BOARD MEETING – PUBLIC SESSION
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
5:30 P.M.

AGENDA

Pages

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ATTENDANCE

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   C.1 Agenda

D. CONVENE TO PRIVATE SESSION
   PUBLIC SESSION WILL RECONVENE AT 7:00 P.M.

Land Acknowledgement
We acknowledge that we are on land and surrounded by water, originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples who have travelled this area since time immemorial. This territory is within the lands honoured by the Wampum Treaties; agreements between the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-e-naa-bay), Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-oh-show-nee), Lenni Lenape (Len-ch Le-naw-pay) and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Specifically, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe (Oh-ijib-way), Odawa (Oh-dah-wah), Potawatomi (Paw-taw-watt-oh-me) and Huron/Wendat (Wen-dau) Peoples. We are dedicated to honouring indigenous history and culture while remaining committed to moving forward respectfully with all First Nations, Inuit and Métis

E. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

F. ACTIONS OF BOARD MEETING PRIVATE SESSION

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   G.1 Minutes of the Public Board Meeting of 2020-04-21

ENCLOSURE

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

I. DELEGATIONS
   I.1 Jelena Magliaro – Budget Consultation

J. SPEAKER'S LIST

K. PRESENTATIONS
   K.1 Student Trustee Presentation
   K.2 A Response to COVID 19 – Senior Administration
   K.3 Gathering Parent Perspectives: Parent Survey – Superintendent J. Hillman
L. NEW BUSINESS
   L.1 Notice of Motion – Student Trustee Jain

   RECOMMENDATION:
   THAT THE GECDSB ENSURES THAT MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS ARE
   PROVIDED WITHOUT STIGMA FOR STUDENT USE FOR FREE IN ALL THE
   SCHOOLS’ FEMALE AND GENDER-NEUTRAL WASHROOMS EFFECTIVE DURING
   THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

M. REPORTS (TO BE RECEIVED)
   M.1 Report of the Director of Education
   M.2 Report of the OPSBA Director/Delegate
   M.3 International Languages Overview
   M.4 Chair’s Report

N. TRUSTEE QUESTION PERIOD
   (9:10 p.m. to 9:50 p.m.)

O. NOTICES OF MOTION
   (9:50 P.M. TO 9:55 P.M.)

P. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   (9:55 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

Q. ADJOURNMENT

DISTRIBUTION
   1. Letter to Minister of Education

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:
   Board Meeting Public Session Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Chairperson – Trustee Le Clair
Vice-Chairperson – Trustee Cooke

Director of Education – Erin Kelly
Executive Assistant – Melissa LeBoeuf
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES:
R. LeClair (Chairperson of the Board) C. Cooke (Vice-Chairperson of the Board)
J. Burgess S. Cipkar
A. Halberstadt G. Hatfield
A. Higgison A. Omstead
L. Qin J. Sartori

STUDENT TRUSTEES:
A. Jain
N. Johny

ADMINISTRATION:
E. Kelly (Director of Education)
S. Armstrong T. Awender
J. Canty J. Hillman
C. Howitt V. Houston
C. Mills S. Pyke
M. Wilcox

RECORER: M. LeBoeuf

All trustees and staff were present via Teams as per amendments to Ontario Regulation 463/97.

A. CALL TO ORDER
Chairperson Le Clair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. ATTENDANCE
Chairperson Le Clair noted that all trustees were present via Teams.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
C.1 Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Halberstadt
Seconded by Trustee Higgison

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

D. CONVENE TO PRIVATE SESSION

Moved by Trustee Halberstadt
Seconded by Trustee Sartori

TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

E. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
Nil.
F.  ACTIONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRIVATE SESSION

    Moved by Trustee Sartori
    Seconded by Trustee Hatfield

    F.1 THAT ITEM F.1 FROM THE PRIVATE SESSION MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2020 BE
    APPROVED.

    The vote was called and it                                      CARRIED.

