



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Board Room

Administration Building

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth (electronic communication), Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, 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), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Reg Lavergne (Superintendent of Instruction), Marva Major (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Carolyn Tanner (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Daniel Bradley (General Manager, Facilities Operations), Stacey Kay (General Manager, Learning Support Services), Sandra Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications & Information Services), Andrea Rahim (General Manager, Research Evaluation & Analytics Division), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Susan Baker (Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Seema Lamba (ACE), Lili Miller (IEC), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF - District 25), Matthew Gagnier (OCSSAN), Melodie Gondek, OSSTF - ESP/PSSU, PSSP, EA, PECCS), Rand Habani (Student Senate), Jennifer Capitani (OCEOC)

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

Vice-Chair Milburn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Vice-Chair Milburn 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 Lyra Evans,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott reported the following:

- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's (OCDSB's) Learning Support Services team is hosting information sessions to assist parents and caregivers of students with developmental disabilities with planning for the transition from high school. More information can be found on the District's website regarding virtual presentations on navigating the system, community day programs, and post-secondary education and employment. An in-person transition planning resource fair will take place on 27 February 2024 at the Confederation Education Centre to meet service providers in the Ottawa region and learn about programs available for youth with an intellectual disability; and
- Best wishes were extended to all who will be celebrating the Lunar New Year on 10 February 2024.

6. Briefing from the Director

Director Buffone reported the following:

- The Education Foundation of Ottawa's (EFO) Toonie Tuesday campaign is taking place during February 2024 in support of OCDSB students. In the past year, the EFO has processed over 900 requests by providing assistance, including school supplies, grocery gift cards, winter clothing, and engaging with students who are absent for extended periods due to illness. Information can be found on the Education Foundation of Ottawa website.
- Secondary report cards will be emailed on 12 February 2024, and elementary report cards will be sent on 14 February 2024;
- The deadline to register for Middle French Immersion or apply for an elementary or secondary school transfer is 9 February 2024;

- The deadline for students or adult learners to register for Winter Night School is 15 February 2024; and
- The OCDSB is committed to working with students, families and community partners to help prevent, identify and recognize human trafficking, and support those affected. On 28 February 2024, the District will hold a virtual speaker series session on combating human trafficking to equip parents and caregivers to identify warning signs and grooming behaviours, understand the factors making children vulnerable and susceptible to trafficking, and explore ways to collectively support parents/caregivers in safeguarding children. More information will be shared in weekly updates.

7. Delegations

There were no delegations.

8. Matters for Action:

8.1 Report 24-006, Facilities Renewal Program and School Conditioning Improvement 2023-2024 Project Plan (R. Gerrior)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-006, seeking approval of the Facilities Renewal Program (FRP) to be implemented under the School Renewal Allocation (SRA), Temporary Accommodations (portable moves) and School Condition Improvement (SCI) funding for the 2023-2024 budget year. The report covers approximately \$117 million in project funding over the next two years.

General Manager Bradley provided an overview of the report and noted that the programs address the facility needs of the District, with a focus on ensuring safe and healthy learning and working spaces for students and staff.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

- A. THAT the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$117,821,303 be approved as detailed in Appendix B of Report 24-006;
- B. THAT staff be authorized to proceed with individual project tenders within the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project plans;
- C. THAT as FRP/SCI projects are tendered, based on bid results, or as priorities change, additional projects may be added or removed to suit the availability of the overall budget and these additional projects will be able to proceed without further approval as long as the total overall FRP/SCI budgets are not exceeded; and

D. THAT the Chair of the Board and Director of Education are authorized to award contracts above \$500,000 that are within this overall available uncommitted approved budget.

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

- The District averages a reduction of 2% to 3% annually in greenhouse gas emissions;
- Where appropriate, application for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification is sought, and high efficiency equipment is utilized as the District transitions to a more sustainably built environment for its facilities;
- Electricity generated from solar panels and the use of heat pump technology in new schools reduces the District's consumption from the electrical grid;
- The District usually carries forward approximately \$46 million annually in SCI funding due to time and labour limitations on when the work can be carried out during the summer;
- Restricted expenditures (70% of funding) is used to address major building components (i.e., foundations, roofs, windows) and systems (i.e., heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), plumbing);
- Unrestricted expenditures (30% of funding) is used to address any locally-identified renewal needs that are listed in the provincial database;
- Approximately \$6.5 million was directed to accessibility projects to meet the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* requirements;
- The Facilities Department will prepare a summary of all accessibility work completed over the past five years;
- Memo 23-077, Air Quality Standards, dated 5 December 2023, was provided to trustees in response to a request for an update at the 29 September Board meeting;
- The District's HVAC system is continuously improving and is a leader in the province. A carbon dioxide monitoring system is in place throughout the District to ensure the system is operating properly;
- The District's HVAC system is very different from the system that was recently piloted at the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB);

- The installation of air conditioning is not feasible in all buildings;
- The District has a multi-year plan to install air conditioning in all gymnasiums;
- The Facilities department utilizes third-party consultants to assess roofing and provide advice on renewal or replacement;
- There is a backlog of approximately 10-12 schools that require replacement of their play structures. Play structures are provided for new schools and Facilities is investigating the feasibility of changing the funding model for replacement due to the high cost and parent fundraising limitations. Alternatives to play structures are also being investigated; and
- The list of schools requiring refurbishment of their science labs will be updated and shared with trustees.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

- THAT the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$117,821,303 be approved as detailed in Appendix B of Report 24-006 (Attached as Appendix A);**
- THAT staff be authorized to proceed with individual project tenders within the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project plans;**
- THAT as FRP/SCI projects are tendered, based on bid results, or as priorities change, additional projects may be added or removed to suit the availability of the overall budget and these additional projects will be able to proceed without further approval as long as the total overall FRP/SCI budgets are not exceeded; and**
- THAT the Chair of the Board and Director of Education are authorized to award contracts above \$500,000 that are within this overall available uncommitted approved budget.**

Carried

8.2 Report 24-023, School Year Calendar (B. Reynolds)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-023, seeking approval of the recommended 2024-2025 elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

Associate Director Reynolds provided an overview of the report and noted that the calendars were developed in consultation with the District's federations, parents, students, administrators, and Equity team. The Ottawa-Carleton Catholic School Board (OCSB) was also consulted to

maximize school bus transportation efficiency. The deadline for submission of the calendars to the Ministry of Education is 1 March 2024.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the recommended school year calendar as outlined in Report 24-023 be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval as the official 2024-2025 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.

