



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Board Room

Administration Building

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Alysha Aziz (electronic communication), Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn (electronic communication), Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, 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 Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), 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), Susan Baker (forms)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Seema Lamba (ACE), Suzanne Lyon (PIC), Lili Miller (IEC), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF), Thomas Holloway (OCASC), Jean Fulton-Hale (OCSSAN), Andrew Nordman (OCEOC), Andrew Horwood (PSSU)

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

Vice-Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Nash,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Trustee Lyra Evans reported the following:

- The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has released board and school level results for provincial assessments conducted during the 2022-2023 school year. This data will play a role in identifying trends to inform specific strategies in support of student learning. In the coming weeks, staff will be working on an update on student learning which will be presented to the Board of Trustees;
- The Family Conference for 2023 will take place on 4 November 2023 at Brookfield High School;
- The Education Foundation of Ottawa is recruiting Board members;
- Consultation regarding the New Findlay Creek Elementary School will begin in October 2023. Working groups will be formed and active in November 2023 and a public consultation will be held in December 2023;
- Consultation on the school naming policy has now closed. The Ad Hoc Policy Committee reviewed the final draft at their meeting on 12 October 2023 and a recommendation for approval will come before the Board on 30 October 2023;
- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), along with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), is working to raise civic awareness among students by observing Local Government Week from 16-20 October 2023; and
- The next Board meeting will take place on 30 October 30 2023.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Buffone reported the following:

- Condolences were extended to families who are impacted by the violence in the Middle East, and the District is focusing on how best to support students and staff; and
- Progress reports for secondary students have been distributed to students by email.

7. Delegations

There were no delegations.

8. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

8.1 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 13 September 2023

Moved by Trustee Nash,

THAT the report from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), dated 13 September 2023, be received.

Carried

8.2 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 6 September 2023

Moved by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), dated 6 September 2023, be received.

Carried

9. Matters for Action

9.1 Notice of Motion, Re: Letter Requesting the Appointment of an Urban Indigenous Trustee, Trustee Bell

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

Moved by Trustee Bell,

WHEREAS consultation with the Indigenous Education Council has provided support for the appointment of an Urban Indigenous trustee;

WHEREAS the Board has submitted a letter to Minister Lecce on 21 April 2021, seeking permission to appoint an Urban Indigenous trustee which did not receive a response;

WHEREAS under existing legislation and regulations, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is not eligible to appoint an Urban Indigenous trustee to the Board with rights and responsibilities equivalent to those of a board member elected under the Municipal Elections Act;

WHEREAS the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has no agreements regarding the provision of education services with any First Nations band or council;

WHEREAS the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan seeks continued progress toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, under the key area of focus for social responsibility.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT a follow-up letter be sent to the Minister of Education requesting that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board be allowed to appoint an Urban Indigenous Trustee.

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

- Lili Miller, on behalf of the Indigenous Education Council, introduced the motion and noted that an Indigenous Board member would send a clear message to the community that Indigenous voices and representation aligns with the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada;
- All correspondence from the Chair, on behalf of the Board, is available to the public on the District's website; and
- Ontario school boards that have a reciprocal agreement in place with an Indigenous nation to provide education to students on reserves within their jurisdiction may appoint an Indigenous trustee. School boards in Ontario that do not have a reciprocal agreement may not appoint an Indigenous trustee unless the Ontario Regulations are amended or permission were granted.

Moved by Trustee Bell,

THAT a follow-up letter be sent to the Minister of Education requesting that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board be allowed to appoint an Urban Indigenous Trustee.

Carried

9.2 Report 23-071 Board Work Plan and Areas of Focus (M. Giroux)

Your Committee had before it Report 23-071, seeking approval of the 2023-2024 Board Work Plan and Areas of Focus.

Executive Officer Giroux provided an overview of the report and noted that the evaluation policy for the Board of Trustees requires the Board to identify key areas of focus and approve an annual work plan.

Moved by Trustee Bell,

THAT the 2023-2024 Board Work Plan and 'Areas of Focus' as outlined in Appendix A to Report 23-071 be approved.