G.  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

    Items G.1, G.2 and G.3 were moved together.

    Moved by Trustee Hatfield
    Seconded by Trustee Sartori

    G.1 THAT THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020 PUBLIC BOARD MEETING BE
    APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

    G.2 THAT THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020 SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
    BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

    G.3 THAT THE MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2020 PUBLIC BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED
    AS AMENDED.

    The vote was called and it                                      CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Nil.

H.  PRESENTATIONS

    I.1 Student Trustee Presentation
    See attached presentation.

    ➢ It was questioned how we can showcase the student of the month while we are
    holding virtual meetings. Student Trustee Jain noted that she would request a
    photo of the students to include in a story for the website.

    ➢ It was questioned what platform was used to distribute the survey to students.
    Student Trustee Jain noted that it was posted on Instagram through student
    councils. Those that do not have a Student Council Instagram account shared it
    on their personal social media accounts.

    ➢ It was questioned how elementary students are being surveyed. Student Trustee
    Jain noted that this is an area of challenge. 30 elementary students have
    responded so far. It is hoped that the survey can be shared through Edsby.

I.  DELEGATIONS
Nil.

J.  SPEAKER'S LIST
Nil.
K. NEW BUSINESS

L.1 Policy and Regulation: Community Planning and Partnerships

Moved by Trustee Cooke  
Seconded by Trustee Burgess

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY P-BA-30 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS AS PRESENTED; AND

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE REGULATION R-BA-30 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS AS PRESENTED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

L.2 Regulation: Cyber Security

Moved by Trustee Hatfield  
Seconded by Trustee Cipkar

THAR THE GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE "CYBER SECURITY" REGULATION AS PRESENTED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

L.3 Approval of the 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Moved by Trustee Cooke  
Seconded by Trustee Omstead

THAT THE GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS FOR 2020-2021 AS SUBMITTED BY THE SCHOOLS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

➢ Director Kelly noted that if there was a need we would amend the school year calendar.
➢ It was questioned why there are two PA Days being proposed prior to the start of the school year. Superintendent Hillman noted that we are required to have 194 school days between Labour Day and June 30th. As a result, we are required to have two PA days prior to the start of school in September.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

L.4 Notice of Motion – Trustee Burgess

Moved by Trustee Burgess  
Seconded by Trustee Cipkar

THAT THE GECDSB DIRECT THE POLICY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POLICY P-PL-01 AND REGULATION R-PL-01 REGARDING THE NAMING AND RENAMING OF BOARD FACILITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.
M. REPORTS (TO BE RECEIVED)
M.1 Report of the Director of Education
Director Kelly shared the GECDSB NotePad as of April 10th and April 17th.

