



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT PUBLIC

Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 7:30 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

- Trustees Present: Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Erica Braunovan, Sandra Schwartz, Lynn Scott, Isaac Glassman (Student Trustee), and Samantha Lin (Student Trustee)
- Staff Present: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent of Curriculum), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Olga Grigoriev (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Instruction), Katrine Mallan (Manager of Board Services), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Eleanor Heap (Manager of Early Learning), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Miro Vala (Manager of Facilities), David Suriano (Planner), Sharlene Hunter (Communications Coordinator), John MacKinnon, (Audio-Visual Technician), and Amanda Rock (Committee Coordinator).
- Non-Voting Representatives Present: Christine Moulaison (OCASC), Christine Lanos (OCEOC), Elizabeth Kettle (ETFO), Cathy Bailey (OSSTF Teachers/Occasional Teachers), and Rupi Bergamin (OCSSAN Alternate)

1. Call to Order - Vice-Chair of the Board

Vice-Chair Braunovan called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territory and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Briefing from the Chair

Chair Scott advised that, this year, 87 OCDSB school councils will receive Ontario Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants of up to \$1,000 each.

Chair Scott advised that the Board has requested an opportunity to make a presentation on the provincial budget to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on 23 January 2019. The Board's Ad Hoc Committee to Develop an Advocacy Strategy met on 15 January 2019 to discuss its proposed submission. A copy of the draft submission will be circulated to trustees prior to submission to the Standing Committee.

Chair Scott extended condolences to the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) on the passing of Thérèse Maloney Cousineau who served on their Board of Trustees for 45 years.

Chair Scott advised that the OPSBA Public Education Symposium, also known as PES, will run from 23 - 26 January 2019 in Toronto.

4. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor advised that on 11 January 2019 the Ottawa-Carleton community suffered a tragic OC Transpo bus accident with three fatalities and 23 injuries. The District's thoughts are with all of those affected and with our first responders. She noted that information and a tip sheet are available on the District's website to help parents speak to their children about tragic events.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the OCDSB strategic planning process is underway. This month the District will host two evenings of focus group discussions for parents at Sir Robert Borden High School on 23 January and Cairine Wilson Secondary School on 31 January. The District's website provides more details on the focus groups.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that next week is official kindergarten registration week. Many schools are hosting kindergarten information nights and more information is available on the District's website.

The third annual Indigenous Youth Symposium took place on 11 January with 150 students, 35 educators, and 20 community partners. The day allowed Indigenous students to connect with other Indigenous students from across the city, learn more about various Indigenous culture, traditions, art and language in

13 workshops, and join together in celebration. Next year's goal is for every high school to send 10 students (5 Indigenous students and a friend each), a Vice-Principal, and one educator.

Earl of March Secondary School was closed on 07 January due to a broken pipe. The work in all classrooms will be complete at the end of the week of 28 January.

In response to queries from Trustee Ellis, Director Williams-Taylor advised that information on student forums is captured in the Director's annual report. She advised that reports may come forward to provide updates soon after the events occur.

In response to a query from Vice-Chair Braunovan, Executive Officer Giroux advised that the District's intention is to minimize scheduling conflicts for information sessions at schools and that information is collected and provided centrally.

Student Trustee Glassman advised that he attended an information night for one school while his mother went to another school and was given information privately.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Matters for Action:

6.1 Report 19-006, Facilities Renewal and School Condition Improvement 2018-2019 (M. Carson, ext. 8207)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-006 seeking approval of a Facilities Renewal Program (FRP) to be implemented under the School Renewal Allocation (SRA), Temporary Accommodations (portable moves) and School Condition Improvement (SCI) that are initiatives for the 2018-2019 budget year.

When introducing the report, CFO Carson noted the following:

- There has been an increase of infrastructure dollars to support the FRP;
- There is a backlog of FRP projects in excess of approximately \$700 million;
- Project prioritization and decision-making is based on inspections of the school facilities;
- Approximately \$40 million is required to maintain school facilities each year;
- Challenges to some major projects include the short period of time during the summer to complete the work; and

- There is a need to minimize the negative impact FRP projects have on student achievement.

Manager Vala highlighted the following from the report:

- Capital renewal projects and upgrades to facilities are targeted projects;
- Projects are often delayed should the total annual expenditures exceed \$50 million;
- Over the last 3 years, multiple high school libraries have been converted to learning commons. Two more are planned for 2018-2019;
- Science lab upgrades will continue over the next several years; and
- There is \$7,000,000 allocated to Elmdale Public School for a major retrofit and school addition.

