



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

Board Room

Administration Building

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash (electronic communication), Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Jeffrey Zhang (Student Trustee), Sharanya Sivasathiyathan (Student Trustee), Ezio De Stefano (Student Trustee)

Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Randy Gerior (Associate Director, Business Operations), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Technological Support Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), A.J Keene (Superintendent of Education), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Nadia Towajj (Superintendent, Special Assignment), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Kate Stoudt (Principal, Learning Support Services), Sandra Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications & Information Services), Andrea Rahim (General Manager, Research Evaluation & Analytics Division), Kenan Omercajic (Strategic Business Analysis), Emily Balla (Program Manager, Mental Health Services), Justin Shulman (Principal), Kristen Grant (Vice-Principal), Janice McCoy (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Jesse Mark (Legal Counsel), Barry Scott (Team Manager, Labour Relations), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Kathy Mak (Board/Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Lili Miller (IEC), Jamieson Dyer (OCEOTA), Seema Lamba (ACE), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF - District 25), Jean Fulton-Hale (OCSSAN), Stephen Skoutajan (OCEFTO)

1. Call to Order - Vice-Chair of the Board

Vice-Chair Milburn called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

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

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Dickson,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

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

- All important dates for the 2024-2025 school year can be found on the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Elementary and Secondary calendars available on our website. Information about student transportation, cancellations and delays can be found on the Ottawa Student Transportation Association (OSTA) Parent Portal at ottawaschoolbus.ca;
- The OCDSB will be hosting a virtual Speaker Series event for parents and caregivers on 12 September 2024. Speaker Hannah Beach will explore the vital role of play in emotional health and learning; and
- The OCDSB's MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre is having its annual Open Trails Day on 21 September 2024. This is the only day of the year when this 425-acre classroom is open to the public for everyone to explore. Additional details are available on the OCDSB website.

6. Briefing from the Director

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

- The second edition release of 'Thought Leadership Series' focuses on the importance of equity as a driver of decision-making in public education, and shares a few related ideas for consideration, especially in the context of the work ahead as part of OCDSB's multi-year 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The series is available on the OCDSB website;
- The OCDSB has opened two new schools this year, Mino Mikan Elementary School with 460 students from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 6 and Maplewood Secondary School, which we anticipate will open next week, welcoming approximately 807 students in Grades 7-9;

- The registration for OCDSB's Night School programs is open till 16 September 2024. These programs provide an opportunity for secondary students to upgrade a course or take one that is not available at their school. Adult learners will have the opportunity to upgrade courses, work towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and learn English as a Second Language. More details are available on the OCDSB website; and
- The OCDSB has had a smooth implementation of cell phone restrictions for students. There are few exceptions for the utilization of cell phones including medical needs and the use of applications that are beneficial for our students. and staff differentiate those learners to ensure students can have support when needed.

7. Delegations

7.1 Oral

a. Jenny Guth, re Maplewood Secondary School

Jenny Guth expressed concern regarding the delayed opening of Maplewood Secondary School. She further inquired about the party that will be held responsible for the delayed school opening, the strategy in place if additional delays occur and when the school can be expected to be completed.

Associate Director Gerrior noted that it is difficult to predict the completion of the construction as the District collaborates with contractors and a number of inspections that are beyond the OCDSB or vendor's control must be passed. The OCDSB will make an educated guess on the remaining work on 11 September 2024, however; due to the complex nature of the building and the collaboration of numerous parties, there are a number of factors that impact the completion time.

The OCDSB will collaborate with principals and superintendents to determine if the completed space is a healthy learning environment that will be available to students upon opening. Not all facilities will be accessible to students upon opening days and the OCDSB continues to collaborate with vendors over the upcoming months to ensure it is completed.

7.2 Written

a. Nichole Nancekivell, re Maplewood Secondary School

Nicole Nancekivell provided a written delegation expressing concern regarding the delayed opening of Maplewood Secondary School, the impacts it has on the community and that the parties responsible for the delayed opening need to be identified and held accountable. She further noted the lack of communication and

transparency regarding the progress and completion time of the school.

8. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

8.1 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 13 June 2024

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), dated 13 June 2024, be received.

Carried

9. Matters for Discussion:

9.1 Report 24-101 Consultation Report - Elementary Program Review (P. Buffone)

Your Committee had before it for discussion Report 24-101, Consultation Report - Elementary Program Review which provided a summary of the input received through the spring consultation related to the Elementary Program Review.

Director Buffone provided an overview of the consultation report and noted that this is the first of two reports and consists of the feedback collected from the spring consultation through community engagement campaigns between April 2024 and June 2024.