Questions/Discussion
➢ It was questioned how all of the initiatives being done fit in our strategic plan. Director Kelly noted that they all fit nicely. We are addressing the needs of our diverse community. We are responding to our learners. We have a number of podcasts on our website under “Supporting all of us during COVID-19”. Many more focusing on specific ages of students will be posted in the next few weeks. We are surveying students to see what they are worried about.
➢ What are the costs associated with the distribution of homework packages and technology? Director Kelly noted that the cost of the packages is minimal. The devices that were distributed were devices we had already. The cost has come with the IT staff doing a tremendous amount of work. We do have a mechanism in place to track the devices and will be collecting them when students return to school.
➢ It was noted that some boards are looking at a staggered return to school for students. Director Kelly noted that we would be following ministerial direction. She noted that she would be volunteering to sit on the provincial committee planning the return to school.
➢ How are we keeping parents/guardians connected about the learning and well-being other than online? Director Kelly noted that we are distributing homework packages to families who do not have internet. We have distributed Cultural packages to our FNMI families. There has been lots of personal contact with families. SWIS workers are also making contact with families. An automated voice message has been sent to our Low German speaking community. We continue to search for ways we can connect.
➢ It was questioned if teachers could have a fixed time so students and the teacher can study together. The Director noted that not all teachers are handling online learning in the same way. Teachers are working through what works best. A regular structure could help in the learning.
➢ How is it determined who gets technology and is there tech support for students once they get the technology? Director Kelly noted that the demand is great. Reach out to families has been through the website, principals and teachers. The outreach continues. There is ongoing tech support through the help desk. The help desk is receiving a 1000 calls per day. Superintendent Mills noted that the first phase of distribution focused on families that had no devices at all. Phase 2 focused on families with a number of children who may need more than one device. Principals can assign technology to families in need. They know their families the best. Passwords have been a huge challenge. Secondary students will now be able to change their password using an online tool. There are FAQs posted on the website to assist families who may have technology questions.
➢ What are we doing about the families that we are not able to reach? Director Kelly noted that if there is serious concern we reach out to community agencies for assistance. Schools are developing creative ways and sharing best practices to track and monitor student communication.
➢ Are the resources we are creating being put through an accessibility check? Director Kelly noted that the students that have accessibility needs would have those met through their SEA equipment.
Have we communicated with parents the expectations when it comes to teacher support? Superintendent Howitt noted that messaging to teachers has been that they set up office hours to be accessible to both students and parents. They do have asynchronous and synchronous times. Teachers have been given options with respect to the method of communication. They can use Edsby, which is the preferred method, D2L, Microsoft Teams, regular email or phone.

Concern was expressed for those students who might not have the support at home. Director Kelly noted that the senior team shares those same concerns. We will continue to examine how we can best support.

It was questioned if there is consideration for assigning a pass or fail grade? Director Kelly noted that those discussions occur at the Ministry level. We want to be fair to everyone. This is about connecting and believing in kids and in their ability.

It was requested that the Support for Families initiatives information be posted on the website.

M.2 Report of the OPSBA Director/Delegate
Trustee Cipkar referenced her report. See attached.

M.3 Tender and Request for Proposals Awarded for the Quarter Ended February 29, 2020

It was questioned how we prioritize improvements on buildings that we deemed surplus. Superintendent Armstrong noted that roofing repairs need to be done. They are board assets and it is important that we protect them. Our new builds will not be ready for a period of time.

None of these repairs can be done until the province lifts the non essential work ban. How do we ensure damage does not continue? Superintendent Armstrong noted that Facility Services staff continues to inspect buildings every 48 hours. If there is an issue it would be dealt with at each inspection time.

Was all of the work budgeted, and if the work is on hold what does that do to the funding? Superintendent Armstrong noted that these projects are part of the school condition and renewal money. We have funding for all of the work we are doing.

M.4 Interim Financial Expense Report as at February 29, 2020

It was questioned if there is any sort of projected impact due to the pandemic (i.e. transportation, classroom supplies, technological devices). Does administration feel the money we are going to save from those expenses able to redeploy in a way to ensure students are receiving the same quality of learning? Is there a continuity of learning from an operations perspective, specifically in light of a financial report? Superintendent Armstrong noted that there is potential for cost savings because procurement activities are being deferred. From a transportation perspective – we are still receiving funding. There is a clause in our agreement with operators that we pay an inclement weather rate. We have not received any guidance from the Ministry around what it is going to look like for excess or unspent funding. With respect to technology, the devices we have are part of our board assets. Director Kelly noted that there will be savings. GSNs from last year are not at risk. Professional Development is occurring differently. We haven’t weighed out all the costs. We will get some provincial direction on this. The learning is different. We will have to wait to see what the direction is from the Ministry.
Do trustees have any influence or advocacy towards the type of PD the Ministry will offset (i.e. digital literacy). Director Kelly noted that some PD funds are enveloped. It is how we deliver the PD that can be differentiated. We do have some flexibility. At this time, there does not seem a need for trustees to advocate.

