



## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (PUBLIC)

Wednesday, May 15, 2024  
7:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting

Members: Donna Blackburn (Trustee), Lyra Evans (Trustee), Matthew Lee (Trustee), Lynn Scott (Trustee), Brian Burns (External Member)

Staff and Guests Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Sandy Owens (General Manager of Business & Learning Technologies), Genevieve Segu (Regional Internal Audit Team Manager), Gordon Champagne (Senior Regional Internal Auditor), Kathy Mak (Board Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Lyra Evans called the public session to order 7:02 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Lyra Evans acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for their stewardship of the land since time immemorial.

3. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Brian Burns,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Associate Director's Report

Associate Director Gerrior expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of Shannon Hoeft, a member of the Audit Committee for the past few years, whose term has expired.

7. Matters for Action

7.1 Review of Audit Committee Report

a. 21 February 2024

**Moved by Brian Burns,**

**THAT the Audit Committee report, dated 15 May 2024, be received.**

**Carried**

b. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

8. Matters for Discussion

8.1 Elementary Program Review (P. Buffone)

Director Buffone provided an overview of the Elementary Program Review that was approved at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on 2 April 2024.

8.2 2023-2024 Updated Financial Forecast, Oral Update (R. Gerrior)

Associate Director Gerrior provided an oral update on the 2023-2024 Updated Financial Forecast. The following points were noted:

- The warmer weather has had a positive impact on the District's utility bills;
- The staffing budget was impacted by the repeal of Bill 124. Ministry funding will cover the majority of payments to staff; and
- One-time funding was provided for the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) as well as funding for small vehicle transportation. The unfortunate significant delay in providing transportation services at the beginning of the year and inability to implement initiatives have saved the District some financial liability.

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

- The OCDSB does not prepare and distribute monthly financial statements; however, it does submit a monthly financial reconciliation

to the Ministry and it works routinely with various budget holders on financial oversight;

- The OCDSB does monthly trend analysis on various expenses within the District;
- The Ministry is satisfied with the OCDSB reports and has advised that a monthly report is not mandatory on multiple occasions. The Ministry continues to work closely with the Finance team and is satisfied that the District has made progress in improving its financial health but there is still further work to be done; and
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that three companies were on the provincial tender for school board Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. The OCDSB is exploring the implementation of Unit 4 ERP system which has also been implemented in at least two other school boards.

### 8.3 2024-2025 Budget, Oral Update (R. Gerrior)

Associate Director Gerrior provided an oral update on the development of the 2024-2025 Budget and noted the following:

- The Ministry had made significant changes to the funding formula and terminology used for the 2024-2025 budget to bring additional transparency and accountability and to make it easier for the public to understand;
- The new model provides permanent funding, renamed as Core Education (Core Ed) funding, that was previously identified as Grants for Student Needs (GSNs). The capital funding has now been renamed to Building, Expanding and Renewing Schools (BERS);
- The Partnership and Priorities Funding is intended to be temporary funding and is now referred to as Responsive Education Programs (REP);
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that there is funding for external partners as well;
- The OCDSB has seen no reduction in funding to the District through this new funding formula;

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

- There is no reduction in funding for the current year, however, there is an estimated 2.5% inflationary component in some non-salary items;

- Some school boards have expressed concern regarding the 5% restriction between transportation and special education, however, no issues have arisen at the OCDSB that warrant such concern; and
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that staff would consider presenting financial statements at future Audit Committee meetings. Based on current trends, the 2023-2024 budget may generate a small surplus; however a conservative approach is still required as currently there is a reserve to allow flexibility.

8.4 2023-2024 Regional Internal Audit Update (G. Segu)

Ms. Segu provided an update on the 2023-2024 Regional Internal Audit Team (RIAT) Plan and outlined the progress of ongoing projects.

In response to a query regarding the timeline in which the reports can be provided, Ms. Segu noted that currently there is no estimate for when the special education benchmarking survey will be completed.

9. Information Items

9.1 Long Range Agenda

The long range agenda was provided for information.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

12. Adjournment

The public meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

---

Lyra Evans, Chair, Audit Committee