

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

**Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario**

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

Staff Present: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Joan Oracheski (Manager of Research, Evaluation & Analytics Division), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Brent Smith (System Principal, Curriculum Services - Elementary), Jane Alexander (System Principal, Secondary, Equity and Curriculum Services), Jennifer Offord (System Principal, Curriculum Services - Elementary), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), John MacKinnon, Audio-Visual Technician, Nicole Guthrie (Senior Board Coordinator), Samantha Flynn (Board/Committee Coordinator), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Rupi Bergamin, Ottawa-Carleton Secondary School Administrators Network (OCSSAN) and Amina El Sharif, Student Senator.

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

Vice-Chair Penny called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He 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 Scott,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott advised that on Friday, 06 December, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) announced it will hold another full-day withdrawal of service at nine school boards and it will not include the OCDSB. All District schools will be open on 11 December 2019. She added that the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) will begin the second phase of its strike action. The measures are largely administrative in nature.

Chair Scott congratulated John McCrae Secondary School for being selected as a recipient of the 2018 Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement. She noted that this year, the Education, Quality, Accountability Office (EQAO) wanted to recognize schools that supported students' positive attitudes toward math, which led to academic success.

Chair Scott advised that Trustee Erica Braunovan has announced her resignation as trustee of Somerset-Kitchissippi. The resignation will be effective as of 31 December 2019. She noted that the Board will formally receive the resignation and establish a process to find a replacement at the next Board meeting on 17 December 2019.

4. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor noted that there is still time for parents and students to complete the 2019 Student Survey, adding that the response to date has been very positive. The District will be extending the deadline for the survey to 19 January 2020. Information collected from the survey will help the District to better understand the needs of students.

Director Williams-Taylor announced the appointment of Shannon Smith and Prince Duah as new Superintendents of Instruction, noting that they will begin their roles with the District on 06 January 2020.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the Ontario Human Rights Commission is conducting a public inquiry into potential human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The Commission selected eight school boards, including the OCDSB, to provide a representative sample of boards across Ontario. As part of its Right to Read inquiry, the Commission has launched a survey for students with reading disabilities and their parents and guardians. The survey will help the Commission understand and report on the experiences of students with reading disabilities.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the District will once again celebrate coding activities during the annual "Hour of Code" from 9 December to 15 December 2019.

5. Delegations

5.1 Ms. Susha Zachariah

On behalf of the Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School Council, Ms. Susha Zachariah noted that although the council is not opposed to the redirection of students from Chapman Mills Public School, they are concerned about increasing population pressures at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS over the long-term. She expressed concern that the use of further portables would restrict use of school property and noted that the proposed changes may lead to a five period day for students at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS. She encouraged the Board to consider the school council's proposed plan that would allow a more gradual increase to the school's population over five years.

5.2 Ms. Ellen Tsaprailis

Ms. Ellen Tsaprailis, a parent at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS noted her support for the school council's proposal. She expressed concern regarding the similarity in bell times at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS and Berrigan Elementary School as traffic pressure on Berrigan Drive is significantly impacted. She noted that the school council's proposal was previously shared with trustees at a public meeting. In response to a trustee query, she indicated that a possible change in bell times for Longfields-Davidson Heights SS or Berrigan ES may be helpful.

6. Matters for Action:

6.1 Report 19-118, Revisions to P.017.GOV Student Trustees

Your Committee had before it Report 19-118 seeking approval of revisions to Policy P.017.GOV: Student Trustees to change the date by which elections for student trustees must be held.

Superintendent Hardie noted that the Board previously discussed student trustee terms in 2017 and the options presented in the report.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the proposed changes to Policy P.017.GOV, Student Trustees (attached as Appendix A to Report 19-118) be approved.

In introducing the motion, Trustee Lyra Evans noted that student trustees have lobbied for the proposed changes and therefore the Board should honour the anticipated changes.

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

- The proposed policy changes would allow for continued mentorship of first year student trustees by a two-year term student trustee;
- The changes would eliminate the possibility of students running for the position of student trustee in grade 11;

- A comment was made that the change in election dates may hinder some students from running for the position of student trustee;
- Student Senator El Sharif expressed concern with the proposed change in election dates noting that the month of February is a busy time for students who are preparing for exams;
- Ontario Regulation 354/18 states that the change to election periods must be in place in all provincial school districts no later than 01 January 2020;
- The Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) is creating a handbook to assist school boards with the changes. The association is supportive of the proposed changes;
- A letter was previously sent from the Chair of the Board in 2017 advocating for the proposed change to student trustee terms. The letter did not indicate support for a change in student trustee election dates;
- A comment was made that the change in student trustee terms with respect to preparedness for the position is unnecessary; and
- In response to a suggestion, Director Williams-Taylor noted that staff would ensure adequate communications with students regarding the role of a student trustee and election dates.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the proposed changes to Policy P.017.GOV, Student Trustees (attached as Appendix A to Report 19-118) be approved. (Attached as Appendix A)

Carried

6.2 Report 19-125, Chapman Mills Public School Area - Intermediate & Secondary School Attendance Boundary Redirection - Approval

Your Committee had before it Report 19-125 seeking Board approval of an intermediate and secondary school attendance boundary redirection in the Chapman Mills area, west of the Woodroffe Avenue area of South Nepean.

