



BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, March 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, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley, Lynn Scott, Ezio De Stefano (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 & Legal Services), James Proulx (Executive Officer, Business & Learning Technologies), Reg Lavergne (Superintendent of Program Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Employee Services), Kate Stoudt (Superintendent Learning Support Services), Kristin Riddell (Superintendent of Education), Julie Cyr (General Manager, Early Learning), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari (General Manager of Communications & Public Relations), Darren Gatley (General Manager, Governance Services), Michael Guilbault (Content Creator, Digital Multimedia Technician), Kathy Mak (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 6:02 p.m.
3. Reconvene in Public Session Immediately Following Private Session (Approximately 7:45 p.m.)
The Board reconvened in public session at 8:28 p.m.
4. Acknowledgement of Homelands

Chair Scott acknowledged that this 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 there were no recommendations from the in camera session.

7. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT a discussion on the Elementary Program Review (EPR) be added as agenda item 14.3.

Trustee Lyra Evans suggested a discussion on the Elementary Program Review (EPR) be included as an agenda item in order to hear feedback from trustees' respective communities.

Trustee Lee noted that trustees may require time to prepare for a discussion on the EPR and staff are currently developing a revised EPR proposal. He suggested that discussion regarding the EPR be deferred until the proposal has been completed.

Trustee Lyra Evans requested a recorded vote.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,

THAT a discussion on the Elementary Program Review (EPR) be added as agenda item 14.3.

For (4): Justine Bell (electronic communication), Lyra Evans, Nili Kaplan-Myrth and Amanda Presley

Against (8): Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Defeated.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

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:

- Earl of March Secondary School will be organizing an in-person information session on concussion awareness on 26 March 2025;
- Transition Planning Fair be held on 26 March 2025 at Confederation Education Centre; and
- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) extends best wishes to communities celebrating Eid al-Fitr.

9. Briefing from the Director

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

- Gratitude was expressed to all participants who have shared their feedback on the proposed EPR and the online survey will close on 25 March 2025 at 11:59 p.m.;
- A virtual OCDSB Speaker Series event will be on 27 March 2025 and the topic is “Navigating the Challenges of School Refusal and Avoidance”, additional details can be found on the District website; and
- A Professional Activity (PA) Day will be on 28 March 2025. There will be no school for students, the Extended Day Program will not be operating, and EarlyON Centres will be closed.

10. Delegations

There were no delegations.

11. Confirmation of Board Minutes

11.1 25 February 2025

**Moved by Trustee Lee, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,
THAT the Board Minutes, dated 25 February 2025, be confirmed.**

Carried

11.2 26 February 2025, Special Board

**Moved by Trustee Lee, seconded by Trustee Kaplan-Myrth,
THAT the Special Board Minutes, dated 26 February 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, 18 February 2025

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 18 February 2025, be received.

Trustee Lyra Evans noted bullet 2 of page 5 does not accurately reflect her statement and requested that it be revised to “Trustee Lyra Evans suggested that the District consider foregoing other expenses to continue supporting students in low-income communities and those affected by poverty”.

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Committee of the Whole Report, dated 18 February 2025, be received, as amended.

Carried

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

Moved by Trustee Milburn, seconded by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Committee of the Whole Report, dated 4 March 2025, be received.

Carried

13.3 Receipt of Community Member Recognition Awards Selection Committee Report, 7 March 2025

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Community Member Recognition Awards Selection Committee Report, dated 7 March 2025, be received.

Carried

13.3.a Approval of Award Program Plans

Moved by Cathryne Milburn

Seconded by Jennifer Jennekens

THAT the administration of the following awards created pursuant to Policy P.013.GOV, Community Member Recognition Awards Program, and specifically identified in PR.636.GOV, be temporarily paused while the committee

considers recommendations for changes to the program regarding its longer term viability and sustainability:

- **Community Award;**
- **Distinguished School Council Service Award;**
- **Volunteer of the Year Award;**
- **Community Partnership Award;**
- **Excellence in Equity Community Award; and**
- **Community Award for the Arts.**

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

Against (1): Justine Bell (electronic communication)

Carried (11 to 1)

Chair Scott encouraged trustees to submit their nominations for the Chair's Award by 16 May 2025.

13.4 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Budget Report, 18 March 2025

Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the Committee of the Whole, Budget Report, dated 18 March 2025, be received.

Carried

13.4.a Approval of Academic Staffing Plan 2025-2026 (S. Lehman)

This was a non-consent item and was dealt with later in the meeting under agenda item 13.5.

13.5 Non-Consent Items

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the (Academic) Staffing Plan for 2025-2026, be approved, subject to adjustments related to fluctuations in projected and actual enrolment.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lee, seconded by Trustee Nash,

That "as outlined in Report 25-013" be added after the number 2026.

Carried, friendly

Superintendent Lehman noted that the District has obligations through collective agreements to meet deadlines associated with staffing or will risk grievances from unions and compromise staffing for the District in Spring 2025.

Trustees expressed concern regarding the impact on special education caused by the staffing plan and the lack of funding from the provincial government.

Moved by Donna Blackburn

Seconded by Jennifer Jennekens

THAT the (Academic) Staffing Plan for 2025-2026, as outlined in Report 25-013, be approved, subject to adjustments related to fluctuations in projected and actual enrolment, as amended.

For (10): Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Abstain (1): Lyra Evans

Carried (10 to 0)

13.6 Report 25-017 Naming of the New Riverside South School (K. Riddell)

Your Committee had before it Report 25-017, seeking to make a recommendation for the naming of the new secondary school in Riverside South.

Moved by Jennifer Jennekens

Seconded by Donna Blackburn

THAT the new secondary school in Riverside South located in Ottawa at 720 Earl Armstrong Road be named Riverside South Secondary School, effective September 2025.

For (10): Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Donna Dickson, Lyra Evans, Julia Fortey, Jennifer Jennekens, Nili Kaplan-Myrth, Matthew Lee, Cathryne Milburn, Suzanne Nash, and Lynn Scott

Carried (10 to 0)

14. Matters for Discussion

14.1 Report from OSTA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA).

14.1.a Regular Session OSTA Minutes, 2 December 2024

The Regular Session OSTA minutes, dated 2 December 2024, were provided for information.

14.1.b AGM OSTA Minutes, 2 December 2024

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) OSTA minutes, dated 2 December 2024, were provided for information.

14.2 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

Trustee Jennekens noted that an eastern regional meeting will be held in Brockville on 5 April 2025 and trustees are invited to attend.

Chair Scott encouraged trustees to submit their travel approval form as soon as possible and the District will consider sharing vehicles for parties of more than two (2) people.

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

Trustee Bell thanked her community for the EPR feedback and noted that in collaboration with school councils, a virtual community outreach will be hosted on 26 March 2025.

In response to a query regarding a legal issue involving an anonymous user on a social media platform, General Counsel Mark noted that the District aims to protect staff from defamatory comments.

Trustee Dickson expressed concern regarding trustees' residences within the District. Chair Scott ruled the comment to be out of order and cautioned against discussing place of residence. General Counsel Mark noted that he has no reason to believe that the District has acted outside the bounds of the law.

In response to an inquiry regarding the next steps of the EPR community consultation, Director Buffone noted that staff are currently collecting information until 25 March 2025, 11:59 p.m. A revised EPR proposal will be distributed to the Board on 28 March 2025 and additional input from the community will be considered throughout April 2025.

18. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board