



SPECIAL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Monday, August 19, 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, Jeffrey Zhang (Student Trustee), Sharanya Sivasathiyathan (Student Trustee), Ezio De Stefano (Student Trustee)

Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager of Communications & Information Services), Janice McCoy (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Kathy Mak (Board/Committee Coordinator), Tamara Persaud (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:32 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. Matters for Action

5.1 Report 24-097, Trustee Resignation and Appointment Process (J. McCoy)

Report 24-097, Trustee Resignation and Appointment Process (J. McCoy)

The Board had before it Report 24-097 seeking to accept the resignation of Trustee Alysha Aziz, effective 19 August 2024, and to seek approval for the candidate selection process to fill the vacancy of Trustee Zone 2.

Executive Officer McCoy noted that a new trustee must be appointed prior to 17 November 2024 as policy requires the vacancy be filled within 90 days.

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Blackburn,

1. THAT the Board accept, with regret and appreciation for her years of dedicated service, the resignation of Alysha Aziz, Trustee Zone 2, Kanata North/Kanata South, effective 19 August 2024; and
2. THAT the Board proceed with the appointment process to fill the vacancy for the position of Trustee, Zone 2 as outlined in Report 24-097, Trustee Resignation and Appointment Process, Zone 2, as amended.

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

- Interested applicants will have a deadline of 20 September 2024 at 12:00 p.m. to submit all required documents;
- Qualified individuals will be invited to attend a public meeting and provide a short presentation regarding their candidacy and suitability for the position of trustee;
- The OCDSB aims have the successful candidate sworn in at the beginning of the Board meeting on 29 October 2024;
- Executive Officer McCoy noted that staff will confirm the submission of an expense and donation report to the City of Ottawa from 2022 municipal election candidates as an requirement for eligibility, at a future date;

An amendment moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Milburn,

THAT Appendix C of Report 24-097, Guidelines for the Meeting, be amended by striking lines 3 and 4, and inserting the following:

3. Once all of the candidates have made their presentations, the Board will take a preliminary ballot, during which each trustee may

select up to three candidates to proceed to the next interview stage.

Any individual who receives at least two trustees' votes shall proceed to the next round. Any candidate who does not receive the requisite number of votes shall be invited to observe the rest of the meeting. All remaining candidates will be moved back to the trustee waiting area, and brought back, in the same prior order, and asked, by the Chair, the same three questions, as predetermined by the Board.

4. Following this the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board will appoint two election assistants to distribute ballots.

Trustees will then vote by secret ballot (candidates' names will be last name, first name and in alphabetical order). The election assistants will tally the results and report the name of the successful candidate to the Director of Education who shall advise the Chair."

- It was suggested a predetermined list of questions could be used when questioning candidates to ensure that comparable data is being obtained for each individual, while also assessing their ability to answer unexpected questions;

Trustee Milburn assumes the Chair.

- Chair Scott noted that the method of questioning would be dependent on the number of candidates and information regarding the process would be provided to the candidates to ensure transparency; and

Trustee Scott resumes the Chair.

- Director Buffone echoed the importance of providing consistent questions to candidates to ensure each individual has the opportunity to respond to the same questions.

An amendment moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Milburn,

THAT Appendix C of Report 24-097, Guidelines for the Meeting, be amended by striking lines 3 and 4, and inserting the following:

- 3. Once all of the candidates have made their presentations, the Board will take a preliminary ballot, where each trustee may select up to three candidates to proceed to the next interview stage.**

Any individual who receives at least two trustees' votes shall proceed to the next round. Any candidate who does not receive the requisite number of votes shall be invited to watch the rest of the

meeting. All remaining candidates will be moved back to the trustee waiting area, and brought back, in the same order as before, and asked, by the chair, the same three questions, as predetermined by the board.

4. **Following this the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board will appoint two election assistants to distribute ballots.**

Trustees will then vote by secret ballot (candidate's names will be last name, first name and in alphabetical order). The election assistants will tally the results and report the name of the successful candidate to the Director of Education who shall advise the Chair.

Carried.

Moved by Jennifer Jennekens

Seconded by Donna Blackburn

- A. **THAT the Board accept, with regret and appreciation for her years of dedicated service, the resignation of Alysha Aziz, Trustee Zone 2, Kanata North/Kanata South, effective 19 August 2024; and**
- B. **THAT the Board proceed with the appointment process to fill the vacancy for the position of Trustee, Zone 2 as outlined in Report 24-097, Trustee Resignation and Appointment Process, Zone 2, as amended.**

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

Conflict (1): Alysha Aziz

Carried (11 to 0)

5.2 Report 24-098, Revisions to P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct (J. McCoy)

The Board had before it Report 24-098 seeking approval for the proposed revisions to Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct.

Executive Officer McCoy noted the new regulations that set out mandatory provisions and prohibitions for the Board Member Codes of Conduct and indicated that these must be in place by the end of August 2024.

It was noted that not all changes outlined in the regulation require implementation immediately and the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) will provide additional information required to

address the enforcement provisions in Fall 2024. It is anticipated that further revisions will be required in early 2025.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens

THAT Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix B to Report 24-098, be approved as amended.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT section 3.6 of Integrity and Dignity of Office in Appendix B to Report 24-098 Revisions to P.073.GOV Board Code of Conduct be revised to read as follows“ Trustees shall conduct themselves in a manner that would not discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board”

Defeated

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT section 3.7 of Integrity and Dignity of Office in Appendix B to Report 24-098 Revisions to P.073.GOV Board Code of Conduct be revised to read as follows “Trustees shall treat persons equally without discrimination based on a person’s race, ancestry, place or origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, disability and/or socioeconomic disadvantage.”

Carried

Trustees noted the lack of clarity regarding the interpretation of section 3.33 of the policy regarding trustees’ ability to speak to the media.

Chair Scott shared that the new language from the regulation may provide additional clarity to the interpretation; however legal opinion and code of conduct actions must also be considered.

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Jennifer Jennekens

THAT Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct, attached as Appendix B to Report 24-098, be approved as amended as amended.

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

Conflict (1): Alysha Aziz

Carried (11 to 0)

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board