



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

Tuesday, April 4, 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 Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Jennifer Jennekens, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Tabarak Al-Delaimi (Student Trustee), Antong Hou (Student Trustee)

Staff Present: 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, 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, Superintendent of Labour Relations, Risk Management and Privacy), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Sandra Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (Manager, Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Marco Paladino (Training & Support Specialist), Mellissa Applewaihe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Lilli Miller (IEC), Seema Lamba (ACE), Maggie Mamen (SEAC), Suzanne Lyon (PIC), Thomas Hollaway (OCASC), Nathalie Sharma (EOC-ALT), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF - District 25 ESP/PSSU/PSSP/EA/PECCS), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSFT D-25), Pat Dixon (OCEOTA-ALT)

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

Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Scott 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 Agenda

Moved by Trustee Milburn,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

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

- April is Autism Awareness Month and a presentation titled "Neurodiversity to Neuroharmony" is available on the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) website; and
- The nomination period for Community Recognition Awards will close on 7 April 2023.

6. Briefing from the Director

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

- A public consultation meeting regarding the new secondary school for Riverside South will be held on 26 April 2023;
- A link to a virtual open house for parents and caregivers hosted by OCDSB speech language pathologists will be shared in the upcoming parent update; and
- OCDSB elementary, secondary schools and administration offices will be closed on 7 April 2023 and 10 April 2023.

7. Delegations

7.1 Harry Fischer, re Transgender Hate and Discrimination

Mr. Fischer expressed the view that the OCDSB should allow delegates to discuss any topic.

7.2 Meral Aduli, re Inclusive Schools

Ms. Aduli identified as a former student of the OCDSB and mentioned a survey for students and alumni, created by herself and fellow students.

The results of the survey revealed that students from minority groups identifying as queer, faced significant discrimination. The report was shared with the OCDSB administration to assist in creating more inclusive school spaces.

Ms. Aduli expressed the view that implementing policy and creating educational programs would assist in protecting students from negative assumptions.

7.3 Mia Lavergne, re Issues Faced by Transgender Students

Ms. Lavergne identified herself as a transgender elementary school education worker. Ms. Lavergne said that transgender students in OCDSB classrooms deserve to be treated with respect and expressed her concern about the impact of transphobic comments on the transgender student community.

7.4 Fae Johnstone, re Accelerating Inclusivity

Ms. Johnstone identified herself as a transgender woman, an advocate for queer and transgender rights and a former OCDSB student. She expressed her fatigue in defending basic human rights and noted that the mental health, well-being and safety of the transgender community are at risk.

Ms. Johnstone expressed the view that there had been a rise in targeted violent crime toward the transgender community in 2021. She stated her opinion that while the OCDSB provides a role model for inclusion, the District should accelerate the continuing work in schools to support transgender rights.

7.5 Melissa Bunn, re Choices for Transgender and Non-Binary Students

Ms. Bunn introduced herself as the mother of a Grade 3 OCDSB student. She requested that the OCDSB board enhance guidelines, policies, and training for educators to support LGTBQ+ students, particularly for grades K-12.

Ms. Bunn expressed concern regarding the availability of single-stall bathrooms in schools. She suggested that guidance and training for educators would assist in improving the educational experience for students.

Chair Scott offered for staff to follow up with Ms. Bunn after the meeting.

7.6 Meagan Wiper, re Lack of Resources in Schools for Students on the Asexual Spectrum

Meagan Wiper requested that the OCDSB provide more financial resources to support asexual students. Meagan Wiper noted that the lack of information on asexuality in the current sex education curriculum could lead students to search online and obtain misinformation.

Meagan Wiper expressed the view that the OCDSB could host speakers and provide a more inclusive sexual education curriculum.

7.7 Sandra Fong, re Student Safety

Ms. Fong provided examples of violent incidents in schools outside Canada involving gender-neutral bathrooms. She requested that the Board consider the impact of gender-neutral washrooms on women and girls and how male violence could be affected.

7.8 Samuel Rizzotto, re Transphobic Ideologies and Rhetoric

Mr. Rizzotto noted that it is a collective responsibility to ensure that OCDSB spaces stay productive, safe, and focused on improving the education system. He expressed the view that public delegations are to allow voices to be heard, to foster constructive dialogue and to create change.

Mr. Rizzotto suggested that more robust public policies should be in place to limit public delegations to those representing a genuine interest in education.

8. Matters for Action:

8.1 Report 23-025, Policy Review Update (J. McCoy)

Your committee had before it Report 23-025, seeking approval of an approach to facilitate the modernization of the Board's policy review process.

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

- The Ad Hoc Policy Committee Review Committee would be a public meeting;
- Concerns were raised that the Ad Hoc Policy Committee Model may not capture all voices and could stretch staffing resources; and
- In response to a query regarding concerns that advisory committee voices may not be heard under the Ad Hoc model, it was noted that an equity lens would be applied to either model. Non-voting representatives would also have the opportunity in either model to be engaged at Committee of the Whole meetings, prior to the policy being brought to Board for approval.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn,

- A. THAT the Board establish an Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee as set out in Appendix D to Report 23-025; and
- B. THAT the Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee continue to meet until October 2024 or until the completion of the mandate.

