



Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting)

Report No. 13

CW:14A

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Electronic Meeting

Members Present Trustees Robin Pilkey (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Alexander Brown, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Chris Tonks, Manna Wong and Student Trustee Ivy Deng

All trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings.](#)

Regrets Regrets were received from Trustee Alexandra Lulka.

Part A: Committee Recommendations

No matters to report

Part B: For Information Only

1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

An electronic meeting of the Committee of the Whole was convened on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 from 4:33 to 6:20 p.m., with Robin Pilkey presiding.

2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

3. Delegations

The following written delegations were presented in accordance with the Board's delegation procedure:

re Emergency Motion: Remote Learning

1. Leslie Wolfe, President of Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation Toronto
2. John Weatherup, President of Toronto Education Workers/Local 4400
3. Joy Lachica, President of Elementary Teachers' Federation of Toronto

4. Report From the Director of Education

The Committee heard an oral update from the Director of Education that included the following highlights:

- i. Thought Exchange Parent/Guardians – 39000 participants to this process offering 47000 thoughts;
- ii. Staff heard from parents that schedules for learning are important;
- iii. Do not know how long virtual learning will last – we must continue to seek how we can improve; how we can listen to our families and our educators – next professional opportunities for staff learning will be focused on this;
- iv. 56000 devices have been distributed to date. There are an additional 4000 devices remaining to deliver;
- v. Key Questions: How do we engage students that we haven't heard from? Staff are reaching out to those students – seeking how to best be supportive;
- vi. Do not yet have clarity from provincial government; beyond May 31st;
- vii. Two Contingency Tables have been struck; One for Operational Matters and One for Academic Matters – related to school opening in September 2020; and

- viii. A great deal of collaboration between school boards are taking place to share approaches; with Craig Snider co-chairing this group

TOPIC SPECIFIC UPDATES

- **Supervisory Officer Process** – 52 people attended March 9th information session...as of April 21st – 48 notices of intent received; 15 from external candidates...22 internal and 5 external were confirmed by endorsement process to move forward – by May 8 received 27 application packages. Interviews taking place starting June 8th...qualified applicant pool tracking to June 17th board meeting.
- **Unions** – Formal meetings take place with all union colleagues, associations on a weekly basis to work through any emerging issues.
- **Parents** – Four learning sessions with close to 2000 families participating – on Brightspace platform – if unable to participate live; content is now also available on the public website.
- **Equity** – One plan does not fit all; different approaches are being used to meet needs – across 583 schools this flexibility is required....expectations from educators, will need to shift
- **Teachers** – our goal is to be an effective, human community – we need to clarify and support the expectations being set; while supporting those who may need help
- **Return of Virtual Devices** – every device has been tagged; prior to being lent out. A strategy for recovery will need to be established....this experience has raised the question of how we examine and move closer to all of our students having a device while they are a pupil of the board.
- 19000 participants have taken online professional learning; over the last 7 weeks (since April 6th) – sessions are both live; as well as pre-recorded materials

5. Report From the Chair of the Board

The Committee heard an oral update from the Chair of the Board that included the following:

- i. Ongoing efforts to meet with Mayor Tory have been undertaken to discuss issues that impact the board and which are mutual. A phone meeting took place last week that focused on strategizing on how to move forward; and the recovery period and what that will look like.
- ii. Associate Director Jackson and the City of Toronto's Chief Recovery Officer are a part of these dialogues.
- iii. Decisions have not yet been made by the City of Toronto about summer camps and whether they will proceed

6. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Donaldson, on behalf of the City of Toronto's Board of Health on the following matters:

- i. The "Recovery Principles" identified by Toronto Public Health that seeks to align recovery planning as follows:
 - i. Gradual easing of public health measures
 - ii. Observation of the effects of easing measures before relaxing further
 - iii. Continuing some measures that will become part of how we live with COVID-19 ongoing
 - iv. Avoiding the reversal of changes, if possible
 - v. Balancing protections of those who are most vulnerable while allowing for some degree of easing of public health restrictions for the wider community"
- ii. The Committee was directed to a unanimously approved and collaboratively developed recent motion - which can be found at:
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.HL16.2>

7. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Donaldson, on behalf of the Directors of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association on activities of OPSBA:

i. OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting

There will be an OPSBA Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, May 23, 2020

Conversations taking place with key members of Opposition Parties

We are continuing to ensure that we have education partners across all of the parties in the legislature.

ii. OSSTF

On Thursday, May 21, 2020, there will be a ratification vote on the tentative settlement reached with OSSTF

iii. Conversation with Minister Lecce

There are ongoing opportunities to speak with Minister Lecce. In recent conversations, the following topics have been raised:

1. The need for boards to receive both their GSNs, and news about capital priorities funding as soon as possible;
2. Issues specifically related to the current pandemic situation, including the need for OPSBA to be included in discussions about plans to re-open schools; and
3. The need for funding for essential elements of school boards' response to the pandemic, such as mental health supports for students, additional technology needs, and other issues of online learning equity.

8. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Mammoliti, the Chair of Governance and Policy Committee on the following matters:

1. There have been delays in public consultations around policy reviews – they will resume in the fall; and
2. Work has been going on to update policies and procedures as a result of COVID-19, examples are:
 - i. Remote Working (Working from Home) policy and operational procedure (including self-isolation protocol when travelling)

- ii. Access to Schools and Return to Schools Protocol – operational procedure
- iii. Communication with Parents Protocol (to be developed under new Communications Policy)
- iv. Pandemic Response Plan Policy
- v. Developing Play Based Learning Procedure/Policy (play based learning effects on alleviating mental health stresses amongst student during pandemic)

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Story, the Chair of Program and School Services Committee on the following matters:

- i. Thank you to staff and Trustees for participation in the 5 ½ hour recent meeting last week – largely due to the many emergent matters we are currently dealing with.
- ii. The Committee was encouraged to review both the Indigenous education report from the meeting agenda as well as the Early Literacy Report.

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Laskin, the Chair of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on the following matters:

- i. Trustees were reminded that at the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Meeting next meeting; there will be discussion of COVID related issues; as the board turns attention to the 2020-2021 budget period; and
- ii. The announcement regarding Grants for Student Needs has been delayed by the provincial government

9. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee

The Committee heard an oral update from representatives of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee on the following matters:

- i. Associate Director Rawlins and Trustee Chernos Lin have weekly conversations, alternating between the PIAC Co-Chairs, the PIAC Executive, and all of PIAC;
- ii. This is to regularly check in due to the COVID-19 crisis (prior to March break it was twice a month). These more frequent meetings since March Break

have provided an important way to share information and obtain relevant and helpful feedback on important issues, such as: 1) how to approach the issue of school council meetings; 2) the framing of the wording of questions on the Thought Exchange;

- iii. Information was also shared on the two emergency committee motions, as they dealt with issues discussed by PIAC in prior meetings since the closure of schools in March;
- iv. Information was shared to Trustees about an exciting initiative of PIAC. A webinar has been scheduled for school councils to take place at 5:30pm on Thursday, May 21. It will feature a panel discussion that will feature two Principals and their school council chairs, as well as Associate Director Russell-Rawlins and Trustee Chernos Lin. As soon as the flyer and more information are available, it will be shared to all Trustees.

10. Reports From Student Trustees

The Committee heard an oral update from Student Trustee Ivy Deng, on behalf of the Student Trustees on the following matters:

- i. Elections – The Committee heard that elections have been postponed until next year; and
- ii. The Committee was informed of a mental health resource that has been developed and will be shared to staff so it can be provided to all Trustees via Trustee Weekly.

11. Emergency Motions

No matters to report

12. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff

The Committee heard the following questions and insights from Trustees:

- i. Trustee Aarts - Community Advisory Committees are asking questions about how to move forward the work and questions of their committee; in the current period where they are not able to meet. In response staff agreed to take this question and develop a response.

- ii. Trustee Story – Thank you to staff and fellow Trustees for the significant effort that has been required in a very short time to facilitate the meetings and work of the board being conducted in this electronic format

13. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Doyle, seconded by Trustee Story, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Robin Pilkey, Committee Chair