It was noted that enrolment increased at the elementary level but decreased at the secondary panel. Is this an abnormality? Director Kelly noted that we try to be conservative in our estimates. We don’t want to overstaff. The last three years enrolment has been higher than projected.

It was questioned if the Well Being: Safe Accepting and Healthy Schools and Mental Health funding was being replaced by the Mental Health Workers in Schools and if so how are the 3.5 FTE social workers being redeployed. Superintendent Armstrong noted that the Well Being: Safe Accepting and Healthy Schools is an old EPO that expired and was replaced with the Mental Health Workers in schools funding. The funding did increase from $187,000 to $385,000. Superintendent Pyke noted that the 3.5 FTE social workers are deployed into secondary schools.

M.5 Chair’s Report
Chairperson Le Clair noted that he observed children in his neighbourhood doing physical education and teachers collaborating. As a large organization, we can be nimble when we need to be. He gave a big shout out to all the staff getting the online learning off the ground.

N. TRUSTEE QUESTION PERIOD
Trustee Higginson requested that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education around guidelines around assessment. There was consensus to send a letter. After discussion the following concerns will be addressed in the letter:
- assurances that no student’s graduation would be affected and credit accumulation will continue;
- asking for the ministry to provide more guidance to boards to prevent inequities;
- ask for strategies and ways to make up the time lost;
- the need for receiving institutions to be prepared to take on some additional instruction for content that may not have been covered thoroughly in semester two classes;
- advocate for additional support for students in OYAP and Apprenticeship programs.

It was questioned if these concerns are things administration has considered. Director Kelly noted that Directors participate in regular teleconferences with the Ministry. We are in the same position as everyone else in the province. We are doing some of our own things that are a little bolder and student advocate focused but the reality is we are in a time where direction is difficult from a Ministry standpoint.

It was questioned how we are honouring April 28th. The Day of Mourning for Injured Workers and raising of the Pride Flag. The Director noted that the flag will be lowered at the administration building on April 28th to honour of the National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace. We will find some way to celebrate the raising of the Pride Flag.

Will graduations still take place? Director Kelly noted that there has been no official statement made. There are provincial as well as local discussions taking place.

It was questioned if the Strategic Planning session planned for next week will continue. Chairperson Le Clair noted that the planning session is postponed.
► Student Trustee Jain questioned if the Policy and Regulation for Student Trustee is being amended in accordance with the change of the provincial Regulation. Director Kelly noted that Ms. Marcuz was working on the changes.

► Student Trustee Jain asked if the menstrual hygiene survey could be shared with principals to post on Edsby and share with their schools. Director Kelly noted that Superintendent Pyke would discuss with Student Trustees.

► Student Trustee Jain noted that other boards across Ontario conducted live question and answer sessions to engage families and ensure all students and stakeholder concerns have been addressed. Is this something we would consider? Director Kelly noted that we can explore. We have done surveys and are working at answering questions.

► It was questioned if the Ministry would be asking for feedback from the board about how things were going with online learning. Director Kelly noted that at the Director level, yes they have asked for feedback. There has been discussion with the senior team around asking stakeholders, students and parents about what has worked and what hasn’t. There will be some learning from this situation and how we can move forward. There are some really big lessons we have learned. This is a huge opportunity to think about the best way to serve students from a teaching and learning perspective.

► It was questioned if there was a plan for the board meetings to be live streamed moving forward. Chairperson LeClair noted that moving forward the meetings will be live streamed.

N.  NOTICES OF MOTION
Student Trustee Jain noted that she would move, or cause to be moved at the next regular public board meeting:

THAT THE GECDSDB ENSURES THAT MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT STIGMA FOR STUDENT USE FOR FREE IN ALL THE SCHOOLS’ FEMALE AND GENDER-NEUTRAL WASHROOMS EFFECTIVE DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR.

