

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).

22 February 2011

Director's Report

Merivale High School is one of just 21 high schools in the province of Ontario to receive the prestigious Dr. Bette M. Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Award.

The award acknowledges students, staff, and the greater school community for its efforts, over many years, at improving student achievement and for its use of EQAO results to improve learning.

The award was handed out at a gala evening in Toronto on February 22, 2011. This will be followed by an Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Learning Seminar that will be attended by representatives from the winning schools. The seminar is a two-day event and will wrap-up on Thursday afternoon.

Two conferences for students will be held in the near future. "A Day of Information for a Lifetime of Action" will be held on February 25th. The goal of this conference is to inform our students about global issues, inspire them to take action, and share the tools and opportunities for initiating change. The keynote address will be delivered by Raymond Ablack, of Degross fame, who is an outreach speaker for the Me to We philosophy.

The next student conference will be held on March 3rd. Entitled, "In Love and In Danger" speakers will point out the signs of dating violence, and explain how students can learn to protect themselves from violence in relationships. The all-day event will be held at Confederation High School.

Chair's Report

The Ottawa-Carleton Elementary Teachers' Federation will be launching a new art Exhibit next Thursday. Beautiful artwork on the theme of Women's Life Histories will be adorning the walls of our Boardroom for the month of March. An opening reception is planned to launch the exhibit on March 3rd at 4: 30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

Elgin Street Teacher wins Golden Apple Award

Congratulations to Teacher Amy McSweeney of Elgin Street Public School who won a Golden Apple Award from Magic 100. She won a pizza party for her class, a plaque, and \$500 for the school.

Motions

Childcare Centres

Trustees approved a new base rate increase for childcare centres effective September 1, 2011. The base rate charge for childcare centres in District facilities will be raised to \$9.25 per square foot effective September 1, 2011.

Approval of Long Term Financing

The Board approved the issuing of long term debt of up to \$8.1 million, as long as there is no net cost to the Board.

Staff were directed to make the necessary arrangements so that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board can participate in the provincial loan agreement; and the Chair, Director of Education, and staff of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board be authorized to sign all necessary documentation to participate in the loan.

Approval of Expenditure for Preliminary Design Work re Capital Priorities Projects

The Board approved the expenditure of up to \$700,000 for preliminary design work by the architects of record on projects which have been identified as capital priorities. In addition approval will be sought from the Ministry of Education to fund these expenditures from the Pupil Accommodation Reserve Fund.

Approval of School Boundary Option for Students Residing in Half Moon Bay

Students who reside in Half Moon Bay who would normally attend Cedarview Middle School will be given an option to attend John McCrae Secondary School as well as South Carleton High School.

Establish a Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee to review and consult on the Special Education Policy

A. The Board will strike a Special Education Policy Ad-hoc Committee to review and consult on the OCDSB special education policy draft, including reviewing the policy implications of any concerns with respect to specialized class location, wait list management, identification rates, IEP / IPRC protocols, and related communication protocols, and will provide its recommendations as to draft policy changes, including any specific policy directives or procedural recommendations, to the Education Committee by November 2011;

B. The Ad-hoc Committee will consist of three Board-appointed Trustees and two SEAC representatives, and will report monthly to SEAC and Education Committee as to its progress; any meetings of the Ad-hoc Committee will be public except if normal in camera concerns apply; it will appoint its own Chair; it will be provided with reasonable Board Services and Learning Support Services supports and resources as may be required; and that it will provide its final report to the Board through SEAC and the Education Committee and;

C. There will be no planned specialized class closures/relocations for the 2011-2012 school year and staff recommendations for specialized class location changes for 2012-2013 must follow Board receipt of the final report of the Ad-hoc Committee.

Appointment of Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee Trustee Members

The following trustees were appointed as members of the Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee:

1.~ Trustee Fitzgerald

2.~ Trustee Holtzhauer

3.~ Trustee Funicello

Approval of interim solutions re: Kanata Boundary/Grade Program Review

It is recommended for September 2011 that:

A. Roch Carrier Elementary School remains status quo;

B. Any students generated from the new residential development will be redirected from Roch Carrier Elementary School to Bridlewood Community Elementary School for JK-grade 8 ENG and to W.O. Mitchell Elementary School for SK-grade 8 EFI;

C. JK students from the Katimavik Elementary School attendance area will be directed to Castlefrank Elementary School;

D. 2011-2012 grade 4 MFI students from Katimavik Elementary School will be redirect to either Bridlewood Community Elementary School or W. Erskine Johnston Public School and;

E. Senior Kindergarten EFI students from the Stephen Leacock Public School attendance area will be directed to Roland Michener Public School.

Approval of interim solutions re accommodation pressures for schools in Glebe, Old Ottawa South and Centretown

A. The Board approved the redirection of the Junior Kindergarten program at First Avenue Public School to Mutchmor Public School effective September 2011; and

B. Staff was directed to consult on the proposed timelines, scope, and consultation plan for an accommodation review and report to Board at its meeting of March 22, 2011, with its findings and recommendations.

Appointment of Representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee, VOICE for hearing impaired children~

The Board confirmed the appointment of Terry Warner as the representative member to represent VOICE for hearing impaired children on the Special Education Advisory Committee for the term ending 30 November 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 p.m.