Manager Carty Ostafichuk noted that staff held a well-attended public meeting to discuss the boundary redirection and heard some concerns from the Longfields-Davidson Heights SS community regarding an increased student population. In response to community concerns, staff has included a sibling provision as well as a one-time option for graduating Chapman Mills PS students to attend Cedarview Middle School.

Moved by Trustee Blackburn,

- A. THAT the Chapman Mills PS JK-grade 6 attendance boundary area be redirected to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 7-12 on a phased basis commencing with grades 7 and 9 in September 2020, followed by grades 7,8,9 and 10 in 2021 until full phase-in of grade 7-12 enrolment by 2023 subject to recommendations B and C to Report 19-125;
- B. THAT the current (2019-2020) graduating Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students be provided with a one-time option to attend Cedarview MS for September 2020, and further subject to the sibling provisions outlined in recommendation C to Report 19-125;
- C. THAT the current (2019-2020) Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students, attending Chapman Mills PS and Chapman Mills PS area grade 7-8 students attending Cedarview MS may attend John McCrae SS for grade 9 -12 if they have an older sibling currently (2019-2020) attending John McCrae SS in Grades 9-11; and
- D. THAT the intermediate and secondary school attendance boundary for the Chapman Mills Public School area be approved as outlined in Appendix C to Report 19-125.

In introducing the motion, Trustee Blackburn expressed appreciation to staff in ensuring that community feedback was taken into consideration. She noted that she attended a public meeting and working group meeting regarding the proposed redirection of students, and highlighted the need to respond to complex population pressures in the Barrhaven area. She added that the staff was amenable to revisions to the original motion.

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

- John McCrae Secondary School is landlocked; additional portables cannot be added to the school's property;
- Some parents from the Cedarview Middle School community suggested changes to the District's student transfer policy; staff carefully reviewed the suggestion and determined that a change would not be necessary;
- Staff previously considered the use of a "holding school site" to assist in easing population pressures at Longfields-Davidson SS however, in the absence of a commitment of Ministry funding for a new school site, this option would not be a reasonable solution;
- Staff have been in continuous contact with Ministry staff regarding capital project submissions. The District has a strong business case for a new school site in the Riverside South area. A new secondary school in Riverside South would alleviate some school population

pressures in the Barrhaven area. Staff has not received information with regard to the timing of announcements related to Ministry funding for capital projects;

- Staff continues to encourage the Ministry to prioritize multi-year capital planning;
- Trustees encouraged advocacy for a new school site, noting that it may be helpful for parents to send letters of support to their local members of provincial parliament;
- If funding was received for a new school site in Riverside South, it would likely take three to four years until the school was operational; and
- The number of special education students at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS fluctuates from year to year.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT “followed by grades 9 to 12 at Longfields Davidson Heights SS” be added to Part B to follow “September 2020.”

Carried, friendly

Moved by Trustee Blackburn,

- THAT the Chapman Mills PS JK-grade 6 attendance boundary area be redirected to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 7-12 on a phased basis commencing with grades 7 and 9 in September 2020, followed by grades 7,8,9 and 10 in 2021 until full phase-in of grade 7-12 enrolment by 2023 subject to Recommendations B and C to Report 19-125;**
- THAT the current (2019-2020) graduating Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students be provided with a one-time option to attend Cedarview MS for September 2020, followed by grades 9 to 12 at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS, and further subject to the sibling provisions outlined in Recommendation C to Report 19-125;**
- THAT the current (2019-2020) Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students, attending Chapman Mills PS and Chapman Mills PS area grade 7-8 students attending Cedarview MS may attend John McCrae SS for grade 9-12 if they have an older sibling currently (2019-2020) attending John McCrae SS in Grades 9-11; and**
- THAT the intermediate and secondary school attendance boundary for the Chapman Mills PS area be approved as outlined in Appendix C to Report 19-125. (Attached as Appendix B)**

Carried

6.3 Notice of Motion re Presentation of the Final Rideau-Gloucester Transition Monitoring Report, Trustee Schwartz

Notice of motion having been given, Trustee Schwartz moved as follows:

WHEREAS on 7 March 2017, the Board approved the closure of Rideau High School, redirected students to Gloucester High School, and directed staff to prepare a report for February 2018, and every year thereafter for three years, which allows staff and the Board to monitor the achievement and well-being of all the students at the newly amalgamated school and which shall include the following things, among others:

- i. Total enrolment, number of new students disaggregated by pre-amalgamated boundaries, attrition/retention rates disaggregated by pre-amalgamated boundaries, and number of sections by pathway;
- ii. Information about supports in place at the school for special education students, English language learners, and students residing in lower income neighbourhoods;
- iii. Student achievement and well-being data; and
- iv. EQAO results at the school level and disaggregated by pre-amalgamated boundaries.

