



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 6:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Trustees: Lynn Scott, Keith Penny, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, 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), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Sandy Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Colin Anderson (Systems Principal), Erin Paynter (Principal, Stittsville Public School), Kristin Riddell (Principal, Program and Learning-Secondary Team), 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 7:01 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 Hough,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

3. Delegations

There were no delegations.

4. Advisory Committee Presentation

4.1 Advisory Committee on the Arts (N. Dean, Chair)

Ms. Dean, the chair of the Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA), noted that art comes in many forms including, drama, dance, music, visual arts, literary, and everything creative.

Ms. Dean advised that the ACA is an independent advisory committee that works to provide vibrant arts programming for OCDSB students. The ACA supports and encourages arts education for OCDSB students and acts as a liaison between the OCDSB, arts institutions and organizations at the local, regional, provincial, and national level. ACA also liaises between the OCDSB, business, and post-secondary community.

Ms. Dean advised that the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to deliver arts programs in creative ways; however, performance arts were negatively impacted. The ACA has been discussing methods to increase arts experiences while examining how to support and improve arts-informed pedagogy. The ACA has discussed the need to ensure there is adequate space and time for arts experiences for OCDSB students.

Ms. Dean noted that the ACA will be collaborating with the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) to ensure inclusive and equitable arts programs.

Ms. Dean advised that arts educators require support to provide curriculum focused arts experiences. ACA has discussed student engagement and enrolment concerns in future arts programs.

Ms. Dean advised that the ACA could be further supported by having the District prioritize arts experiences and other creative opportunities. She added that the ACA would welcome increased resources in staffing, spaces, and other curriculum support to facilitate these arts experiences and to increase the quality of arts programs for students.

The ACA is working to increase accountability to support the Indigenous, Equity, and Human Rights Roadmap. Ms. Dean noted that she can be contacted for more information.

In response to a query from Trustee Bell on what is needed to increase access to arts programs in schools, Ms. Dean advised that each school needs dedicated art spaces and resources and noted that budget

information for arts materials could be presented earlier in an effort to help the arts programs plan for the next school year.

Chair Scott encouraged trustees to attend ACA meetings.

5. Report from the Board (In Camera)

The Board met in camera this evening and Vice-Chair Penny reported that there were no recommendations.

6. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott reported that on 21 April 2022, the Ontario government announced it would be committing over \$19.2 million to fund the construction of a new OCDSB elementary school with child care in Ottawa's Findlay Creek community. She noted that the new school will serve 674 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 and will also include child care with 39 spaces for toddler and preschool-aged children. Chair Scott thanked the Ontario government on behalf of the Board for committing to this important project and acknowledged the families, students, trustees, and community members who have advocated for this school.

Chair Scott reported that the nomination period for school board trustee candidates commences on 2 May 2022, and the municipal election is to be held on 24 October 2022. She advised that the period to register as a candidate runs until 19 August 2022 and candidates must file their nominations through the City of Ottawa Elections Office. Information about the municipal election can be found on the City of Ottawa Elections website.

Chair Scott wished a Blessed Eid to all in the community who are celebrating.

7. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the OCDSB communicated with families and staff regarding changes in the District's approach to social media. Director Williams-Taylor noted her appreciation of the communications value of social media, but expressed concern regarding the increased use of social media as a tool for bullying, intimidation and hate. She noted that as a learning organization, the OCDSB has a responsibility to curate a safe and respectful online community for students, families, staff, and the broader public.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the OCDSB continues to navigate challenges due to staffing shortages, which has impacted the operation of the Extended Day Program. She noted that the program will not be operating in 10 schools from 2 May 2022 through to 4 May 2022. Director Williams-Taylor advised that the service is expected to resume 5 May 2022. Information has been provided to families affected by these challenges.

Director Williams-Taylor reported that the Ministry of Education has approved the OCDSB school year calendar for the 2022-2023 school year. She noted that the

full calendar will soon be available on the OCDSB website and key dates were communicated in recent messaging to families, students and staff.

8. COVID-19 Update

Associate Director Reynolds reported that the District continues to face operational impacts due to the challenge of securing replacement staff. He noted that the number of class closures have reduced since the Easter long weekend.

In response to a query from Trustee Jennekens regarding the procedure for students and staff returning to in-person schools after five days of isolation from COVID-19, Associate Director Reynolds noted that providing a negative COVID-19 test is not required by provincial or local health authorities. He noted that individuals attending District buildings are required to follow the daily COVID-19 screening tool and act accordingly.

