



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 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 (electronic communication) , Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Sharanya Sivasathiyathan (Student Trustee, electronic communication), Jeffrey Zhang (Student Trustee, electronic communication)

Staff: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director, Academic), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Jesse Mark (General Counsel - Governance and Legal Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Employee Services), Julie Cyr (General Manager, Early Learning), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager of Communications & Public Relations), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Susan Baker (Acting General Manager, Governance Services), Tamara Persaud (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

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

2. Resolve into Committee of the Whole Private Session

The Board resolved into Committee of the Whole private session at 6:01 p.m.

3. Board Reconvenes in Public Session Immediately Following In Camera (Approximately 7:15 p.m.)

The Board reconvened in public session at 7:41 p.m.

4. Acknowledgement 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.

5. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

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

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

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT the Board and staff proceed as directed in Board in camera with respect to a governance and human resources matter.

For (9): Donna Blackburn, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth , Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, and Lynn Scott

Against (3): Justine Bell , Donna Dickson, and Lyra Evans

Carried (9 to 3)

7. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,

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 Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is considering a new Learning Resource Policy to aid in the selection process of classroom resources to ensure they support teaching and learning while upholding the *Ontario Human Rights Code* with the goal of aligning classroom resources with the Ontario curriculum and enhancing learning for students while fostering an inclusive and equitable academic environment; and
- A Resource Fair: Transition Planning for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities will be held on 26 March 2025 for families, caregivers and students at the Confederation Education Centre.

9. Briefing from the Director

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

- Gratitude was extended to the over 3300 participants who have participated in the Elementary Program Review (EPR) survey. The online survey will be available on the OCDSB website until 25 March 2025. Members of the public are welcome to join in-person and virtual community meetings on 6, 17, and 24 March 2025
- The proposed school locator tool will be available on the engage.ocdsb.ca site until 28 February 2025; and
- Applications are now open for the 2025-2026 Ottawa-Provence Exchange Program. There will be a virtual information session taking place on 5 March 2025.

10. Delegations

There were no delegations.

11. Confirmation of Board Minutes

11.1 28 January 2025

Moved by Trustee Nash, seconded by Trustee Fortey,

THAT the Board Minutes, dated 28 January 2025, be confirmed.

Carried

12. Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

13. Matters for Action

13.1 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Budget Report, 28 January 2025

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Lee,

THAT the Committee of the Whole (Budget) report, dated 28 January 2025, be received.

Carried

13.2 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 4 February 2025

Moved by Trustee Milburn, seconded by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 4 February 2025, be received.

Carried

13.2.a Approval of School Year Calendar 2025-2026

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Cathryne Milburn

THAT the recommended school year calendar outlined in Report 25-001 be submitted by 1 March 2025 to the Ministry of Education for approval as the official 2025-2026 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.

For (12): Justine Bell , 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)

13.3 Receipt of Policy Review Committee Report, 13 February 2025

Moved by Trustee Presley, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the Policy Review Committee report, dated 13 February 2025, be received.

Carried

13.3.a Approval of revisions to Policy P.009.HR, Respectful Workplace and Harassment Prevention

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Amanda Presley

THAT the revised policy Policy P.009.HR Respectful Workplace and Harassment Prevention, attached as Appendix A to Report 25-008, be approved, as amended (Attached as Appendix A).

For (12): Justine Bell , 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)

13.3.b Approval of Rescission of P.095.PLG Declaring, Decommissioning and Disposal of Surplus Board Property

Moved by Lyra Evans

Seconded by Amanda Presley

THAT Policy P.095.PLG Declaring, Decommissioning, and Disposal of Surplus Board Property and PR.613.PLG Declaration and Disposal of Surplus Board Property, attached as Appendix A and B to Report 25-010, be rescinded, pending development of a new or revised policy, with the OCDSB conforming with O.Reg. 374/23 in the meantime (Attached as Appendix B and C).

For (12): Justine Bell , 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)

14. Matters for Discussion

14.1 Report from OSTA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the OSTA representatives.

14.2 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

15. Board Work Plan

The Board Work Plan was provided for information.

16. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

17. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

Associate Director Reynolds noted that the decision to keep schools open despite school buses being canceled on 13 February 2025 was made in consultation with the City of Ottawa and co-terminus boards. Closing schools due to inclement weather is a decision not taken lightly and many factors are taken into consideration. Schools remained open as they provide a safe place for students to be during the day while their parents are at work, especially for those parents whose work provides essential services. Gratitude was extended to educators, education assistants, office administration and Facilities staff who worked diligently to assure that schools were open and safe for students.

In response to a query, Associate Director Gerrior noted that third-party contractors are hired to remove excess snow from school grounds. Custodians,

principals and vice-principals are responsible for identifying any areas of concern at school sites in order for the District to address it as soon as possible.

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board