



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT PUBLIC

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 7:30 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Erica Braunovan, Donna Blackburn, Rob Campbell, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz, Lynn Scott, Isaac Glassman (Student Trustee), 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), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Olga Grigoriev (Superintendent of Instruction), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Financial Services), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Katrine Mallan (Manager of Board Services), Miro Vala (Manager of Facilities), Christine Kessler (Principal of Learning Support Services), Sharlene Hunter (Communications Coordinator), John MacKinnon, Audio-Visual Technician, Amanda Rock (Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting
Representatives
Present: Cathy Bailey (OSSTF Teachers/Occasional Teachers), Rup Bergamin (OCSSAN Alternate), Brian Lesage (ETFO Alternate), Andrew Nordman (OCEOC Alternate)

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

Acting Vice-Chair Blackburn called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Jennekens

THAT the agenda be approved.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Braunovan,

THAT the Elmdale Public School Addition and Retrofit be the first item to discuss under matters for action.

Carried

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT the 2019-2020 Academic Staffing report be the first item to discuss under matters for the discussion.

Carried

Moved by Trustee Jennekens

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

3. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott advised that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board was deeply saddened by the news of a targeted mass shooting at two mosques in New Zealand. Islamophobia and hate are issues that the District continually works to eliminate. There are tips on the District's website for parents and caregivers that may help to start the conversation. The OCDSB is committed to building a culture of equity, inclusion, respect, and acceptance.

Chair Scott advised that the OCDSB is seeking two Community Representatives to serve on its Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). The District encourages individuals or organizations who may be interested to submit an application before 22 March 2019. More information can be found on the District's website.

Chair Scott advised that nominations for the OCDSB Community Member Recognition Awards are open until 29 March 2019. The Volunteer Appreciation Reception will take place on 13 June 2019.

Chair Scott advised that the Ministry of Education announced on 15 March 2019 that it will accept further input from federations and trustees' associations with regard to teacher hiring practices and class sizes. To assist stakeholders in preparing their submissions, the Ministry has prepared consultation guides that are intended to support stakeholders in understanding the government's plans. The deadline for submissions is 31 May 2019.

4. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor advised that during the week of 11-15 March 2019 the Ministry of Education announced a series of changes to the education funding policy. Specifically, the changes affect:

Class Size – There will be no changes to Kindergarten to grade 3, an increase of 1 to the grades 4 to 8 class average, and an increase of the class average from 22 to 28 for secondary. These changes will be discussed in more detail during the academic staffing discussion at tonight's meeting.

Curriculum Changes – The Ministry announced a number of curriculum changes and updates including revisions to:

- Math – focus on financial literacy
- STEM – increased emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math
- Skilled Trades – increase in experiential learning and pathway promotion
- Financial literacy – updates to the Civics and Careers curriculum to include financial literacy
- Health & Physical Education – updates to the curriculum will retain what was in the curriculum, but will change some timing related to age appropriateness and increased parental opt out capacity
- Indigenous Education – updated curriculum for grades 9 to 12

Technology in Education

- E-learning – new requirements for all secondary students to complete 4 e-learning credits in order to graduate
- Digital Platforms – the development of new online platforms with expanded broadband access
- Cellphones – the introduction of restrictions on the use of cell phones during instructional time

Budget - There are a number of financial reductions with some funding related to these announcements. We are seeking further clarification to better understand the impacts.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the OCDSB has been selected from approximately 100 nominations across Ontario to be recognized as a leading employer by the Canadian Forces Liaison Council for its support of the mission of the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve. The OCDSB was nominated by Mike Hopper who is a Learning Support Consultant with Learning Support Services and has been a teacher with the District for 21 years. Mr. Hopper nominated the OCDSB for the Employer's Award for their support of his leave this year and also in recognition of the years of support he has received from principals and the District which have allowed him to pursue rewarding careers with the Canadian Naval Reserve and as an educator with the OCDSB.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the OCDSB is participating in the world's largest grassroots environmental movement: Earth Hour. This year OCDSB schools and administration have been encouraged to take part in the Earth Hour challenge on 29 March 2019 from 1:00 p.m to 2:00 p.m.

In response to a queries from trustees with regard to the changes in education funding policy, Director Williams-Taylor advised that no additional information has been forthcoming at this time. Questions are being compiled and will be shared with the Ministry. She noted that it is anticipated that there will be a consultation process to raise questions and concerns with regard to deliverables and expectations for students.

