



AD HOC POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

February 8, 2024, 5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

- Members: Cathryne Milburn, Lyra Evans, Donna Blackburn, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Lynn Scott
- Non Voting Members: Monique Manatch (Indigenous Education Council), Ryan Doucette (Advisory Committee on Equity), Calla Barnett (Parent Involvement Committee),
- Staff and Guests Alysha Aziz, Amanda Presley, Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Michèle Giroux (Executive Officer of Corporate Services), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (General Manager, Planning), Casey Errett (Planner), Desirrea Meney (Policy Analyst), Engy Abdel Masieh (Policy Analyst), Anthony Wong (OCASC), Jeffrey Zhang (Student Senator), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Darren Gatley (Senior Board Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Milburn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

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 the Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Blackburn,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

5. Matters for Action:

5.1 Report 24-012 Tier 2 Revisions to Policy P.071.CUR Indigenous Voluntary Self-Identification (Smith)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-012, seeking input on the proposed revisions to Policy P 071 CUR - Indigenous Self-Identification.

Moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P 071 CUR - Indigenous Self-Identification, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-012, be approved.

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

- The use of “Indigenous” to replace “First Nation, Metis, and Inuit” was intentional as it is more inclusive. In consultation with the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) it was felt that all Indigenous communities were not reflected in the original wording;
- The term “Indigenous” in the policy is intended to apply to Indigenous communities in North America/Turtle Island; and
- Staff noted that specificity of data collection is important for the procedure and that the policy should be more inclusive and inviting. Staff added that each school district is required to have an Indigenous self-identification policy.

Moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P 071 CUR - Indigenous Self-Identification, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-012, be approved (Attached as Appendix A).

Carried

5.2 Report 24-016 Revisions to Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees and P.113.GOV Student Senate (Smith)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-016, seeking input on the proposed revisions to Policy P.017.GOV - Student Trustees and Policy P.113.GOV - Student Senate.

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P 017 GOV - Student Trustees and Policy P.113 GOV - Student Senate, attached as Appendices A and C to Report 24-016, be approved.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the words "directly or" be inserted in section 4.3 of Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees to read as "elected directly or indirectly".

Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff will review the amendment to ensure alignment with the legislation, and references to the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). She added that she would consult with General Counsel Sinclair in advance of the 27 February 2024 Board meeting.

Monique Manatch noted that the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) would be interested in participating in further consultation on the matter, if needed.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT the words "directly or" be inserted in section 4.3 of Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees to read as "elected directly or indirectly".

Carried

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P 017 GOV - Student Trustees and Policy P.113 GOV - Student Senate, attached as Appendices A and C to Report 24-016, be approved, as amended (Attached as Appendix B and C).

Carried

5.3 Notice of Motion re. Possible Amendments to Policy P.147.GOV Human Rights, 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 Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is committed to equity of educational opportunities and outcomes;

WHEREAS the OCDSB is committed to building a culture of caring, which prioritizes the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive and caring classrooms;

WHEREAS the OCDSB recognizes that a whole-school approach is required, and that everyone — government, educators, school staff, parents, students and the wider community — has a role to play in creating a positive school climate and preventing inappropriate behaviour, such as bullying, sexual assault, gender-based violence and incidents based on homophobia, transphobia or biphobia;

WHEREAS the OCDSB acknowledges that there is a need for stronger action to create a safe and inclusive environment in all schools, and to support all students, including both students who are impacted by and students who have engaged in inappropriate behavior, to assist them in developing healthy relationships, making good choices, continuing their learning and achieving success.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT Staff bring forward Policy P.147.GOV Human Rights for review by the Ad Hoc Policy Committee and consideration of the following possible amendments:

To amend the section entitled "Participation and Inclusion" by adding a new clause that reads as follows:

"That the OCDSB shall support students and educators who want to establish and lead activities and organizations that promote a safe and inclusive learning environment, the acceptance of and respect for others and the creation of a positive school climate, including but not limited to,

- a. activities or organizations that promote gender equity;
- b. activities or organizations that promote anti-racism;
- c. activities or organizations that promote the awareness and understanding of, and respect for, people with disabilities; or
- d. activities or organizations that promote the awareness and understanding of, and respect for, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including organizations with the name gay-straight alliance or another name."

