



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

**Board Room**

**Administration Building**

**133 Greenbank Road**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trustees Present: Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz (electronic communication), Lynn Scott, Prasith Wijeweera (Student Trustee)
- Staff Present: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Brent Smith (Systems Principal, Curriculum Services), Stacey Kay (Manager 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), Rian Bayne (Principal, Severn Avenue Public School), Marc Labelle (Planner), Joe Koraith (Communications Coordinator), Nicole Guthrie (Senior Board Coordinator), John MacKinnon, Audio-Visual Technician, Samantha Flynn (Board/Committee Coordinator)
- Non-Voting Representatives Present: Christine Moulaison, Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC); Rob James, Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Operations Committee (OCEOC); Cathy Bailey, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) (Teachers); Harvey Brown, Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE); Steven Spidell, Ottawa-Carleton Secondary School Administrators Network (OCSSAN) and Yasmin Mouaki Benani, Student Senator.

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

Vice-Chair Penny called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Hough,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

3. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott noted that, on 03 January, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) announced it will hold another full-day withdrawal of service at select school boards; the District will not be impacted and all schools will remain open.

Chair Scott invited all eligible candidates to apply for the position of Public School Trustee, to represent Zone 10, Somerset/Kitchissippi, in the City of Ottawa. She directed all interested candidates to visit the District website for more information on how to apply. She added that signed applications must be received no later than 12 noon on Friday, 31 January 2020.

Chair Scott advised that trustees Wendy Hough and Rob Campbell along with District finance staff will be hosting a community meeting to discuss budget priorities for the 2020-2021 academic year. The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about how spending decisions are made and allow participants a chance to share their ideas about directions the Board might consider moving in the next academic year and beyond. She noted that the meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 January at Woodroffe High School from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

4. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the District's official Kindergarten Registration Week is January 20-27, 2020. She added that, dates and times for information sessions will be posted in front of local schools and on the District and school websites.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the District is inviting parents and students to complete a short survey about the next school year calendar. Participants will be asked to provide feedback on when the winter break should take place and whether two Board holidays should be added. She added that the survey will remain open until 26 January 2020 via a link on the District website.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the deadline to complete the 2019 Student Survey has been extended until 19 January 2020.

Director Williams-Taylor introduced new superintendents Prince Duah and Shannon Smith, noting that they bring a wealth of skills and experience to the District.

In response to a trustee query regarding the 2020-2021 school year calendar, Director Williams-Taylor noted that although it is not optimal to begin the school year prior to Labour Day, staff faced a number of challenges in the development of the draft calendar including the required number of school days required by the *Education Act*. Vice-Chair Penny advised that the Board will have an opportunity at an upcoming meeting to discuss the 2020-2021 school year calendar.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Matters for Action:

6.1 Report 20-005, Consultation Plan for Draft Policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Your Committee had before it Report 20-005 seeking approval from the Board for a consultation process and timeline for the staff-recommended draft policy P.142.SCO, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.

Associate Director Reynolds introduced the report and highlighted that, to date, the District has begun training with principals, vice-principals, managers, senior staff and bargaining unit presidents to reduce the risks of student sexual abuse and exploitation. He added that key stakeholders included in the consultation plan are those with subject matter expertise.

Moved by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the consultation plan for draft policy P.142.SCO, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, attached as Appendix B to Report 20-005, be approved.

An amendment moved by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the word “inappropriate” replace “victimization” in Section 2.4 of Appendix A to Report 20-005.

In response to a request for staff comment on the proposed amendment, Associate Director Reynolds advised that all definitions included in the policy were developed in consultation with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (the Centre) and a legal advisor. He recommended that it may be prudent to consult with both stakeholders prior to making the change.

Speaking in support of the amendment, Trustee Lyra Evans expressed the view that the word "victim" may deter individuals from disclosing concerning behaviour. She added that the amendment represents a meaningful and substantive change.

In wrap up, Trustee Boothby noted that although she is uncomfortable with the use of the word "victimization," she welcomes further comment from staff at the upcoming Board meeting regarding the change.