9. Confirmation of Board Minutes:

9.1 29 March 2022

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Penny,

THAT the 29 March 2022 Board minutes be confirmed.

Defeated

Chair Scott requested that the Board minutes be amended to reflect the reordering of the proceedings and that the 29 March 2022 Board minutes be confirmed at the 24 May 2022 Board meeting.

9.2 12 April 2022

Moved by Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Ellis,

THAT the 12 April 2022 Special Board minutes be confirmed.

Trustee Bell requested that the minutes more accurately reflect her comments on the mask mandate on page 3 of the minutes.

Moved by Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Ellis,

THAT the 12 April 2022 Special Board minutes be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

10. Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 12 April 2022 Special Board minutes.

11. Unfinished Business - 29 March 2022

11.1 Approval of Safe Schools Policies

Chair Scott noted that at the time of adjournment of the 29 March 2022 Board meeting, the following motion was on the floor:

Moved in substitution by Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Penny,

A. THAT the following policies be approved:

- i. P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-017, as amended;
- ii. P.032.SCO Safe Schools (Managing Student Behaviour), attached as Appendix B to Report 22-017, as amended; and
- iii. P.145.SCO Safe Schools (Emergency Preparedness and Response), attached as Appendix C to Report 22-017, as amended.

B. THAT the following policies be rescinded:

- i. P 043 SCO - Police Involvement in Schools
- ii. P 033 SCO - Smoking and Vaping on Board Premises
- iii. P 104 SCO - Student Dress Code
- iv. P 034 SCO - Substance Abuse
- v. P 040 SCO - Withdrawal of Transport Privileges
- vi. P 011 SCO - Emergency School Evacuations/School Closings
- vii. P 092 SCO - Crisis Prevention Intervention and Response

An amendment moved by Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT a new section C be added to the recommendation as follows:

THAT the definition of Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment in Policy P.147.GOV Human Rights be revised to duplicate the definition as inserted in P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct.

Carried, friendly

An amendment moved in substitution by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT section 9.3 of Policy *P.125.SCO, School District Code of Conduct* be revised as follows:

“All allegations of Bullying, Harassment, Sexual or Gender-based Harassment, and Hate-related behaviour must be acknowledged upon receipt, be taken seriously and dealt with in a timely, sensitive, and supportive manner as set out in procedure.”

Trustee Blackburn noted that the amendment would address issues with having a prescriptive timeline embedded in the policy. She noted that removing a set timeline within the policy would ensure that each allegation is investigated thoroughly with the time required without rushing the process to meet a deadline.

Superintendent McCoy advised that compliance with a timeframe of 20 days for responding to and addressing an allegation can depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of the matter and the availability of those involved. Superintendent McCoy stressed that staff take allegations seriously and attempt to resolve them in a timely manner with a clear and fair process; however, some factors are outside the control of the District, such as employees absent due to medical reasons. She added that additional details will be incorporated into the procedure to ensure timely responses to the parties involved in an allegation.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that the language used in section 9.3 of Policy *P.125.SCO* before the amendment, acknowledged potential factors when not able to meet the set timeline. She noted that the timeline sets an expectation and would allow the public to understand an appropriate time to escalate an allegation.

Some trustees noted their appreciation for the accountability that the set timeframe of 20 days could provide; however, it was noted that timeframe details would be better suited within the procedures. Some trustees also noted that if the timeframe is in the procedures, it would still provide justification for escalation.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that she would prefer to not have a timeline in the policy as it may encourage staff to limit an investigation to meet a predetermined deadline, thus compromising the quality of the investigation.

In response to a query from Trustee Fisher regarding the lack of clear timeframes for staff to contact those involved in an investigation, Superintendent McCoy noted that the procedures could include clauses that detail regular updates for those involved that still allow for the investigation to proceed. She noted that this would allow the investigation to take the time it requires while allowing those involved to have more frequent updates so as not to feel that their allegation has been forgotten.

Trustee Ellis contended that the 20 day timeframe should remain in the policy to ensure that staff communicate with those involved if the investigation goes past 20 days.

Trustee Blackburn expressed the view that investigations of this nature are complex and that the timeframe of 20 days is unrealistic. She urged

trustees to follow the advice and experience of Superintendent McCoy and Director Williams-Taylor.