Manager Vala identified the following multi-year investments:

- LED lighting improvements throughout schools over a three year period;
- Auditorium upgrades;
- The conversion from steam plants to hydraulic plants in six schools; and
- Noise control improvements in some schools.

Trustee Schwartz encouraged her colleagues to include FRP projects as an area of focus when speaking with the Ministry.

The following information was provided in response to trustee queries:

- Funding has been received for SCI and will be rolled out over a three-year period;
- The availability of skilled trades has decreased in the region due to major projects being completed on Parliament Hill;
- Consideration is being given to principals' feedback on how student achievement has been negatively impacted when major projects are being completed during the school year;
- Facilities' staff are open to suggestions on how to start major projects ahead of the summer break with minimal impact on student achievement;
- Parents can advocate for renovations to their child's school through the school principal and school council;
- The way that learning commons are being used by schools is being evaluated;

- There is approximately a 20 percent leverage between anticipated costs and actual costs for the maximum amount of money that can be spent to finance a contract;
- Funding for SCI has more constraints than the funding for facilities renewal;
- There may be opportunity for school condition improvements in the 2019-2020 budget;
- There is less facilities renewal backlog in coterminous school boards because their facilities are newer; and
- Many years of underfunding have left the District with a large backlog in facilities renewal.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz

1. THAT the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$99,366,836 as detailed in Appendix B of Report 19-006 be approved;
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 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 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.

Trustee Boothby expressed concern over not having detailed information with regard to the contingency projects.

An amendment moved by Trustee Boothby,

THAT “these additional” be replaced with “the contingency” in Part C of the motion.

Carried, friendly

CFO Carson agreed that staff will provide the list of contingency projects and/or more detailed information with regard to Part C of the motion.

CFO Carson agreed that staff will also provide additional information with regard to the higher cost for the play structure replacement at Bayview

Public School in comparison to the other schools listed in Appendix B to Report 19-006.

In response to queries with regard to accessibility, staff provided the following information:

- The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requires compliance by 2025;
- Accessibility standards are being incorporated into new school builds and retrofit projects; and
- Compliance with AODA by 2025 will be challenging due to the number of older facilities in the District.

Trustee Scott queried how school communities are being consulted with regard to converting libraries to learning commons. CFO Carson noted that committees have been formed to discuss these projects. Trustee Scott added that the kind of experience offered to students in the arts varies greatly in high schools.

During the ensuing discussion the following was noted:

- The cost of labour materials for FRP projects has increased significantly due to the uncertainty of the market;
- Committees were formed to consult and articulate how learning spaces should look;
- Most of the projects outlined in Report 19-006 are urgent;
- Contracts for FRP projects cannot all be bought in one year;
- The list of schools identified in Report 19-006 is not an exhaustive list of all projects;
- An assessment of need determines which schools are prioritized for major projects;
- SCI funding from the Ministry is intended for a “replacement-based” work plan of facilities projects;
- SCI funding can only be used for air conditioning if it was already existent in a facility; and
- The focus is for older facilities to be barrier-free if compliance with the AODA is not feasible.

Trustee Fisher expressed the view that the Board needs to have more focused discussions about FRP projects. He expressed concern with the District having zone meetings and noted that the District has a strong methodology with regard to project selection and prioritization.

In response to queries from Trustee Schwartz, CFO Carson advised that the District consults with the community and school principals on the impact that major projects will have on constituents residing within close proximity to the school.

Trustee Schwartz stressed that the District could have more effective communication with constituents with regard to major projects impacting their community.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz

1. **THAT the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$99,366,836 as detailed in Appendix B to Report 19-006 be approved (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 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 the contingency projects 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.**

Carried

6.2 Report 19-007 Extended Day Program (EDP) Daily Fee Rate 2019-2020 (O. Grigoriev ext. 8287)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-007 seeking approval of the basic daily fee rate and the full-day fee rate for optional days for the Extended Day Program (EDP) operated by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) for the 2019-2020 school year.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz

1. **THAT the Extended Day Program fee remain unchanged at the basic rate of \$22.50 per day, effective September 2019, for students who attend the program full-time; and**
2. **THAT the full day fees for optional days of care in the Extended Day Program remain unchanged at \$35.00 per day, effective September 2019.**

In response to queries from trustees, the following information was provided:

