

## BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

**Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7:00 pm**  
**Board Room**  
**Administration Building**  
**133 Greenbank Road**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**

Trustees: Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Erica Braunovan, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Lynn Scott, Ganaaboute Gagne (Student Trustee), Prasith Wijeweera (Student Trustee)

Staff: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Financial Services), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Susan Baker (Acting Manager of Board Services), Charles D'Aoust (Coordinator of Budget Services), Teri Adamthwaite (Coordinator of Financial Reporting), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), John MacKinnon (Audio-Visual Technician), Samantha Flynn (Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:15 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 the Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Jennekens, seconded by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

3. Presentation to Trustee Mark Fisher

Director Williams-Taylor called upon Chair Scott to present Trustee Fisher with a token of appreciation in honour of his 10 years of service to the Board. Trustee Fisher has been a strong advocate for multi-year capital and operational planning, risk management and consistently promotes fiscal transparency and responsibility.

4. Presentation to Trustee Lynn Scott

Director Williams-Taylor called upon Vice-Chair Braunovan to present Trustee Scott with a token of appreciation in honour of her 25 years of service to the Board. Vice-Chair Braunovan noted that Trustee Scott was first elected to the Carleton Board of Education in 1994 and became the first Chair of the newly amalgamated Ottawa-Carleton District School Board in 1997. Trustee Scott has served on or led all of the Board's major committees and has played a significant role in initiatives to improve program delivery for all students. She added that Trustee Scott has been passionate for good governance and strategic planning. She expressed appreciation for Trustee Scott's dedication to the District.

5. Presentation on Evidence of Practice - Eric Hardie

5.1 Report 19-116, Evidence of Practice (E. Hardie, ext. 8401)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-116 presenting information on a school's experience in demonstrating evidence of practice in the area of the Culture of Innovation. Superintendent Hardie, students from West Carleton Secondary School and their teacher, Mr. Steve Amel spoke of the 'Introduction to Computer Engineering' and 'Computer Engineering' courses where students learn how to build their own circuit boards.

During the discussion, and in response to questions, the following points were noted:

- The District currently runs 42 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs and receive additional funding from the Ministry of Education to offer the programs;
- The ability to create circuit boards in the SHSM program lends itself to a marketing project;
- The program has inspired some students to consider career pathways related to software engineering;
- The program is currently not at capacity and could accommodate more students;
- Students created rulers to assist in marketing the program to younger students;

- A query was made requesting more information about how students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs can connect with organizations that provide funding; and
- Students who enter the program without prior knowledge of computer engineering are generally not overwhelmed by course content as educators ensure that students receive step-by-step instructions and additional assistance when required.

Chair Scott thanked the staff and students of West Carleton Secondary School on behalf of the Board.

6. Report from the Board (In Camera)

Trustee Braunovan reported that the Board met in camera this evening, and reports and recommends as follows:

**Moved by** Trustee Boothby

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**THAT staff proceed, as directed in Board in camera, with respect to a human resources item.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (11)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

7. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott noted that this year, the Ministry of Education has made changes to the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. She noted that the school council PRO grant application program has been discontinued and, instead, the District received approximately \$40,000 in PRO grant funding for 2019-2020; all funds must be spent by 30 June 2020.

Chair Scott advised that the District, in collaboration with its Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), is seeking parental input about how to allocate the PRO grant funds. A survey has been sent to school councils and is available on the District website. She encouraged parents to submit their thoughts by 02 December 2019.

Chair Scott noted that all students attending school in Ontario are required to be vaccinated against nine diseases or have a valid exemption. Parents and

guardians are responsible for ensuring their child's vaccine records are kept up to date. Ottawa Public Health (OPH) requires proof that children have received proper immunization. She added that Ottawa Public Health has begun sending letters home to notify parents to update vaccine records as of 20 December 2019.

In response to a query from Trustee Campbell, Chair Scott noted that schools who do not have a functioning parent council can still submit their feedback with regard to the PRO grant funding.

Trustee Lyra Evans expressed disappointment with the religious exemption process for immunizations in Ontario.

8. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor announced that employees with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) have begun strike action in the form of a "work to rule" or "partial withdrawal of service". Both ETFO and OSSTF have indicated that this phase of strike action is in relation to administrative duties. She highlighted that all classroom activities, extracurricular programs and extended day programs will continue as usual. She added that staff will continue to inform parents as updates become available.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that from 26 November until 13 December, parents and students will be sent the 2019 Student Survey. Surveys will be emailed to parents to complete for children from Kindergarten to grade 6. Students from grades 7-12 will complete their own survey. She noted that the confidential survey will explore issues of identity – race, ethnicity, creed, language, sexual orientation and gender identity, along with wellbeing, engagement and whether students feel safe at school.

9. Delegations

9.1 Jen Douek, Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women (OCTEVAW) re Dress Code

On behalf of the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women, Ms. Jen Douek expressed concern regarding the District's dress code policy. She noted that the current policy can be used as a tool to target marginalized students. She presented several suggestions to the Board with regard to the safe schools consultation process and encouraged the District to consult with community leaders about the policy.

In response to trustee queries, Ms. Douek noted the following points:

- Rape culture enables and normalizes non-consent and the objectifying of women; and

- A values-based dress code would allow students to dress comfortably without fear of body shaming. A values-based dress code would encourage students and staff to manage their thoughts and opinions with respect to a student's appearance and eliminate barriers to student attendance.

10. Matters for Action

10.1 Confirmation of Board Minutes, 22 October 2019

**Moved by Trustee Fisher, seconded by Trustee Hough,  
THAT the 22 October 2019 Board minutes be confirmed.  
Carried**

10.2 Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 22 October 2019 Board minutes.

10.3 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 05 November 2019

**Moved by Trustee Braunovan, seconded by Trustee Ellis,  
THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 05 November 2019,  
be received.  
Carried**

10.3. Approval of Consultation Plan for P.032.SCO Safe Schools and  
P.125.SCO School District Code of Conduct

**Moved by** Trustee Campbell

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**A. THAT the Consultation Plan, attached as Appendix B to  
Report 19-087, be approved, in principle, as amended  
(Attached as Appendix A); and**

**B. THAT staff be directed to prepare a draft revision for Board  
consideration on 26 November based on input received at  
the 05 November Committee of the Whole meeting.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried  
unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Braunovan, Campbell,  
Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and  
Scott (11)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.3. Approval of Timeline and Consultation Plan for John Young Elementary School

**Moved by** Trustee Boothby

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

- A. **THAT Board affirm that a Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) under Board Policy P.118.PLG is not required for this study; and**
- B. **THAT Board approves the timeline and consultation plan attached as Appendix B and C to Report 19-105, in order to consult with local school communities and the public. (Attached as Appendices B and C)**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (11)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.3. Approval of an Amendment to P.096.SES Special Education Programs and Services

**Moved by** Trustee Campbell

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**THAT the Board revise section 3.3(a) of Policy P.096.SES of Special Education Programs and Services to read: “a range of appropriate and timely assessments, accompanying tiered interventions, and professional strategies.”**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (11)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.4 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 19 November 2019

**Moved by Trustee Braunovan, seconded by Trustee Penny,**

**THAT the Committee of the Whole report, dated 19 November 2019, be received.**

**Carried**

10.4. Approval of staffing increase to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Developmental Disabilities (DD)

**Moved by** Trustee Campbell

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**THAT the Board approve the proposed in year increase to staffing (25.0 FTE Educational Assistants and 1.0 FTE Itinerant Teacher) effective immediately, to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried on the following division:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Braunovan, Campbell, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Ellis (1)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.4 Approval of Policy P.141.GOV Integrity Commissioner

This was a non-consent item and when dealt with later in the meeting, the following discussion ensued.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Braunovan,

THAT the draft policy P.141.GOV Integrity Commissioner, attached as Appendix A to Report 19-115, be approved as amended.

Trustee Campbell expressed concern regarding section 3.6 of the policy which outlines areas that the Integrity Commissioner does not have jurisdiction to investigate. He encouraged the Board to

support a recommendation to refer the motion back to staff for further revision.

**Moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the following motion be referred back to staff to revisit language in section 3.6 and bring back to the Board at the earliest opportunity:**

**“THAT the draft policy P.141.GOV Integrity Commissioner, attached as Appendix A to Report 19-115, be approved as amended.”**

**Carried**

10.4. Approval of Revisions to P.025.GOV Board Member Conflict of Interest

**Moved by** Trustee Blackburn

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**THAT the revisions to P.025.GOV Board Member Conflict of Interest, attached as Appendix A to Report 19-051, be approved. (Attached as Appendix D)**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Braunovan, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (11)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.4 Approval of Commencement of Activities with a View to Phase Out the High Performance Athletes Program at John McCrae Secondary School

This was a non-consent item and when dealt with later in the meeting, the following discussion ensued.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Braunovan,

THAT staff be directed to commence the activities outlined in Policy P.105.CUR and Procedure PR.629.CUR, Changes to Programs and Program Delivery Structures at Secondary Schools, with a view



to phasing out the High Performance Athlete (HPA) Program at John McCrae Secondary School commencing in September 2021.

During discussion, and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- Staff reached out to a variety of different school boards across the province to inquire about accommodations for high performance athletes;
- A comment was made that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding earned from enrolment in the program offsets the cost of the program;
- A comment was made that initiating a consultation process with a view to phasing out the HPA program is unlikely to be supported by parents of students currently enrolled in the program and may erode trust in the Board;
- Specialty programs can help attract students to the District;
- High performance athletes who are not in the HPA program are receiving adequate accommodations and flexibility in their schedules across the District in various schools;
- Due to accommodation pressures at John McCrae Secondary School, the program may be better supported at a different school site;
- The HPA program restricts what sports students may participate in at John McCrae Secondary School; and
- A comment was made that the HPA program is not curriculum-based and students are best served in their community school.

**Moved by** Trustee Blackburn

**Seconded by** Trustee Braunovan

**THAT staff be directed to commence the activities outlined in Policy P.105.CUR and Procedure PR.629.CUR, Changes to Programs and Program Delivery Structures at Secondary Schools, with a view to phasing out the High Performance Athlete Program at John McCrae Secondary School commencing in September 2021.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried on the following division:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Campbell, Ellis, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (9)

AGAINST: Trustee Lyra Evans (1)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.5 Oral Report, Audit Committee, 25 November 2019

Trustee Fisher advised that the Audit Committee met on 25 November 2019 with the external auditors of KPMG LLP to review the consolidated financial statements and discuss significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to the approval of the consolidated financial statements. The auditors highlighted the Board's concerns on the level of funding provided by the provincial government and its potential impact on the level of service provided to students. He noted that, overall, the Committee was satisfied with the report and recommends as follows:

10.5 Approval of Draft 2018-2019 Consolidated Financial Statements

**Moved by** Trustee Fisher

**Seconded by** Trustee Penny

**THAT the Draft 2018-2019 Consolidated Financial Statements attached as Appendix A to Report 19-101 be approved. (Attached as Appendix E)**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

10.6 Report 19-126, Appointment of Association Representatives to the Special Education Advisory Committee (M. Giroux, ext. 8310)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-126 to appoint Autism Ontario and Learning Disabilities Association of Ottawa-Carleton (LDAO) representatives to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the term 4 December 2019 to 14 November 2022.

Executive Officer Giroux drew trustees' attention to the recommended appointments, noting that staff has confirmed knowledgeability.

**Moved by** Trustee Boothby

**Seconded by** Trustee Evans

- A. THAT Katherine Kacew, be appointed as the primary member representing Autism Ontario to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the term ending 14 November 2022; and**
- B. THAT Maggie Mamen, be appointed as the primary member, and Michael Bates be appointed as the alternate member representing Learning Disabilities Association of Ottawa-Carleton to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the term ending 14 November 2022.**

**Carried**

A recorded vote was held and the motion was carried unanimously by those present:

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Campbell, Ellis, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Penny, and Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

11. Matters for Discussion

11.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives

Trustee Boothby distributed a handout to trustees summarizing the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting on 24 November. She drew trustees' attention to a recent poll report by Nanos Research that indicated a majority of Ontarians agree that spending on public education is an investment into the future; participants of the survey also indicated that the spending is more important than eliminating the provincial deficit. Trustee Penny added that the importance of Indigenous education was discussed including the garnering of support for a mandatory curriculum.

In response to a query regarding the public funding of private schools, Trustee Boothby noted that while the issue was raised during the meeting, it was not discussed thoroughly by members due to the full agenda.

12. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

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Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board