



EXCERPT FROM:

COW, 21 November 2023

8.1 Notice of Motion, Re: Needs Based Budget, Trustee Aziz

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

Moved by Trustee Aziz,

WHEREAS the annual budget is directly connected to the OCDSB's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan and will set the operating plan for the coming year;

WHEREAS the stewardship of financial resources is one of the Board's four key value statements within the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS the Board recognizes the importance of developing a complete budget while balancing the growing number of financial pressures associated with providing high-quality programs and services;

WHEREAS a needs based budget is a data-informed approach to developing a budget in anticipation of receiving the Grants for Students Needs which incorporates commitments made by the District and the organization's needs;

WHEREAS the development of a budget based on recent assessments of the financial resources required to provide the high-quality programs and services offered by the OCDSB will support the Board's advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education requires school boards to approve and submit annual budget estimates by the end of June preceding the beginning of a new school year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Board instruct the Director of Education to develop a needs-based budget for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

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

- The OCDSB budget is complex, and in order to build on the 2023-2024 \$19,000,000 budget reduction, staff continue to work on identifying inefficiencies and researching the acquisition of software that will enable the Finance department to provide accurate and timely information;
- Programs within the OCDSB consume a significant amount of District resources and having identified this, the OCDSB is undertaking a program review to locate inefficiencies;

- It is important to complete the program review exercise prior to considering the submission of a request to the Ministry of Education (MOE) for additional funding. The MOE will examine funding requests and question any inefficiencies found;
- School boards within Ontario are legally required to present a balanced budget to the MOE. Staff noted that it is impossible to upload a needs-based budget to the MOE system;
- The OCDSB Finance Department has limited staff with no capacity to produce an additional budget. Staff resources should be focused on developing a balanced budget to submit to the MOE;
- Director Buffone noted that he had previously identified commonalities in fiscal pressure points during conversations with the former Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, and that the District will address these issues through the normal budgetary process. He highlighted the importance of the fiduciary responsibility that the District bears to comply with MOE requirements;
- Associate Director Gerrion noted that his department could provide information to trustees that they require for advocacy to the MOE; and
- Some trustees expressed the view that presenting a budget based on data to the MOE would demonstrate the gap between the funding provided and the funding required.

Trustee Aziz noted that the motion intended to provide an advocacy tool to assist trustees in identifying gaps rather than an additional budget for MOE submission.

Trustee Lyra Evans suggested she would like to amend the motion and would clarify the appropriate language.

An amendment moved by Trustee Bell,

- A. THAT the word “analysis” be inserted after the word “budget.”
- B. THAT a human resource be reallocated from the OCDSB to support the CFO in this endeavour, the parameters of which will be determined by the CFO.

Chair Milburn called a recess to review the wording of the amendment.

The meeting went into recess at 7:57 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:03 p.m.

Chair Milburn referred to Trustee Lyra Evans seeking her amendment.

Trustee Bell called a point of order as her amendment was on the floor prior to the recess, and should sequentially be the first amendment tabled.

Chair Milburn determined that Trustee Bell's amendment would be dealt with first.

In introducing her amendment, Trustee Bell noted that the amendment intends to assist trustees to work with Superintendents of Instruction (SOI) and learn what they require to achieve Strategic Plan objectives.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the word "tool-kit" be inserted after the word "analysis."

Carried, friendly

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT part "b" of the amendment be struck,

Trustee Bell noted that she wished to retain part "b" of the amendment.

Trustee Lyra Evans withdrew the sub-amendment.

The meeting went into recess at 8:27 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:37 p.m.

Trustee Blackburn expressed the view that some comments directed towards staff were disrespectful.

Trustee Bell requested a retraction from Trustee Blackburn. Trustee Blackburn refused. Trustee Bell requested Chair Milburn to rule on the removal of Trustee Blackburn.

Chair Milburn advised that she would not remove Trustee Blackburn, and that Trustee Bell had the option to challenge the ruling.

Trustee Bell noted that she would not challenge Chair Milburn's ruling.

Trustee Scott suggested deferring the motion to the next Committee of the Whole Budget or Committee of the Whole meeting to allow trustees an opportunity to consider the commonality of ideas.

Chair Milburn advised Trustee Scott to bring forward a motion to defer the item to the 5 December 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT consideration of the notice motion presented by Trustee Aziz regarding a needs-based budget, be postponed to the 5 December 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried