



## AD HOC POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

June 6, 2024, 5:30 pm  
Zoom Meeting

- Members: Donna Blackburn, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Cathryne Milburn, Lynn Scott
- Non Voting Members: Deepika Grover (Advisory Committee on Equity), Calla Barnett (Parent Involvement Committee), Anthony Wong (OCASC)
- Staff and Guests Jennifer Jennekens, Amanda Presley, Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Michèle Giroux (Executive Officer of Corporate Services), Reg Lavergne (Superintendent of Instruction), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Engy Abdel Masieh (Policy Analyst), Desirrea Meney (Policy Analyst), Susan Baker (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Milburn called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 24-083 Approval of Revisions to Policy P.112.CUR, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students

Your Committee had before it Report 24-083 seeking approval of proposed revisions to Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students.

Superintendent Lavergne advised that the proposed revisions align with the recent requirements of the Ministry of Education and reflect the current practices of the District.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the revisions to Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-083, be approved.

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

- The Ministry's Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) requires that four (4) credits be earned from a course;
- Trustee Lyra Evans submitted that a reference be included in the policy that the student may appeal to the superintendent if they disagree with the decision of the principal;
- Trustee Lyra Evans suggested that a definition of "pathway goal" be added;
- The definition of "mature student" aligns with the Ministry's definition;
- Anthony Wong suggested that "diverse" replace "cultural" in Section 3.1;
- Anthony Wong suggested that Section 4.1 be revised to include "mature students from diverse backgrounds"; and
- Anthony Wong suggested additional wording in section 4.1 be added to clarify flexibility and assessment methods to accommodate various forms of learning.

*An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,*

*THAT the word "however" be removed from Section 4.6.*

*Carried, friendly*

*Moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT "The Board values formal learning experiences and informal lived and cultural learning experiences" replace "The Board values formal learning experiences and informal cultural experiences" in Section 3.1.*

*Carried, friendly*

*THAT "subject to additional revisions" be added to the recommendation.*

*Carried, friendly*

Executive Officer Giroux advised that staff would analyze the feedback and if the policy requires further discussion it would be presented at the next Ad Hoc Policy Review meeting on 20 June 2024.

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,**

**THAT the revisions to Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-083, be approved, subject to additional revisions.**

**Carried**

5.2 Report 24-084 Approval of Revisions to Policy P.102.CUR, Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning (R. Lavergne)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-084 seeking approval for proposed revisions to Policy P.102.CUR Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning

Superintendent Lavergne advised that this policy has not been revised since 2002. The new Cooperative Education Ontario Curriculum document in 2018 necessitated a number of revisions to align with recent requirements of the Ministry.

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

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P.102.CUR Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-084, be approved.

*An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans;*

*THAT "expectations for attendance" replace "attendance policy", and that "reflective of students' learning needs" replace "reflective of the student learning needs" in Section 4.13.*

*Carried, Friendly*

*An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans;*

*THAT Section 4.8 be reviewed to replace any missing capital letters".*

*Carried, friendly*

Anthony Wong proposed that Section 3.2 be revised to include "historically underserved and marginalized students", and that Section 3.5 be revised to add "entrepreneurship" to the list of pathways. He also suggested the the preamble in Section 3.5 be revised to read, "by helping students to achieve the following objectives".

*An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,*

*THAT the words "To this end" be struck from the beginning of Section 3.3.*

*Carried, friendly*

*An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT "apprenticeship, and entrepreneurship" replace "and apprenticeship" in section 3.3;*

*Carried, friendly*

Trustee Lyra Evans noted that the amendments reflect the spirit and values of the District.

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,**

**THAT the proposed revisions to Policy P.102.CUR Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-084, be approved, as amended.**

**Carried**

5.3 Report 24-069 Approval of Revisions to Policy P.038.SCO, Secondary School Commencement Ceremonies (B. Reynolds)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-069 seeking approval for the proposed revisions to Policy P.038.SCO Secondary School Commencement Ceremonies.

Associate Director Reynolds advised that the policy has not been reviewed since 1998. The proposed revisions include the Board's commitments to inclusivity and the importance of celebrate the achievements of grade 12 students. The migration from "graduation" to commencement" was proposed to include students with different educational journeys.

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

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the revisions to Policy P.038.SCO Secondary School Commencement Ceremonies, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-069, be approved.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT Section 4.8 be struck.