O.  ANNOUNCEMENTS
► Trustee Halberstadt completed Principal Vitella at Hugh Beaton with his video taping of morning announcements and the national anthem.
► Trustee Burgess reminded everyone that April 22nd is Earth Day.
► Student Trustee Jain noted that the Ontario Public Student Trustee Scholarship was announced and that both she and Trustee Johny would be applying.
► Trustee Qin encouraged everyone to practice social distancing and suggested that people wear a mask, if possible.
► Trustee Hatfield acknowledged that these are difficult times for everyone. No one has been spared from the stress this has put on everyone. A lot of staff are missing classrooms and students. This is not a vacation time for anyone. Everyone has pulled together. Everyone needs to take care and stay safe.

Q.  ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business before the Board, Chairperson Le Clair adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

R. LECLAIR CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

E. KELLY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
March 24, 2020 Student Trustee Report

Student of the Month
The Student of the Month for March is Jana Jandal Alrifai, a Grade 11 student at Vincent Massey Secondary School. Jana and her family immigrated to Canada 3 years ago having fled Syria due to war. Jana believes she is incredibly lucky to be in Canada and to have access to so many opportunities.

Jana demonstrates dedication to her school and community as well as a passion for politics. She is a proud member of Massey Hearts, a group that works to reduce the stigma of mental health. She is also a volunteer for Massey’s Children’s Christmas Party, a student-led event for children to enjoy a festive meal, have fun, and leave with gifts and great memories.

Outside of school, Jana has won multiple awards in the field of debate and public speaking. She recently placed first at the Richard Peddie Debate Tournament held at the University of Windsor and third place at the Optimist Oratorical Contest. In addition, she spends her weekends teaching Arabic to youth in the community.

Last summer, Jana logged 220 hours to support her Business SHSM certification at Build a Dream, a not-for-profit organization that encourages young women to go into careers in which women are underrepresented.

Jana’s passion for politics began with Massey Model UN where she won second place and best position paper at the University of Windsor’s annual competition. This experience inspired her to attend Ontario Model Parliament, a prestigious program facilitated by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

During the most recent federal election, she volunteered for her incumbent Member of Parliament’s re-election campaign. She also volunteered with Canadian Muslim Vote, an organization that promotes civic engagement among Muslim-Canadians. She has been selected to participate in Forum for Young Canadians 2020 in Ottawa this upcoming March.

Jana’s dedication to community and civic engagement makes her a great example of what it means to be a Massey Mustang. She responds to challenges with optimism by pushing herself to excellence.

Congratulations Jana for being selected as Student Senate’s March Student of the Month!

Report
It has been an eventful February and March.

Last month, Anumita and I travelled to Ottawa for OSTA-AECO’s Board Council Conference. We learned a lot from Annie Kidder, Executive Director of People for Education, who spoke about the skills students need to be ready for the future. We also heard from a representative of the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association who outlined their concussion protocol and the latest findings on concussion education.

We also had many productive working group breakout sessions. In the Student Well-Being working group of which Anumita and I are members, I’m happy to report that we finished a menstrual hygiene handbook for Student Trustees to follow to improve access to these products in their respective school boards.

In the professional development portion of this conference, fellow Student Trustees led workshops on successful communications, including effectively and persuasively conveying ideas and how to reach out and advocate for all students. These workshops helped us further develop our communication and networking skills. Thank you Director Kelly for this valuable professional development opportunity.

Student Senate is currently working on our own menstrual hygiene equity initiative. Student Senators are collecting data from their respective schools to help us gauge the level of accessibility to these products at each high school. When we get the data back, we will review it and discuss next steps to improve access and equity.
One of the highlights from news around our high schools is Kennedy Collegiate’s “Make and Take Mondays”. Using a Jumpstart Grant, the foods teacher is leading an after school cooking class for students. A different dish is on the menu each Monday that students prepare and take home to their families.

We hope to finish this school year strong and make most of the few months left in our term as Student Trustees.

