

BOARDROOM BRIEF

This news brief is meant to provide the highlights of the decisions made at the Board meeting for the benefit of our community; the notes do not serve as the official record of the meeting (See Board or Committee minutes).

12 April, 2011

Director's Report

The company The Print House has donated \$11,000 to the Breakfast Program for our needy students. The program provides funding for equipment, program monitors, and food. A special event was held on Monday at Charles Hulse Public School.

Education Week Runs from May 2 to 6.

Schools will be holding open houses and special events to celebrate learning and the amazing things happening in school today.

In recognition of the contributions of support staff to public education,

Wednesday, May 4, will be designated **Support Staff Appreciation Day**. A memo is issued to all staff annually acknowledging this special day.

Congratulations to Benjamin Ford, former student of York Street Public School, who is now a published author. His book of poetry is called *Crowned with Fortune's Throne*. His publisher wrote to us saying that Benjamin Ford is wise well beyond his years.

Each year, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario sponsors a regional art contest to choose the signature image for their spring campaign. This year's winner is Merivale High School graphic design student, Aspen Barker. Aspen was presented with her award at a special event at the school earlier today.

China Trip

OCENET continues to work with China to establish Friendship Schools (twinning) with OCDSB schools, and in sending students to Ottawa for immersion experiences. In China, before an education bureau can send students abroad, the Chinese government requires the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with their overseas counterpart.

OCENET has invited one superintendent and (4) school principals to go to China to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the OCDSB.

The purpose of the trip is twofold:

- a) professional development for OCDSB leadership, and
- b) business development for OCENET.

The trip is scheduled from April 30 to May 8. All costs are covered by OCENET. Ideally, the OCDSB principals traveling to China will be involved in hosting and/or supporting a group of Chinese elementary school students travelling to Ottawa this fall.

Chair's Report

The Castor Valley Elementary School Council held a very successful fundraiser for Japan in the wake of the disaster. The Greely community managed to raise \$3,068 with the help of the Embassy of Japan through a display of artifacts, photos of children in kimonos, and Japanese calligraphy.

Castlefrank Elementary School will be holding a fashion show with a twist entitled "Beauty is..." on Thursday, April 14th. The event will focus on self-esteem and positive body image. All funds raised will be donated to The Hopewell Eating Disorder Centre. The show is completely organized by the Grade 8 students as part of The Learning Partnership's Entrepreneurial Adventure – a program that introduces students to the world of business. Castlefrank Elementary School has won a national award in this business competition for the past two years and this year's project promises to be just as exciting.

Tomorrow, April 13th, Cedarview Middle School is celebrating the International Day of Pink. The entire school will be dressed in pink and performing a 'surprise' flash mob dance in the school gymnasium at 3:00 p.m. Students and staff will be joined by Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and several other community leaders as they spread the message that together we can change attitudes and create opportunities for dialogue.

The District's Retirement Reception to honour staff for their years of service will be held on Wednesday, June 15th. Please mark your calendars and join us in wishing our retiring staff, all the best in their future endeavours.

PUBLIC MOTIONS

Partial Report 5, Strategic Planning & Priorities Committee, 06 April 2011

Partial Report 5, Strategic Planning & Priorities Committee, dated 06 April 2011, was received. The report deals with Grants for Student Needs (GSNs); Strategic Planning; and Staggered Entry for kindergarten students.

Approval of Policy P.098.CUR Equity and Inclusive Education and Policy P.086.CUR Religious Accommodation

Trustees approved the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (P.098.CUR) and the Religious Accommodation Policy (P.086.CUR). The objective of the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy is to ensure equity of opportunity and equity of access to the full range of programs, services, and resources offered by the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to foster successful educational achievement and social outcomes. Meanwhile, the goal of the Religious Accommodation Policy is to acknowledge and to respect each individual's right to follow or not to follow religious or spiritual beliefs, traditions and practices, free from discriminatory or

harassing behaviours and to take all reasonable steps to provide religious accommodations for individuals in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board community.

Approval of Policy P.013.GOV Community Member Recognition Program

The Community Member Recognition Program Policy, including the proposed Community Member Recognition Program Policy was approved. The aim of the policy is to provide a framework that demonstrates the Boards support and appreciation for the contribution of community members, including parents, volunteers, businesses, and others through the establishment of a formal awards recognition program.

Approve in Principle the Statement of Intent and Join the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board approved in principle the Statement of Intent to formally join the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health. The statement of intent promotes nurturing the whole child. It involves engaging with the entire community of caring adults to provide a full continuum of services that includes mental health literacy, promotion of positive social-emotional development, prevention of mental health problems, intervention services, and clear pathways to care.

Report 3, Committee of the Whole, Public, 22 March 2011

Report 3, Committee of the Whole, Public, dated 22 March 2011, was received. The report in its entirety can be found on the Board's website at [Link]www.ocdsb.ca The report focuses on a Staff report relating to an accommodation study in Centretown, the Glebe, and Old Ottawa South.

Report 1, Board Governance Task Force, 29 March 2011

Report 1, Board Governance Task Force, dated 29 March 2011, was received. The report is available on the Board's website. The report includes an update on Board governance activities, which include the establishment of a Task Force in April 2010; a review of board and committee structure and the rules of procedure. The full report can be found at [Link]http://www.ocdsb.ca/Lists/Board%20Meeting%20Calendar/MyItems.aspx

Approval of Revised Mandate for the Board Governance Task Force

Trustees voted to develop a framework to create the Terms of Reference for the Board Governance Task Force. The framework included the development of components of a governance framework for the OCDSB, that include but are not limited to the following elements:

- Governance Commitments (Principles, Philosophy)
- Roles and Responsibilities of Board and Director of Education
- Board Member Code of Conduct (Principles)
- Authority and Accountability
- Policy Development and Review (Responsibilities, Process)
- Effective Communications
- Committee Structure for Effective Governance with consideration for the provisions of the Education Act and its regulations, for the content of the governance modules

developed by the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), and for the advice and guidance of governance consultants as determined by the Board of Governance Task Force;

The development of recommendations for changes to OCDSB by-laws; and

The development of recommendations regarding Board and committee agendas and reports (expectations, content, etc.);

Support for the Board Governance Task Force will be augmented by the addition of a Governance consultants as determined by the Board of Governance Task Force;

The end of the Term of the Board Governance Task Force will be amended from November 2010 to July 2012; and

Trustees added that the Board of Governance Task Force would report to the Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee (SPPC).

The SPPC will receive the Board of Governance Task Force report as an action item. Recommendations of the Board of Governance Task Force will be considered by the SPPC following receipt of the report. If adopted the recommendation would move forward to Board for consideration as a recommendation of the SPPC.

Staff will be directed to develop a schedule for delivery of the governance modules developed by the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) as part of an on-going Board Development Program, supported by qualified facilitators and/or governance consultants.

Appointment of Trustee Member to Board Governance Task Force

Trustee Rob Campbell was appointed to the committee. Trustee Lynn Scott resigned from the Task Force.

The meeting ended at 9:13 p.m.