

SPECIAL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

Monday, March 16, 2020

7:00 pm

Trustee Committee Room

Administration Building

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Trustees Present: Justine Bell (electronic communication), Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby (electronic communication), Rob Campbell (electronic communication), Lyra Evans (electronic communication), Mark Fisher (electronic communication), Wendy Hough (electronic communication), Jennifer Jennekens (electronic communication), Sandra Schwartz (electronic communication), Lynn Scott, Ganaabouté Gagné (Student Trustee) (electronic communication), Prasith Wijeweera (Student Trustee) (electronic communication)

Staff Present: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director) (electronic communication), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Rebecca Grandis (Senior Board Coordinator)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 7:00 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 Fisher, seconded by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Report from the Board (In Camera)

Trustee Blackburn reported that the Board met in camera earlier in the evening and there are no recommendations.

4. Matters for Action

4.1 Provisions for Calling Extraordinary Meetings of the Board

Moved by Trustee Fisher, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT the Board invoke the provisions of Section 8.6 of the Board's Bylaws and Standing Rules regarding the calling of extraordinary meetings of the Board, for the purpose of dealing with issues related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), for the period from 16 March 2020 to 30 April 2020.

Director Williams-Taylor advised that communications were sent to families that contained information on cancellations and closures.

As a result of the announcement from the Chief Officer of Health, staff were forced to expedite the plans for closure.

Staff have not had clarity from the Ministry on the availability of eLearning to all students. The eLearning resources provided by the Ministry are not intended to replace the work within the classroom. Staff are not expected to monitor, assess or provide feedback. Teachers are expected to respond to parent and student inquiries within a reasonable amount of time following the March break period. Labour relations sanctions remain and staff have approached the federations to understand their response and their direction to their members. It is anticipated that more information from the unions will be provided after the March break.

Director Williams-Taylor noted that there are no expectations for teachers to assess and grade student work at this time. Teachers ability to respond to parents or students will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Superintendent Towaij and her team have been working to provide online resources to students to permit continuity of learning.

Director Williams-Taylor indicated that she is seeking clarity whether or not students may lose the school year and could not provide a definitive response without direction from the Ministry.

Regarding questions about a return to work for staff and guidance from Ottawa Public Health, Director Williams-Taylor responded that there has been no clear communication regarding plans to return to work.

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) will be having bi-weekly calls with the Ministry for the duration of the closure and Director Williams-Taylor committed to keeping trustees informed.

Moved by Trustee Fisher

Seconded by Trustee Schwartz

THAT the Board invoke the provisions of Section 8.6 of the Board's Bylaws and Standing Rules regarding the calling of extraordinary meetings of the Board, for the purpose of dealing with issues related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), for the period from 16 March 2020 to 30 April 2020.

FOR: Trustees Bell, Blackburn, Boothby, Campbell, Lyra Evans, Fisher, Hough, Jennekens, Schwartz, Scott (10)

AGAINST: Nil (0)

ABSTENTION: Nil (0)

5. Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board