



## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**Board Room**

**Administration Building**

**133 Greenbank Road**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trustees Present: Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Julia Fortey, Jeffrey Zhang (Student Trustee, electronic communication), Ezio De Stefano (Student Trustee, electronic communication)
- Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director - Academic), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), James Proulx (Executive Officer of Technological Support Services), Jesse Mark (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Employee Services), Marva Major (Superintendent of Numeracy), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Sandra Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications & Public Relations), Steven Massey (System Principal, Program Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Susan Baker (General Manager, Board Service), Kathy Mak (Board/Committee Coordinator)
- Non-Voting Representatives Present: Jean Fulton-Hale (OCSSAN), Stephen Skoutajan (OCEFTO), Chris Walsh (OSSTF Education Worker), Justin Shulman (OCEOC), Jamieson Dyer (OCEOTA), Deepika Groover (ACE), Lili Miller (IEC), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF - District 25)

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

Vice-Chair Milburn called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

4. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Scott,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

5. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

During the briefing from Trustee Scott the following information was provided:

- The week of 4 November 2024 is Treaties Recognition Week and there will be opportunities for students to learn and recognize the importance of treaty rights and relationships;
- The annual Board Organizational meeting will be held on 12 November 2024 where the Board will elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Budget Committee for 2024-2025, and also appoint trustees to its statutory, ad hoc and advisory committees;
- It was noted that 6 November 2024 is Post-Secondary Pathways and Career Exploration Day. Grade 9 students will participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day while grades 10-12 students will be participating in Launch 2024, a one-day virtual pathways and career exploration conference; and
- A Professional Activities (PA) Day will be held on 8 November 2024 for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) elementary schools. Classes for elementary students and EarlyOn Centres will be closed.

6. Briefing from the Director

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

- This year, the OCDSB will be expanding a School Within A University learning opportunity by partnering with Saint Paul University. A virtual information session will be held for families on 18 November 2024 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
- The next OCDSB Speaker Series will be a virtual session on 19 November 2024 with a focus on Bullying—A New Approach to an Enduring Problem;
- Indigenous Veterans' Day is on 8 November 2024 and Remembrance Day is on 11 November 2024. Schools will provide learning activities, guest speakers and conduct in- person ceremonies to observe Remembrance Day; and
- An in-person ceremony will be held on 11 November 2024 at the Board office at 10:25 a.m., community members are invited to attend.

7. Delegations

There were no delegations.

8. Matters for Discussion:

8.1 Report 24-114, Math Achievement Action Plan (M. Major)

Your Committee had before it for discussion, Report 24-114, Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP), seeking to provide the latest information on the implementation and progress of the MAAP.

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

- The OCDSB provided training and leadership support to Math Department Heads in secondary schools in September 2024. The next session for this will be in Spring 2025;
- The District anticipates the grade 10, 11 and 12 Math curriculum to be updated at a future date;
- The OCDSB has allocated resources to support the implementation of destreaming in grade 10 across the compulsory courses;
- The District has allocated staffing resources in the 2023-2024 school year to have a grade 10 demonstration classroom where an educator works with other grade 10 educators across OCDSB secondary schools in the morning to try new high impact instructional practices and conduct a grade 10 class in the afternoon;
- System Principal Massey noted that there was an increase in the number of students receiving grade 11 university preparation courses in the 2023-2024 school year;
- System Principal Massey noted that Ontario has a strong curriculum recognized for its cohesion and the OCDSB aims to implement the continuum of a curriculum where concepts taught in previous grades are the foundations for concepts in later ones;
- The District recognizes that direct in-person conversation amongst educators to have math conversations is a high yield impact strategy and promotes critical learning for students;
- A math network learning hub will be launched in November 2024 targeted for specific grade levels. The aim is to create conditions where educators can collaborate and discuss schema and strategies that have an impact on students;
- Superintendent Major noted that acronyms in Report 24-114 include “BOY” beginning of year, “MOY” middle of year and “EOY” end of year;

- Educators are encouraged to implement math within other curriculum area and classes to provide opportunities to create real life math experiences for students;
- The OCDSB uses a numeracy assessment tool to collect data three times throughout the year so educators can have an understanding of the student's development of skills. This also allows educators to identify gaps in student learning and implement support;
- A number of interventions that can be implemented once the gaps are identified to target specific skills through one-to-one or a small group engagement sessions;
- A student achievement and learning report that contains demographic, qualitative and quantitative data will be presented to trustees in February 2025;
- The OCDSB works closely with the Student Achievement Through Equity (SATE) team to engage in collaborative training opportunities. A consultant was hired to provide support with training in relation to learning progressions and building math content knowledge;
- Director Buffone noted that the numeracy team is developing high impact instructional practices across the subject area by superintendencies;

Trustee Presley assumed the Chair.

