

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).

BOARD MEETING

8 February 2011

Director's Report

Important dates coming up:

Student transfer applications will be accepted from Monday, February 14 to Friday, February 25.

Registration for Middle French Immersion begins Tuesday, February 22 and runs until Monday, February 28.

Kindness Week is from February 18 to 25. Our students will be participating in a special postcard contest and in a variety of activities to help make Ottawa a kinder community.

Activities include: singing to seniors, serving lunches, and tutoring younger students.

Random acts of kindness will be happening in all our schools.

The website dedicated to promoting this annual event is www.kindottawa.ca

Update on Retreat

This past weekend, we held a Board/Senior Staff retreat. The focus of our discussion was on governance and strategic plan development. There will be a report with a more detailed update on the work of our strategic plan at the March Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee.

As part of our Speakers Series we will focus on Mental Health, Michael Baine, Chair of the Youth Services Bureau, will be the speaker on February 16, at 7:00 p.m., at the Adult High School.

Chair's Report

As part of their Black History Month activities, Queen Elizabeth Public school welcomed Adrian Harewood, co-host of CBC news at Six, on February 2nd. Adrian told the story of Viola Desmond, a Nova Scotia woman who was granted a posthumous pardon in 2010.

In 1946, she had been arrested for refusing to sit in a black's only section of a theatre. In addition to his story about Viola Desmond, he spoke to the students about the field of broadcast journalism, and the importance of working hard to reach their dreams.

Every day, our students do some amazing things and they deserve special recognition. Join us in honouring their excellence and accomplishments by nominating a student for the 2011 Spirit of the Capital Youth Awards. Child and Youth Friendly Ottawa sponsor's this annual event to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of youth. The categories for student nominations include athletes, young entrepreneurs, budding artists, activists for social change, and those who have overcome personal obstacles. Consider nominating one of our students for an award and visit www.spiritawards.ca for the nomination form. The deadline for nominations is April 1st.

We also have an opportunity to nominate outstanding educators in our system for a Capital Educators' Award. We have many engaging and creative teachers who deserve to be recognized in a special way. Details about the award and an online nomination form are available on the OCRI website at www.ocri.ca/edugala. The deadline for nominations is March 1st at 4 p.m. Award recipients will be announced at a gala dinner on May 19th at Algonquin College's Woodroffe campus. I hope that you will be able to join me at this special event.

Trustee Fitzgerald asked her fellow trustees if she could on a point of personal privilege - promote the ***Do It For Daron Purple Pledge Day***; this is where people are asked to wear purple in support of the Daron Richardson Fund at the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health. Purple was Daron's favourite colour.

The Royal Ottawa Foundation hopes the movement will help youth address any problems they may be experiencing. The funds will go towards an early identification and intervention program for youth suffering with mental illness. South Carleton High School held a special event today selling wrist bands, purple slushies and cookies. As well many students sported purple t-shirts in a move to raise awareness about depression in teenagers.

PUBLIC MOTIONS

Approval of the OCDSB School Year Calendar for 2011-2012

Trustees approved an OCDSB school year calendar and directed that it be submitted to the Ministry of Education as the official 2011-2012 school year calendar for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's elementary and secondary schools.

Some highlights of the calendar include:

The school year will commence on Tuesday, September 6; students last day of classes in December - will be on December 23 - with students returning to school on Monday, January 9, 2012; Family Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 20 and the Friday before - February 17 will be a professional development day; the 2012 March Break will be held from Monday March 12-Friday March 16. The last day of school in 2012 will be Thursday, June 28 for elementary students.

Approval of Advocacy Campaign re Ministry of Education Funding

Trustee's voted:

A. THAT the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board will develop an advocacy strategy in order to secure additional funding for long standing student needs at the OCDSB, and that staff will work collaboratively with other school boards across Ontario

B. THAT, as a first step in the development of this strategy, the Board will appoint a Funding Advocacy Strategy Working Group comprised of four Trustees, supported by the CFO

(i) they will review OCDSB funding concerns in detail;

(ii) they will provide preliminary recommendations to the Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee (SPPC) at its March 2, 2011 meeting as to the optimal basis for the Board's positions re funding;

(iii) which will then stand down unless further tasked by the SPPC;

and

C. THAT the following trustees be confirmed as members of the working group:

Trustee Campbell
Trustee Fitzgerald
Trustee McKenzie
Trustee Scott

Approval of Advertising re Director of Education Position

Trustees voted to move forward with finding a new Director. Trustees agreed to move forward in principle with an advertisement campaign that was approved by the Director's Selection Committee ; and that the advertisement strategy be approved with a Canada-wide reach and Ontario focus; and that the advertising costs not exceed \$25,000.

Notice of Motion: Amendments to By-laws and Standing Rules re Audit Committee

That the Board approve the following changes to the Board's By-laws and Standing Rules:

These rules shall be observed in meetings of Committees of the Board, insofar as they are applicable, except that:

- a) no motion made in Committee shall require a second;
- b) members may speak more than once to an issue and for more than five minutes, subject to such reasonable limitations as the Chair of the Committee may determine in the interest of expediency and with due and fair consideration to the rights and privileges of all members;
- c) votes shall not be recorded in Committee except by request of a trustee at Budget Committee; and
- d) at Audit Committee in the event of a tie vote, the chair is entitled to cast a second and deciding vote.

The meeting ended at 10:00 p.m.