

28 June 2011

From the desk of the Chair

I would like to pause from our regular business and take a moment to express thanks on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire District, to our Director of Education Barrie Hammond. Director Hammond will be retiring at the end of this week after a 43-year career with the District. A 43-year career in public education is an accomplishment in itself and provides much to be thankful for. However, we are so fortunate that Barrie was willing to step away from his planned retirement last summer and to step into the role of Director of Education. He has provided exceptional leadership and brought a much needed sense of calm and confidence to the District. Over the past two weeks, I have had a few opportunities to publicly express my thanks to the Director and to listen to others express their thanks. There was a common theme woven through all of these messages, which was simply how fortunate we were both personally and as a District to benefit from the leadership of a man who is a role model of good character.

As a testament to that, last week at his retirement party, the District announced that in his honour Esther Bryant has been commissioned to create a Quilt of Character for the OCDSB. Esther Bryant is the creator of the Quilt of Belonging - a quilted national treasure that is over 100 feet long and which celebrates diversity and cultural heritage in Canada. Ms. Bryant was delighted to be asked to create a quilt that would celebrate character education in the OCDSB. The quilt will hang in the Boardroom and will be dedicated to Director Hammond.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am very pleased to present you with a certificate which acknowledges that a donation has been made in your name to the Education Foundation of Ottawa. We know you are a great supporter of the Foundation and a great supporter of students in our District. Thank you so much.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to announce that the OCDSB has been made aware that the Ministry of Education will provide funding for the construction of a new elementary school in the Chapman Mills area of Barrhaven. The location of the school will be at the corner of Chapman Mills Drive and Leamington Way and will be home to 600 elementary students.

The last day for Elementary School classes is this Thursday, June 30th and we have good news for graduating Grade 8 students. They now have the opportunity to get a jump on completing their 40 hours of community involvement. Starting this July 1st, students will now be able to start accumulating community involvement hours before they enter Grade 9. Information has been sent to principals, School Councils, and has also been posted to our website.

As usual this summer, there will be a two-week closure of secondary school and administrative offices from Monday, July 25 to Friday, August 5, 2011, inclusive. The Family Reception Centre will be closed from Monday July 4 to Friday July 15 inclusive. More information is available on the home page of our website.

CHAIR's REPORT

The annual School Bus Safety Awareness Day will be held on Sunday, August 28th. The program is geared primarily for parents and children new to school bus transportation. All children entering the school system for the first time this fall, or new residents should plan to attend. Parents are requested to call ahead and reserve a seat for their child. Locations and registration information are available on our website.

For anyone who might have missed the Capital Educators Awards we now have an opportunity to see the celebration on Rogers Cable 22. The station is broadcasting the ceremony all this week. The next showing will be Thursday, June 30th at noon.

Thank you to our Student Trustee Eric Chen who has been accepted to the prestigious Yale University. We will miss his thoughtful feedback and reports.

In closing, I would like to thank Superintendent Walter Piovesan, Safe Schools Manager Dr. Petra Duschner, and the Tragic Events Response Team for their timely and supportive response to our schools mourning the loss of a student and classmate. The team's helpful advice and coping strategies were greatly appreciated. I heard it made all the difference in helping students, staff, and alumni through the bereavement process.

Public Motions

Staff Report 11-125, Appointment of Trustee to Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee

The Board confirmed the appointment of Trustee Campbell as a trustee member to the Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee.

Approval of Mandate, Timeline and Consultation re Secondary School Review

The Board established a Secondary School Review Ad Hoc Committee. The scope of the Review, timelines, and consultation plan of the [Secondary School Review](#) were approved.

Approval of Consultation Plan re Boundary Amendment for Canterbury and Hillcrest High Schools

The Board approved a [Consultation Plan](#) to receive input regarding a proposal to amend the current Canterbury High School Regular English boundary to create an optional attendance area boundary for Canterbury High School or Hillcrest High School or to modify the Hillcrest attendance boundary without creating an option area.

Adjournment

After action items the board moved in camera to resume deliberations.