



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 8:00 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees: Alysha Aziz (electronic communication), Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth (electronic communication), Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Lynn Scott, Emma Hong (Student Trustee), Malaika Kamanzi (Student Trustee, electronic communication))

Staff: 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), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Marva Major (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager of Communications & Information Services), Jacqueline Lawrence (Diversity and Equity Advisor), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Jacques Vezeau (Learning Technology Analyst, Business & Learning Technologies), Susan Baker (Board/Committee Coordinator)

Guests: Ryan Doucette (Chair, Advisory Committee on Equity)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 8:10 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Scott acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

4. Report from In Camera Session

Vice-Chair Milburn reported that the Board met in camera earlier this evening and reports and recommends as follows:

Moved by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT, as per Section 30(1) of Regulation 181, the Board accepts the recommendation of the Special Education Appeal Board held on 12 February 2024 and so indicates to each of the persons indicated in Regulation 181, Section 29 (1).

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Lynn Scott

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a legal matter.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT the tentative settlement between the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and Professional Student Services Personnel Unit, which will form a collective agreement dated 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2026 be ratified.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Justine Bell

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT the tentative settlement between the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and Professional Educators and Childcare Staff, which will form a collective agreement dated 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2026 be ratified.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT the tentative settlement between the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and Educational Support Professional which will form a collective agreement dated 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2026 be ratified.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

5. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Lee,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

6. Presentation

6.1 Advisory Committee on Equity

Superintendent Farrish introduced Ryan Doucette, Chair of the Advisory Committee of Equity (ACE), and Jacqueline Lawrence, Diversity and Equity Advisor, and acknowledged and honoured their leadership and efforts to put students at the centre of their work. She also thanked staff in

Board Services for their support, and recognized current and past members of ACE.

Mr. Doucette and Diversity and Equity Advisor Lawrence provided a presentation on the work of ACE over the past year.

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

- Marginalized students are often among groups of students with the highest rates of suspension. Some of these students do not have a sense of belonging in school and some do not graduate;
- ACE continues to achieve its objective to provide equitable and inclusive educational and working environments;
- ACE members create opportunities to identify barriers;
- The impact of COVID-19 and streaming had disproportionate impacts on marginalized students;
- Social media impacts school climate;
- ACE provided feedback on the OCDSB budget, mental health strategy, equitable hiring policy, and student achievement;
- ACE restructured its sub-committees into four working groups and used shared documents to enhance accessibility;
- Staff attending ACE meetings are prepared to think about equity;
- The ACE work plan includes revisions to the ACE policy, a membership campaign, working with community partners to share information, and activating the steering committees;
- ACE continues to make changes to ensure transparency of its meetings and creates a safe space for diverse voices;
- ACE members would appreciate more time to consult with their communities when asked to provide feedback on policies, etc.;
- The Committee appreciates receiving the Board work plan and long-range agenda as it helps them in planning their own meeting agendas; and
- ACE continues to consider how to bring the student voice to ACE meetings.

7. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

During the briefing from Chair Scott, the following information was provided:

- The Education Foundation of Ottawa (EFO) held its Toonie Tuesday fundraising event on 27 February 2024. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) schools were thanked for their support for the work of the EFO. Donations may be made at the EFO website; and
- Several OCDSB students and staff members were recognized at a gala event on 24 February 2024 in recognition of Black History Month.

In response to a query on food insecurity in the District, Chair Scott noted that the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) called upon the federal government to establish a national food program. The Education Foundation of Ottawa supports food security needs for students and families through social workers. Director Buffone added that the Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) provides a school breakfast program that serves over 8,500 students, and a number of schools have partnerships with local agencies and grocery stores that also provide food for students. Trustee Bell requested that this item be brought back to the Board for information and further discussion at a future meeting.

8. Briefing from the Director

During the briefing from Director Buffone, the following information was provided:

- A Black History Showcase: Honouring Black Excellence was held on 24 February 2024 at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School. The event was led by students and it included performances and a panel discussion;
- Engage OCDSB is a new online tool to provide feedback on policy and program reviews, accommodation reviews, new schools and capital projects, the budget process, and other initiatives;
- Pink Shirt Day takes place on 28 February 2024 to encourage others to combat cyberbullying by thinking twice before posting something negative, and instead using the internet to spread kindness;
- Preparations are underway for the 2024 Valuing Voices - Identity Matters Student Survey that will be launched in April 2024. The Survey collects demographic and school climate information to better design programs and supports to address issues including bullying, mental health and student achievement; and
- The next virtual speaker series event on 28 February 2024 will address human trafficking and how to identify warning and grooming signals.

9. Delegations

There were no delegations.

10. Confirmation of Board Minutes

10.1 30 January 2024

**Moved by Trustee Nash, seconded by Trustee Dickson,
THAT the Board Minutes, dated 30 January 2024, be confirmed.**

Carried

11. Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

12. Matters for Action

12.1 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Budget Report

12.1.a 30 January 2024

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Milburn,
THAT the Committee of the Whole Budget report, dated 30
January 2024, be confirmed.**

Carried

12.1.b 20 February 2024

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Milburn,
THAT the Committee of the Whole Budget report, dated 20
February 2024, be confirmed.**

Carried

12.2 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report

12.2.a 6 February 2024

**Moved by Trustee Milburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,
THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 6 February
2024, be received.**

Carried

12.2.a.a Approval of Facilities Renewal Program and School
Conditioning Improvement 2023-2024 Project Plan

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

**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 (Attached as Appendix A);

- 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.**

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

12.2.a.b Approval of School Year Calendar

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

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.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

12.3 8 February 2024, Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Moved by Trustee Milburn, seconded by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the Ad Hoc Policy Committee report, dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

12.3.a Approval of Tier 2 Revisions to Policy P.071.CUR Indigenous Voluntary Self-Identification

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

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 B).

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

12.3.b Approval of Revisions to Policy P.017.GOV Student Trustees and P.113.GOV Student Senate

Moved by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

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 C and D).

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

12.4 13 February 2024, Advocacy Strategy Committee

Moved by Trustee Aziz, seconded by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the Advocacy Strategy Committee report, dated 13 February 2024, be received.

Carried

12.4.a Approval of Advocacy Briefs

This was a non-consent item and was dealt with later in the meeting.

12.5 Non-Consent Items

Moved by Trustee Aziz, seconded by Trustee Dickson,

Trustee Bell noted that the advocacy briefs are intended for presentation to the Ministry and other counterparts, to advocate for adequate funding to meet the needs of students. She urged trustees to tell the stories of children who are negatively affected due to the lack of adequate resources.

Moved by Justine Bell

Seconded by Alysha Aziz

THAT the advocacy briefs for Mental Health and Well-Being, Special Education, Transportation, Replacement Worker Costs, Capital Funding, and Protecting Schools from Cyberthreats be approved, as amended.

For (11): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (11 to 0)

13. Matters for Discussion

13.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

Chair Scott advised that the OPSBA has called upon school boards to submit their policy resolutions for consideration at the OPSBA Annual General Meeting in early July 2024. The proposed policy resolutions must reflect the Board's corporate vision and will be discussed at the 26 March 2024 Board meeting. The deadline for submissions is 10 April 2024.

14. Board Work Plan

The Board Work Plan was provided for information.

15. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

In response to her query on the status of her notice of motion regarding a legislative ban on advertisements for gambling in Canada in all media, Trustee

Scott advised that it would be presented to the 5 March 2024 meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board