



SPECIAL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, April 2, 2024
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, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Emma Hong (Student Trustee, electronic communication), Malaika Kamanzi (Student Trustee, electronic communication)

Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Stacey Kay (General Manager of Learning Support Services), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager of Communications & Information Services), Jacqueline Lawrence (Diversity and Equity Advisor), Juliet Robinson (System Principal, Equity and Inclusive Initiatives), Courtney O'Halloran (Principal), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Kathy Mak (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Acknowledgment 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. Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,
THAT the agenda be approved.**

Carried

5. Matter for Action

5.1 Proposed OPSBA Policy Resolution re, LGBTQ+ Caucus

Trustee Lyra Evans proposed the Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) Policy Resolution regarding the need for an LGBTQ+ caucus.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Aziz,

Whereas 2SLGBTQIA+ communities have faced historical and ongoing challenges unique to the community;

Whereas 2SLGBTQIA+ students perform disproportionately poorly in many, if not all Ontario School districts, due to the aforementioned challenges;

Whereas 2SLGBTQIA+ lived experience provides the ability to give meaningful recommendations to address these challenges;

Whereas Canada and Ontario face a rise in explicitly anti-trans rhetoric, further compounding the aforementioned challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the Ontario Public School Boards' Association establish a 2SLGBTQIA+ Trustees' Caucus to provide community-specific feedback and recommendations to OPSBA.

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

- Some trustees expressed concern regarding the cost requirements in creating a new caucus as a portion of the cost will need to be covered by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB);
- It was suggested that the 2SLGBTQIA+ caucus will aid in decreasing bullying and discrimination within schools while creating connections between the caucus and leadership groups. 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals will be able to have their perspectives heard and brought to the student leadership enabling additional discussions;

- It was noted that the creation of this caucus would not require hiring additional staff as it would be composed of existing trustees who are already elected by their respective school boards.

Trustee Milburn assumed the chair.

- Trustee Scott noted that the policy development group, educational work group and the four coterminous board of directors currently reflect a wide diversity of identities who address a number of issues; and

Trustee Scott resumed the chair.

In summary, Trustee Lyra Evans noted the importance of providing additional support to 2SLGBTQIA+ students through the caucus as there is an increased number of students unable to graduate from marginalized communities. She added that the 2SLGBTQIA+ caucus would guarantee that the community has representation in the future so that their voices and perspectives are heard.

Moved by Lynn Scott

Seconded by Alysha Aziz

THAT the Ontario Public School Boards' Association establish a 2SLGBTQIA+ Trustees' Caucus to provide community-specific feedback and recommendations to OPSBA.

For (9): Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Against (2): Donna Blackburn, and Suzanne Nash

Abstain (1): Donna Dickson

Carried (9 to 2)

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board