5. Delegations

5.1 Larry Shamash, Elmdale Council Co-Chair, Re: Elmdale PS Retrofit

Larry Shamash is the Elmdale Public School (PS) Council Co-Chair representing the parents and council of the school. He noted that Report 19-026, which was discussed later in the evening, outlines what the Elmdale community has been advocating for since 2013. He expressed his gratitude to the OCDSB staff for their work on the project. Mr. Shamash noted that there may be challenges with the relocation of students to another location and asked the OCDSB for their continued support for the duration of the Elmdale PS addition and retrofit.

5.2 Kimberly Patriguin, Wellington Village Community Association (WVCA), Re: Elmdale PS Retrofit

Kimberly Patriguin is the president of the Wellington Village Community Association (WVCA). The WVCA supports the Elmdale PS renovation and has spoken with many parents and community members who have noted that the renovation would be beneficial to the community. Ms. Patriguin expressed gratitude for the OCDSB's work and looks forward to the project moving ahead.

6. Matters for Action:

6.1 Report 19-028, 2019-2020 Academic Staffing (J.McCoy ext. 8207)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-028 providing information with respect to the required and discretionary academic staffing levels for the 2019-2020 school year and to highlight areas being considered for recommended changes.

Discussion of this report had not been completed on 05 March 2019 at the time of adjournment. Memo19-038 identified that the District would be affected by changes to class size and it would be premature to make recommendations for academic staffing until the impact is known.

Superintendent McCoy noted the following from the Ministry of Education's announcements on 15 March 2019:

- Class size changes are imminent at the junior, intermediate, and secondary levels;
- Staff are continuing to look at impacts of the information provided by the Ministry and is seeking clarification; and
- The earliest time that academic staffing recommendations will be presented is at the 26 March 2019 Board meeting.

Superintendent McCoy noted that trustees were provided with Memo 19-047, Impact of Ministry Announcements March 2019, with regard to the impact of class size and curriculum changes.

Trustee Fisher queried how the Board will improve its ability to provide students with extra support in addition to finding ways of providing enrichment to high-achieving learners. He expressed concern that the report is formula-based and does not outline steps being taken to address this issue.

Director Williams-Taylor highlighted that the current strategic plan informs about the allocation of resources to support the District's most vulnerable students.

Trustee Lyra Evans advised that she requested that the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) discuss at its 10 April 2019 meeting whether or not integration into the regular classroom is in the best interest of students with special needs. She expressed the view that the loss of Local Priorities Funding (LPF) and future government funding reductions have an impact on students with special needs in the regular classroom.

Trustee Scott concurred with Trustee Fisher that the District should be mindful of the principles and values that are in the current strategic plan. She noted that the District needs to consider staff that support front line workers in carrying out their duties. Curriculum Services and Learning Support Services have key staff that are essential to supporting the teachers in the District's schools.

In response to queries from Trustee Penny, the following was noted:

- The current teacher/student ratio is 22:1 based on the current class size regulations;
- The collective agreement teacher/student ratio is based on class size averages of approximately 21 or 22;
- Students in specialized classes are deducted from the teacher/student ratio formula; and
- The Ministry's reduction in special education funding is not creating a budget pressure for the District.

OSSTF Representative Cathy Bailey expressed her gratitude to trustees who have shown their support to frontline staff of the OCDSB. She noted that the stresses and concerns of academic staff are being heard and understood. Ms. Bailey indicated that losing academic staff and not gaining more is concerning. She queried how other education workers such as educational assistants (EAs), social workers, and psychologists will be affected by the Ministry's imminent changes. Ms. Bailey invited trustees and staff to join a rally that will be held outside a Progressive Conservative (PC) event taking place at the Walter Baker Centre on 22 March 2019 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Premier Ford will be in attendance.

a. Supplemental Information: Memo 19-038, Academic Staffing 2019-2020

Memo 19-038 provided information on the impact of Ministry announcements on the timelines set out in the respective collective agreements to provide schools with their initial staff allocations for the 2019-2020 school year.

6.2 Report 19-026, Elmdale Public School Addition and Retrofit (M. Carson ext.8881)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-026 seeking approval for the project and budget for the Elmdale Public School addition and renovation.

CFO Carson highlighted the following information:

- The design and the changes to the site plan are to ensure the safety of students on an urban site;
- Renovations to the older part of the building need to be reviewed as it is on the City of Ottawa Heritage Register;
- The older steam system will be replaced with a modern hydraulic system;
- The District is awaiting Ministry approval to tender and award contracts for the project;
- The Elmdale PS addition and retrofit will take approximately 12 months; and
- Students may have to remain at Century Public School longer than expected should there be delays with key construction dates.