- An Early Childhood Educator (ECE) has a minimum of a two-year college diploma and is registered with the College of Early Childhood Education;
- An Early Learning Assistant (ELA) supports the ECE, children that have specific needs, and is not responsible for program planning;
- Some ELAs are also registered ECEs;
- ELAs are often supporting EDP locations that have an influx of students;
- There are approximately 10 children in the smallest EDP programs within the District;
- There are no separate EDP programs for students with special needs;
- Alternative options for presenting professional development (PD) are being explored;
- PD is more specific to ECEs than ELAs;
- The retention rate for ECEs is on par with that of coterminous school boards;
- Many ECEs have been returning to school to obtain higher education;
- There is a high satisfaction rate among parents with regard to the EDP in the District;
- Approximately 20% of parents expressed the view that there should be no cost for EDP;
- Supports for children with special needs enrolled in EDP will be more clearly articulated in the future;
- The District accepts all students and provides supports to children with special needs;
- Less than \$100,000 is allocated for administrative costs to operate the EDP;
- ECEs are covered under a collective agreement;
- There are no wait lists for families requiring subsidies; and
- Optional EDP, such as Christmas holidays and March Break, are obligated to follow the same extended day regulations.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz

1. **THAT the Extended Day Program fee remain unchanged at the basic rate of \$22.50 per day, effective September 2019, for students who attend the program full-time; and**
2. **THAT the full day fees for optional days of care in the Extended Day Program remain unchanged at \$35.00 per day, effective September 2019.**

Carried

6.3 Report 19-003 New Fernbank Elementary School Study Consultation Plan Approval (M. Carson, ext. 8207)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-003 seeking Board approval of a consultation process and timeline to establish the opening grade structure, program offering, and attendance boundary for a future elementary school to be opened in the Fernbank area of Stittsville.

When introducing the report, Manager Carty-Ostafichuk highlighted the following information:

- Funding has not yet been received from the Ministry for the proposed new elementary school;
- John Young Elementary School is experiencing major enrolment pressure;
- In May 2018, the Board approved this proposed new elementary school as the number one capital priority;
- The consultation process will include a working group that consists of members from the community;
- The consultation process will have a minimum of three meetings to discuss timing, phasing, and programming; and
- It is anticipated that a course of action will be approved by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

In response to queries, the following information was provided:

- The following school councils will be consulted: John Young Elementary School, Bridlewood Community Elementary School, Westwind Public School, and Stittsville Public School;
- School councils will be contacted after Ministry approval for funding; and
- Parent input will be valuable to the potential programs that could be offered at the proposed new school.

Trustee Scott expressed the opinion that the biggest concern may be parents who do not want their children to change schools in a short period of time.

Moved by Trustee Scott

THAT the New Fernbank Elementary School Study Consultation Plan and Timeline, attached as Appendix D to Report No. 19-003, be approved (Attached as Appendix B).

Carried

7. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

7.1 Special Education Advisory Committee, 5 December 2018

Moved by Trustee Boothby

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee report, dated 05 December 2018, be received.

Trustee Boothby identified a typographical error in the report. She also noted that the second paragraph on page 65 has a statement explaining conflict of interest. Executive Officer Giroux will be providing language to Board Services to clarify this statement.

Moved by Trustee Boothby

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee report, dated 05 December 2018, be received, as amended.

Carried

8. Matters for Discussion:

There were no matters for discussion.

9. Information Items:

9.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

9.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update (if required)

There were no new Ministry updates.

9.3 OSTA Update

There was no OSTA update.

a. OSTA Board of Directors Minutes, 12 November 2018

Trustee Braunovan advised that the minutes from the OSTA Board of Directors meeting are attached for review.

b. OSTA Annual General Meeting, 11 December 2017

Trustee Scott advised that there will be upcoming update from the December 2018 OSTA meeting. She also noted that the District is still experiencing driver shortages.

10. New Business - Information and Inquiries

Trustee Scott confirmed that the curriculum writing session has been cancelled.

Trustee Campbell mentioned that the Board tracking report has motions that are six years old. He suggested that these motions be reviewed.

Trustee Lyra Evans informed that the OCSB banned an LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Queer) children's book. She queried whether the District will be following suit. Executive Officer Giroux noted that the book is sometimes made available to students on an age-appropriate basis. There is not one answer on how the school board manages this particular book. Trustee Scott commented that the District has not had a history of banning books.

The Board shared the sentiment that all children are welcome within the District's schools and that this message should be made clear to the community. Trustee Lyra Evans suggested an open letter or a policy statement. Trustee Braunovan added that messaging would be timely with the upcoming Kindergarten information sessions.

Director Williams-Taylor and Trustee Scott agreed to have a discussion about how this messaging should be communicated to the community.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Erica Braunovan, Chair