SRO program, there are limitations in how police access to school property is achieved. Director Williams-Taylor noted that where staff have a need for police services they are inclined to call 911 or use other emergency approaches. Director Williams-Taylor added that her interpretation of Trustee Blackburn’s motion is not to review or reinstate the SRO program, but rather to engage in a relationship with OPS that has a reciprocal approach which allows for focused and precise service when required. She added that staff have been considering how to engage with OPS to set a standard of practice that meets the needs of schools without negatively impacting the community.

In response to a query from Trustee Blackburn on how principals can access police services other than calling 911, Director Williams-Taylor noted that the transition from the SRO program has resulted in significant delays in police response times and staff are unclear who the designated conversation should be with. Director Williams-Taylor remarked that Trustee Blackburn is correct in that a conversation to establish a standard of practice needs to occur. Director Williams-Taylor added that the discussion with OPS has not happened as quickly as staff would have preferred and many staff have defaulted to calling 911 as a result.

In response to a query from Trustee Blackburn regarding the level of care that victims of crime in schools receive from police, Associate Director Reynolds noted that access to police services in schools is different without the working relationship with OPS that the SRO program provided. He noted that when staff are required to contact police, schools receive a similar level of support that members in the community would receive when calling 911. He added that victims of crime in schools are not receiving the same level of support that they previously had; however, some students, staff, and members of the community feel safer without regular presence of police in schools.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that members of the school community have been hurt by police and that discussing past trauma is a difficult conversation to have as it causes pain to the community.

Trustee Bell noted that part D of the motion from the 24 June 2021 Board Continuation meeting regarding the suspension of the SRO program, was intended to invite community organizations to discuss a human rights based approach in how to work with the OCDSB's obligations to police and the community. She noted that this discussion is important to build trust with the community and requested that an update on the status of the community consultation on police be provided at a future meeting.

Moved by Trustee Ellis,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

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

Trustee Boothby noted that trustees have the right to inquire on the status of the community consultation with police at a future meeting and that staff are already tasked to work with OPS in a human rights informed approach. She noted that the Board does not need to address this discussion as the community may feel threatened and to instead trust Director Williams-Taylor and Associate Director Reynolds to follow the direction from part D of the motion that was passed at the 24 June 2021 Board Continuation meeting to keep schools operating.

Student Trustee AmaturRaheem requested a recorded vote.

Moved by Trustee Boothby

THAT consideration of the motion regarding police support to schools by Trustee Blackburn be postponed indefinitely.

Carried

9. Reports from Statutory and Other Committees

9.1 Indigenous Education Council (IEC), 10 March 2022

Moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT the report from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), dated 10 March 2022, be received.

Carried

9.2 Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Childcare (EDCCP) 30 March 2022

Moved by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the report from the Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Childcare (EDCCP), dated 30 March 2022, be received.

Carried

9.3 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 6 April 2022

Moved by Trustee Ellis,

THAT the report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), dated 6 April 2022, be received.

Carried

10. Information Items:

10.1 Report from OPSBA

Trustee Boothby noted that the report from the 29-30 April 2022 Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) meeting was provided for information and urged trustees to review the report.

In response to a query from Trustee Lyra Evans regarding an update on the motions that the Board previously sent to OPSBA, Trustee Boothby noted that both motions passed with recommendations from the board of directors and that the motions will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

10.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update (if required)

There were no new Ministry updates.

10.3 OSTA Update (if required)

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is seeking input through a Driver of the Future Survey with details available on the OSTA website.

11. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Keith Penny, Vice-Chair