WHEREAS the Committee of the Whole, at its meeting on 19 November 2019, defeated a motion to reduce the number of transition monitoring reports and, during the debate, made a number of suggestions with respect to the content and timing of the final report;

WHEREAS the purpose of the transition monitoring reports is to ensure ongoing monitoring of student achievement and well-being during the transition process, and to inform future amalgamation decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the date for the presentation of the final Rideau-Gloucester Transition Monitoring Report be delayed until the Fall of 2020 so that current year EQAO data can be included in the final analysis; and
- B. THAT staff consult with the school council at Gloucester High School to discuss the feasibility, usefulness, and relevance of the data to be collected and reported on in the final report.

In introducing the motion, Trustee Schwartz noted that the Board recently discussed the final Rideau-Gloucester transition monitoring report in response to a defeated motion by Trustee Blackburn. She added that the proposed motion is supported by the Gloucester High School Council and will ensure that the final report provides meaningful information to the school community. In response to a query, Trustee Schwartz clarified that the final report would not include new data sets but would present data trends.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT “hold a meeting” replace “consult” in Part B.

In introducing the amendment, Trustee Scott expressed concern with the ambiguity of the word "consult."

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Ellis,

THAT "at least" be inserted to follow "hold" in Part B.

Speaking against the sub-amendment, Trustee Schwartz noted that the intent of the motion is to ensure that at least one meeting is held with school council at Gloucester High School. She commented that the school community is not inclined to continue to discuss the amalgamation at length.

In wrap-up, Trustee Ellis highlighted that although the school council may not request more than one meeting, the proposed sub-amendment clarifies that the school council is not limited to only one meeting with staff.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Ellis,

THAT "at least" be inserted to follow "hold" in Part B.

Defeated

Director Williams-Taylor advised that it is staff's practice to remain responsive to the school community. If the school council should request further input from staff with regard to the final monitoring report, staff would engage with the school community to ensure a thorough data collection.

An amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT “hold a meeting” replace “consult” in Part B.

Carried, friendly

In response to a trustee query, Executive Officer Giroux noted that it is unlikely staff could present conclusive data with regard to EQAO test results and the student transition.

An amendment moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT “the original report elements to be included in the final report” replace "data to be included and reported on in the final report" in Part B.

In response to trustee queries, Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff will be gathering feedback to ensure the final monitoring report is meaningful to the school community. Staff is amenable to changing the presentation of the final report.

An amendment moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT “the original report elements to be included in the final report” replace “data to be included and reported on in the final report” in Part B.

Carried, friendly

Trustee Ellis expressed concern with regard to the language included in the amended motion and noted that he may introduce a further amendment at the upcoming Board meeting.

In wrap up, Trustee Schwartz reiterated that the motion has received full support from the Gloucester High School Council. She added that the council is seeking to ensure that the final report reflects school experiences and highlights areas in need of continued focus.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz,

- A. THAT the date for the presentation of the final Rideau-Gloucester Transition Monitoring Report be delayed until the Fall of 2020 so that current year EQAO data can be included in the final analysis; and**
- B. THAT staff hold a meeting with the school council at Gloucester High School to discuss the feasibility, usefulness, and relevance of the original report elements to be included in the final report.**

Carried

7. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

7.1 Special Education Advisory Committee Report, 13 November 2019

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated 13 November 2019 be received.

Carried

7.2 Parent Involvement Committee Report, 20 November 2019

Moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee Report dated 20 November 2019 be received.

Carried

7.3 Indigenous Education Advisory Council Report, 14 November 2019

Moved by Trustee Hough,

THAT the Indigenous Education Advisory Council Report dated 14 November 2019 be received.

Carried

7.4 Audit Committee Report, 25 November 2019

Moved by Trustee Fisher,

THAT the Audit Committee Report dated 25 November 2019 be received.

Carried

8. Matters for Discussion:

8.1 Report 19-123, Annual Student Achievement Report (ASAR) 2018-2019

Your Committee had before it Report 19-123 providing the Board with an overview of District student achievement data for the 2018-2019 school year.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the Annual Student Achievement Report (ASAR) has been streamlined pertaining to patterns and trends. She added that the following year's ASAR will incorporate an analysis of demographic data.

