



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 7:00 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trustees:** Alysha Aziz (electronic communication), Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash (electronic communication), Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Tabarak Al-Delaimi (Student Trustee), Antong Hou (Student Trustee)
- Staff:** Michele Giroux (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Janice McCoy (Executive Officer of Corporate Services), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Amy Hannah (Superintendent of Instruction), Reg Lavergne (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Teri Adamthwaite (General Manager, Finance), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Pamela LeMaistre (General Manager, People, Culture and Leadership), Tom Thistle (Environmental Management Coordinator Facilities-Maintenance), Robert Melesky (Team Manager - Facilities Physical Planning), 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 7:14 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

Trustee Lee requested that item 6, the report from the Committee of the Whole (In Camera) be moved further down the agenda and that the Committee of the Whole Budget items and Approval of Academic Staffing 2023-2024 be dealt with after delegations and the Chair and Director briefings.

Moved by Trustee Lee, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

5. Delegations

5.1 Oral Delegations

5.1.a Nick Morabito, re Washroom Inclusion

Mr. Morabito noted his concerns regarding unsupervised access to school washrooms for all community members regardless of sexual orientation and provided suggestions for more secure washrooms.

Mr. Morabito suggested that school washrooms be retrofitted with open-concept centre aisles and fully enclosed stalls on either side. He advocated for doorless entryways to enable hallway security cameras to monitor the common areas.

5.1.b Shannon Boschy, re Law and Policy

Mr. Boschy referenced Article II of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom and shared his concerns about freedom of expression, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB) approach in addressing a conflict of human rights, and public media use.

5.1.c Andy Boschy, re Protection of Transgender and Gender Diverse Students

Andy Boschy identified as transgender and spoke on the rights of transgender students. He referenced a study from the Williams Institute, University of California,

Andy Boschy noted that transgender students feel scared and affected by negative comments against their community, particularly on the internet. He noted that they should feel safe, respected and dignified on school property and that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) should train educators to handle situations involving the victimization or hate of transgender students.

5.1.d Frances McRae, re Transphobia and Homophobia in Schools

Ms. McRae identified as the parent of two LGBTQ community children attending OCDSB schools. She referenced statistics from Statistics Canada, the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia that have identified increased levels of cyberbullying, physical harassment and self-harming in LGBTQ students.

Ms. McRae noted that proven key factors that make a positive difference are inclusive curriculums, educational awareness, supportive teachers and empathetic, respectful environments.

5.1.e Phoebe Qiao, re Transphobia

Ms. Qiao shared her lived experiences as a transgender woman and noted concerns on issues that transgender women using male washrooms may encounter.

Ms. Qiao expressed the general fear felt by transgender students, noting that as a student, attending school and being accepted by her peers had provided her with an escape from her home environment.

5.1.f Sam Hersh, re Support for Transgender Students

Mr. Hersh stated that transgender people have the right to feel safe and to exist with dignity, free from harm. He noted that transgender people should be able to choose which washroom to use.

5.2 Written Delegations

Chair Lyra Evans noted that the written delegations were provided for information.

6. Report from the Committee of the Whole (In Camera)

Vice-Chair Lee reported that the Board met in camera earlier this evening and reports and recommends as follows:

Moved by Donna Dickson

Seconded by Matthew Lee

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a Financial Matter related to the purchase of properties.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

7. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

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

- A selection committee created for the recruitment of the new Director of Education is gathering input from the OCDSB community. Members of the community are asked to complete the survey by 30 March 2023; and
- Several significant religious events are to take place in the community including Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr celebrations, Passover and Easter.

8. Briefing from the Director

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

- April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, offering the opportunity to learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- The OCDSB is hosting a webinar called Social Media and Your Kids on 19 April 2023 in collaboration with MediaSmarts; and
- Nominations for Community Recognition Awards close on 7 April 2023.

9. Confirmation of Board Minutes

9.1 28 February 2023

Moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the Board Meeting Report dated 28 February 2023, be confirmed.

Carried

10. Business Arising from Board Minutes

In response to a query from Trustee Scott on whether any plans were in place for the management of Grade 9 and 10 exams in June 2023, Director Giroux noted

that a review of best practices is in progress and that an update will be provided to the Board in April 2023.

11. Matters for Action

11.1 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Reports

11.1.a 21 February 2023 COW Budget

**Moved by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,
THAT the 21 February 2023 COW Budget Report be received.**

Carried

11.1.b 28 February 2023

**Moved by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,
THAT the Committee of the Whole Report, dated 28 February
2023, be received.**

Carried

11.1.c 7 March 2023

**Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee
Kaplan-Myrth,**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole Report dated 7 March 2023,
be received.**

Carried

11.1.c.a Approval of Policy P.029.SCO Field Trips

Moved by Lynn Scott

Seconded by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

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

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna
Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee,
Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and
Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

11.1.c.b Approval of Recycling Programs in the OCDSB

This was a non-consent item and when dealt with later in the meeting, the following discussion ensued.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Nili Kaplan-Myrth,

- 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.

Trustee Lee assumed the chair at 8:45 p.m.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT the word “mandatory” be inserted before the word “recycling” in section A of the motion.

Moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Aziz,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT the word “mandatory” be inserted before the word “recycling” in section A of the motion.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the motion be deferred until the Board meeting of 30 May 2023.

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the motion be deferred until the Board meeting of 30 May 2023.

Defeated

Trustee Scott requested that section A of the recommendation be voted on separately from section B and C.

Student Trustees Hou and Al-Delaimi requested that they be included in a non-binding recorded vote.

****Trustee Lyra Evans resumed the chair****

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

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

A. THAT the OCDSB implement a mandatory recycling and composting program at every active school and administration site by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

For (8): Alysha Aziz, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Tabarak Al-Delaimi (Student Trustee), and Antong Hou (Student Trustee)

Against (2): Donna Blackburn, and Donna Dickson

Abstain (2): Matthew Lee, and Lynn Scott

Carried (8 to 2)

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

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

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.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Tabarak Al-Delaimi (Student Trustee), and Antong Hou (Student Trustee)

Against (1): Donna Blackburn

Carried (11 to 1)

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

A. THAT the OCDSB implement a mandatory recycling and composting program at every active school and administration site by the end of the 2023-2024 school year;

For (6): Alysha Aziz, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Amanda Presley

Against (1): Donna Blackburn

Abstain (3): Donna Dickson, Matthew Lee, and Lynn Scott

Carried (6 to 1)

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

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.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

11.1.d 27 March 2023, COW Budget (oral report)

Trustee Blackburn provided the oral recommendation from the 27 March 2023 Committee of the Whole Budget meeting.

11.1.d.a Approval of Academic Staffing 2023-2024

This was a non-consent item and when dealt with later in the meeting, the following discussion ensued.

Moved by Lynn Scott

Seconded by Donna Blackburn

THAT the Academic Staffing Plan for 2023-2024, as set out in the Addendum and Appendices A, B and C to Report 23-026 be approved, subject to adjustments related to fluctuation in projected and actual enrolment (Attached as Appendix B, C, D, and E).

For (9): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Against (1): Lyra Evans

Abstain (1): Amanda Presley

Carried (9 to 1)

12. Matters for Discussion

12.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

Trustee Scott provided an update on OPSBA.

13. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

14. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

In response to a request from Trustee Presley, Chair Lyra Evans agreed to prepare a letter to the Ministry of Education advocating for additional funding for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Lyra Evans, Chair of the Board