*An amendment moved by Trustee Boothby,*

*THAT the word "inappropriate" replace "victimization" in Section 2.4 of Appendix A to Report 20-005.*

*Carried*

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

- The policy reflects a proactive approach to assist in preventing sexual abuse;
- The District began working with the Centre in 2018. The Centre has provided the District with resources and guide books. The risk assessment activity was guided and structured by the Centre's resources. In response to a trustee request, staff agreed to provide a summary of the risk assessment process undertaken in the development of the consultation plan and draft policy P.142.SCO, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, and an explanation of "risk assessment" that was referred to in the report;
- The word "disclosure" is specific to the individual who has experienced abuse. The policy intentionally distinguishes between the words "disclosure" and "reporting";
- After the policy has been finalized, staff can seek to expand on the supports provided to students who have experienced abuse in the accompanying procedure;
- There are opportunities for parents and students to share their feedback through the consultation process despite the fact that they are not identified as key stakeholders in the consultation plan;
- It was requested that the Audit Committee receive an opportunity to provide feedback with regard to the consultation plan and draft policy P.142.SCO, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention;
- The "Commit to Kids: An Introduction to Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse" video developed by the Centre will be used to build awareness among parents, students, and staff as an important part of the consultation process. The video will describe grooming and boundary transgressions and how protective adults can help to safeguard children from sexual abuse; and

- It was requested that the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) be included as a stakeholder in the consultation plan.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT Section 4.1a of Appendix A to Report 20-005 be revised to read: "creating a culture of awareness about grooming, child sexual abuse, and procedures to report incidents."

Student Trustee Wijeweera commented that there is a lack of understanding among students with regard to how sexual abuse should be reported.

Chair Scott expressed the view that the proposed change is not necessary as reporting procedures are included in parts b and c of Section 4.1a.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT Section 4.1a of Appendix A to Report 20-005 be revised to read: "creating a culture of awareness about grooming, child sexual abuse, and procedures to report incidents."

Defeated

It was suggested that the District consider drafting a policy that addresses how an organizational apology will be issued to a student who may experience sexual abuse. Director Williams-Taylor noted that an organizational apology could be addressed in the policy's subsequent procedure.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the Student Senate be included as a key stakeholder in the consultation plan on the draft of proposed new policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.

Student Senator Mouaki Benani commented that the proposed amendment would be welcomed by the Student Senate as an opportunity to provide meaningful input.

Student Trustee Wijeweera noted that the Student Council Presidents may also be interested in providing feedback with regard to the policy.

*An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,*

*THAT the Student Senate be included as a key stakeholder in the consultation plan on the draft of proposed new policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention.*

*Carried, friendly*

**Moved by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the consultation plan for draft policy P.142.SCO, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, attached as Appendix B to Report 20-005, be approved, as amended. (Attached as Appendix A)**

**Carried**

7. Report from Statutory and Other Committees

7.1 Advisory Committee on Equity, 28 November 2019

**Moved by Trustee Campbell,**

**THAT the Advisory Committee on Equity Report dated 28 November 2019 be received.**

**Carried**

7.2 Special Education Advisory Committee, 04 December 2019

Moved by Trustee Boothby,

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated 04 December 2019 be received.

Trustee Boothby noted that her name should be reflected in the Committee's attendance list and requested the following additional changes to the report:

- Daniel Bersyniow, Student Senator should be reflected in the Committee's attendance list under "Association Representatives (Non-Voting)";
- On folio 32, under the fourth bullet point, reference to the "reach ahead" program should be removed;
- On folio 32, under the fourth bullet point, "equity issue" should be revised to read "equity platform"; and
- On folio 32, under the fifth bullet point, the word "association" should be removed.

**Moved by Trustee Boothby,**

**THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated 04 December 2019 be received, as amended.**

**Carried**

8. Matters for Discussion:

8.1 Report 19-109, Status of English with Core French Program

Your Committee had before it Report 19-109 providing the Board with information regarding the current status of the English with Core French program.

Director Williams-Taylor introduced the report highlighting that it is being presented in response to a motion that was passed at the Board meeting of 28 May 2019. She advised that the report endeavours to describe the patterns of enrollment in the District's elementary programs and explores the intersection of enrollment patterns with socio-economic realities, special education programming factors, English Language Learner (ELL) uptake trends and geographic patterns. Additional consideration is given to how enrolment trends at the elementary level translate into academic or applied pathways in high school.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that the complexity of impact, patterns and outcomes of program selection are evident in the exploration of the data. She urged trustees to contemplate emerging questions that pertain to student learning and experiences and consider carefully the relevant information required to answer these questions.

Director Williams-Taylor stated that staff has made every effort to respond to inquiries within the original motion by providing various iterations and combinations of data. She added that it has become increasingly clear that for each data set, more inquiries could be surfaced that required additional data sets. She highlighted that while the data sets may reveal patterns, the data does not reveal conclusions or cause.