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

- Trustee Lyra Evans noted that she would contact staff to clarify her suggestions to include language of organizations that support pro-choice mandates;
- Staff noted that each Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) secondary school has some form of gay-straight alliance (GSA) inclusion club; however, these clubs may have different names at each school;
- Trustee Aziz noted that the proposed changes to the policy would help remove barriers and allow educators the ability to initiate a GSA club should there be a need and where students may not feel comfortable initiating one on their own; and
- Staff noted that they would review the definition of "anti-racism" in the policy to determine if this language addresses the intent to cover multiple forms of discrimination.

Moved by Trustee Aziz,

THAT Staff bring forward Policy P.147.GOV Human Rights for review by the Ad Hoc Policy Committee and consideration of the following possible amendments:

To amend the section entitled “Participation and Inclusion” by adding a new clause that reads as follows:

“That the OCDSB shall support students and educators who want to establish and lead activities and organizations that promote a safe and inclusive learning environment, the acceptance of and respect for others and the creation of a positive school climate, including but not limited to,

- a. activities or organizations that promote gender equity;**
- b. activities or organizations that promote anti-racism;**
- c. activities or organizations that promote the awareness and understanding of, and respect for, people with disabilities; or**
- d. activities or organizations that promote the awareness and understanding of, and respect for, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including organizations with the name gay-straight alliance or another name.”**

Carried

6. Matters for Discussion:

6.1 Report 24-010 Revisions to Policy P.038.SCO Graduation and Commencement Exercises and Awards (Reynolds)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-010, seeking input on the proposed revisions to Policy P.038 Secondary School Commencement Ceremonies.

In response to a query, staff noted that explicit ceremony details including the inclusion of Indigenous opening and closings as well as acknowledgment of the Algonquin nation is included within the draft procedure. Staff added that the procedure will be in effect following the approval of the policy.

In response to a query, staff noted that the wording “moving on from secondary school education” was intended to promote inclusive ceremonies to allow peers to celebrate together. Staff noted that the wording could be reviewed if this was not clear.

6.2 Report 23-017 Changes to the Student Transfer Appeal Process (Reynolds/Gerrior)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-017, seeking input on the proposed changes to the student transfer appeal process as prescribed by Policy P.077.PLG Designated Schools/Student Transfers and the rescission of Policy P.126.SCO Appeals Hearing Panel (Student Transfers).

In response to a concern that families may not be aware of what information is required in order for staff to make decisions on cross boundary transfer requests, staff noted that this could be made more clear in the associated procedure. Staff added that elementary and secondary school transfer parent guides are available and that staff will incorporate any necessary updates to the document.

It was noted that staff are motivated to ensure that student needs are met, including placement at a different school, if required.

6.3 Report 24-003 New Policy P.149.GOV Pregnancy and Parental Leave (Board Trustees)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-003, seeking input on the proposed draft of new Policy P.149.GOV Pregnancy and Parental Leave (Board Trustees).

In response to a query on whether other forms of leave for trustees, such as medical or mental health leave could be included, staff noted that the legislation only contemplates pregnancy/parental leaves.

Trustee Kaplan-Myrth expressed the view that a mechanism should be in place for trustees to apply for leave for personal reasons and that this be private and confidential in order to mitigate interpretation by the Board or other parties. In response, staff noted that there would be a public element to a trustee's leave as they are an elected official and that discretion would be exercised for any medical information involved. Staff added that it would need to be determined if a leave request for reasons other than pregnancy or parental leave would require Board authorization. As a comparison, it was noted that if a trustee resigns, a majority of Board members must consent and the resignation entered into the record of the meeting.

It was suggested that fostering as a leave request reason be considered within the policy.

7. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

Anthony Wong expressed concern regarding cyber security and artificial intelligence (AI) threats and suggested that the related OCDSB information technology policies be reviewed and updated.

Director Buffone noted that the Business and Learning Technologies (B<) team are reviewing internal securities and possible learning opportunities for staff. He added that more details on this will be shared with the Board as part of the technology plan. Director Buffone noted that he as well as other members of the senior team are scheduled to attend a conference on AI and will share any relevant learning with trustees and the Committee.

Staff noted that consultations on reviewed policies are now open to public input through Engage OCDSB on the District website. The platform encourages the

public to provide feedback on policy and program reviews, accommodation reviews, new schools and the budget process.

7.1 Memo 24-007 Minor Policy Revisions (Tier 1)

The minor policy revisions (tier 1) memo was provided for information.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Cathryne Milburn, Chair, Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee