



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 6:00 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

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

Staff: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director, Academic), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Jesse Mark (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), James Proulx (Executive Officer of Technological Support Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Employee Services), Richard Sinclair (General Counsel), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager of Communications & Public Relations), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Darren Gatley (General Manager, Board Services), Tamara Persaud (Committee Coordinator, Board Services)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Lynn Scott called the public meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Resolve into Committee of the Whole (Board) In Camera Session

The Board resolved into Committee of the Whole (In-Camera) session at 6:02 p.m.

Trustee Milburn assumed the Chair.

3. Board Reconvenes in Public Session (7:00 p.m.)

The Board reconvened into public session at 7:00 p.m.

4. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Lynn Scott acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for their stewardship of the land time immemorial.

5. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

6. Report from Committee of the Whole (In Camera) Session

Vice-Chair Milburn reported that an in camera session was held earlier this evening and reports and recommends as follows:

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT staff proceed as directed in Board in Camera with respect to a Human Resources matter.

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

Abstain (1): Donna Dickson

Carried (11 to 0)

7. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

8. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

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

- The Education Foundation of Ottawa supports Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) students by reducing barriers and ensuring they have the resources they need for success. During the holiday season, it is encouraged to donate to ensure students have the essentials to thrive in their education;
- The OCDSB is updating its privacy policy and is requesting feedback. This policy supports creating a workplace culture that respects privacy, has accountability mechanisms for privacy breaches and ensures high standards to protect student health information. Further information can be found on the OCDSB website; and

- Student registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open on 18 January 2025. Schools will be hosting kindergarten information sessions in January 2025 to give families the opportunity to tour school facilities and meet staff.

9. Briefing from the Director

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

- Friday, 20 December 2024 will be the last day of school for elementary and secondary schools before the winter break. All students will return to classes on 6 January, 2025. On behalf of the OCDSB, Director Buffone extended warm wishes to all families who are participating in festive occasions during the winter season;
- General Counsel Sinclair was thanked for his years of valuable service as General Counsel for the OCDSB and Director Buffone wished him well in his future endeavours.; and
- Trustee Scott was honoured for her 30 years of dedication to the OCDSB. Since 1994, Trustee Scott has served on or led all of the Board's major committees and has played a significant role improving programs and services for all students. On behalf of the Board, Director Buffone thanked her for her commitment to good governance and presented her with letters of recognition to commemorate this milestone.

10. Delegations

There were no delegations.

11. Confirmation of Board Minutes

11.1 26 November 2024

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth, seconded by Trustee Fortey,

THAT the Board Minutes, dated 26 November 2024 be confirmed.

Trustee Nash requested that the record of vote for items 14.5.a, 14.5.b, and 14.5.c be corrected.

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth, seconded by Trustee Fortey,

THAT the Board Minutes, dated 26 November 2024, be confirmed as amended.

Carried

12. Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Vice-Chair Milburn called a 10 minute recess at 7:18 p.m.

13. Matters for Action

13.1 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 10 December 2024

Moved by Trustee Milburn, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 10 December 2024, be received.

Carried

13.1.a Approval of Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement 2024-2025 Project Plan

This was a non-consent item and when dealt with under item 13.3 of the agenda, the following discussion ensued:

Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth

Seconded by Trustee Milburn

1. THAT the Facilities Renewal Program (FRP) and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$105,753,017 be approved as detailed in Appendix B of Report 24-124 (Attached as Appendix A);
2. THAT staff be authorized to proceed with individual project tenders within the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project plans;
3. THAT as FRP/SCI projects are tendered, based on bid results, or as priorities change, additional projects may be added or removed to suit the availability of the overall budget and these additional projects will be able to proceed without further approval as long as the total overall FRP/SCI budgets are not exceeded; and
4. THAT the Chair of the Board and Director of Education are authorized to award contracts above \$500,000 that are within this overall available uncommitted approved budget.

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

- Trustee Bell expressed concern that Lisgar Collegiate Institute does not have an elevator for those who may require it. She noted that local members of provincial parliament (MPPs) and city councillors have been contacted

in relation to the heritage regulations that may have previously hindered installation of an elevator in the building;

- Director Buffone noted that staff reviews building codes and standards for old and new school sites as well as the needs of students at each location to determine priorities for facility projects and upgrades;
- Associate Director Gerrior noted that adding an elevator at Lisgar Collegiate Institute would require the removal of three (3) classrooms which would impact the school's capacity to accept students;
- Facility upgrades are included in multi year plans based on annual student enrolment and priorities at the time;
- While the OCDSB is not required to retrofit all facilities to meet the current accessibility standards it does have a responsibility to take appropriate action when students have accessibility needs as outlined in the *Access for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. The OCDSB has an allocation of \$11 million for accessibility upgrades; and,
- Trustees were encouraged to advocate for increased funding for older schools to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

Moved by Nili Kaplan-Myrth

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

- A. THAT the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$105,753,017 be approved as detailed in Appendix B of Report 24-124 (Attached as Appendix A);**
- B. THAT staff be authorized to proceed with individual project tenders within the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project plans;**
- C. THAT as FRP/SCI projects are tendered, based on bid results, or as priorities change, additional projects may be added or removed to suit the availability of the overall budget and these additional projects will be able to proceed without further approval as long as the total overall FRP/SCI budgets are not exceeded; and**
- D. THAT the Chair of the Board and Director of Education are authorized to award contracts above \$500,000 that**

are within this overall available uncommitted approved budget.

For (12): Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

13.1.b Approval of 2023-2024 Annual Report on Internal Audit Activity

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT Appendix A to Report 24-131 be approved as the 2023-2024 Annual Report on Internal Audit Activity (Attached as Appendix B).

For (12): Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

13.1.c Approval of the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2023-2024

Moved by Lynn Scott

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT Report 24-132 be approved as the Audit Committee Annual Report to the Board for 2023-2024.

For (12): Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Carried (12 to 0)

13.2 Receipt of Advocacy Strategy Committee Report, 3 December 2024

Moved by Trustee Milburn, seconded by Trustee Presley,

THAT the Advocacy Strategy Committee Report, dated 3 December 2024, be confirmed.

Carried

13.3 Non-Consent Items

14. Matters for Discussion

14.1 Report from OSTA Representatives

Trustee Lee shared that the City of Ottawa has postponed their cancellation of the student bus passes. The postponement will continue for the remainder of the current school year, at which point OSTA will be able to better address the situation and student transportation.

14.1.a Regular Session OSTA Minutes, 4 November 2024

Regular Session OSTA minutes, dated 4 November 2024, were provided for information.

14.2 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no OPSBA report.

15. Board Work Plan

The Board Work Plan was provided for information. It was noted that there may be a change to the title of the Trustee Professional Development session being held in January.

16. Matters for Information

Trustee Kaplan-Myrth expressed concern about an upcoming appeal hearing to consider an elementary school library book. She expressed the view that the appeal hearing should be held publicly and the public should be permitted to provide input to determine whether or not the book should be allowed in school libraries.

Executive Officer Mark clarified that the appeal hearing is a formal appeal that is bound by the rules of procedural fairness, as well as relevant policies and procedures. Director Buffone added that the Ontario School Library Association guidelines were utilized to aid in decision-making with respect to school board library resources. It was noted that OCDSB Policy P.031.CUR, Learning Resources outlines the appeal mechanisms and this is the first time that the OCDSB has been requested to withdraw a publication from school libraries.

17. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

18. Adjournment

Trustee Scott wished everyone a restful winter break and a wonderful holiday season for those who celebrate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board