

BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7:30 pm
Board Room
Administration Building
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

- Trustees: Donna Blackburn, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Lynn Scott
- Staff: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent of Instruction), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12), Richard King (Principal, John McCrae Secondary School), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), Susan Baker (Acting Senior Board Coordinator)
- Guests: Erica Braunovan (former Trustee, Zone 10), and students from John McCrae Secondary School

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin Territory and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,
THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Report from the Board (In Camera)

Vice-Chair Penny reported that the Board met in camera earlier in the evening and there are no recommendations.

4. Presentation to Erica Braunovan

Chair Scott invited former Trustee Erica Braunovan to come forward. She acknowledged Trustee Braunovan's caring and dedicated service to the Board as a trustee from 2014 to 2019. Trustee Braunovan advocated for students considered to be at risk. She always stayed in touch with her communities and brought their concerns to the Board. Among her accomplishments was the rebuild of Broadview Public School and the addition to Elmdale Public School. Trustee Braunovan was elected Vice-Chair of the Board for two terms. On behalf of the Board, and children and families whose lives she touched, Chair Scott thanked Trustee Braunovan for her service.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that Trustee Braunovan's impact on staff and fellow trustees through her work on the Board's strategic plan and in the community has been considerable. On behalf of staff, Director Williams-Taylor thanked Trustee Braunovan for her service.

5. Evidence of Practice - Shawn Lehman

5.1 Report 20-018, Evidence of Practice (S. Lehman, ext.8391)

The Board had before it Report 20-018 presenting information on John McCrae Secondary School's experience in demonstrating evidence of practice in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan areas of the "Culture of Innovation" and the "Culture of Social Responsibility".

Superintendent Lehman invited Principal King and students from John McCrae Secondary School to make their presentation on their "Impact Now" project.

The project involved students enrolled in two courses, Child Development and Gerontology, and Interdisciplinary Studies, that ran consecutively each afternoon. The learning environment encourages collaboration, inquiry and student engagement. The students participated in community activities and visited other schools in the area to learn about their particular areas of interest. They also participated in cooperative learning and work experience placements in a retirement home. The project leveraged technology for learning through the creation of a podcast, writing a blog, and making a video of a visit to a retirement home.

One student spoke about his experience working in a General Learning program where he was motivated to learn and could see the impact of what he was doing every day.

Another student spoke about fundraising activities for students at risk that led to a summer job.

A student who had a work placement in a retirement home learned about discussions and activities with the residents from a personal support worker.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were noted.

- This two-credit program has been running for three years;
- The school is considering expanding the program next year to offer three or four credits;
- Students indicated that having control over the types of activities in which they could participate built on their strengths and led to their engagement and success in the program;
- Work experiences helped some of the students determine what they might do in the future; and
- Some students were able to find opportunities outside of their coursework that they could count towards their required volunteer hours.

Trustee Blackburn thanked the students for their work and presented them with a token of appreciation.

6. Briefing from the Chair of the Board

Chair Scott advised that health authorities in Canada and around the world are monitoring the situation regarding the Novel Coronavirus and that parents and guardians may have questions about how this will be managed in schools. She advised that the OCDSB takes guidance regarding health matters from federal and provincial health authorities and Ottawa Public Health. Parents are asked to follow these official sources for the latest updates on the Novel Coronavirus. The District continues to remind students daily to use proper handwashing techniques. According to Ottawa Public Health, the risk is still low for Canada. Further information is available on the District's website.

Chair Scott noted that parents are invited to attend a free Speaker Series event with Ottawa Public Health on the topic of vaping on Thursday, 6 February at 7:00 pm at Sir Robert Borden High School. The session will provide parents with facts on vaping, vape products, health effects and actions the District is undertaking in schools.

Chair Scott advised that 29 January 2020 is Bell Let's Talk Day, which provides an opportunity to reflect on mental health issues. Building a culture of caring comes with an understanding that mental health and well-being are fundamental to student success and supporting our staff. Students, staff and community

members are encouraged to take advantage of mental health resources available in the school, workplace or throughout the city.

Monday, 27 January 2020 marked not only Holocaust Remembrance Day but also the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. It is a reminder of one of the darkest chapters in human history and the importance of standing united against antisemitism, bigotry and hatred.

7. Briefing from the Director

Director Williams-Taylor advised that the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) announced that unless an agreement is reached, it will further escalate strike action. Effective 3 February 2020, ETFO members will no longer participate in any extracurricular activities. They will also be holding a series of rotating strikes. Full-day walkouts are currently planned on both Wednesday, 5 February and Thursday, 6 February 2020. If this takes place, all OCDSB elementary schools will be closed to students on these days. This includes students in grade 7 and 8 attending schools with grades 7-12. Parents of elementary students were advised to make plans for childcare for both strike days. Secondary schools will remain open and students in grades 9 to 12 are expected to attend school.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that, last week, parents were advised that, as a result of the current labour action, term one elementary report cards will not be issued to students in kindergarten to grade 8. Students in grades 9-12 will continue to receive report cards as scheduled. The report cards will include marks but no comments, as the provision of comments is struck work by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF). If parents have any questions regarding their child's progress they should contact the school.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that February is Black History Month. It is a time to celebrate Black culture and reflect on the significant contributions Black Canadians have made to build Canada. The OCDSB is committed to promoting equity and inclusion. The District believes that honouring the rich cultural diversity within its communities will help to dispel harmful biases and enlighten our understanding of each other. The District will be focusing on Black History Month. Schools will be hosting speakers and holding events. In the classroom, students will also be discussing Black history, culture, race and equity.