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

- The Elementary Program Review will be informed by 3 key pieces: the consultation component; the review of OCDSB internal data; and relevant external research;
- The OCDSB has been very receptive to public suggestions with regard to the consultation process with the addition of virtual consultation to improve accessibility and a wider community outreach;
- Strategic Business Analyst Omercajic noted the over saturation by certain demographic groups in the report and the lack of student voices. The District aims to focus on this in the next stage of consultation;
- The 6 steps of thematic analysis were applied to the data gathered to ensure the views are represented in each specific pathway and a grounded theory can be derived from this. This is done to ensure that the voices heard can be represented accurately, without shifting or crafting the narrative;

- Following the analysis of 292 themes across all consultation pathways, 7 major overarching themes were identified;
- Director Buffone noted that the second report will provide relevant research and external data that will provide trends within the education sector. He further added that the first report's primary purpose is to reflect the wide variety of input gathered during the consultation, it has been analyzed thematically not quantitatively;
- Trustees expressed concern as demographic data should be considered and included within the report and \Strategic Business Analyst Omercajic noted that the District will aim to build more on the demographic data in the next consultation stage. Chair Scott added that in this report, the District had not requested participants to identify themselves by their demographics;
- Superintendent Towaij noted that the OCDSB aims to collaborate with all of the communities through partnering with the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) and the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) to gather voices from underserved communities;
- The balanced school day will not be a focus within the elementary program review;
- The research and data used to form models will be presented to the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on 8 October 2024. The information will be shared publicly and to the Board of Trustees on 27 September 2024;

Trustee Lee assumed the Chair.

- Vice Chair Milburn stressed the importance of addressing feedback that was received to support the models that will be proposed and clearly defining the method in which the decision was made to ensure transparency;

Trustee Milburn resumes the Chair.

- Staff is currently developing the consultation plan for October and the OCDSB continues to search for opportunities to engage with students through various avenues and events; and
- Director Buffone noted that there will be a comprehensive piece on resource allocation and management change in future reports.

9.2 Report 24-102 Strategic Plan (2023-2024) Annual Update (K. Omercajic)

Your Committee had before it for discussion Report 24-102, Strategic Plan (2023-2024) Annual Update presenting the first update on the status of the goals and objectives of the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

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

- This report represents the first of the four years of the Board's strategic plan and will set up initiatives for success for the upcoming years;
- Strategic Business Analyst Omercajic noted that the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) test has changed in terms of the way it is monitored and will be difficult to track changes;
- It was noted that the staff can expect to receive the initial reporting on the EQAO results from Spring 2024 at the end of September 2024. A memorandum will be provided in the upcoming days providing the results of the test and a report regarding the OCDSB data can be expected in January 2024;
- Trustees expressed concern as underserved students have disproportionately low achievement as their needs are not met;
- Director Buffone stressed the need to focus on the strategic plan and better allocate resources to address the needs of students and structural barriers;
- General Manager Rahim noted that staff is currently processing the Valuing Voice survey data and will be separated into two sets, identity based data and school climate data. Staff aims to prioritize the school climate data to ensure principals will receive this at the beginning of the school year and the identity based data will be brought to the Board at the end of 2024;
- Director Buffone noted that a report will be brought forward in Fall 2024 in regards to structural changes to further support student success. The approach to teaching and learning will need to be reconsidered to prioritize learning, well being and social responsibility, from the Multi Year Strategic Plan. He further reminded trustees that difficult decisions may need to be made to improve student learning;
- Strategic Business Analyst Omercajic clarified that the second report will contain work for the Indigenous community, the Director's work plan regarding environmental education and Indigenous education;
- Trustees expressed concern as student achievement gap data is worsening throughout the years and they urged additional support, resources and advocacy to be provided to students to address the gap;

- The second learning report from Spring 2024 indicates that there was an increase in the number of students earning credits that serves to keep the academic pathways open. It was noted that a copy of the report can be provided during the upcoming professional development session;

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

That Item 9.3, Report 24-105 Equity of Access, be deferred to the Special Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting, 24 September 2024.

Carried

- Trustee Blackburn stressed the importance of considering the recommendations that will be brought forward despite the cost and resources required to create a better environment and future for students; and
- Chair Scott noted that having a simpler program structure within the District will allow resources to be better allocated.

9.3 Report 24-105 Equity of Access - Technology (J. Proulx)

This item has been deferred to a future meeting.

10. Information Items:

10.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

Chair Scott noted that the Education Program Work Group will meet on 13 September 2024, additional information will be provided following the meeting.

10.2 OSTA Update

Trustee Lee provided an update for OSTA and noted there is currently a deficit of 20 school bus drivers with 14 in training and a small number of routes will not be serviced.

OSTA instituted the School Bus Rider Usage policy in the Summer 2024. Families who do not use the assigned transportation for more than 20 consecutive days will be contacted by the school and OSTA will temporarily remove them, as a means to address the issue of empty seats on buses. The seat will be relinquished if the students are not using them on a consistent basis and OSTA is unable to contact the family.

The 10:30 vote did not obtain unanimous consent to continue the meeting

At the time of adjournment, items 10.2a Ontario Student Transportation Authority (OPSBA), 27 May 2024, 10.2b Ontario Student Transportation Authority (OPSBA), 26 June 2024, 11 New Business were not dealt with.

Cathryne Milburn, Chair