*** Chair Scott called the meeting into recess at 7:50 p.m.***

*** Chair Scott called the meeting back to order at 7:54 p.m.***

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the Board establish the Committee of the Whole policy model as set out as Option 2 in Report 23-025.

Moved by Trustee Presley,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the Board establish the Committee of the Whole policy model as set out as Option 2 in Report 23-025.

Defeated

An amendment moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the words “with the addition of IEC, ACE, PIC, SEAC and OCASC representatives” be inserted after the words “Report 23-025” in section A of the motion.

Carried

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the words "PIC" and "OCASC" be deleted from section A of the motion.

Defeated

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the words “All members of the Board be entitled to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, to receive all materials circulated to the committee, and to participate in debate, including the making of motions and voting” be inserted as section “B” of the recommendation.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

Moved by Donna Blackburn

- A. THAT the Board establish an Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee as set out in Appendix D to Report 23-025 with the**

**addition of IEC, ACE, PIC, SEAC and OCASC representatives
(Attached as Appendix A);**

- B. THAT all members of the Board be entitled to attend meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, to receive all materials circulated to the committee, and to participate in debate, including the making of motions and voting; and**
- C. THAT the Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee continue to meet until October 2024 or until the completion of the mandate.**

Carried

8.2 Report 23-027, Approval of Revisions to Policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee (J. McCoy)

Your committee had before it Report 23-027, seeking approval of the proposed revisions to Policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

Moved by Donna Dickson

THAT the revisions to policy P.019.GOV Special Education Advisory Committee, attached as Appendix A to Report 23-027 (Attached as Appendix B).

Carried

8.3 Notice of Motion, Re: Amendments to Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate, Trustee Presley (on behalf of Student Trustees)

Moved by Trustee Presley,

WHEREAS the OCDSB is committed to fostering student leadership, voice, and a sense of belonging at all levels: classroom, school, and District;

WHEREAS the Student Senate is the official committee representing secondary students' views to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board;

WHEREAS the Student Senate promotes student voice and encourages students, particularly students in grades 9 and 10, to consider

opportunities for student governance; such as student council, Student Senate, and Student Trusteeship;

WHEREAS many students find the Student Senate to be ineffective in fulfilling its purpose and an overall lack of student engagement at all levels of student government;

WHEREAS other school districts engage more students in the Student Senate to increase leadership, representation, and engagement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board of Trustees adopt changes to Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate as outlined in Appendix A;
- B. THAT the Student Senate revisit the changes to P.113.GOV Student Senate between September 2023 and June 2024, with the intent to make a recommendation on the changes.

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

- There is an annual budget to support the Student Senate which is exhausted by expenses annually;
- The recommended model could double the size of the Student Senate, which could negatively affect the budget; and
- Superintendent Lavergne recommended a review within one year.

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT debate be closed.

Moved by Amanda Presley

A. THAT the Board of Trustees adopt changes to Policy P.113.GOV Student Senate as outlined in Appendix A (Attached as Appendix C);

B. THAT the student senate revisit the changes to P.113.GOV Student Senate between September 2023 and June 2024, with the intent to make a recommendation on the changes.

Carried

9. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

9.1 Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE), 8 February 2023

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth

THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity Report, dated 8 February 2023 be received.

Carried

9.2 Indigenous Education Council (IEC), 16 February 2023

Moved by Trustee Presley,

THAT the Indigenous Education Council Report, dated 16 February 2023 be received.

Carried

10. Matters for Discussion:

10.1 Report 23-018, Review of Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct (J. McCoy)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-018, seeking input on proposed revisions to P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct (the Code).

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

- In 2019, the previous Board of Trustees approved revisions to the current policy, which were not to come into effect until an integrity commissioner was in place;
- The Board can either approve the revisions to the policy made by the Board in 2019 or utilize the revised policy as a starting point for further revisions;
- A concern was raised on whether allowing members of the public to submit complaints would have a negative and disproportionate effect on individual trustees;
- An integrity commissioner would filter concerns and complaints considered to be trivial, malicious or illegitimate which would not be reviewed;

Trustee Jennekens assumed the chair.

- The integrity commissioner would provide recommendations on a breach and offer appropriate sanctions, although the ultimate decision would lie with the Board of Trustees; and
- The Code should not be utilized as a punishment tool, but as a positive mediation tool to resolve differences.

Chair Scott resumed the chair.

10.2 Report 23-029, Strategic Planning Presentation: Consultation Report (A. Rahim)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-029 for discussion.

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

- The community had been consulted via small groups, organized groups, large group meetings and a series of school-based consultations; and
- Trustees and senior staff collaborated to build upon the consultation results to create the first steps of the strategic plan at the Trustee/Senior Staff Retreat on 31 March to 1 April 2023.

11. Information Items:

11.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

11.2 OSTA Update (if required)

Trustee Lee noted that the Ottawa-Carleton Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) working group has focused on three areas to address operational issues:

- The implementation of global positioning systems (GPS) and security cameras on buses to support student safety;
- A more comprehensive work item in the strategic plan for a system-wide driver billable time review; and
- Limitations on the part-time usage of school bus routes.

Trustee Lee reported that due to the lack of new drivers, the impact on the OCDSB budget will be an increase of approximately 8% to maintain the current levels of service.

12. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Acting Chair