Moved by Trustee Braunovan,

A. THAT funding for the addition project for Elmdale Public School consist of Capital Priorities funding; School Condition Improvement funding; Facilities Renewal Program funding; and Temporary Accommodation funding, for a total budget of \$12,250,000.

B. THAT staff be authorized to proceed to tender with the project once Ministry approval is obtained; and

C. THAT the Chair and Director be given authority to award the contracts to the successful bidder(s) so long as they are within the approved project budget.

Trustee Braunovan noted that the concerns of the Elmdale community are paramount as students will be moved to another location for 12 months.

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

- Construction benchmarks have been identified for the Elmdale renovation to be completed;
- The Elmdale PS facility is in an urban area on a constrained site;
- The District cannot tender the cost of the project without Ministry approval;
- There will be six kindergarten classrooms at Elmdale PS; and
- The funding for the Elmdale PS addition and retrofit has already been identified in the budget.

Moved by Trustee Braunovan

A. THAT funding for the addition project for Elmdale Public School consist of Capital Priorities funding; School Condition Improvement funding; Facilities Renewal Program funding; and Temporary Accommodation funding, for a total budget of \$12,250,000.

B. THAT staff be authorized to proceed to tender with the project once Ministry approval is obtained; and

C. THAT the Chair and Director be given authority to award the contracts to the successful bidder(s) so long as they are within the approved project budget.

Carried

6.3 OPSBA Policy Resolutions

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) AGM Policy Resolution Guidelines were provided for information.

On Trustee Boothby's behalf, Trustee Scott advised that Trustee Boothby has been working on language with regard to supporting children with autism. Trustee Boothby intends to bring this topic to Board on 26 March

2019.

7. Matters for Discussion:

7.1 Report 19-025, Multi-Year Energy Management Plan 2019-2020 (M. Carson ext.8881)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-025 providing an update on the Multi-Year Energy Management Plan for 2018-2021. The District is required to bring forward an update on an annual basis.

CFO Carson highlighted the following from the report:

- The OCDSB is a leader within the city for sustainability initiatives;
- The Multi-Year Energy Management Plan has been successful because of the District's school staff and student body;
- The District has reduced greenhouse gas emissions;
- Energy conservation has created a better learning environment for students;
- New buildings and additions are designed to incorporate energy efficiency and conservation, where possible;
- Most schools have online monitoring of their electrical systems which has been integrated into students' learning and science courses;
- The District continues to move ahead with solar power generation; and
- Five major initiatives for the current year are building automation system integration and upgrades, lighting retrofits, HVAC controls upgrades, projects from re-commissioning, and awareness/occupant behaviour.

Manager Vala highlighted the following:

- The District has had a 15 percent reduction in hydro rates since 2013;
- The District needs to improve its composting and recycling initiatives in secondary schools; and
- The District is moving towards using products that are reusable with the assistance of instructional coaches in Curriculum Services.

Trustee Schwartz noted that the federal budget tabled on 19 March 2019 indicated that funding will be available for energy efficiency for residential, commercial, and multi-unit buildings. The *Budget Implementation Act* will provide further details with regard to eligibility for this funding. She also noted that an incentive program may be available for electrical vehicle infrastructure and/or charging stations to school boards with fleet vehicles.

In response to queries, the following information was provided:

- The province had previously encouraged school boards to look at heat pumps and other alternatives to natural gas for heating facilities;
- Natural gas is the most economical utility to heat schools;
- The market is producing gas at a low price;
- There will not be a major change to natural gas heating in the near future;
- Approximately 10 percent of the District's schools participate in a recycling program;
- The District has approximately 100 tradespeople and supervisory staff who are provided with a fleet car;
- A business case with regard to the lifespan of vehicles suggested that hybrid vehicles are the most economical;
- Hybrids and electric vehicles are the way forward;
- The District is governed as to how they would fund public charging stations;
- The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) encouraged the use of public charging stations;
- The District owns and operates its solar power generation systems; and
- Replacement windows are a major component to the District's energy performance backlog.

Student Trustee Glassman queried whether the District will have an increase in output of greenhouse gas emissions due to the harsh winter climate. Manager Vala explained that the District's existing targets are normalized through a standard number of days that facilities require heating.

Student Trustee Lin queried whether replacement windows in schools are a priority for the District. CFO Carson indicated that renovations on school windows and roof are continually being done. He noted that, in some cases, an entire wall may need to be replaced to upgrade windows. CFO Carson added that the District can accelerate window replacements as funding sources become available.

8. Information Items:

8.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

8.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update (if required)

There were no additional new Ministry updates.

8.3 OSTA Update

Trustee Blackburn advised that the next OSTA meeting is on 25 March 2019.

9. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Donna Blackburn, Chair