Director William-Taylor advised that nominations are now open for the 2020 Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan (OTIP) Teaching Awards. These awards recognize teacher excellence in publicly funded education. Anyone may submit a nomination. To learn more and nominate a teacher, visit: teachingawards.ca

Last week, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association honoured Trustee Lynn Scott with its President's Award, which recognizes 25 years of service in public education. Director Williams-Taylor congratulated Trustee Scott on this

worthy achievement and thanked her for her dedication to serving students in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.

8. Delegations

There were no delegations.

9. Matters for Action

9.1 Confirmation of Board Minutes:

9.1.a 17 December 2019, Board

On a motion by Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Campbell,
THAT the minutes of the Board meeting of 17 December 2019 be confirmed.

Chair Scott advised that she has provided some corrections to Board Services prior to the meeting.

On a motion by Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the minutes of the Board meeting of 17 December 2019 be confirmed, as amended.

Carried

9.1.b 7 January 2020, Special Board

On a motion by Trustee Hough, seconded by Trustee Lyra Evans,

THAT the minutes of the Special Board meeting of 7 January 2020 be confirmed.

Carried

9.2 Business Arising from Board Minutes

There was no business arising from the 17 December 2019 and 7 January 2020 Board minutes.

9.3 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 7 January 2020

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Campbell,

That the report from Committee of the Whole dated 7 January 2020 be received.

Carried

9.3.a Consultation Plan for Draft Policy P.142.SCO Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Moved by Trustee Boothby

Seconded by Trustee Penny

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)

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

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

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

Carried

9.3.a.a Supplemental Information: Memo 20-011, Updates to Consultation Plan for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Memo 20-011, Updates to Consultation Plan for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, was provided for information.

9.4 Receipt of Committee of the Whole Report, 21 January 2020

Moved by Trustee Penny, seconded by Trustee Hough,

That the report from Committee of the Whole dated 21 January 2020 be received.

Carried

9.4.a Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement 2019-2020 Project Plan

Moved by Trustee Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Penny

A. THAT the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project budget in the amount of \$95,384,538 as detailed in Appendix B of Report 20-009 be approved; (Attached as Appendix B)

- B. **THAT staff be authorized to proceed with individual project tenders within the Facilities Renewal Program and School Condition Improvement Project plans;**
- C. **THAT as projects are tendered, based on bid results, or as priorities change, additional projects may be added or removed to suit the availability of the overall budget and these additional projects will be able to proceed without further approval as long as the total overall FRP/SCI budgets are not exceeded; and**
- D. **THAT the Chair of the Board and Director of Education are authorized to award contracts above \$500,000 that are within this overall available uncommitted approved budget.**

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

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

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

9.4.b Updates to Policy P.137.SCO Concussion Management

Moved by Trustee Hough

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the proposed revisions to P.137.SCO Concussion Management, attached as Appendix B to Report 20-006, be approved. (Attached as Appendix C)

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

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

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

Carried

9.4.c Minor Revisions to Policy P.121.GOV Accessibility

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

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Ellis,

THAT a new section be added as section 4.4: "No a priori distinctions between categories of service animal shall be made and each request to allow for support by a service animal shall be considered objectively with respect to safety, manageability, and need, taking full account of documented professional rationale and prescription in critical support of either well-being or learning."

Trustee Campbell noted that the Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No. 163 directs that, in addition to dogs, other therapeutic and emotional service animals also be recognized. The District's procedure on service animals indicates that animals other than dogs be considered in exceptional circumstances. He suggested that all service animals should be given the same consideration.

Superintendent Symmonds advised that staff would assess whether a service animal would be appropriate to meet the needs of the student without jeopardizing the safety of other students and staff in the school. Service dogs have licencing, vaccinations, and veterinarian certifications.

Trustee Blackburn noted that this issue was discussed at the Special Education Advisory Committee. She expressed the opinion that considerable time would be required to assess every request for non-canine service animals.

Trustee Fisher expressed the view that the amendment could create a more permissive environment for non-canine service animals.

Trustee Ellis noted that the amendment would allow staff discretion if a service animal would cause safety issues. He added that he would not wish to disenfranchise a child whose anxiety needs would be met by a non-canine service animal.

Trustees Lyra Evans and Hough noted that if a medical professional deems a non-canine service animal is required to meet a student's needs, then it should be permitted.

Trustee Penny assumed the chair when Chair Scott wished to speak.

Trustee Scott noted that the policy clearly states that animals other than dogs can be service animals. She expressed the view that as the amendment aligns with the intent of the policy, it is not required.

Trustee Campbell submitted that the amendment provides clarification. He expressed the opinion that the procedure for service animals is prejudicial as animals other than dogs would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. He noted the importance of importance of allowing service animals that provide emotional support.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Ellis,

THAT a new section be added as section 4.4: "No a priori distinctions between categories of service animal shall be made and each request to allow for support by a service animal shall be considered objectively with respect to safety, manageability, and need, taking full account of documented professional rationale and prescription in critical support of either well-being or learning."

Carried

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

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Hough, Campbell, Ellis, Penny, Lyra Evans, and Scott (7)

AGAINST: Trustee Fisher (1)

ABSTENTION: Trustee Blackburn (1)

Trustee Fisher encouraged Board members and staff to investigate definitions of service animals that treats them differently in disability law. Staff advised that the procedure meets the spirit of the PPM and aligns with the policy.

Trustee Lyra Evans expressed support for the motion, as amended, and noted that emotional support animals are just as important as service dogs to enable students to learn.

Trustee Blackburn noted that she has not heard whether the federations have commented on the impact of non-canine animals in the classroom.

Trustee Campbell noted that the policy, as amended, aligns with the PPM and will ensure the District is not prejudicial when considering service animal requests.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

Seconded by Trustee Penny

THAT the proposed change to Policy P.121.GOV Accessibility, attached as Appendix B to Report 20-014, be approved, as amended. (Attached as Appendix D)

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

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Blackburn, Hough, Campbell, Ellis, Fisher, Penny, Lyra Evans, and Scott (7)

AGAINST: Trustee Fisher (1)

ABSTENTION: Trustee Blackburn (1)

Carried

9.5 Non-Consent Items

9.6 Report 20-017, Establishment of an Integrity Commissioner Selection Committee

The Board had before it Report 20-017, Establishment of an Integrity Commissioner Selection Committee, seeking approval to establish a selection committee to participate in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process for an Integrity Commissioner

Executive Officer Giroux advised that the committee would oversee the recruitment process in accordance with the procurement policies of the District with respect to a request for proposals. It is estimated that the committee would meet once or twice during the daytime.

Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Penny, nominated herself.

Trustee Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Penny, nominated herself.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Hough,

THAT the nominations be closed.

Carried

Chair Scott declared Trustees Boothby and Blackburn members of the Integrity Commissioner Selection Committee.

Moved by Trustee Evans

Seconded by Trustee Hough

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans, seconded by Trustee Hough,

- A. **THAT a committee to select an Integrity Commissioner be established to review the Request for Proposal and selection criteria for the Integrity Commissioner and recommend a candidate for the position; and**
- B. **THAT the following two (2) Board members be appointed to the Integrity Commissioner Selection Committee: Trustee Boothby and Trustee Blackburn.**

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

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Hough, Campbell, Fisher, Penny, Lyra Evans, and Scott (7)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Trustee Ellis (1)

Carried

9.7 OCDSB Submission Regarding the Provincial Budget

Chair Scott advised that a handout listing a number of advocacy topics suggested by the Advocacy Committee at its meeting in October 2019 as well as last year's submission to the Minister of Finance was distributed prior to the start of the meeting.

Moved by Trustee Campbell, seconded by Trustee Ellis,

THAT the Board approve the submission of a response to the Ontario 2020 Budget Consultation based on the summary of issues identified by the Advocacy Strategy Committee in October 2019.

Trustee Campbell noted that the list of topics from the Advocacy Strategy Committee and last year's submission remain valid again this year.

Trustee Ellis noted that although the government has made a change to some class sizes, it should continue to be included in the submission.

Trustee Lyra Evans suggested that a reference be made to the lack of response from the Ministry of Education. Chair Scott advised that if she has an opportunity at an upcoming conference, she would try to work in a reference to the problem.

Chair Scott advised that she would circulate the submission before sending it to the Minister of Finance if it is not possible to arrange a meeting of the Advocacy Strategy Committee.

Moved by Trustee Campbell

Seconded by Trustee Ellis

THAT the Board approve the submission of a response to the Ontario 2020 Budget Consultation based on the summary of issues identified by the Advocacy Strategy Committee in October 2019.

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

FOR: Trustees Boothby, Hough, Campbell, Ellis, Fisher, Penny, Lyra Evans, and Scott (8)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

Carried

10. Matters for Discussion

10.1 Report from OPSBA Representatives (if required)

Trustee Penny noted that he provided a written report to Board members prior to the meeting in which he reported on an OPSBA Eastern Region meeting held on 25 January 2020. Attendees at the meeting discussed polling data from a Nano poll conducted in November 2019 with respect to public support for education and local governance. Also discussed was a pre-budget submission to the Ministry of Finance, and OPSBA advocacy plan, and OPSBA priorities. He urged trustees to review the OPSBA priorities and provide comments to himself.

Trustee Penny extended congratulations to Trustee Scott on 25 years of service as a school board trustee.

The next OPSBA Board of Directors meeting is on 21 February 2020 and the next regional meeting is 28 March 2020.

11. Matters for Information

Chair Scott advised that she has circulated her notes on the Public Education Symposium (PES) conference that took place on 23-25 January 2020.

12. New Business -- Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board