



PARTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT PUBLIC

Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 7:00 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Mark Fisher, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz (electronic communication), Lynn Scott, Isaac Glassman (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), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Joan Oracheski (Manager of Research, Analytics, and Evaluation), Colin Anderson (Principal of Safe Schools), Katrine Mallan (Manager of Board Services), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Sharlene Hunter (Communications Coordinator), John MacKinnon, Audio-Visual Technician, Amanda Rock (Board/Committee Coordinator)

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

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

Trustee Jennekens called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 advised that school councils will be holding fund raising activities in the spring. One activity that has attracted the attention of Health Canada is garage sales. The *Hazardous Products Act* states that anyone holding a garage sale is legally responsible for ensuring that products sold, whether new or used, are safe and meet current safety standards. Products intended for use by children, which include baby gates, walkers, car seats, cribs, playpens, toys that may present choking hazards, and helmets, must meet the requirements of the *Hazardous Products Act*.

Chair Scott advised that the Student Recognition awards will be held on the 30 May 2019 and Volunteer Appreciation Day is 13 June 2019.

4. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor advised that over 300 students in grades 4 to 12 from across the province participated at the annual provincial French public-speaking event. Students in grades 4 to 8 participated in a non-competitive festival showcasing their French language and public speaking skills, while students in grades 9 to 12 participated in a competitive Concours for cash prizes and partial scholarships to York University's Glendon Campus and the University of Ottawa. Director Williams-Taylor announced that four OCDSB students were winners. Félicitations Yi Fei Tao and Catherine Tao from Colonel By Secondary School, Raina Barara from Canterbury High School, and Aser Abdelgawad from Lisgar Collegiate Institute.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that Bhavya Mohan, a student at Colonel By Secondary School, has won the "Best Project Award" at the 2019 Canada-wide Science Fair. Bhavya came first out of 464 other projects for his work on immunotherapy, which is a type of cancer treatment that helps the immune system fight cancer cells. He will be attending the European Union Contest for Young Scientists in Bulgaria in September 2019. Director Williams-Taylor congratulated Bhavya for his outstanding achievement.

Director Williams-Taylor shared that the Date with Diversity was held at Canterbury High School on 14 May 2019. The Human Library format engaged staff, students and trustees in explorations of the impact of identity through the

real life stories that were shared. The narratives illuminated the intersectional nature of diversity and gave participants much to consider in our daily interactions in schools and communities.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Matters for Action:

6.1 Notice of Motion, Re: English Program, Trustee Campbell

Having given notice, Trustee Campbell moved as follows:

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

WHEREAS English Core French (ECF) program numbers have reduced slowly for years, but this reduction may have accelerated recently due to the possible confluence of (a) recent JK/SK program changes, (b) continued de facto program streaming of special education and ELL students, and (c) tipping point perceptions of relative program desirability;

WHEREAS continued smaller program numbers across many schools, coupled with important relative class composition challenges, could lead to undesirably small or under-resourced classes, programs, and schools, risking:

- (a) accelerated reputational and market reduction,
- (b) increased inequities in student learning and teacher workload,
- (c) social sorting possibly unique in Ontario,
- (d) increased accommodations churn and splitting communities, and
- (e) human, capital, and busing resourcing inefficiencies, and so together risking Board failure of both equity and stewardship tests,

WHEREAS actual French language proficiency outcomes of MFI versus EFI versus OCSB split model students may be trivial when tested at Grade 10, and as the last major FI literature review and FI vs ECF strategic purposes planning report is several years old;

AND WHEREAS it is important to take advantage of the current accommodations moratorium to purposefully re-examine our programming offerings strategically before locking in another large area of the District for several years through additional large-scale accommodation reviews;

THEREFORE be it resolved:

A.THAT staff prepare a report for Board discussion in early fall 2019 comparing the current and projected student enrolment numbers of the elementary English Core French programs with the elementary Early and Middle French Immersion programs, including:

i. Enrolment for special education (non-gifted), English language learners (ELL), and socio-economic status (SES), all disaggregated by grade, division, and program colocation nature; and

ii. Contribution rates to high school pathways, disaggregated by program colocation nature.

B. THAT this report additionally identify:

i. Any key operational, financial, pedagogical, community-impacting, or other strategic advantages and/or disadvantages related to its findings; and

ii. Any major programming, accommodations, policy, resourcing, and/or other strategic changes which might be expected to significantly and reliably address any concerns identified.

Trustee Campbell further stated that his motion is an information request for a report to come forward in the fall of 2019 for trustee discussion. In reviewing registration statistics, he has noted a decline in the early primary English program year-over-year and speculates that this may be the result of the 50/50 Kindergarten program introduced by the District.

Given the current provincial moratorium on accommodation reviews, Trustee Campbell believes that it is a good time to gather information on the English program as requested in the motion. Trustee Campbell outlined the two basic concerns motivating his motion. First, that the District may be experiencing social sorting, which has a negative impact on public education. Second, that the District may have important inefficiencies or non-optimal optimization of how we structure our schools and programs.

