



AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP AN ADVOCACY STRATEGY

January 15, 2019, 4:00 pm
Trustees' Committee Room
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Trustee Members Present: Lynn Scott , Christine Boothby, Wendy Hough, Erica Braunovan, Mark Fisher, Keith Penny

Other Trustees Present: Lyra Evans

Staff Present Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education; Mike Carson, Chief Financial Officer; Michele Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services; Katrine Mallan, Manager of Board Services; Sue Baker, Senior Board Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Director Williams-Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By Trustee Scott

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Matters for Action:

3.1 Election of Chair

Trustee Boothby nominated Trustee Braunovan.

Moved by Trustee Penny,

THAT nominations be closed.

Carried

Director Williams-Taylor declared Trustee Braunovan acclaimed as chair.

Trustee Braunovan assumed the chair.

4. Matters for Discussion:

4.1 Ministry of Finance Pre-Budget Consultation, 23 January 2019

Trustee Scott advised she would present the Board's submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economics at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 January 2019. Chief Financial Officer Carson will join her at the presentation. Seven minutes would be allotted for the presentation followed by eight minutes for questions from the standing committee, which includes members from the Conservative and New Democratic parties. She added that, in addition to the documentation provided in the agenda package, the 14 December 2018 letter from OPSBA to the Minister of Education with respect to OPSBA's recommendations for the 2019-2020 Grants for Student Needs was distributed at the meeting for information.

Executive Officer Giroux referred to last year's submissions to the Ministry of Finance pre-budget consultations on folios 2 and 16 in the agenda package. She noted that five recommendations were submitted to the standing committee and each topic was limited to one page.

Trustee Scott noted that last year's presentation was tailored to the Liberal government under a different economic assumptions. Because of the change in government and short time available to prepare a submission, the Committee would need to prioritize their topics and focus on the government's goals of improving efficiency, sharing among school boards, and saving money. The Board would like to have more flexibility in how the funding is used.

During discussion of the approach to be taken this year, the following points were noted:

- the District should emphasize the need for four-year capital and operating funding grants;
- changes in funding levels require tools that districts can use, for example, revised accommodation review guidelines to support potential school closures and new schools;
- changes in funding levels require time to operationalize;
- the government wants to be smarter with its money, have more of an impact on basics, and have a conversation with school boards with respect to identifying the basics;
- The OCDSB's message needs to be simple: we are a partner with the government, we understand what they are trying to do, we need to be efficient and effective in how we conduct our business;
- we need to reinforce the value we provide as a school board in bringing provincial and city services together, particularly with respect to students at risk, child care, and other supports and services;

- we can stress that there are other ways of doing business and delivering programs including how we educate for the future in the classroom, and the use of technology;
- priority issues should be multi-year planning for operating and capital funding, predictability, and sustainability around funding to enable change to happen gradually;
- address the funding shortfall for special education and meet the needs of students with high needs in the regular classroom;
- Premier Ford wrote to Ontario public service staff earlier in January about achievements made over the past six months and the focus for the year ahead on job creation, balancing the budget, and delivering better health care. Education was not on the Premier's list; however, the District could demonstrate how we are helping to balance the budget and that we could do better with predictable multi-year planning;
- Trustee Fisher suggested that multi-year planning and innovation could be the third issue rather than health care; and
- Trustee Boothby suggested including a value statement on education being foundational to our society.

Executive Officer Giroux advised that staff would draft a statement based on the notes and share it with trustees prior to its presentation to the standing committee on 23 January. Any additional written remarks are due on 29 January 2019.

- a. 2018 Oral Presentation (31 January 2018) and Written Submission (9 February 2018)

Provided for information.

- b. 2018 Ministry of Education Consultation Submission, 15 December 2018

Provided for information.

- c. Report from Ad Hoc Committee to Develop an Advocacy Strategy, 6 November 2018

Provided for information.

5. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Erica Braunovan, Chair