Manager Orcheski provided an overview of the ASAR. She noted that the ASAR identifies opportunities for growth and areas of concern.

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

- Previous ASAR reports are posted electronically to the District website;
- Trustee Ellis commented that it would be helpful to know which schools are performing substantially below or above average. He expressed support for the development of a local strategy directed at schools with the greatest achievement gaps. Director Williams-Taylor noted that, at a recent Academic Council meeting, staff carefully reviewed achievement results at each school in the District in an effort to determine where instruction is having the greatest impact. She added that superintendents will be gathering further information in determining where to direct further supports/resources;
- Data analysis has reinforced that student attitudes and perceptions towards mathematics are intricately connected to their achievement outcomes;
- Credit accumulation graphics illustrate pass rates/graduation rates of students in all courses at all skill levels;
- Students in locally developed courses may have special education needs; students generally transition directly to the workplace and/or apprenticeships after graduation;

- Staff are continuing to develop strategies to close achievement gaps after grade 3 where many students begin to experience difficulties in math. Provincially, many students are struggling with changes in the curriculum between grades 3 and 4. Staff is anticipating the introduction of a revised math curriculum prior the end of the current school year;
- Staff tracks cohort graduation rates over five years, taking into consideration that some students require an additional school year to accumulate all required credits;
- With regard to the grade 9 report card data, lower achievement is reflected in math, english, and science. Higher achievement patterns are reflected in the subjects of French and careers;
- Secondary school principals remain in continuous contact with feeder schools to better understand what types of student needs exist in school communities;
- Report card data provides a more fulsome outlook with regard to student performance. EQAO data can vary from report card data as some students struggle with standardized testing;
- Staff is currently analyzing trends resulting from EQAO assessment data to recognize strands where students had more difficulty;
- The academic performance of a small number of students can result in changes to patterns/trends;
- A report will be presented to the Board in February 2020 that will include engagement strategies for Indigenous students; and
- Some trustees highlighted the importance of consistent and reliable achievement data reporting and suggested that an analysis be undertaken with regard to post-secondary recruitment standards.

8.2 Report 19-113, Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSAW)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-113 outlining the 2019-2020 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSAW).

Director Williams-Taylor highlighted that the strategic plan document includes a monitoring process that informs the creation of the BIPSAW in responding to areas where students are struggling.

Superintendent Towaij noted that the BIPSAW focuses on the following three goals:

- Champion high learning expectations for all students;

- Prioritize the dignity and well-being of students in inclusive and caring classrooms; and
- Build authentic engagement with and among our communities.

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

- Staff has formed a "program and learning council" comprised of 20 administrators from across the District representing all families of schools to discuss the BIPSAW, School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement & Wellness (SIPSAW), and superintendency meetings;
- The District surveyed all mathematics teachers in grade 3, 6, and 9 (applied) and received significant feedback regarding areas of greatest need. Feedback received was used to inform the creation of the BIPSAW; teachers requested more support in meeting the diverse needs of their students and assistance in using mathematics resources provided by the District;
- The BIPSAW and SIPSAW documents are interconnected and of similar design to ensure that staff and students receive timely supports when requested. The responsive nature of both documents are foundational;
- District strategies included in the BIPSAW in responding to student needs are analysed three times annually;
- A comment was made that the language used for BIPSAW goal #1 could be revised to reflect greater intent;
- Some trustees expressed that they were pleased with targets included in the BIPSAW;
- A suggestion was made that the BIPSAW should be more closely aligned with the presentation of the District budget;
- Staff consulted with other school districts across the province to ensure that the targets identified in the BIPSAW are similar to targets set by other high-performing districts;
- A key goal included in the BIPSAW is supporting schools in communicating with parents (including cohesive web text for school websites and electronically posted SIPSAW's);
- Staff reviews and analyses all prior SIPSAWs in creating the annual BIPSAW;
- The school effectiveness framework guides the creation of strategies to improve student outcomes;

- Staff recognizes that more consistent communication parents regarding the SIPSAW is required;
- Trustee Ellis requested information regarding how principals engage with school councils;
- A request was made for further information about the methodology used in developing targets for improvement;
- Trustee Scott expressed the view that setting more substantial targets may be worthwhile of consideration;
- Staff have developed an internal seven year plan to assist in the planning for annual BIPSAWs; and
- Staff have identified additional professional development days based on feedback received from teaching staff; additionally, further resources requested by teachers have been sent to schools.

9. Information Items:

9.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

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

There was no new business.

11. Adjournment

The 10:30 p.m. vote did not receive the required 2/3 majority and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Erica Braunovan, Chair