- Trustee Lyra Evans submitted that this policy only applies to secondary schools and it should not include a list of items that apply to elementary schools;

- Trustee Scott suggested that, rather than striking Section 4.8, it be revised to make it clear that elementary schools are not expected to have graduation ceremonies but may organize age-appropriate leaving ceremonies;
- Creating a separate policy for elementary school leaving ceremonies would be complicated by the myriad of practices across the District; and
- In response to a query with respect to removing the word "secondary" from the title of the policy to make it applicable to all schools, Associate Director Reynolds noted that the policy directs secondary schools to hold commencement ceremonies, but elementary schools are not required to hold school leaving ceremonies.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT Section 4.8 be struck.

Defeated

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT a new Section 4.10 be added "If the student does not agree with the decision of the principal to not be included in a commencement ceremony, they may appeal the decision to the superintendent."

- Associate Director Reynolds noted that the only reason to exclude a student would be for safety reasons, for example, if the student were under a significant investigation. This exclusion would require the permission of the superintendent, and this requirement will be included in the associated procedure that is currently under development;

*A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT "If a student disagrees with the principal's decision to exclude them from a commencement ceremony" replace "If the student does not agree with the decision of the principal to not be included in a commencement ceremony".*

*Carried, friendly*

Trustee Presley assumed the Chair.

- Trustee Milburn expressed support for the amendment and sub-amendment as it makes it clear to students and parents that the principal's decision may be appealed;

Trustee Milburn resumed the Chair.

*An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,*

*THAT a new Section 4.10 be added "If a student disagrees with the principal's decision to exclude them from a commencement ceremony, they may appeal the decision to the superintendent."*

*Carried*

- Trustee Scott noted that, while the vast majority of students eligible to be recognized at a commencement ceremony are in grade 12, there may be students who are fast tracking in Grade 11 or have left school during the school year and have met the requirements to graduate. This possibility will be included in the associated procedure;

*An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT "in a grade 12 class" be deleted from Section 4.2.*

*Carried*

*An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT Section 4.8 be amended to read, "Elementary schools do not hold commencement or graduation ceremonies, but may organize age-appropriate school-leaving ceremonies."*

- Trustee Lyra Evans expressed her concern that some community members may object to no longer being able to call their ceremony a graduation ceremony; and

*A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Blackburn,*

*THAT "or transition ceremony" follow "school-leaving ceremonies".*

*Carried, friendly*

*An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT Section 4.8 be amended to read, "Elementary schools do not hold commencement or graduation ceremonies, but may organize age-appropriate school-leaving ceremonies or transition ceremonies", as amended.*

*Carried*

- Anthony Wong suggested that a statement be included to direct commencement or school-leaving organizing committees to include a diverse representation of their school community, and to ensure that people with physical disabilities can access to the ceremony. Associate Director Reynolds advised that these considerations are appropriate for inclusion in the associated procedure.

**Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,**

**THAT the revisions to Policy P.038.SCO Secondary School Commencement Ceremonies, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-069, be approved, as amended.**

**Carried**

- 5.4 Report 24-082 Approval of Revisions to Policy P.005.GOV Board Member and Student Trustee Expenses and Support Services (R. Gerrior)

**Moved by Trustee Blackburn,**

**THAT Item 5.4 be deferred to the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee on 20 June 2024.**

**Carried.**

6. Matters for Discussion:

- 6.1 Report 24-072 Update on the Advisory Committee on Equity Policy Review

**Moved by Trustee Blackburn,**

**THAT Item 6.1 be deferred to the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee on 20 June 2024.**

**Carried.**

7. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

Trustee Blackburn expressed the view that the Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee be held in person and those who cannot attend in person may attend virtually.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- Trustees Lyra Evans and Kaplan-Myrth requested that this committee continue to meet virtually;
- Trustee Scott submitted that as many meetings as possible should be in person;
- Trustee Blackburn noted that the Special Education Advisory Committee holds in person meetings with an option to attend virtually; and
- Executive Officer Giroux recommended that the committee continue to meet virtually at its meeting of 20 June 2024 and that the time be extended to accommodate the items that were deferred. She noted that staff will check the legal requirements for in person and virtual meetings, and that the members be polled for their preference starting in September 2024.

- 7.1 Memo 24-028 to Trustees: Minor Policy Revisions (Tier 1)

Provided for information.

7.2 List of Policies for Review 2024-2025

Provided for information

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Cathryne Milburn, Chair, Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee