



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUITY REPORT

October 24, 2024

6:00 pm

Trustees' Committee Room

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Voting Members: Deepika Grover, Seema Lamba, Nasrin Javanfar, Carrie-Lynn Barkley, Inini McHugh (Inuuqatigit Centre), Doug Kendall (Spiritual Care in Secondary Schools)

Non-Voting Members: Jacqueline Lawrence (Diversity and Equity Advisor), Bob Dawson, Robert Hosslet, Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Donna Dickson (Trustee), Lili Miller, Stephen Skoutajan (Ottawa Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation)

Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), Jesse Mark (Executive Officer), Kenan Omercajic (Strategic Business Analyst), Oksana Kravets (Communications Coordinator), Desirrea Meney (Policy Analyst), Kathy Mak (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Welcome

Acting Chair Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Homelands

Acting Chair Lawrence acknowledged that this meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and acknowledged and thanked the Algonquin Nations for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

3. Community Discussion - Open Space

During community discussion, the following information was provided:

- In response to several Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) members expressing concern and suggesting that an election for a new Chair take place, staff noted that the election of the new Chair will occur on 30 January 2025;
- A number of ACE members suggested that Jacqueline Lawrence should remain as Acting Chair until November 2024;
- Acting-Chair Lawrence called point of order seeking advice on staff on voting procedure;

- Executive Officer Mark clarified that the current Co-Chair policy has not changed and it notes that in the event the Chair is unavailable, the Co-Chair will take the position of the Chair. He further added that if a new Chair is elected, a second election will need to be held in November 2024 as ACE membership will expire and new members will join the committee;
- Members noted the importance of communication and community voice being represented within the Committee. Some members expressed concern regarding the role of staff within the structure of ACE;
- It was suggested that the ACE visit various schools and inform families about their advocacy work and gain additional voices from the community. Acting-Chair Lawrence noted that this suggestion will be considered during the ACE work plan development;
- Deepika Grover and Elaine Hayles noted that they will attend the 14 November 2024 Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee as ACE representatives;
- Executive Officer Mark clarified that ACE member emails obtained by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) can only be used to discuss ACE business to ensure the Committee is compliant with the transparency principle and freedom of information act; and
- Superintendent Farrish suggested that staff could facilitate the sharing of emails between consenting members.

4. Presentations

4.1 Follow up on Electronic Meeting Policy

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

- Regulations require that the Board, including committees, ensure meeting rooms are accessible to the public allowing in-person attendance with members of the public having the opportunity to participate virtually through electronic or in-person delegations. It was noted that live stream is not mandatory;
- In accordance with the current ACE policy, members at large are considered to be members of the public not members of the committee. The policy outlines that there are 11 voting members and 8 non-voting members;
- It was noted that non-voting members who are trustees are entitled to participate electronically;
- Executive Officer Mark clarified that the policy and regulation needs to be read together as it defines who is considered a member. ACE

is governed, empowered and created by the policy and he urged members to consider changes needed to further aid in the Committees' work;

- Staff noted that the ACE policy will be presented at the Policy Review Committee on 14 November 2024; and
- Acting Chair Lawrence noted that the ACE members' terms will expire in November 2024 and members stressed the importance of sharing their feedback for the ACE policy during the working group sessions scheduled with the policy analyst on 28 October 2024 and 29 October 2024.

4.2 ACE Policy

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

- Policy Analyst Meney suggested a temporary policy on the Committee membership drive be considered in order for the ACE membership campaign to proceed;
- Some members expressed the view that the ACE membership structure of voting and non-voting members have additional representation of parents and community members and that staff be deprioritized;
- Policy Analyst Meney suggested that a co-chair model could be implemented into the ACE policy to allow two voting members, to assume the position of chair in the event of a vacancy;
- Staff noted that the draft ACE policy to be considered at the 14 November 2024 Policy Review Committee, will be reviewed by the Director's Executive Council (DEC);
- Superintendent Farrish noted that a Google Form will be distributed to ACE members through email to gather additional feedback regarding the ACE policy;
- Executive Officer Mark urged members to consider changing the language of section 4.7 of Appendix A to be more inclusionary;
- Policy Analyst Meney noted that she will be available to further discuss the policy on 28 October 2024 and 29 October 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.;
- Some members expressed the view that Algonquin representation should be included within the Committee membership; and

- ACE members suggested that a performance assessment be incorporated into the ACE policy and urged members to continue building relationships, develop a follow-up practice, and consider different kinds of governance to ensure that the Committee becomes more effective.

4.3 Elementary Program Review (EPR) - Updates and Feedback

Executive Officer Mark and Strategic Business Analyst Omerajic noted that an overview for the Elementary Program Review (EPR) Update will be distributed to ACE members in a video format and that feedback will be gathered through an online forum which will be available for three weeks.

Acting-Chair Lawrence requested that an update for the Elementary Program Review be included as an agenda item at the 28 November 2024 ACE meeting.

5. Action

5.1 Membership Sub-Committee Selection

The membership subcommittee selection will be comprised of Acting-Chair Lawrence, Superintendent Farrish, Deepika Grover and Elaine Hayles.

ACE members will be notified through email when the outreach for ACE membership begins.

6. Reports

6.1 Superintendent's Report

Acting-Chair Lawrence requested that the superintendent's report be distributed to ACE members through email.

6.2 Committee of the Whole Report

Acting-Chair Lawrence requested that updates regarding the Committee of the Whole be distributed to the ACE members through email.

6.3 Committee of the Whole, Budget

Acting-Chair Lawrence requested that updates regarding the Committee of the Whole Budget be distributed to the ACE members through email.

6.4 Advisory Committee Updates

Acting-Chair Lawrence requested that updates regarding the Advisory Committee be distributed to the ACE members through email.

7. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

At the time of adjournment, items 6.2 ACE Report, 26 September 2024, 7 New Business and Event Announcements and 8 Upcoming Meetings, were not dealt with.

Jacqueline Lawrence, Acting Chair