



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 7:30 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees: Lyra Evans, Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott

Staff: Tabarak Al-Delaimi (Student Trustee), Antong Hou (Student Trustee), Michele Giroux (Interim Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Janice McCoy (Interim Senior Business Official), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Amy Hannah (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel, Superintendent of Labour Relations, Risk Management and Privacy), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk, (Manager of Planning/Transportation), Pamela LeMaistre (Manager, Human Resources), Sandy Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager, Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Marco Paladino (Training & Support Specialist), Mellissa Applewaihe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Lyra Evans called the public meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Lyra Evans acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

3. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth, seconded by Trustee Nash,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Report from the Board (In Camera)

In substitution for Vice-Chair Bell, Trustee Blackburn reported that the Board met in camera earlier this evening and reports and recommends as follows:

Moved by Jennifer Jennekens

Seconded by Donna Blackburn

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

For (12): Lyra Evans, Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

Moved by Lynn Scott

Seconded by Donna Blackburn

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

For (12): Lyra Evans, Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

7. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Lyra Evans noted the following points in her briefing:

- February is Black History month which provides a time for focused reflection on the lived experiences of Black people's past and present;

An event titled Black History: A Day of Celebration will be held on 11 February 2023 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School;

- On 2 February 2023 at 6:00 p.m., the OCDSB will host a virtual strategic planning consultation session. Multilingual support will be available in several languages;
- A virtual session to support parents of students with developmental disabilities will be held on 8 February 2023;
- A webinar for parents on gender identity and gender expression will be held on 13 February 2023;
- Trustees recently attended the annual Public Education Symposium (PES) where Ontario public school boards gathered to share best practices, learning opportunities, and to advocate with the provincial government for public education; and
- The OCDSB has applied to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on 6 February 2023 as part of the Ministry's Pre-Budget Consultations. Board Services staff will share the draft statement, and trustees are encouraged to review and provide feedback by noon on 3 February 2023. If selected, the OCDSB will share the final draft with the community and the Standing Committee at the determined time on 6 February 2023. The OCDSB will share the presentation time and a link to the live stream as that information is available.

8. Briefing from the Director

Director Giroux reported on the following:

- The cross-boundary transfer application period for elementary and secondary students is open until 10 February 2023;
- The Middle French Immersion registration period is open from 6 February to 10 February 2023. Students who have completed the Grade 3 English/Core French Program may register for Middle French Immersion;
- Registration for Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) elementary and secondary schools will be open until 14 February 2023. Students wishing to attend OCV or remain in the program will need to complete the registration; and
- In support of parent volunteers, the OCDSB Family and Community Engagement (FACE) department will host a school council professional development session on 8 February 2023. The virtual event will include a keynote address by Lisa Anna Palmer and there will be panel discussions

on working with school administrators, school gardens, and recruiting a diverse school council.

In response to a query on when the (OCDSB) plans to hold a strategic planning consultation session at the Ottawa Technical Secondary School, Director Giroux noted that the Board expects to host a consultation session at the school in the spring.

9. Confirmation of Board Minutes

9.1 20 December 2022

**Moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,
THAT the Board meeting report, dated 20 December 2022, be
received.**

Carried

10. Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the Board Minutes.

11. Matters for Action

11.1 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report

11.1.a 17 January 2023

**Moved by Trustee Bell, seconded by Trustee Presley,
THAT the Committee of the Whole Report dated 17 January
2023, be received.**

Carried

11.1.a.a Approval of Study Consultation Plan and Timeline for
New Riverside South Secondary School

Moved by Jennifer Jennekens

Seconded by Justine Bell

**A. THAT the timeline and consultation plan attached
as Appendix B and C to Report 23-022, be
approved in order to consult with local school
communities and the public (Attached as
Appendix A and B); and,**

**B. THAT the Board affirm that a Pupil
Accommodation Review (PAR) under Board
Policy P.118.PLG is not required for this study.**

For (12): Lyra Evans, Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

11.1.a.b Approval of Purchase of New Portable Classrooms

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Justine Bell

THAT the purchase of ten new modular portable classrooms, at a budgeted total cost of \$2,020,000.00 (excluding HST), be approved and funded from reserves, subject to Ministry approval.

For (12): Lyra Evans, Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

11.1.a.c Approval of 1.0 FTE Jewish Equity Coach

Moved by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

Seconded by Justine Bell

THAT the Board approve the hiring of a 1.0 FTE Jewish Equity Coach, with budget approval of approximately \$100,000 per annum, commensurate with other Equity Coach salaries.

For (12): Lyra Evans, Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

11.2 Non-Consent Items

There were no non-consent items.

12. Matters for Discussion

12.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

Trustee Jennekens reported that trustees had participated in the Public Education Symposium (PES) in Toronto, which was attended by many trustees and school board leadership members from Ontario. The event provided trustees with the opportunity to participate in workshops and to meet with trustees and leaders from other districts.

13. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

13.1 Trustee Strategic Priorities Identified During 6 December 2022 COW Meeting

Chair Lyra Evans noted that the strategic planning priorities identified by trustees at the Committee of the Whole meeting on 6 December 2022 were included on the agenda for information.

Director Giroux noted that the priorities identified by trustees would be included in the information compiled from consultation input received and that there will be future opportunities for trustees and senior staff to participate in the strategic planning process.

Director Giroux noted that strategic planning consultation staff sessions would take place during the upcoming week, and that trustees were currently engaged in one-on-one consultation sessions.

Director Giroux noted that Strategic Business Analyst Rahim will attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on 7 February 2023 to allow trustees an opportunity to discuss the environmental scan.

14. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

In response to a query from Trustee Nash on the OCDSB plans for Grade 9 and 10 exams in June 2023, Associate Director Reynolds noted that an update will be provided to the Board at a future date.

In response to a query from Trustee Scott on whether the cancellation of exams for Grades 9 and 10 students had impacted the number of instructional days mandated by the Ministry of Education, Director Giroux noted that it did not impact instructional days and a memorandum would be provided at a future date.

Trustee Nash expressed concern about the impact that elevated noise levels created by construction near Devonshire Public School are having on students and staff. Trustee Nash noted that Councillor Leiper is considering bringing forward a motion at Ottawa city council to introduce noise limitation standards in proximity to schools. Chair Lyra Evans noted that she would write a letter of support to Councillor Leiper's motion upon the Board's request.

In response to a query from Trustee Blackburn on what the OCDSB could learn from an Anti-Islamophobia Development Strategy document that the Peel District School Board recently released, Director Giroux noted that as part of the OCDSB's ongoing efforts to combat Islamophobia, the District would be working with the Equity Team to develop a strategy.

In response to a suggestion from Trustee Kaplan-Myrth that the OCDSB consider writing an open letter similar to one issued by the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) to confirm that the OCDSB will not tolerate homophobia, transphobia or other forms of discrimination, Director Giroux noted that she had had a conversation with the Director of the WRDSB and that staff are reviewing the language from the letter for consideration and use in future District messaging on issues of hate, discrimination and racism.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Lyra Evans, Chair of the Board