

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 November 17, 2010

Chair's Report

Chair Curry briefly outlined a conference that she and Trustee Fitzgerald attended. She said one of the key themes of the conference was that it is all of our jobs, to create conditions, which promote student and staff creativity.

Ms. Curry also informed trustees that she would not be running for Chair in December. She jokingly told her colleagues that she would instead be running for Mother of the Year and that would only take 4 votes. Ms. Curry went on to thank staff, fellow trustees, and the community for their tremendous support during her term as Chair. She described the year as an exceptional learning opportunity.

Directors' Report

The Director provided a short verbal report and indicated that his planned written report would be provided in the minutes – below is a review of both.

Walter Piovesan Receives Crime Prevention Ottawa Award

Congratulations to Superintendent of Instruction Walter Piovesan who received a Crime Prevention Ottawa Community Safety Award on Monday, November 8, at City Hall.

He was recognized for his work with the implementation of Restorative Practices and Cross-cultural Conflict Resolution Strategies, which help equip high school and middle school students with the tools they need to resolve conflict productively.

He partnered with community agencies and service providers to offer improved health and dental check-ups, counselling support, after-school programs, and youth gang prevention initiatives in schools, and championed cultural proficiency training for teachers, administrators, staff, and the Ottawa Police Service.

Student Survey Updated

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is delaying the start date of the student survey. ~The delay is in response to a request made by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario. ~The school district has been working in conjunction with the Commission to ensure compliance with privacy and information security principles. ~~The Director said, "Privacy and security of information are very important to us as district, which is why we have been liaising with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. We have recently been advised that the Commission is now investigating a complaint about the survey. We are cooperating with that investigation and believe that it is prudent to delay the start date of the survey until the investigation is complete."

Senior Kindergarten Speech-Language Intervention Program

Our Senior Kindergarten Speech-Language Intervention Program has received national attention as it was published in the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologies and Audiologists.

School districts across Canada are requesting more information about our innovative programs. Information about our program was shared with members of the Education Committee.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day ceremonies were held in schools across the district and at the Board Office. John McCrae Secondary School students honoured the school's namesake who was a soldier, doctor, and author of "In Flanders Field." Grade 9 students at John McCrae attended the Remembrance Day ceremony downtown, while remaining students participated in the school ceremony organized by graduating students.

Bullying Awareness Week

November 14 to 20 is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week in Ontario. Maria Hawkins, a MASC Artist in Residence will be at Manor Park Public School for 10 days for a musical adventure. The theme is "Stop the Bullying."

Students will be recording a CD of original songs created with Maria, her band, and all 520 kindergarten to grade 6 students. Funding was provided by the Marjorie Loughrey Endowment Fund, the school Council, and the MASC organization. (MASC: Multicultural Arts for Schools and Communities).

Approval of recommendation re program, grade structure and attendance boundary for new Stittsville Elementary School

Below is an overview of what was passed – the actual motion can be found in the Board Agenda, 17 November 2010 on the board website at www.ocdsb.ca

Attendance boundaries for the new Stittsville elementary school located at 111 Hartsmere Drive were approved as per Appendix 3 of Report No. 10-173. The school will open in September 2011 with a JK-5 ENG/EFI grade/program configuration advancing to JK-6 the following year.

The revised attendance boundaries for A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School and Stittsville Public School were approved as per Appendices 4 and 5 of Report No. 10-173 (attached), effective September 2011.

Effective September 2011 a new Middle French Immersion program will be phased in at A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School as per the attendance boundary found in Appendix 6 of Report No. 10-173.

The revised attendance boundaries for Goulbourn Middle School was approved per Appendix 7 of Report No. 10-173 effective September 2011, except as indicated in the report.

A revised Middle French Immersion attendance boundary for Katimavik Elementary School was approved as per Appendix 8 of Report No. 10-173 effective September 2011.

Any student residing within the attendance boundary for the new school at 111 Hartsmere who has, as of 1 January 2011, been allocated a place for September 2011 at the Andrew Fleck Child Care Centre co-located within Stittsville Public School will be permitted to continue to attend Stittsville Public School on a student transfer until (a) the student has completed the program at Stittsville Public School, or (b) is no longer receiving childcare at the Andrew Fleck Centre.

Should it be determined that the New Stittsville Elementary School will not offer a before and after school child care program for September 2011 an announcement will be made in May 2011, outlining what transportation will be provided to and from the new school and to existing child care locations (within the current Stittsville Public School and A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School attendance areas) for current students (2010-2011) redirected to the New Stittsville Elementary School. This transportation arrangement would continue until such time as a new child care arrangement can be made for that child within the newly designated attendance boundary, or until June 2013, whichever is sooner.

Should it be determined that the New Stittsville Elementary School will offer a before and after school child care program for September 2011, but that the extended day program is limited to children of certain grades (kindergarten students only for example), then transportation will be provided to and from the new school and to existing child care locations (within the current Stittsville Public School and A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary attendance areas) for current students (2010-2011) redirected to the New Stittsville Elementary School, who are ineligible to attend the provided extended day program. This transportation arrangement would continue until such time as a new child care arrangement can be made for that child within the newly designated attendance boundary, or until June 2013, whichever is sooner.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.