

Newsbrief from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

January 24, 2012

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

Director's Report - Public

Our official Kindergarten Registration Week begins Monday, January 30. Parents are encouraged to register their children for the next school year during this special week.

Information sessions about Kindergarten, Full-Day Kindergarten and Extended Day, led by Principal Brian Begbie, are continuing this week. The sessions begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School and on Thursday, at Maple Ridge Elementary School. Kindergarten information packages will be available for parents at each location.

The Parent Involvement Committee and community partners are pleased to present a series of free information sessions on February 6, 15, and 16. More information on these sessions is available on the district's website.

The OCDSB has won a Run Smarter award for our information management system. The award is for the "best education sector program" and is awarded by Laserfiche. Congratulations to staff in Board Services, Corporate Records, and Business and Learning Technologies for the great work they have done.

Chair's Report

A Winter Walk to School Day event is being hosted by Viscount Alexander Public School on Monday, January 13th, at 9:30 a.m. Green Communities Canada and the School Travel Planning Project have invited its partners to a winter walk through the neighbourhood and a celebration with students over hot chocolate. The Mayor will be attending this event along with representatives from the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Community Foundation of Ottawa. All trustees are invited to attend this special event.

Glashan Public School is celebrating Black History Month with an original play entitled - Captain of Bundu - which showcases the life of Richard Pierpoint. This is Glashan's tenth year of producing Black History dramas. Public performances start at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, February 13th and Tuesday, February 14th. Tickets are just \$6 for adults and \$4 for students.

The Parent Involvement Committee is seeking interested parents to join its committee. Applications are being accepted for a one or two-year term until February 28th. For more details, and information on how to apply, please visit the OCDSB website at www.ocdsb.ca

Last week, I represented the Board at a Ministry of Finance Budget consultation. The District will be making a written submission which will be posted to our website.

Finally, this is a reminder that consultation on the OCDSB budget will occur in February and March.

Student Trustee Report

The student report focused on future goals, equity and inclusion, and ideas for general improvement at the school level.

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/calendar/AGENDA%20DOCS/2012%20DOCS/24%20Jan%20Board%20Meeting/21%20Student%20Trustee%20Report%20to%20Board%2024%20January%202012.pdf>

Parent Guide for Student Transfers

Staff were directed to develop and maintain a parent guide that fully explains the student transfer application process. This document needs to be user friendly incorporating plain and helpful language and include a reference to this parent guide in the current policy.

In the short-term an interim parent guide will be made available in time for the transfer policy application period in February 2012.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Mandate Extended

The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force's mandate will be extended until the end of June 2012. This will allow for all tasks to be completed and a fulsome report to be submitted.

Approval For School Year Calendar 2012-2013 (Submission to Ministry of Education)

The 2012-2013 school year calendar has been approved and will be submitted to the Ministry of Education. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 4, 2012. The 2012 Christmas Break will commence on Monday, December 24, 2012 and students will return to school on Monday, January 7, 2013.

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/calendar/AGENDA%20DOCS/2012%20DOCS/24%20Jan%20Board%20Meeting/10%20SPPC%20Report%202%2010%20Jan%202012%20Public%20with%20Appendices.pdf>

Approval of Optional Attendance Area Canterbury to Hillcrest High School

The Board designated Canterbury High School's Regular English program attendance boundary as an optional area to Hillcrest High School. The detailed map is contained in Appendix 2 to Report 12-002.

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/calendar/AGENDA%20DOCS/2012%20DOCS/24%20Jan%20Board%20Meeting/11Business%20Services%2011%20Jan%202012%20Report%202%20Public%20with%20Appendices.pdf>

Approval to Merge Kars Public School and Rideau Valley Middle School

The Board approved the merger of Kars Public School and Rideau Valley Middle School into one school organization effective for the 2012-2013 school year.

Approval of the Multi-year Energy Management Plan 2011-2014

The Multi-Year Energy Management Plan 2011-2014 (attached to Report no. 12-017) was approved; and the required \$1,670,423 for the 2012-2013 portion of the Multi-Year Energy Management Plan 2011-2014 was also approved and funded through energy savings, utility incentives, and solar generation revenues.

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/calendar/AGENDA%20DOCS/2012%20DOCS/24%20Jan%20Board%20Meeting/11Business%20Services%2011%20Jan%202012%20Report%202%20Public%20with%20Appendices.pdf>

Steering Committee for Extended Day and Full-day Kindergarten programs

The Board request staff, in creating their steering committee with regard to the Extended Day and Full-Day Kindergarten programs, to consider the following concepts:

A. The Committee will:

- a) serve as a forum to provide ongoing advice on the implementation of child care programs and Full-Day Kindergarten;
- b) establish a venue for various stakeholders to collaborate across sectors;
- c) share successful practices and support effective communications across sectors;
- d) identify solutions to areas of mutual concern; and
- e) ensure representatives, whom are identified in Part B, have current public information about child care and Full-Day Kindergarten to communicate to their respective communities in Ottawa, and

B. THAT the Steering Committee be comprised of representatives from the following areas/sectors:

- a) Ottawa-Carleton District School Board;
- b) Federations/Unions;
- c) City of Ottawa;
- d) Child Care;
- e) Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils; and
- f) Parents.

The above motion was referred to the February Business Services Committee.

Approve Schedule and Consultation Plan for the 2012-2013 budget process

Board approved the 2012-2013 budget schedule and consultation plan as set out in the Report 12-021, subject to staff scheduling a meeting date prior to the Human Resource Committee meeting of 6 March 2012 for a committee discussion of budget priorities.

<http://www.ocdsb.ca/calendar/AGENDA%20DOCS/2012%20DOCS/24%20Jan%20Board%20Meeting/16%20Report%201%20Budget%2019%20January%202012%20Public%20with%20Appendix.pdf>

Trustee Appointment to Board Governance Task Force

Trustee Curry was appointed to the Task Force.

Extension of Special Education Programs and Services

The Board voted to extend the deadline for submission of the recommendations of the Special Education Policy Ad Hoc Committee to the SEAC meeting on 28 March 2012 and to Education Committee on 17 April 2012.

Board Approval of Signing Authorities

The OCDSB's signing authorities be amended to reflect the following:

Any two of: Chair, Vice-Chair, Director of Education, Associate Director of Education, Chief Financial Officer, Assistant Treasurer, Superintendent of Facilities.

The meeting ended at 11:00 p.m.