



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

**Board Room**

**Administration Building**

**133 Greenbank Road**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trustees Present: Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn (electronic communication), Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Jennifer Jennekens, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Emma Hong (Student Trustee), Malaika Kamanzi (Student Trustee)
- Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Randy Gerior (Associate Director, Business Operations), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Reg Lavergne (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (General Manager, Planning/Transportation), Stacey Kay (General Manager, Learning Support Services), Sandra Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Susan Baker
- Non-Voting Representatives Present: Rachelle Sintic (OCSSAN), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF), Thomas Holloway (OCASC), Andrew Nordman (OCEOC), Seema Lamba (ACE), Suzanne Lyon (PIC), Lili Miller (IEC)

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

Vice-Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Vice-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

Trustee Lyra Evans reported the following:

- The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will take place on 17 October 2023. Items for discussion include narrowing the three areas of focus in the Board Work Plan (learning, well-being, and social responsibility) into a yearly action plan;
- Working groups will be established for the new Findlay Creek elementary school and public consultations will be held in December; and
- The District will be hosting a job fair for early childhood educators and educational assistants on 5 October 2023.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Buffone reported the following:

- The *Diplôme d'études en langue française* (DELF), an internationally recognized French proficiency test for persons whose first language is not French, was offered to eligible secondary students on 2 October 2023;
- On 1 November 2023, all Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) secondary school students will have an opportunity to explore post-secondary pathways and career possibilities. Grade 9 students will be encouraged to participate in Take Our Kids to Work day, and Grade 10-12 students may participate in Launch 2023, a one day virtual pathways and career exploration;
- The OCDSB Family Conference for parents and caregivers will take place on 4 November 2023 at Brookfield High School. This free in-person event features multiple expert-led workshops for parents and caregivers, including some offered in Arabic and Somali; and
- Friday, 6 October 2023, is a Professional Activity (PA) day. OCDSB school staff will focus on the Ministry priorities of student mental health and well-being, literacy and numeracy. There are no classes for students on that day.

7. Delegations

7.1 Kate Neale, re Concern with Capital Priorities Submission

Kate Neale submitted that a new elementary school on Rosehill Avenue in the Fairwinds community of Stittsville should be included in the list of top priorities for the capital priorities submission. A school at this location would allow children in the Fairwinds community to walk safely to school. These students are currently eligible for busing to Stittsville Public School; however, their yellow school bus has been cancelled and walking to school is not a viable option. Ms. Neale noted that Stittsville has grown from 32,494 people in 2016 to 52,540 in 2023 and there are currently seven active plans for subdivision pending. She urged the Board to prioritize a new elementary school on Rosehill Avenue.

8. Matters for Action:

8.1 Report 23-070, Capital Priorities Submission (R. Gerrior)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-070, seeking approval for the 2023 Capital Priorities in response to the Ministry of Education call for submissions on or before 20 October 2023.

General Manager Carty Ostafichuk provided an overview of the report and noted that Capital Priorities funding is to be used for constructing new pupil places, as well as rebuilding or substantial renovation to existing space. Repair and renewal of existing space is funded separately.

Moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT the following capital priorities be submitted to the Ministry of Education in response to the 2023/2024 Capital Call:

An addition to Earl of March High School;  
An addition to AY Jackson Secondary School;  
An addition to Viscount Alexander Public School;  
A new elementary school in the East Urban Community; and  
A new elementary school in Riverside South.

During discussion, and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- The capital projects are listed in order of highest to lowest priority;
- The addition to Earl of March High School is the only new priority this year. The remaining four projects have been identified as capital priorities in previous years' submissions;
- The addition to AY Jackson Secondary School has previously been submitted six times as a capital priority;
- The Ministry does not provide an explanation as to why a project is approved or not approved for funding;

- Copies of the 2018 District Needs Analysis (DNA) will be provided to trustees;
- Trustee Kaplan-Myrth requested that reports on air quality in schools in her zone be provided to trustees. She also requested that the District consider long term strategies with respect to accommodation reviews;
- When selecting capital projects for funding, the Ministry considers needs assessments, performance assessments, projects with child care facilities, projects that have received approval from municipal government, French schools, accommodation pressures, and facility condition;
- There are two secondary school sites in Kanata, neither of which is owned by the OCDSB, fully serviced, or buildable;
- Earl of March High School currently has 31 portables. With the projected growth in Kanata, the District has a strong case for an addition;
- The District plans to acquire property in the Wateridge area and a new school will likely be included in the next capital priorities call;
- With respect to upgrading or expanding schools inside the Greenbelt over the next five to ten years, it was suggested that this be an item for discussion at a future meeting;
- The Ministry requires school boards to build large schools with attendance boundaries that may not be within walking distance for all students;

Trustee Presley assumed the Chair.

- The next secondary school in Stittsville is expected to open in September 2024 at close to full capacity;
- Trustee Scott urged the Board and staff to continue to advocate for multi-year capital planning in order to build new schools in areas that most need them in a timely manner;

Trustee Scott resumed the Chair.

- Accommodation pressures at Merivale High School will be lessened with the opening of the new Riverside South Secondary School;
- A new elementary school in Riverside South will help to alleviate overcrowding at Steve MacLean Public School;
- A new gym was recently added to Earl of March High School to accommodate students in grades 7-8. An addition would include

classrooms and washrooms to alleviate pressure on portables. Any renovations to sports fields would be funded from facilities renewal funding; and

- The addition to AY Jackson Secondary School would include a gym and other facilities that are currently lacking.