Trustees expressed support for the motion being brought forward. In response to a query, Director Williams-Taylor agreed with Trustee Campbell that the issues identified within the motion relate to the program delivery. She added that the issue is a program and operational matter that requires further exploration. She explained that the work has begun to review the English with Core French program and that an update is slated to be presented in the fall of 2019. The timeline will allow staff to present a report which provides for a robust discussion prior to anticipating action items.

CFO Carson shared that the end of October 2019 is the timeline that staff will be working towards.

Trustees spoke in support of the motion, and asked Trustee Campbell and staff several questions of clarification to which the following information was provided:

- The intent of the motion is to review academic and applied stream pathways as well as current and projected data trends;

- Requesting community feedback with regard to the program choices for the District's families may be an area to explore for the proposed motion; and
- Part B of the motion is intended to highlight areas of concern;
- Part B(ii) is intended to be a brainstorming exercise to gather options and ideas; and
- The motion is intended to support a discussion among senior staff and trustees.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that Part A of the motion lends itself to a robust conversation. She cautioned against the notion of having a speculative discussion implied in Part B of the motion. Staff are reluctant to speculate on the reasoning behind enrolment trends in the English with Core French program prior to having a discussion.

Trustee Penny expressed his concern that the motion simply compiles enrolment statistics, and does not address the underlying reasons that the District's families opt for particular program choices. Trustee Campbell explained that this is a first step to inform further discussion. Once the board has the data, additional qualitative and quantitative research may be requested to complete a fulsome study to address the trends observed.

In response to a query from Trustee Ellis, Manager Carty-Ostafichuk advised that the District does not yet have adequate data to reflect on the on the impact of 50/50 Kindergarten on the equitable enrolment in the EFI program. Parents' choice of enrollment pathways, taking school changes into consideration, is critical to the discussion.

Trustee Scott noted that schools having small enrolments in the English program can impact on the ability to create viable programs. She queried whether information will be provided with regard to cohort size per grade on a school by school basis to understand the implications of small enrolments in the English program.

Manager Carty-Ostafichuk provided the following information:

- Staff will be reviewing trends in the last 15 years and providing projections for the next 15 years but cautioned it is difficult to make projections for the distant future; and
- Staff will be providing value-added information such as cohort size and the location of schools to assist trustees in examining the issue.

Trustee Scott commented that the Board may want to consider reviewing policy decisions that have possibly impacted the District's program offerings. She added that the JK/SK 50/50 program implementation, the addition of the MFI program and accommodation reviews have contributed

to significant changes in program delivery. The District does not currently know if any one of these factors has contributed to policy decisions. She noted that the discussions should be based around the following three questions:

- Is there an issue with the enrolment trends for the English with Core French program?
- What is the scope of the issue? and
- How big is the impact of this issue on the District?

ETFO representative Brian Lesage noted the following:

- The root of the data collection is crucial to addressing enrolment trends;
- A mechanism could be created for teachers' voices and experiences to be heard; and
- Operational and pedagogical change is more likely to happen if the District consults with its educators.

Trustee Campbell submitted that further consultation may be required and requested his colleagues to support the motion for further discussion.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

A.THAT staff prepare a report for Board discussion in early fall 2019 comparing the current and projected student enrolment numbers of the elementary English Core French programs with the elementary Early and Middle French Immersion programs, including:

- i. Enrolment for special education (non-gifted), English language learners (ELL), and SES, all disaggregated by grade, division, and program colocation nature; and**
- ii. Contribution rates to high school pathways, disaggregated by program colocation nature.**

B. THAT this report additionally identify:

- i. Any key operational, financial, pedagogical, community-impacting, or other strategic advantages and/or disadvantages related to its findings; and**
- ii. Any major programming, accommodations, policy, resourcing, and/or other strategic changes which might be expected to significantly and reliably address any concerns identified.**

Carried

7. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

7.1 Parent Involvement Committee, 17 April 2019

Moved by Trustee Blackburn,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report, dated 17 April 2019, be received.

Carried

7.2 Advisory Committee on Equity, 25 April 2019

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity report, dated 25 April 2019, be received.

Trustee Ellis requested that his and Trustee Campbell's name are reflected as non-voting trustee members in the report's attendance.

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity report, dated 25 April 2019, be received, as amended.

Carried

8. Matters for Discussion:

8.1 Report 19-062, Student Suspension Report for 2017-2018 School Year

Please refer to the full report of this meeting.

8.2 Report 19-059, Supporting Indigenous Learners at the OCDSB

Please refer to the full report of this meeting.

9. Information Items:

9.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

9.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update

Trustee Scott advised the revised Indigenous Education curriculum was released on 21 May 2019. She shared the Ministry's link to the revised curriculum with trustees and senior staff:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/first-nations-metis-and-inuit-studies.html>

9.3 OSTA Update (if required)

There was no OSTA update.

10. Long Range Agendas (May to June 2019)

The long range agenda was provided for review.

11. New Business - Information and Inquiries

Trustee Campbell queried whether staff had any comments regarding Minister Thompson's reaction to statements made by the Peel District School Board about governance reviews. Director Williams-Taylor advised that she does not have information on that item.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Jennifer Jennekens, Chair