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

- No Professional Activity (PA) days were scheduled prior to Labour Day as was the practice in 2023 due to the challenges experienced by school staff to participate while registering students and preparing for school opening the following week;
- PA days were not scheduled on days of religious observance. If an exam is scheduled on one of these days, an appropriate accommodation will be made;
- The 8 November 2024 PA day is set aside for provincial education priorities, and the 29 November 2024 PA day is linked to parent/teacher interviews where required;
- Non-semestered secondary schools have one 10-day break for exams at the end of the school year;
- Semestered secondary schools have total of two 5-day breaks at the end of each semester;
- The fifth day of the exam break is set aside as a "flex day", if required, to reschedule exams due to transportation interruptions;
- Other learning opportunities will be provided for students who do not have exams during the exam period; and
- Regular instruction days provide opportunities other than exams to demonstrate learning.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the recommended school year calendar as outlined in Report 24-023 be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval as the official 2024-2025 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.

Carried

9. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

9.1 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 11 October 2023

Moved by Trustee Nash,

THAT the report from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), dated 11 October 2023, be received.

Carried

9.2 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 22 November 2023

Moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT the report from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), dated 22 November 2023, be received.

Carried

9.3 Indigenous Education Council (IEC), 14 December 2023

Moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the report from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

10. Matters for Discussion:

10.1 Report 24-014, Student Learning Update: Preparation of Students for Future Success (M. Giroux)

Your Committee had before it for discussion, Report 14-014 providing Part Two of the Student Learning Update: Preparation of Students for Future Success.

Through presentations and videos, Executive Officer Giroux, Superintendent Lavergne, General Manager Rahim and System Principals Massey and Coleman presented an overview of the report and noted that the data was derived from student survey responses, program and course enrolment, credit accumulation and graduation rates. The data was further explored by student demographic characteristics.

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

- The English and French Immersion Programs are significant areas for streaming students;
- Principals are increasing their capacity to engage with families and provide comprehensive information on all available programs and pathways;
- Some families select a program based on its availability in their neighbourhood school;

- Principals are working with families to identify aspects of their experiences and learning that may not be documented in school records, for example, newcomers, and granting equivalency records;
- Instructional practices and access to resources and programs may be barriers to student success;
- More emphasis is being placed on student voices, understanding lived experiences, and differentiating for learning styles in the classroom by identifying entry and assessment points for students and asking them how they best learn;
- Approximately 50% of students in grades 7-12 did not feel their school experience prepared them for post-secondary education and work;
- The District does not follow up with students who go on to university or college to determine their success rate and/or ask them if they felt prepared for post-secondary education due to District lack of research resources and access to student contact information; however, staff has received positive feedback from secondary students who participated in the School Within a College (SWAC) program at Algonquin College;
- Data from a survey conducted in Ottawa on social and emotional skills can be found on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) website;
- Data on graduation rates and credit accumulation has remained stable over time;
- 88% of OCDSB students graduated in 2018-2019 and, of these students, 99% graduated within four years;
- An online Launch event is available for students to explore post-secondary pathways;
- There continues to be a need to improve graduation rates for Indigenous students;
- Principals are reaching out to marginalized and racialized students whose needs are being underserved to determine if course offerings are meeting their needs, as well as seeking assistance from Learning Support Services (LSS), if required;
- Staff meets with the Children's Aid Society (CAS) to ensure that students in their care feel that their experiences are valued when they transition back into OCDSB programs;

- Staff who have participated in the Authentic Student Learning Experience (ASLE) program have noted a change in practice when educators put students at the centre of learning and value the voices of students;
- The ASLE program aligns with the tenets of the Elementary Alternative Program;
- Trustee Scott requested a year-over-year summary of graduation rates;
- Teachers who have expressed interest in being trained in the use ASLE program have reached out to Program & Learning Innovation staff in the pilot phase. Student support teachers have attended classrooms to work directly with students who are struggling to identify learning experiences that could be applied for credit. Stephanie Kirkey noted the value in providing training opportunities for all teachers;
- At a time of finite staffing and resources, schools are reaching out to the most underserved students before making the ASLE program available to all students;
- Staff is unaware of other school districts who may have programs similar to ASLE, or whether university teacher education programs are teaching that approach;
- With respect to Early and Middle French Immersion Programs, the District has a policy on elementary program structures and offerings. An in-depth review of program structures will form part of the upcoming program review process; and
- Information collected in voluntary student surveys depends on who completes the survey. It may not be representative of the entire student population.

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 Lyra Evans reported that the 29 January 2024 meeting of the OSTA Board of Directors was cancelled.

12. New Business - Information and Inquiries

Trustee Blackburn provided notice that she would move a motion at a future meeting to authorize the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to write a letter to the

Minister of Education to request the Ministry to continue funding for the Board's menstrual product program.

Trustee Lyra Evans provided notice that she would move a motion at a future meeting to authorize the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of other school boards' initiatives with respect to student online gambling.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Cathryne Milburn, Chair