

MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 19-109

TO: Trustees
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Peter Symmonds, Superintendent of Learning Support Services

DATE: 20 September 2019

RE: **Draft Mental Health Strategy Update**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the status of the development of the OCDSB Mental Health Strategy.

As outlined in Memo 19-072, Draft Mental Health Strategy, work began developing the new Mental Health Strategy in spring 2018. One component of the work included seeking feedback from the OCDSB advisory committees. To date, the draft strategy has been presented to the Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) on 23 May 2019 and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on 12 June 2019.

With feedback and input from members of these committees, work on developing the strategy has continued over the summer. Based on the feedback provided, the strategy has been updated as follows:

1. The strategic priority areas identified by School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) have been embedded into the OCDSB cultures of innovation, caring and social responsibility to reflect the direct alignment of the work in mental health with the OCDSB Strategic Plan. As part of the restructuring of the strategy, the following sections have been added: desired outcomes for students, staff and the system and key performance indicators;
2. References have been added;
3. While the importance of identity was referenced in the initial draft, it has been explicitly referenced in the current version to highlight our ongoing learning and to emphasize the prominence of identity as a factor that influences Mental Health;
4. Language has been added to reinforce that supporting mental health from mental health promotion through to intervention for mental health challenges is done through an equity lens in a culturally responsive manner;
5. The wording describing the graphic illustrating what students need to build and sustain mental health has been clarified; and
6. The strategy has been formatted by the Communications Department.

It was presented to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) on 19 September 2019.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Petra Duschner at petra.duschner@ocdsb.ca.

cc Senior Staff
 Manager, Board Services
 Special Education Advisory Committee
 Advisory Committee on Equity
 Corporate Records