



## SPECIAL BOARD PUBLIC MINUTES

**Tuesday, April 6, 2021**

**10:30 pm**

**Zoom Meeting**

Trustees Present: Lynn Scott, Keith Penny, Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Justine Bell, 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), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk, (Manager of Planning), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Financial Services), Pamela LeMaistre (Manager of Human Resources), Sandy Owens (Manager, Business & Learning Technologies), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Darren Gatley, Michael Guilbault (AV Technician)

1. Call to Order -- Chair of the Board

Chair Scott called the public meeting to order at 10:44 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 Campbell, seconded by Trustee Schwartz,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

3. Report from Committee of the Whole, 6 April 2021

Moved by Trustee Boothby, seconded by Trustee Penny,

THAT OPSBA advocate for the Ministry to provide school boards with dedicated funding for an array of much needed supports best configured to meet each board's needs, including but not limited to:

- A. Additional teaching staff to provide immediate evaluation of learning gaps, using tools such as PM Benchmarks;
- B. Additional teaching staff to provide immediate remediation of identified learning gaps;
- C. Additional mental health staff to provide immediate mental health supports; and
- D. Additional funding for professional development for education staff to focus on gap closing and mental health supports.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra,

THAT the word "demand" replace the word "advocate".

Failed for want of a second

**Moved by** Trustee Boothby

**Seconded by** Trustee Penny

**THAT OPSBA advocate for the Ministry to provide school boards with dedicated funding for an array of much needed supports best configured to meet each board's needs, including but not limited to:**

- A. Additional teaching staff to provide immediate evaluation of learning gaps, using tools such as PM Benchmarks;**
- B. Additional teaching staff to provide immediate remediation of identified learning gaps;**
- C. Additional mental health staff to provide immediate mental health supports; and**
- D. Additional funding for professional development for education staff to focus on gap closing and mental health supports.**

**Carried**

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra, seconded by Trustee Bell,

THAT the word "demand" replace the word "recommend".

- Trustee Lyra Evans noted that past Ministry requests and inquiries have had no impact and suggested that stronger language be used.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra, seconded by Trustee Bell,  
THAT the word "demand" replace the word "recommend".

Defeated

**Moved by** Trustee Boothby

**Seconded by** Trustee Penny

**THAT OPSBA recommend, the Ministry of Education with the Education Equity Secretariat, as a priority, undertake a commitment to all school boards to:**

**A. Fund, in addition to the 2021/22 GSNs, an additional Grant, in the amount of no less than two full-time equivalent Research Officers, for school boards to use in their data collection and analysis, as local needs dictate, such as hiring staff, funding third party expertise, funding systems/infrastructure, covering costs associated with community/stakeholder engagement.**

**B. Starting with the 2022/23 GSNs, newly and permanently fund as outlined in Part A.**

**Carried**

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

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Lynn Scott, Chair of the Board