



# Building Brighter Futures Together at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**Board Room**

**Administration Building**

**133 Greenbank Road**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

**Trustees Present:** Alysha Aziz (electronic communication), Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Dickson (electronic communication), Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Tabarak Al-Delaimi (Student Trustee), Antong Hou (Student Trustee)

**Staff Present:** Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Janice McCoy (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), 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), Reg Lavergne (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), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Stacey Kay (Manager, Learning Support Services), Sandra Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (Manager, Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Marco PaladinoMarco Paladino (Training & Support Specialist)

**Non-Voting  
Representatives  
Present:** Stephanie Kirkey (Secondment, Seconded - OSSTF), Andrew Nordman (Principal, Roland Michener Public School), , Jean Fulton-Hale (OCSSAN Representative - ALT), Tom Holloway (OCASC), Sue Cowin (SEAC), Lili Miller (IEC)

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

Chair Kaplan-Myrth called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Kaplan-Myrth 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 Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Presley,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

5. Delegations

5.1 Nick Morabito, re Student Safety

Mr. Morabito introduced himself as a father of four children who attend Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) schools. He raised concern that transgendered students, particularly those who were identified as male at birth, are allowed to use the same school washrooms as his daughters. He shared his perspective that adolescent males have sexually driven bodies as the basis of his safety concerns. He indicated his support for inclusivity, but emphasized the need for boundaries aligned with parental expectations.

At this point, the Chair asked that the delegation be ended on the basis that the comments were unsafe for persons who identify as gender diverse.

\*\*\* Chair Kaplan-Myrth called the meeting into recess at 7:04 p.m.\*\*\*

\*\*\* Chair Kaplan-Myrth called the meeting back to order at 7:26 p.m.\*\*\*

The Chair apologized for the disruption and reiterated the Board's commitment to freedom of expression and to upholding human rights in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and Board policy.

6. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

During the Briefing from the Chair of the Board, the following information was provided:

- Each year, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) recognizes the valuable contributions of its community members, parents, and businesses through the OCDSB Community Recognition Awards. Nominations are open until 7 April 2023; and

- On 7 March 2023, the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center's Tour for Humanity bus visited Sir Robert Borden High School. This mobile education center is used to run workshops on topics ranging from the Holocaust, genocide and Canada's human rights history. Multiple classes from Sir Robert Borden, Broadview Public School and Nepean High School participated in learning activities. Funding to support this learning opportunity was donated from the family of Holocaust survivor and advocate David Shentow.

7. Briefing from the Director

During the Briefing from the Director, the following information was provided:

- The OCDSB will be hosting a webinar on supporting trans and gender diverse children and youth on 29 March 2023. The webinar will explore how parents and guardians can support young people to be themselves, regardless of age or gender;
- Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is reminding families to keep up to date with their regular vaccinations. OPH is monitoring the emergence of measles in the community; and
- Nominations are open for the 2023 Ontario Public School Board Association's Awards. These awards recognize trustees, teachers, education workers, students or community members for making a difference in their local school or community. The nominations for most awards are open until 7 April 2023.

8. Matters for Action:

8.1 Report 23-022, Approval of Revision to P.029.SCO Field Trips (B. Reynolds)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-022 to approve the revised Policy P.029.SCO Field Trips.

Moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the revisions to P.029.SCO Field Trips, attached as Appendix A to Report 23-022, be approved.

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

- Revisions reflect concerns from parents and the District's goal to minimize costs;
- Opportunities to lower costs continue to be explored;
- Families and students will not face barriers based on economic status or other grounds;

- Athletic field trips will continue as they have their own procedure and fall under the general policy; and
- The intention is to allow off-site extra curricular activities to continue safely while mitigating expenses.

**Moved by** Lynn Scott

**THAT the revisions to P.029.SCO Field Trips, attached as Appendix A to Report 23-022, be approved (Attached as Appendix A).**

**Carried**

**8.2 Notice of Motion, Re: Recycling Programs in the OCDSB, Trustee Lyra Evans**

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

WHEREAS the OCDSB prioritizes a culture of social responsibility, including environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS other jurisdictions engage students directly in recycling and composting programs to bolster understanding of waste management, conservation, and environmental and personal responsibility.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. THAT the OCDSB implement a recycling and composting program at every active school and administration site by the end of the 2023-2024 school year;
- B. THAT the OCDSB use these programs as an opportunity to engage students in hands on learning about composting and recycling in age appropriate ways by the end of the 2024-2025 school year; and
- C. THAT the District promote the program.

