

WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services

DATE: 21 May 2020

RE: **Weekly Memorandum to Trustees #7 (May 19-May 22)**

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Extension of School Closures - The Minister of Education announced the extension of school closures until June 30, 2020. Staff and students will continue with OCDSB Learn At Home until the end of the year. The Ministry announcement indicated that provincial guidance regarding school opening in September will be available before the end of June.

The Voluntary Redeployment of Staff - The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the provincial trustee associations and the provincial unions representing workers in the education sector, has developed a voluntary redeployment framework to help address critical staffing shortages in other sectors, such as hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes and other residential congregate care settings. Under the framework, school board employees have the opportunity to volunteer through an online provincial portal that has been established for this purpose. The agreements with our local unions to confirm local implementation have been finalized and staff has been notified of the opportunity.

Growing Learners - Food and Farming Initiative - Innovation and Adolescent Learning (IAL) and the Education Foundation of Ottawa have formed a partnership with Just Foods, and Ottawa Good Good Food Box to create the OCDSB Learn at Home “Growing Learners” Initiative. Through Growing Learners, 1000 students, primarily from elementary RAISE schools, will receive two deliveries, approximately three weeks apart,

which includes a week's worth of fresh fruits and vegetables for their family (from Ottawa Good Food Box) as well as seeds, containers, and growing materials to start their own garden, indoor or outdoor (from Just Foods). Students will also receive a growing guide, available in five different languages, to support their learning. Teachers will be provided with resources to support the learning at home, including videos, recipes, and support for assessment and evaluation of the work. The program is being funded by Innovation and Adolescent Learning (as an Experiential Learning project and as an Innovation project), the Education Foundation (in helping to address food insecurity) and with RAISE funds.

Providing School Supplies - The Education Foundation of Ottawa will be delivering school supplies by courier to support almost 700 students who have limited access to learning materials. The courier will be delivering them to families throughout the East, South, West, and Central areas of the city. Supplies were divided by primary/junior and intermediate/secondary and include pencils, erasers, sharpeners, crayons, pencil crayons, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, lined notebooks, graph paper notebooks, pens, and a community resource magnet from 2-1-1. Sincere gratitude is expressed to Clarissa Arthur and the Education Foundation of Ottawa for the continued support of OCDSB children and youth.

Recovery of Personal Items from School - Work is underway to put a plan in place that allows for the recovery of personal items at school. With over 70,000 students with items in desks, lockers and cubbies, this is a large undertaking. Staff are working with Ottawa Public Health to ensure that we can find a way to safely and securely manage this process.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY ITEMS

Upcoming Meetings - The May 26th meeting schedule will be as follows:

- 6 p.m. - Board, In camera
- 7 p.m. - Committee of the Whole, Budget
- 9 p.m. - Board, Public (immediately following Committee of the Whole, Budget)

An in-camera and public Zoom meeting invitation will be provided to trustees. Non-voting representatives of the Committee of the Whole, Budget will be provided with Zoom meeting instructions and an invitation to the meeting and may participate in the discussion. The public meeting will be live-streamed.

Delegation Requests - The calendar page of the District website announcing the Board meeting now includes a summary of topics related to the meeting and detailed information regarding how community members may appear as a delegation.

Update Regarding School Council Meetings - A message will be sent to school council chairs providing information on the following: process for holding meetings; financial reporting; refunds, cancellations and postponements; planning for end of year celebrations; planning for next year; school council transitions/elections and recovering items from the school.

cc Senior Staff
 Manager, Board Services
 Corporate Records