



ADVOCACY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

**April 6, 2023, 12:00 pm
Trustees' Committee Room
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario**

Members: Alysha Aziz, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley

Staff Present Michele Giroux (Director of Education), Janice McCoy (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Diane Pernari (Manager, Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager, Board Services), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), James Baker (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Executive Officer McCoy called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Executive Officer McCoy acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

4. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Aziz,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

5. Matters for Action:

5.1 Appointment of Chair

Executive Officer McCoy outlined the nomination and voting process.

Executive Officer McCoy called for nominations for the Chair for the Advocacy Strategy Committee.

Trustee Presley nominated Trustee Aziz.

Moved by Trustee Milburn,

THAT nominations be closed.

Carried

By acclamation, Executive Officer McCoy declared Trustee Aziz, Chair of the Advocacy Strategy Committee.

6. Matters for Discussion:

6.1 Review of Mandate

Chair Aziz discussed the attached excerpt of the 23 April 2019 Board recommendation. The Committee agreed to meet on a bi-monthly basis, with the next meeting to occur in late June 2023.

The Committee resolved to bring forward a draft Terms of Reference at the June 2023 meeting.

6.2 Report 23-031 Developing an Advocacy Strategy - Potential Initiatives

During a discussion, the following information was provided:

- Initiatives for consideration may include environmental sustainability, recycling, student transportation, and climate change, and the recent motion related to composting was cited;
- It was suggested that the Committee work with potential partners within the City of Ottawa as a means to help offset the work in an effort to bring “good will” to custodial staff;
- It was noted that the Committee could work with educators to implement the composting and recycling program as a means to mitigate any negative impact and burden on staff;
- It was suggested that a coordinated approach be taken to maintain communication with the Ministry and municipal governments while addressing environmental sustainability;
- Staff advised that the goal of the Committee should be to create a general advocacy mandate and process to implement advocacy initiatives. In determining their role within a broader scope, staff suggested that the Committee create three priority areas;
- Trustees expressed interest in advocating potential initiatives to the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) and to reach out to community partners and various government agencies;
- Staff recommended that the Committee utilize three key initiatives and develop an annual strategy for the Board. Staff made

reference to the three areas identified as part of a recent submission to the provincial government's budget consultations which were: capital planning, challenges associated with recruiting and hiring staff for FSL programs, and executive compensation;

- Staff recommended that the Committee develop its strategy with a focus on target audiences and the types of activities it should engage. Additionally, staff noted that the Committee can draw from conversations that occur outside of the Committee meeting;
- Areas of focus identified during the discussion included capital funding, quality accessible childcare, autonomy of school boards and relationship building;
- The Committee members agreed to bring their top three ideas to the June 2023 meeting; and
- It was suggested that the Committee start with a focus on high quality accessible child care, autonomy of school boards, and relationship building; and
- It was noted that work is already underway in working with City counsellors on school safety, as well as building support and links for mental health.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Alysha Aziz, Chair, Advocacy Strategy Committee