



ADVOCACY STRATEGY COMMITTEE

November 2, 2023, 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Members: Alysha Aziz (electronic communication), Lyra Evans (electronic communication), Lynn Scott (electronic communication), Amanda Presley (electronic communication)

Staff Present Michèle Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), James Baker (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Aziz called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Aziz 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 Lyra Evans,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

5. Matters for Discussion:

5.1 Aligning Efforts

a. OPSBA Advocacy Day - 27 November 2023 (Update)

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

- Staff have collected advocacy related documentation from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and

are working to align the Committee's advocacy efforts with OPSBA's direction;

- OPSBA is currently preparing a submission to the Ministry regarding Grants for Student Needs (GSN)'s with a focus on key priority areas and issues such as Indigenous education and mental health;
- It was suggested that executive compensation be added to the priority list;
- Staff shared several sample briefing notes prepared by OPSBA for last year's Advocacy Day. The briefing notes were provided in order to elicit feedback on the format and layout. With priority areas established, similar OCDSB briefing notes could be prepared for use by trustees in their advocacy efforts;
- Members shared that they would prefer a two page document to better reflect and share the details of the priority issue;
- It was suggested that the length of each briefing note be appropriate for the intended audience to ensure that it is reviewed;
- Staff advised that they would connect with OPSBA to request their 2023 Advocacy Days briefing notes. These could be shared with trustees;
- It was suggested that importance should be placed on messaging with the public and informing constituents on the top priorities within the public education system; and
- It was suggested that the Committee develop a work plan to serve as a reference document that trustees can utilize when speaking with community partners.

b. Advocacy Briefs

The Advocacy Briefs were discussed at item 5.1a.

5.2 Confirming Top Priority Areas

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

- It was suggested that one of the top three priorities focus on sustainable funding with respect to replacement worker costs, transportation, special education, cyber security, and mental health;

- Focus should also be placed on facilities renewal, the moratorium on accommodations, and class size at the junior and intermediate levels;
- The Committee affirmed its intent to have documentation available for all trustees to rely on; and
- Staff advised that summaries for replacement costs, transportation and special education would be drafted for review by the Committee at the 11 December 2023 meeting.

6. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Alysha Aziz, Chair, Advocacy Strategy Committee