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

- An item on the Board Work Plan will be added to the Board agenda to provide the Board with an opportunity to explore and establish metrics to measure progress;

- In response to a suggestion that targets be set in the work plan to close the gaps in student achievement, staff noted that the gaps will be included in the annual student achievement report that will be presented to the Committee of the Whole at a future meeting;
- An equitable recruitment and hiring policy was approved by the Board in 2021 and was therefore not reflected in the 2023-2027 strategic plan. Staff continuously refines hiring practices and provides training on equitable recruitment;
- The Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap was developed from a previous strategic plan commitment to equity. A status report on the process for the review and renewal of the Roadmap will be presented to the Committee of the Whole at a future meeting; and
- Seema Lamba requested that the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) be invited to attend equity-related professional development opportunities that are provided to trustees, such as anti-hate training.

An amendment moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT the words “environmental sustainability” replace “greening” in the second bullet under the Social Responsibility Key Area of Focus: Develop greening and leadership development and mentorship plans in Appendix A to Report 23-071.

Trustee Aziz noted that "environmental sustainability" aligns with provincial directives and is understood by students. In response to a request for staff comment, Executive Officer Giroux noted that this language also aligns with the language in the strategic plan.

An amendment moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT the words “environmental sustainability” replace “greening” in the second bullet under the Social Responsibility Key Area of Focus: Develop greening and leadership development and mentorship plans in Appendix A to Report 23-071.

Carried

An amendment moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT a new bullet "Develop a 2024-2025 Needs-Based Budget (December to June)" be added to the Fiduciary Responsibilities Key Areas of Focus.

Chair Scott ruled the proposed amendment out of order as it would not alter the existing fiduciary responsibility to develop the 2024-2025 budget process and Priorities (March to June).

An amendment moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT the words “(December-June)” replace “(March to June)” in the eighth bullet under the Fiduciary Responsibilities Key Area of Focus: Develop the 2024-2025 budget Process and Priorities (March-June) in Appendix A to Report 23-071.

Trustee Aziz submitted that the longer timeframe for the budget process would allow more time for discussion before the District receives its Grants for Student Needs (GSNs).

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT "upon receipt of the District's Audited Financial Statements in November " replace "December ".

Executive Officer Giroux advised that an earlier start time would not achieve a needs-based budget as a second budget process was ruled out of order. Trustee Lyra Evans withdrew the sub-amendment.

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

- Trustee Lee submitted that starting the budget process in December, before the District receives its GSN information, would add more debate without knowing how much funding will be provided;
- Staff would be challenged to schedule additional Committee of the Whole, Budget meetings and provide comprehensive budget information before December as they are currently working on other Ministry requirements; and
- Trustee Bell expressed the view that additional time is required to develop a budget that meets the needs of students.

Trustee Milburn assumed the Chair.

An earlier start time would provide additional time for the Board to establish its priorities, advocate for student needs, and gain an understanding of budget pressure points.

Trustee Scott resumed the Chair.

An amendment moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT the words “(December-June)” replace “(March to June)” in the eighth bullet under the Fiduciary Responsibilities Key Area of Focus: Develop the 2024-2025 budget Process and Priorities (March-June) in Appendix A to Report 23-071.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Bell,

THAT the 2023-2024 Board Work Plan and 'Areas of Focus' as outlined in Appendix A to Report 23-071 be approved, as amended (Attached as Appendix A).

Carried

10. Information Items:

10.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

Trustee Jennekens reported that she and Trustee Scott will attend the Ontario Public School Board Association's (OPSBA) Advocacy Day on 27 November 2023 to meet with provincial ministers to advocate on issues of importance to school boards.

Suzanne Lyon requested an update on the progress made since last year's conference on Calls to Action.

10.2 OSTA Update (if required)

Trustee Lee reported that the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) has appointed an Interim Chief Executive Officer until 31 October 2023.

10.3 Ministry Initiatives

A memorandum to Directors of Education from the Deputy Minister of Education, dated 28 September 2023, providing updates on several initiatives was shared for information. There was no additional information attached that was applicable to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

11. New Business - Information and Inquiries

Suzanne Lyon reminded the Committee of the upcoming Family Conference on 4 November 2023.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair