



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT PUBLIC

Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Board Room  
Administration Building  
133 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Erica Braunovan, Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz, Lynn Scott Isaac Glassman (Student Trustee).

Staff Present: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Michèle Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaj (Superintendent of Instruction), Katrine Mallan (Manager of Board Services), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Ian Baxter (Assistant Manager of Planning), Megan Faraday (Planner), Sharlene Hunter (Communications Coordinator), John MacKinnon (Audio-Visual Technician), Amanda Rock (Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Christine Moulaison, Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC); Christine Lanos, Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Operations Committee (OCEOC); Brian Lesage, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO); and Rupi Bergamin, Ottawa-Carleton Secondary School Administrators Network (OCSSAN).

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

Vice-Chair Braunovan called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 Blackburn

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

3. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott expressed condolences to the family and friends of the late Paul Dewar, on behalf of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB).

Chair Scott advised that Paul was a former OCDSB teacher and union leader, and his wife Julia is also an OCDSB employee. Paul passed away on 06 February 2019 and leaves behind his wife Julia Sneyd and two sons Nathaniel and Jordan. Paul had a profound effect on the City as a teacher, union representative, and most recently as a New Democratic Party Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre. A time to gather and share stories will take place at First United Church on 22 February 2019 and a celebration of life will take place on 23 February 2019 at Dominion-Chalmers Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Paul's final initiative, Youth Action Now, or a charity of your choice.

4. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor advised that all children attending school in Ontario between the ages of 4 and 17 are required to be vaccinated against nine (9) diseases or have a valid exemption. Parents are required to report all immunizations given at a doctor's office to Ottawa Public Health, and Ottawa Public Health has the authority to suspend students from attending school if they do not have a record of immunization. Parents were notified of the requirement for immunizations last month, and that suspensions have begun as of 14 February 2019 for students in kindergarten to grade 6, and on 20 February 2019 for students in grades 7 to 12. The suspensions will run for 20 days or until Ottawa Public Health gives the approval for students to return to school.

Director Williams-Taylor announced that the new Executive Director for the Education Foundation of Ottawa is Clarissa Arthur. Clarissa started work on 07 February 2019. She can be reached at [educationfoundation@ocdsb.ca](mailto:educationfoundation@ocdsb.ca). Every year, the last Tuesday in February is known as Toonie Tuesday, and the Education Foundation asks students at participating schools to bring \$2 to help students in need. Toonie Tuesday will take place on Tuesday, 26 February 2019. We encourage schools to continue Toonie Tuesday on 05 March and finish by the March Break.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that she attended a gala to celebrate Black History Month on 16 February 2019. The gala was hosted by the African-

Canadian Association of Ottawa. This association is an umbrella organization of all the African descent community associations in Ottawa. Mr. Sirois, Director of Education at the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est, was also in attendance, which allowed for positive networking.

In response to a query from Trustee Lyra Evans, the following information was provided:

- Students will return to school after the 20 day suspension even if they have not been vaccinated;
- The District works in collaboration with Ottawa Public Health to encourage families to vaccinate their children;
- Information letters have been translated in nine of the most commonly used languages in the District;
- The District anticipates that the suspension rate will drop as more families understand and have access to immunizations; and
- Oversight is a common reason why many families have failed to have or update their child's immunizations.

## 5. Delegations

### 5.1 Lee Hunter on behalf of Extinction Rebellion re climate change

Mr. Lee Hunter is a representative of Extinction Rebellion, a climate change coalition formed in England in 2018. It is a non-violent climate change activism group. He highlighted the following information:

- Carbon dioxide and methane emissions are continuing to increase;
- Oceans are warming 40% faster than initial reports of climate change;
- Insect populations are beginning to collapse; and
- Marine life may be extinct in 50 years.

Mr. Hunter noted that there is a school strike movement in Europe where thousands of students taking part of demonstrations on a weekly basis. He stressed that the District's curriculum should address the climate change situation and encouraged the District to join the Canadian Medical Association (CMA).

In response to trustee queries, the following information was provided by staff:

- There is no OCDSB policy that governs student behaviour with regard to protests;
- When there are protests within the District's schools, staff have worked with the school principal to establish parameters around safety; and
- Students are always expected to be in class during school hours.

In response to trustee queries, Lee Hunter explained the following:

- Some schools in Europe are establishing a policy to allow students to be absent from school to incorporate protests/demonstrations into their studies/civic duties; and
- The Board could be evaluating their carbon footprint on its facilities more closely.

Staff agreed to share Lee Hunter's contact information for him to respond to unanswered trustee questions with regard to his delegation.

6. Matters for Action:

6.1 Report 19-008 School Year Calendar: Key Dates (N. Towaj, ext. 8821)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-008 seeking approval of the recommendations regarding the 2019-2020 elementary and secondary school year calendars for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB).

Superintendent Towaj advised that Ontario Regulation 304 governs the design, composition, and modifications to school year calendars. She noted that draft calendars should be submitted to the Ministry of Education by 01 March 2019. An ad hoc consultation committee composed of parent representatives, school principals, student representatives, various employee groups, the District's Equity and Diversity lead, and central departments provided feedback and guidance with regard to the design of the 2019-2020 school year calendar. The District also consulted with its coterminous boards.

Superintendent Towaj highlighted the following:

- Reviewing input from the respective groups and recommending key dates for PA days was the focus of the consultation process;
- Recommendations for key dates were presented to support student achievement and wellness; and
- The draft school year calendar of the coterminous board is not aligned with the District's school year calendar due to a shared transportation service being operated when one of the two school boards is not in session.

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

- The 2019-2020 school year calendar for the coterminous boards are being presented during the week of 25 February 2019; and
- The majority of PA days are on a Friday before a statutory holiday based on the feedback from the parent and student community.

*An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,*

*THAT the word “appendix” be replaced with “appendices” in the motion.*

*Carried, friendly.*

**Moved by** Trustee Blackburn

**THAT the school year calendars (Attached as Appendices A and B to COW Report 19 February 2019) be submitted to the Ministry of Education as the official 2019-2020 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board’s elementary and secondary schools. (Attached as Appendices A and B to Board 26 February 2019)**

**Carried**

6.2 Report 19-021 Adoption of Education Development Charges By-law (2019-2024) (M. Carson, ext. 8881)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-021 seeking approval for the adoption of the Education Development Charges (EDC) By-law attached as Appendix A, for implementation within the jurisdiction of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, effective 01 April 2019.

Assistant Manager Baxter summarized the report, noting the following:

- An EDC by-law can only be in place for a maximum of five years;
- The OCDSB's EDC by-law is scheduled to expire 31 March 2019;
- Staff have completed the legislatively required EDC background study for the adoption of a new EDC by-law;
- The current EDC rates are \$723 per new residential unit and \$0.52 per new square foot of non-residential development;
- The calculated charges contained in the 2019 EDC Background Study are \$787 per new residential unit and \$0.58 per new square foot of non-residential gross floor area;
- A provincial review of EDC rates needs to be completed;
- EDC rates will depend on the provincial review; and
- Staff will report back to trustees when the new rates are known.

CFO Carson advised that staff are not recommending that an additional meeting needs to occur.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz

1. THAT the Board confirm that an additional public meeting under 257.63 (3) of the *Education Act* is not required prior to the adoption of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Education Development Charges By-law No. 01-2019;
2. THAT the Board approve the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Education Development Charges Background Study, dated 18 December 2018, for the purpose of adopting the Board's Education Development Charges By-law No. 01- 2019;
3. THAT the Board set the following rates of \$723.00 per new residential dwelling unit and \$0.52 per new square foot of non-residential gross floor area; and
4. THAT the Board approve the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Education Development Charges By-law No. 01-2019 (attached as Appendix A to Report 19-021) effective, 1 April 2019, and authorize staff to undertake steps regarding its implementation and administration, subject to receipt of Ministerial approval.

*An amendment was moved by Trustee Schwartz,*

*THAT the wording "receipt of" be removed in Part D of the motion.*

*Carried, friendly.*

In response to trustee queries, the following information was provided:

- School boards are allowed to amend their EDC by-law if fees increase to avoid a gap in the collection of charges;
- There is no indication that the Ministry will not approve the EDC background study;
- Staff have emphasized the importance of not having a lapse in collection to the highest levels of government; and
- Ramifications of a lapse in collection would be the number of days from 01 April that approval is still pending from the Ministry.

Trustee Scott expressed gratitude that there are some exemptions to the EDC by-law, given the impact of the recent tornado to parts of the jurisdiction. She expressed the view that it would be unreasonable for families in affected areas to pay extra money for education development charges.

**Moved by Trustee Schwartz**

5. **THAT the Board confirm that an additional public meeting under 257.63 (3) of the *Education Act* is not required prior to the adoption of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Education Development Charges By-law No. 01-2019;**
  
6. **THAT the Board approve the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Education Development Charges Background Study, dated 18 December 2018, for the purpose of adopting the Board's Education Development Charges By-law No. 01- 2019;**
  
7. **THAT the Board set the following rates of \$723.00 per new residential dwelling unit and \$0.52 per new square foot of non-residential gross floor area; and**
  
8. **THAT the Board approve the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Education Development Charges By-law No. 01-2019 (Attached as Appendix C to COW Report 19 February 2019) effective,1 April 2019, and authorize staff to undertake steps regarding its implementation and administration, subject to Ministerial approval.(Attached as Appendix C to Board 26 February 2019).**

**Carried**

7. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

7.1 Audit Committee Report, 21 January 2019

**Moved by Trustee Schwartz,**

**THAT the Audit Committee report, dated 21 January 2019, be received.**

**Carried**

8. Matters for Discussion:

8.1 Report 19-013 Review of Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct (M. Giroux, ext. 8310)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-013 to review Board Policy P.073.GOV Board Member Code of Conduct, as required by Ontario Regulation 246/18. The Regulation requires every school board to adopt a

code of conduct that applies to the members of the Board, and to review the code on or before 15 May 2019 and on or before May 15 in every fourth year thereafter.

Executive Officer Giroux provided the following information:

- The OCDSB's current code of conduct reflects the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) 2012 code of conduct policy template;
- OPSBA has made two recommended changes to their code of conduct policy;
- The OCDSB strives to be aligned with the OPSBA policy template;
- The Board is required to review and ensure that they agree with OPSBA's recommended changes; and
- Most code of conduct complaints at the OCDSB have been dealt with through the informal process.

Executive Officer Giroux highlighted the following:

- Bill 68 requires municipalities to establish code of conduct and an Integrity Commissioner (IC) for their members of council; however, Bill 68 does not extend to local school boards;
- An IC is an impartial and independent position that advises, investigates, and educates members of council;
- Allegations of conflict of interest can be investigated by an IC; and
- Four Ontario school boards have an IC that follow the model of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

Executive Officer Giroux noted that the report explains the advisory functions and the appointment model of an IC.

Executive Officer Giroux informed that there had been an Ad Hoc committee established previously to draft the current code of conduct policy. She advised that the review of the policy is time-sensitive.

Trustees expressed the following concerns:

- The amount of time that is allotted for a code of conduct investigation to be completed;
- The cost to retain an IC;
- The need for a full-time IC;
- What constitutes the formal and informal review processes; and
- The impartiality of a staff member being an IC.

In response to trustee queries, the following information was provided:

- The cost to retain an IC will be further researched;
- The function of an IC includes the application of board code of conduct, policies and procedures, as well as providing advice to



trustees with regard to their obligations under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*;

- An IC does not eliminate the need for independent legal counsel;
- The OCDSB has successfully retained third parties to resolve code of conduct issues;
- Trustees who are not re-elected to the Board cannot be sanctioned;
- There are time limitations in which a code of conduct investigation must be completed;
- Code of conduct investigations can include incidents between trustees and behavioural issues in public;
- Members of the public cannot file a code of conduct complaint;
- Staff members are governed by the *Respectful Workplace Policy*; and
- Sanctions for code of conduct investigations vary and are decided based upon individual circumstances.

Trustee Blackburn stressed the need to be mindful of what disrespectful behaviour is and that impartiality is of utmost importance.

Trustee Campbell suggested that consideration could be given to have all the coterminous boards investing in one IC.

Trustee Scott gave notice that she would move at a future meeting that an Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee be established to conduct a review of the Board Member Code of Conduct policy and the new recommendations from OPSBA.

## 8.2 Policy Resolution for OPSBA Annual General Meeting, Trustee Boothby and Trustee Penny

Trustee Penny advised that the Board should start working on policy resolutions that they want to be considered and brought forward to OPSBA. He noted that there will need to be consensus among trustees regarding which resolutions will be brought forward to OPSBA. Trustee Boothby added that typically one resolution from the Board is brought forward.

During the discussion, the following was noted:

- Policy resolutions may be directed at a high-level provincial policy or a specific issue that affects school boards across the province;
- Policy resolutions may be about awareness building;
- The recommendation that was approved by OPSBA last year was specific and explicit in direction;
- French language teachers, special education, and the moratorium on the accommodation reviews may be areas to focus on when creating a resolution;
- The grade 10 civics course is an area that could use improvement across the province;

- Advocating for an increase in students' civic participation could be a possible resolution;
- The most common student feedback received with regard to the grade 10 civics course is that focusing on local-level issues increases student involvement because students can see tangible changes;
- Resolutions are due the first week of April 2019; and
- Positioning resolutions that are policy and funding based may assist the province in spending money wisely.

Vice-Chair Braunovan advised that the policy resolution debate can be discussed when the Board has created resolutions to put forward to OPSBA.

## 9. Information Items:

### 9.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

#### a. OPSBA Response to Ministry Consultation on Hiring Practices and Class Sizes

Trustee Scott noted that there was little feedback from trustees with regard to providing a response to the Ministry consultation on hiring practices and class sizes.

Trustees Campbell and Ellis expressed disappointment that the Board did not have substantial feedback to provide a response. In response to a query from Trustee Ellis, Director Williams-Taylor agreed to share the staff response to the Ministry of Education's consultation on hiring practices and class sizes with trustees.

Brian Lesage noted the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario's (ETFO) views as the following:

- Ontario Regulation 274/12 should be eliminated;
- The District's goal should be improving student achievement and outcomes;
- Smaller class sizes make for better student outcomes;
- Class size averaging does not improve student achievement; and
- The District should be prioritizing Board flexibility.

Mr. Lesage also noted that the largest class sizes are seen at the intermediate level.

In response to a query from Trustee Lyra Evans, Mr. Lesage advised that he has seen classes upwards of 35 students at the intermediate level. He stressed that class size averaging does not improve student outcomes.

9.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update (if required)

There were no new Ministry updates.

9.3 OSTA Update (if required)

There was no OSTA update.

10. New Business - Information and Inquiries

Trustee Blackburn queried whether the Board has incurred extra snow removal costs due to large amount of snowfall the region has experienced this winter. Director Williams-Taylor advised that she would consult with CFO Carson to determine if costs were substantially higher than anticipated.

Student Trustee Glassman invited staff and trustees to attend an Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) conference. He agreed to share further details by email.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Erica Braunovan, Chair