



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC REPORT

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 8:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Trustees Present: Lynn Scott, Keith Penny, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Justine Bell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Sandra Schwartz, Charles Chen (Student Trustee), Joy Liu (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), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towajj (Superintendent of Programming and Learning K-12), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Financial Services), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Pamela LeMaistre (Manager of Human Resources), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Sandra Owens (Manager of Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Richard Sinclair (Manager of Legal Services and Labour Relations), Darren Gatley (Board/Committee Coordinator), Michael Guilbault (AV Technician)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Christine Moulaison (OCASC), Christine Lanos (OCEOC), Steve Spidell (OCSSAN), Jennifer Coleman (OCCSAN), Susan Gardner (ETFO), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF- ESP), Jean Trant (OSSTF-SSP), Corinne Lassaline (OSSTF-PECCS), Troy Cluff (OSSTF-District 25), Kelly Granum (OSSTF-OT), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF), Wulf Heidecker OCETFO, David Wildman (OCEOTA), Seema Lamba (ACE), Bronwyn Funicello (ACE), Cathy Miedema (SEAC), Laura Wang (Student Senate)

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

Vice-Chair Penny called the meeting to order at 8:22 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 Ellis,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Matters for Action:

3.1 Report 21-008, Purchase of New Portables (M. Carson)

Your committee had before it Report 21-008, seeking approval to purchase ten new modular portable classrooms in order to provide the District with sufficient flexibility to accommodate student enrolment.

Moved by Trustee Ellis,

THAT the purchase of ten new modular portable classrooms, at a budgeted total cost of \$1,574,600 (excluding HST), be approved and funded from reserves, subject to Ministry approval.

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

- The new portable classrooms will be added to the existing fleet of portables. The District will continue to work with the Ministry for sourcing funds in terms of either accessing reserves, facility renewal funds, or other sources;
- Once the new schools are open, it will produce a surplus of portable classrooms which will allow for older portables in the fleet to retire;
- Trustees expressed their gratitude to staff for purchasing environmentally advanced portable classroom systems with sustainable factors;
- New portable classrooms are often added to the fleet even if existing supply is not currently in use as it is not cost effective to transport portables across the city;
- The District is planning to add portable classrooms in areas where schools are being constructed due to anticipated growth;
- Retiring older portable classrooms from the fleet will save on refurbishing costs;
- There are approximately 405 portables in the current fleet, 60 of which are scheduled for upgrades. The District is able to refurbish 8 to 10 portables annually. In order to stay ahead of the renewal requirements, 13 to 16 portables would need to be refurbished annually;

- The existing fleet are compliant despite the change in the portable building code and will be brought to code once designated to be upgraded;
- Portable classrooms have a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years;
- In response to a question from Trustee Lyra Evans seeking clarification on whether or not the new portables exceed the minimum Supplementary Standard (SB-10) requirements, Manager Bradley committed to providing a response;
- Temporary increases in enrolment allows for flexibility in use of space with portable classrooms. Although the District would prefer to have permanent additions added to schools, funding for portable classroom and additions stem from different sources and the province would have to accept any considered additions to provide funding; and
- Student needs for washrooms and other amenities are being met or exceeded in most schools when adding portable classrooms as many schools were initially built with 30-40 student class sizes.

Moved by Trustee Ellis

THAT the purchase of ten new modular portable classrooms, at a budgeted total cost of \$1,574,600 (excluding HST), be approved and funded from reserves, subject to Ministry approval.

Carried

4. Matters for Discussion:

4.1 Report 21-016, Electoral Zone Boundary Review (M. Giroux)

Your committee had before it Report 21-016 to present the plan for the comprehensive review of electoral zone boundaries to align with the City of Ottawa's revised ward boundaries.

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

- The red outlines on the map in Appendix B delineate the City of Ottawa's revised ward boundaries. The District's electoral zones are within those boundaries;
- The District currently has a set number of 12 trustees and the District would have to appeal to the Ministry if it is deemed necessary to change the current number of trustees;

- In response to a question from Trustee Campbell regarding a provision by resolution of the Board to allow for the number of trustees to change, Executive Officer Giroux committed to providing a response;
- Trustee Campbell noted that reducing the number of trustees by one could have an advantage in terms of the way that the wards are organized;
- Voter projections to 2030 could vary over the eight-year period and a “check-in” at the mid-point in 2026, to examine if the projected values are as expected, could occur;
- More information on zones, rather than number of electors, such as the number of students attending schools in each zone, and other related demographic information would be helpful to trustees in order to properly represent their zone;
- The trustee distribution and determination process dictates how trustees are distributed among the City’s wards;
- The last time an electoral zone boundary review occurred, a detailed matrix consisting of electoral populations, number of elementary and secondary schools, number of electors, and other factors were considered for analysis;
- Ideally, the electoral quotient for any one zone should be 1.0 with a variance of not more than +/- 25 percent. The province understands there may be a range and once the distribution and determination is completed by the Board it is submitted to the province for final review and approval;
- The City of Ottawa, during its 2020 review, looked to address the biggest population changes in the city and made an effort to retain the integrity of the existing boundaries;
- The City of Ottawa will have 24 zones and the District must now determine how its 12 trustee zones will align within the City’s revised ward structure;
- Other school districts, including the coterminous boards, will be undergoing a similar process to align their trustee compliments to the revised ward structure; ;
- When considering boundaries, the District examines each community and the impacts the boundaries may have on the community pattern, size, and other factors;
- The Ottawa neighbourhood equity index will be considered as the review commences;

- City wards are based on total population and the District's electoral zones are based only on the total number of public school board supporters;
- The District is in contact with the City of Ottawa staff and will use the data they provide, the previous population report, and will work with the planning department in order to create models for review;
- When examining school attendance boundaries, the District can focus on neighbourhoods on a smaller scale in more detail to include considerations for communities that are marginalized and with lower socioeconomic data; however, electoral zones examine areas in larger scale. Underserved communities and other equity factors could be considered when completing the models;
- In order to understand the impact of growth in different areas of the city, the District will need to further research the City's data and complete further analysis. This information should be available in a subsequent report to be presented in the spring of 2021; and
- When examining communities of interest and combining wards, it is important to consider established and changing physical boundaries such as road access and whether combining wards of fast growing suburbs with wards that are historically established for the best outcome in the context of education governance for the District.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Keith Penny, Chair