

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

25 January 2011

Director's Report

Seventeen of our secondary schools, 12 elementary schools, and one of our Alternate Program sites have received *SpeakUp* grants. *SpeakUp* Projects are grants that provide opportunities for students to creatively address issues and express themselves with the goal of positively strengthening student engagement.

SpeakUp Projects are intended to provide students an opportunity to lead and/or participate academically or socially in a project in or to:

- Examine and understand what helps or hinders their engagement in their learning;
- Strengthen their academic and social sense of belonging;
- Connect with the world outside the walls of their school.

Congratulations to Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School's Law team. Caitlyn Hyndman, Alexander Overton, and Yohana Santoso participated in the Ontario Justice Education Network's fall Charter Challenge final event. On January 11, the grade 12 students faced off against an opposing law team from Walkerton in the Ontario Court of Appeal, at Osgoode Hall in Toronto. The two finalist teams were selected among over 20 groups and were standing before a panel of three legal experts of the Court of Appeal. The final verdict was to dismiss the appeal and they were granted their request of the court.

The Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre (OICC) and Robert E. Wilson Public School celebrated the opening of their Inuit JK/SK full day Kindergarten class on Friday, January 21. This class is the first of its kind in the province. This unique program will be located at the Inuit Children's Centre at 244 McArthur Avenue, and will be led by Robert E. Wilson school staff. The kindergarten program is designed to provide a culturally relevant, early learning experience for Inuit children and their families in a very supportive environment.

Congratulations to Barb Gage, Principal at Sir Robert Borden High School. Barb has been named one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2011. We are fortunate to have Barb as one of our many talented principals and to work in a community where people take the time to recognize and celebrate our work.~ Barb will join other leading principals from across Canada at The Learning Partnership's annual Canada's Outstanding Principals Awards ceremony to be held in Toronto on February 8.

Kindergarten Registration Week starts next week—Monday, January 31. Information about registration is available in all schools and on our website. For your information, registrations for our newest elementary school which is under construction in Stittsville will be handled by the students' currently designated school.

Chair's Report

Thanks to the Aviva Insurance Community Fund, Crystal Bay Centre for Special Education will be able to make improvements to their schoolyard. Students with special needs will be able to enjoy an "accessible" play structure to promote physical activity and improve motor skills. Park benches and picnic tables are also part of the plan to encourage students to interact socially and positively towards their peers and staff.

On January 18th students from Emily Carr Middle School were featured on the A-Morning broadcast. Students managed to raise \$4,254 through their annual walk-a-thon for the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre. They then issued a challenge to the community to match their donation. The Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre is Eastern Ontario's only non-profit, community-based agency dedicated exclusively to helping youth to overcome substance abuse issues and other related challenges in order to achieve a healthier lifestyle. Read more on the Treatment Centre's website at <http://www.davesmithcentre.org/>

And finally, our All Star Jazz Band Concert will be held on Thursday, February 10 at Nepean High School beginning at 7 p.m. The organizer, Roberta Archibald is inviting all trustees and senior staff to attend this special evening. Come out to hear our many talented student musicians.

PUBLIC MOTIONS

Capital Priorities

The list of OCDSB Capital Priorities projects was approved and will be submitted to the Ministry of Education. The report lists the District's needs for renovations and new construction projects for the period up to and including the 2015-2016 school year.

Approval of the boundary realignment for Manor Park Alternative Program

The Manor Park Alternative Program boundary was realigned to redirect students to Riverview Alternative School for the Alternative Program, effective September 2011. In the first year of implementation, current Manor Park Alternative Program students will be given a one-time option to remain at Manor Park Public School in the Regular English Program or enter the Early French Immersion Program (the latter option applicable to current JK students, with very limited exception. Transportation will be "grandfathered" for current Manor Park Alternative Program students who are already receiving transportation and who choose either of the one-time options.

Approval of the 2009-2010 Financial Statements

The Board approved the 2009-2010 Consolidated Financial Statements.

Confirmation of External Members to Audit Committee

The Board approved the following appointment of non trustee members to the Audit Committee for the term 25 January 2011 to 25 January 2014.

1. Robert M. Walters
2. Dr. Chris Atkins

Presentation to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Staff will prepare a submission for the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs who are holding public hearings as part of the provincial 2011 pre-budget consultation process. The Chair of the Board and Director of Education will present the District's concerns about the importance and the limitations of funding for public education in Ontario and particularly to the City of Ottawa.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.