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

- The motion seeks to address concerns about being environmental stewards by teaching students about sustainability;
- By implementing the program, students will learn about their responsibility for sustainability through hands on engagement;
- The OCDSB has an opportunity to become a leader through the implementation and promotion of the program;

- The program will be optional, but available to all schools;
- Concerns were raised regarding how this motion is distinguished from current recycling programs and composting as part of the science curricula;
- Opportunity exists to expand in areas involving school cafeteria waste to mitigate environmental impact;
- Custodial staff do not have sufficient time in their shifts to expand their duties, programs would require student volunteers;
- The City of Ottawa requires registration to participate in composting programs;
- Challenges exist at larger schools with respect to collection and volume of waste;
- Approximately 50 schools were engaged in composting prior to March 2020, an effort is underway to return and exceed pre-pandemic levels of engagement;
- It is incumbent on schools to find a champion, internally, to lead these programs. It was recognized that not all schools will be successful;
- Concerns were expressed with respect to pest control and safety both in rural and urban areas;
- It was noted that families play a critical role in teaching students about environmental responsibility;
- It was noted that these programs should be implemented in collaboration with the City of Ottawa;
- It was suggested to staff that this program could be implemented through the creation of in school clubs;
- Concerns were expressed with respect to the financial implications in having the City of Ottawa collect recyclable and composting materials; and
- A request was made for a financial assessment to be presented at the Board meeting on 30 March 2023.

Student Trustee Hou requested that a non-binding recorded vote be held that includes student trustees.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

- A. THAT the OCDSB implement a recycling and composting program at every active school and administration site by the end of the 2023-2024 school year;
- B. THAT the OCDSB use these programs as an opportunity to engage students in hands on learning about composting and recycling in age appropriate ways by the end of the 2024-2025 school year; and
- C. THAT the District promote the program.

A non-binding vote was held and the motion was carried on the following division:

For: Trustees Aziz, Bell, Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennekens, Kaplan-Myrth, Lee, Milburn, Nash, Presley, Scott, Student Trustee Hou

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

Absent: Student Trustee Al-Delaimi

**Moved by**                    **Lyra Evans**

- A. **THAT the OCDSB implement a recycling and composting program at every active school and administration site by the end of the 2023-2024 school year;**
- B. **THAT the OCDSB use these programs as an opportunity to engage students in hands on learning about composting and recycling in age appropriate ways by the end of the 2024-2025 school year; and**
- C. **THAT the District promote the program.**

**Carried**

9. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

9.1 Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE), 1 December 2022

**Moved by Trustee Presley,**

**THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) Report dated 1 December 2022, be received.**

**Carried**

9.2 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 18 January 2023

**Moved by Trustee Nash,**

**THAT the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Report dated 18 January 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

9.3 Indigenous Education Council (IEC), 19 January 2023

**Moved by Trustee Scott,**

**THAT the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) Report dated 19 January 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

9.4 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 1 February 2023

**Moved by Trustee Nash,**

**THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report dated 1 February 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

9.5 Audit Committee, 15 February 2023

**Moved by Trustee Scott,**

**THAT the Audit Committee Report dated 15 February 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

10. Matters for Discussion:

10.1 Report 23-005, Revisions to Policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee (J. McCoy)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-005, to discuss revisions to policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

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

- The revisions were made at the request of members of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC);
- The regulations and policy allowed the Board discretion to increase membership and to revise the policy;
- The procedure is with respect to the appointment of community associations to SEAC;
- Appointments will be made in consultation with IEC and recommendations will be submitted to the Board for approval;

- The two community association members will be independent as members are not permitted to sit on more than one committee; and
- Changes expand SEAC and will not have any impact on the number of community association members.

11. Information Items:

11.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

11.2 OSTA Update (if required)

During Trustee Lee's report, the following information was provided:

- Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) decided in January 2023 that the Empty Seat/Courtesy Seating Program would be discontinued due to the shortage of staff and stress on services. The Empty Seat/Courtesy Seating Program will be reviewed in the spring of 2023 and the results will be made available in 2024;
- A system wide risk assessment of the transportation system will be conducted as a full assessment has not been conducted since 2019 due to staff shortage and stress on the system;
- A decision regarding the continuation of the Empty Seat/Courtesy Seating Program will be made with the assistance of an external party which will perform the risk assessment;
- Although the Drive Yellow campaign had success in recruiting new drivers, there are a number of positions that are vacant;
- OSTA is addressing concerns from drivers regarding compensation and a review is underway regarding retention bonuses; and
- OSTA acknowledges the challenge of having one driver per route and the effect of driver absenteeism.

12. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Acting Chair