**Moved by Trustee Aziz,**

**THAT the following capital priorities be submitted to the Ministry of Education in response to the 2023/2024 Capital Call:**

**An addition to Earl of March High School;**

**An addition to AY Jackson Secondary School;**

**An addition to Viscount Alexander Public School;**

**A new elementary school in the East Urban Community; and**

**A new elementary school in Riverside South.**

**Carried, unanimously**

8.2 Notice of Motion, Re: Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Scott

Trustee Presley assumed the Chair.

Notice of motion having been given in keeping with section 12.9 of the Board's By-Laws and Standing Rules, Trustee Scott moved as follows:

Moved by Trustee Scott,

BE IT RESOLVED

1. THAT the position of Indigenous Student Trustee be created, to take office effective 1 August 2023;
2. THAT the Indigenous Student Trustee be elected directly by students identifying as Indigenous;
3. THAT the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) be involved in developing the necessary revisions to Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees and any other relevant policies and procedures; and
4. THAT current Student Trustees, the Student Senate, and Indigenous students be consulted.

Trustee Scott noted that Ontario school boards may have up to three student trustees, and approximately 12 boards have an Indigenous student trustee. The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) supports the election of an Indigenous student trustee.

During discussion, and in response to queries, the following points were noted.

- Staff will work with the IEC to determine a respectful manner for Indigenous students to self-identify;

- Currently, student trustee candidates are elected by their school in February each year. The Student Senate and Student Presidents' Council elect two student trustees from the list of student trustee candidates;
- The term of office for student trustees is August 1 to July 31 and newly-elected student trustees go through an on-boarding process prior to commencing their responsibilities;
- Some school boards who have elected an Indigenous student trustee have invited applications from Indigenous students who have self-identified to apply through a secure website;
- The IEC supports limiting the voting and election of an Indigenous student trustee by Indigenous students;
- Staff agreed to confirm whether electing a third student trustee would have an impact on the budget;
- The notion of whether the responsibilities of an Indigenous student trustee would differ from the other student trustees would be considered during the consultation process;
- The IEC is taking the lead on the development of a policy on self-identification. It is anticipated that this will be presented to the Ad Hoc Policy Committee in February 2024;
- A suggestion from Ms. Lyon that the Board expand self-identification of other groups was taken under advisement; and
- With respect to a letter sent in 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting an Indigenous trustee for which a reply has not yet been received, Trustee Lyra Evans advised that an action item to request a follow-up letter on behalf of the Board would be added to a future agenda.

Trustee Scott noted the need to begin the consultation process as soon as possible. She added that Indigenous student trustees at other school boards have similar responsibilities to other student trustees; however, the Indigenous student trustee would bring the voice of Indigenous students to the Board.

**Moved by Trustee Scott,**

**BE IT RESOLVED**

- 1. THAT the position of Indigenous Student Trustee be created, to take office effective 1 August 2023;**
- 2. THAT the Indigenous Student Trustee be elected directly by students identifying as Indigenous;**

3. **THAT the Indigenous Education Council be involved in developing the necessary revisions to Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees and any other relevant policies and procedures; and**
4. **THAT current Student Trustees, the Student Senate, and Indigenous students be consulted.**

**Carried**

Trustee Scott resumed the Chair.

9. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

9.1 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 10 May 2023

**Moved by Trustee Nash,**

**THAT the report from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), dated 10 May 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

9.2 Indigenous Education Council (IEC), 18 May 2023

**Moved by Trustee Dickson,**

**THAT the report from the Indigenous Education Council, dated 18 May 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

9.3 Audit Committee, 20 September 2023

**Moved by Trustee Lee,**

**THAT that the report from the Audit Committee, dated 20 September 2023, be received.**

**Carried**

a. Approval of External Auditor's Audit Plan for 2023-2024 Year End Audit

**Moved by Trustee Lee,**

**THAT KPMG LLP's plan for the audit of the 2022-2023 Consolidated Financial Statements be approved.**

**Carried**

b. Approval of 2023-24 Annual Report - RIAT Activities

**Moved by Trustee Milburn,**

**THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Audit Committee:**

- 1. Receives for information the 2023-2024 Annual Report on Internal Audit Activities; and**
- 2. Approves the 2023-2024 Regional Internal Audit Team Charter.**

**Carried**

- c. Approval of 2023-24 Regional Internal Audit Plan

**Moved by Trustee Lee,**

**THAT the 2023-2024 Regional Internal Audit Plan be approved.**

**Carried**

10. Matters for Discussion:

10.1 Student Transportation Presentation (R. Gerrior)

Associate Director Gerrior acknowledged the ongoing work of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) team to resolve transportation issues. OSTA staff are focusing on reinstating bus routes and opening seats that are not that are not being used by students who are otherwise eligible for bus transportation. OSTA has hired a communications firm to assist with communications to parents and guardians, and a Ministry-initiated review of OSTA operations by an independent third party is currently underway.

During discussion, and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- Approximately 94 one-way bus routes have been reinstated during September despite a number of bus driver resignations;

Trustee Presley assumed the Chair.

- Retention bonuses are not provided to small vehicle drivers who may be transporting students who require extra attention and care;
- Approximately 68 routes in Zone 1 were cancelled at the beginning of September of which 36 have been restored, not including bus routes to South Carleton High School and Kars on the Rideau. The bus operator for those areas did not renew their contract and OSTA is looking for other vendors willing to take over those routes;

Trustee Scott resumed the Chair.

- The review of OSTA operations is focused on finding solutions to the current transportation issues by consolidating routes, freeing up

space, and reinstating bus routes. It may be possible to reinstate the empty seat program once the transportation model is stable;

- OSTA is one of the largest users of small vans in the province and the current funding model is inadequate; and
- Many parents have expressed frustration about the lack of communication on when the busing problems will be resolved.

11. Information Items:

11.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

11.2 OSTA Update (if required)

There was no further OSTA update.

12. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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Lynn Scott, Chair