- A number of factors needs to be considered when comparing academic results to other school boards such as English as Second Language (ESL) levels, special education considerations, and the number of students;
- Director Buffone noted that the provincial assessment is a learning opportunity for the OCDSB to develop future instructions and to have a further understanding of students within the District;
- The OCDSB often collaborates with the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) and other school boards within the region to learn about the different experiences and integrate solutions into our own system;

Trustee Milburn resumed the Chair.

- There is a dedicated math website with information regarding MAAP and key resources that families can access to support their children at home;

- Families had the opportunities to engage in different workstations with their children at the Family Conference to build math competency. The Math team aims to partner with schools in different superintendencies to provide a similar opportunities in the future;
- Director Buffone noted that students, who are able, are encouraged to challenge the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) test. Two scores are given in the provincial assessment, one that is predominantly public including all students who were registered for a given grade, and the score for students who have participated in the test; and
- The multi-year strategic plan indicates literacy and numeracy as part of a set core skills that are critical as foundational elements. The OCDSB requires the support of provincial funding to establish mathematical, numeracy and literacy coaches; however, discretionary funding can be used to prioritize and supplement that work.

8.2 Memo 24-057, Facilities Renewal Program, School Condition Improvement Funding and COVID 19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream 2023-2024 Update (R. Gerrior)

Associate Director Gerrior presented Memo 24-057, Facilities Renewal Program, School Condition Improvement Funding and COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream 2023-2024 Update and noted that COVID-19 funding will need to be spent by 31 December 2024. He added that the OCDSB will be able to carry the funding to the next school year.

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

- A memorandum regarding cooling in school will be distributed at a future date. This memorandum will address cooling, outline an eight year plan, and the identified schools that require cooling;
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that the plan will require over eight years to implement as the OCDSB must ensure the buildings are in safe condition to implement cooling. The District needs to balance this with other responsibilities such as accessibility, maintenance, and longevity of buildings;
- A report outlining a number of environmental initiatives will be distributed at a future date;
- The Facilities Renewal Program and School Conditional Improvement (FRPSCI) report will be distributed at a future date and will outline the funding allocated to renewing playgrounds that is standard across the District;

- Director Buffone noted the importance of having a naturalized play place on school sites;
- Trustee Scott urged the Board to consider different ways to engage students creative outdoor play and what defines as outdoor education;
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that the General Manager of Facilities Dan Bradley, has been consulted to consider different options of natural play and the way play structures are used in different age groups;
- The District has considered artificial turf in urban sites that have difficulty in maintaining natural grass; however, the high cost will limit the flexibility in funding to address other maintenance issues;
- Associate Director Gerrior encouraged the public to bring forward facilities issues to their custodians, principals and vice principals;
- Schools will be notified when they are receiving students with certain limitations and require accommodations. The OCDSB have set a contingency fund in the event modifications are required to be made based on the feedback from the system;
- The District collaborates with engineers and specialists to ensure the implementation of artificial turf is environmentally safe;

Trustee Jennekens assumed the Chair.

- The 2023-2024 Carry Forward for Accessibility column in Appendix A of Memo 24-057 indicates the partial completion of projections and the remaining committed funds for the work to be completed;
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that there has been a decrease in short term sick leave last fiscal year but it is unclear if it is due to air purification. He added that the OCDSB has invested in Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) Training to decrease the instances of injury working with dysregulated students; and

Trustee Milburn resumed the Chair.

- Trustee Lyra Evans noted that in older urban communities, school playgrounds are the only green space in the community.

## 9. Information Items:

### 9.1 OSTA Update (if required)

Trustee Lee reported that the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) aims to continue to suspend the Empty Seat Program and reinstate the Walking School Bus Program for five identified schools.

Trustee Lyra Evans urges trustees to consider having additional discussion regarding the benefit and cost of the Empty Seat Program. Chair Milburn noted that this will be considered and brought forward to the senior staff.

9.2 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

10. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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Cathryne Milburn, Chair