Trustee Ellis called point of order, noting that Trustee Blackburn impugned what some trustees thought of the issue at hand.

Trustee Blackburn withdrew her remarks relating to her comment of what she believed some trustees were thinking.

An amendment moved in substitution by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT section 9.3 of Policy P.125.SCO, School District Code of Conduct be worded as follows:

“All allegations of Bullying, Harassment, Sexual or Gender-based Harassment, and Hate-related behaviour must be acknowledged upon receipt, be taken seriously and dealt with in a timely, sensitive, and supportive manner as set out in procedure.”

Carried

Trustee Lyra Evans requested separate votes for Parts A, B, and C of the motion.

In summary, the following motion was carried:

A. THAT the following policies be approved:

- i. **P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-017, as amended (Attached as Appendix A);**
- ii. **P.032.SCO Safe Schools (Managing Student Behaviour), attached as Appendix B to Report 22-017, as amended (Attached as Appendix B); and**
- iii. **P.145.SCO Safe Schools (Emergency Preparedness and Response), attached as Appendix C to Report 22-017, as amended (Attached as Appendix C).**

B. THAT the following policies be rescinded:

- i. **P 043 SCO - Police Involvement in Schools**
- ii. **P 033 SCO - Smoking and Vaping on Board Premises**
- iii. **P 104 SCO - Student Dress Code**
- iv. **P 034 SCO - Substance Abuse**
- v. **P 040 SCO - Withdrawal of Transport Privileges**

vi. **P 011 SCO - Emergency School Evacuations/School Closings**

vii. **P 092 SCO - Crisis Prevention Intervention and Response**

C. THAT the definition of Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment in Policy P.147.GOV Human Rights be revised to duplicate the definition as inserted in P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct.

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-017 be approved, as amended.

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

Against (1): Trustee Lyra Evans

Carried (10 to 1)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT policy P.032.SCO Safe Schools (Managing Student Behaviour), attached as Appendix B to Report 22-017 be approved as amended.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT P.145.SCO Safe Schools (Emergency Preparedness and Response), attached as Appendix C to Report 22-017 be approved, as amended.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the following policies be rescinded:

- i. **P 043 SCO - Police Involvement in Schools**
- ii. **P 033 SCO - Smoking and Vaping on Board Premises**
- iii. **P 104 SCO - Student Dress Code**
- iv. **P 034 SCO - Substance Abuse**
- v. **P 040 SCO - Withdrawal of Transport Privileges**
- vi. **P 011 SCO - Emergency School Evacuations/School Closings**
- vii. **P 092 SCO - Crisis Prevention Intervention and Response**

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

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the definition of Sexual or Gender-Based Harassment in Policy P.147.GOV Human Rights be revised to duplicate the definition as inserted in P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

12. Matters for Action

12.1 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report

12.1.a 12 April 2022

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Hough,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 12 April 2022, be received.

Carried

12.1.a.a EDP and ITP Fees

Moved by Trustee Campbell

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT an increase in the EDP daily fee rate to \$23.50 and an increase in the full day fee rate on optional days of care to \$38.00 be approved commencing September 2022, subject to further discussions with the Ministry of Education.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

12.1.a.b Approval of Policy P.100.IT, Appropriate Use of Technology

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

A. THAT the proposed revised policy P.100.IT: Appropriate Use of Information Technology, attached as Appendix A to Report 22-005, be approved (Attached as Appendix D); and

B. THAT policy P.049.IT Electronic Communications Systems be rescinded.

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

Carried (11 to 0)

12.2 Report 22-034, Selection Process and Committees-Senior Staff Vacancies (C. Williams-Taylor)

Your Committee had before it Report 22-034 seeking the appointment of the trustee members for the selection committees for three senior staff positions, as provided for in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) Policy *P.087.HR, Selection of Supervisory Officers*.

Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens, nominated Trustee Hough.

Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Jennekens, nominated Trustee Blackburn.

Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Jennekens, nominated himself.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Boothby,

THAT nominations be closed.

Carried

By acclamation, Chair Scott declared trustees Hough, Blackburn, and Penny to be part of one or more of the selection committees.

13. Matters for Discussion

13.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

13.2 Ministry Update (if required)

There was no new Ministry updates.

14. Board Work Plan

The Board Work Plan was provided for information.

15. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

16. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

