



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**Board Room**

**Administration Building**

**133 Greenbank Road**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trustees Present: Alysha Aziz, Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn (electronic communication), Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth (electronic communication), Jennifer Jennekens, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley (electronic communication), Lynn Scott, Malaika Kamanzi (Student Trustee)
- Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director of Education), Randy Gerior (Associate Director, Business Operations), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Paula Hall (Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Reg Lavergne (Superintendent of Instruction), Marva Major (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Emily Balla (Program Manager, Mental Health Services), Darren MacPherson (General Manager, Employee Safety and Wellness), Sandra Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications & Information Services), Andrea Rahim (General Manager, Research Evaluation & Analytics Division), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager of Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Central Audio/Visual Technical Specialist), Mellissa Applewaihte (Board/Committee Coordinator)
- Non-Voting Representatives Present: Lili Miller (IEC), Seema Lamba (ACE), Jean Fulton-Hale (OCSSAN), Tom Holloway (OCASC), Jamieson Dyer (OCETA), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF TBU), Rebecca Zuckerbrodt (OCEFTO)

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 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 Jennekens,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

5. Presentation to Staff

5.1 Paula Hall

On behalf of the Board, Chair Scott expressed appreciation and gratitude to Superintendent Hall for her contribution to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). She noted that Superintendent Hall's dedication, expertise and unwavering commitment were key to the strong leadership she has demonstrated in her position of Superintendent of People, Culture and Leadership and that her resilience, advocacy and determination are a source of inspiration.

Chair Scott thanked Superintendent Hall for the role she had undertaken in leading senior staff through the restructuring of policy processes and noted that her departure was a loss to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB).

Director Buffone expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Superintendent Hall.

6. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Trustee Scott reported that the District is holding seven public consultations as part of the Elementary Program Review consultation process which will be held at various schools on 13, 22, 29 and 30 May 2024.

7. Briefing from the Director

Director Buffone reported the following:

- Counselling supports are in place for staff and students at Sir Guy Carleton High School as a result of a recent tragic event involving a student;
- Breakfast programs, social workers, and supports are available to OCDSB students who were in the vicinity of a recent fire at an apartment complex in the East end of Ottawa; and

- The District will publish information regarding new Ministry of Education (MOE) guidance on the use of cell phones and vaping in schools on the OCDSB website in the upcoming weeks.

8. Delegations

There were no delegations.

9. Matters for Action:

9.1 Report 24-067, School Naming-New Stittsville High School (S. Lehman)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-067, seeking approval for the proposed name for the new school.

Superintendent Lehman advised that a school naming committee, comprised of parents, an Indigenous Elder, and staff members, had conducted community outreach to determine a suitable name.

**Moved by** Lynn Scott

**THAT the new secondary school in Stittsville located in Ottawa at 700 Cope Avenue be named Maplewood Secondary School, effective September 2024.**

**Carried**

9.2 Report 24-060, School Naming-New Findlay Creek School (M. Major)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-060, seeking approval for the proposed name for the new school.

Superintendent Major advised that a school naming committee comprised of parents, community members, an Indigenous Elder, and staff had consulted with students from Robert Bateman and Vimy Ridge Public School prior to selecting the school name. She noted that the proposed name is Algonquin due to the school location on Algonquin territory.

**Moved by** Jennifer Jennekens

**THAT the new Findlay Creek elementary school located in Ottawa at 820 Miikana Road in Findlay Creek be named Mino Miikan Elementary School, effective September 2024.**

**Carried**

10. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

10.1 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 17 January 2024

**Moved by Trustee Nash,**

**THAT the report from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), dated 17 January 2024, be received.**

**Carried**

10.2 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), 14 February 2024

**Moved by Trustee Nash,**

**THAT the report from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), dated 14 February 2024, be received.**

**Carried**

10.3 Indigenous Education Council (IEC), 21 March 2024

**Moved by Trustee Dickson,**

**THAT the report from the Indigenous Education Committee (IEC), dated 21 March 2024, be received.**

**Carried**

10.4 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 3 April 2024

**Moved by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,**

**THAT the report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), dated 3 April 2024, be received.**

**Carried**

11. Matters for Discussion:

11.1 Report 24-059, Student Learning Update: Student Engagement and Well-Being (M. Giroux)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-059, seeking to provide the third update on student learning, focused on attendance, suspensions, and perceptual data, as aligned with direction provided from the Ministry of Education to monitor student engagement and well-being.

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- It was noted that the Mental Health Team work in collaboration with the Equity Team to create a safe and welcoming environment that

provides a variety of programming and learning opportunities for students;

- It was noted that the Elementary Program Review is intended to address systemic barriers to students;
- Staff noted a suggestion that a deeper disaggregation by the community would be useful in future data collection;

Trustee Jennekens assumed the chair.

- It was noted that a Professional Development (PD) day was held in the fall of 2023 for Grades 7 and 8 educators regarding mental health; and

Trustee Milburn resumed the chair.

It was noted that staff absences and physical health are important factors for consideration when reviewing student absences.

\*\*\*The meeting went into recess at 9:05 p.m.\*\*\*

\*\*\*The meeting resumed at 9:10 p.m.\*\*\*

#### 11.2 Report 24-066, Employee Wellness Strategy (P. Hall)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-066, providing an Employee Wellness Strategy (strategy) update. Superintendent Hall and General Manager McPherson provided an overview of the report.

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- The strategy aims to support employee safety and well-being, and will embody a six-pillar employee wellness model and supports;
- The OCDSB has provided Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) to staff since 2020;
- The OCDSB plans to expand further on data analysis and to incorporate formal auditing and safety management systems;
- The OCDSB plans to develop training in areas such as mental health and workplace violence;
- Staff noted a suggestion that equity-related components should be incorporated into the report;
- Staff plan to present a report at a future date regarding plans to diversify leadership positions at the OCDSB and have retained an Equitable Recruitment Advisor under the Special Programs Provision; and

\*\*\*The meeting went into recess at 10:00 p.m.\*\*\*

\*\*\*The meeting resumed at 10:05 p.m.\*\*\*

- It was noted that a four-year annual action plan will contain measurable actions.

12. Information Items:

12.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

Trustee Jennekens noted that Take your Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to School days will be held from 21 May to 24 May 2024.

In response to a query from Trustee Scott on whether the Board wished to amend the resolution previously submitted to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for consideration during the proposed policy resolution process, trustees agreed that the original resolution did not require amendments.

12.2 OSTA Update (if required)

There was no OSTA update.

13. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

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Cathryne Milburn, Chair