Director Williams-Taylor suggested that the report begins to outline patterns that have been observed through the lived experiences of students, staff, families and communities. She suggested that trustees begin to explore the questions emerging from the data and subsequently consider appropriate forward action with the District's strategic commitments in mind.

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

- A comment was made that maintaining classes with fewer students in the English program with core French (ENG) may be more beneficial than multi-grade classes as it may assist in addressing student needs in the ENG program;
- A concern was expressed regarding the shortage of French language educators. The availability of French language educators is a challenge for many school boards across the province. The District is continually looking for new ways to attract French language instructors;
- A comment was made that the report does not reflect whether students are choosing to exit an FI program after grade 8 to enter an ENG program or leaving the District entirely;
- The majority of elementary students placed through Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) in Learning Disability Specialized Intervention Program (LD SIP) are partially integrated. The

majority of those students receive English and Mathematics instruction in the LD SIP are integrated into a regular program for the remaining subject areas;

- The challenges associated with the ENG program are generally unique to the Ottawa area due to the City's large bilingual demographic;
- A comment was made that the ENG program needs improvement to better support its learners. The District has not undertaken an evaluation of its FI programming;
- The District's Empower Reading Program is delivered in English but is available to students in an FI program. Professional support staff are able to support educators with strategies to promote generalization between English and French;
- Support to facilitate the development of phonological awareness is available to students in both English and French Immersion programs;
- A comment was made that the District may want to consider becoming bilingual as it will be difficult to address the current gaps in the ENG program;
- It was suggested that more supports need to be offered to families of students in the ENG program;
- Some trustees expressed concern regarding the number of students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) enrolled in ENG and alternative programs;

It was suggested that the District consider a consultation with parents regarding why they selected to enrol their child in an ENG or FI program;

- Although the District has not undertaken a fulsome review of the ENG program, there have been a number of reports and discussions regarding the program that have taken place over the past ten years (listed on folio 69);
- At this time, there are no boundary changes required as a result of enrolment in the District's ENG programs. The District's Planning Department uses a number of indicators and tracking tools to ensure the program is operating at sufficient enrolment levels;
- There has been no indication from the province that the moratorium on Pupil Accommodation Reviews (PARs) will be lifted in the near future;
- Students may choose to leave a French program in secondary school due to other competing pressures including conflicts in scheduling and postsecondary pathways. Completion of the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) allows students an opportunity to work toward other goals in their final years of secondary school;



- In response to a trustee request, staff agreed to provide further information regarding the number of students enrolled in the ENG program who choose to take the DELF;
- DELF assessments are held annually in both the fall and spring semesters;
- A comment was made that all French school boards offer services and resources in French and the District may want to consider also offering its services in French;
- A comment was made that the Board should carefully consider future policies regarding English and French language programming as historically, some language-related policies have not achieved desired results;
- A concern was expressed regarding single-track programming noting that it reflects discrepancies with regard to equity of access;
- At this time, there is no statistical variation regarding uptake since the implementation of the 50/50 bilingual kindergarten program. An initial report about the program will be presented between the spring and fall of 2020;
- A concern was expressed that if the District's ENG program continues to suffer reputationally, more students may choose to enrol with the District's coterminous board; and
- A suggestion was made that the District may want to explore ways to prevent "streaming" of students into the ENG or FI programs.

Director Williams-Taylor thanked trustees for sharing their perspectives and noted that the feedback received will help to inform future discussions and reports. She highlighted that all senior staff are engaged in the future of the ENG program.

## 9. Information Items:

### 9.1 Report from OPSBA (if required)

There was no report from the OPSBA representatives.

### 9.2 New Ministry Initiatives Update

#### a. Memo 20-001, Update to Needs Based Ontario Autism Program

Memo 20-001, Update to Needs Based Ontario Autism Program was provided for information.

### 9.3 OSTA Update

#### a. OSTA Minutes, 27 May 2019

The minutes of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority Board of Directors meeting of 27 May 2019 were received for information.

b. OSTA Minutes, 26 August 2019

The minutes of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority Board of Directors meeting of 26 August 2019 were received for information.

c. OSTA Minutes, 23 September 2019

The minutes of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority Board of Directors meeting of 23 September 2019 were received for information.

d. OSTA Minutes, 04 November 2019

The minutes of the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority Board of Directors meeting of 04 November 2019 were received for information.

10. New Business - Information and Inquiries

In response to a trustee comment regarding the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority's (OSTA) policy on ride times not exceeding 90 minutes, staff agreed to follow-up to ensure the matter is raised during the next OSTA Board of Director's meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Keith Penny, Chair