**April 21, 2020 Student Trustee Report**
The month of April has been quite eventful.

As we noted in our March Student Trustee Report, Nabil and I travelled to Ottawa for OSTA-AECO’s Board Councils Conference. In the Student Well-being Working Group that Nabil and I belong to, we completed a menstrual hygiene accessibility handbook for Student Trustees to improve access to these products in their respective school boards. Thank you, Director Kelly, for this professional development opportunity.

Student Senate is now currently working on our own menstrual hygiene equity initiative. We conducted a survey this month to assess the level of access to menstrual hygiene products in secondary schools and how students would like to see menstrual hygiene products provided if we start an initiative. Through mostly informal sharing on social media, the survey has already gathered over 1,000 responses. According to the survey responses received thus far, it appears that most secondary schools do not have access to menstrual hygiene products in school restrooms.

During this time of self-quarantine, Student Senate is working on an online game night for secondary schools across the GECDSB to keep students together in our time apart. Many student councils are hosting online challenges and spirit weeks to boost student morale. Earlier in the month, many councils released school themed bingo cards. This month Herman hosted a virtual spirit week. Sandwich and Riverside have posted throwbacks to students’ favorite school memories. Kennedy has been doing short trivia quizzes. There are lots of great things happening in secondary schools.

Nabil and I continue to strongly advocate for student voice. A few weeks ago, we sent Director Kelly an email detailing students’ concerns and made a recommendation on behalf of students regarding mid-term marks. We were pleased to see prompt responses to the concerns brought forward and the implementation of some of our recommendations.

We hope to finish this school year strong and make most of the few months left in our term as Student Trustees.
April 2020 OPSBA Report – Trustee Cipkar

Last BoD meeting in February information is totally obsolete in light of Covid-19 pandemic. While we heard from Toronto Medical Officer of Health about coronavirus implications, they nowhere near close to what has actually happened with school closues, social distancing measuring, etc. Additionally, we were at a very different point in the bargaining process, that also now is irrelevant. Lastly, there was discussion about discrepancy about online learning capacity across province (initiated by TDSB surveying of students on online learning), but again, that is obsolete. For current information, I encourage everyone to pay attention to OPSBA President’s weekly updates via email for up to date information about what actions are taking place at a provincial level.

BoD met electronically on April 15th for an information session on collective bargaining agreements, and vote to postpone both next BoD meeting and AGM until the Fall. Both passed and more information to come. Ratification votes will take place on April 23rd in time for April 30th deadline.

After soliciting feedback from trustees, I submitted these responses (below) to OPSBA RE: Strategic Priorities. I do not think they will be being discussed in summer, but will likely be discussed in the fall.

OPSBA Strategic Priorities Survey

1. Name: Sarah Cipkar
2. Board: Greater Essex County DSB
3. Do you agree and support the Association having five multi-year priorities, understanding that advocacy actions for each will change from year to year with some initiatives coming to a close and others garnering more attention and work and new actions being undertaken?

Yes - however, as we saw this year, things can change very quickly, and the priorities may need to shift. I am not sure what this looks like, nor what does "multi-year" mean, but overall, I think it is good. Perhaps, there is an opportunity to review every year, rather than once every few years.

*Given the current five multi-year priorities, please share specific action strategies for each, if any. Suggestions will be forwarded to Executive Council for consideration at its annual planning session in the summer.*

4. Advocating for the Whole Child and Student Well-Being

- Teacher Training: Faculties of Ed need to strengthen requirements to include distance learning skills (Education Program Work Team and Board of Directors need to ask Deans of Faculties to partner and develop training on this)
5. Advancing Reconciliation: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

- Need to advocate to government to follow through with TRC recommendations

6. Supporting Trustees as Leaders in Public Education

- Need better, more ongoing engagement between trustees, OPSBA on an ongoing, more personal basis; PES Conference is not enough, and especially now with an increase in online meetings and such, we need to connect with trustees directly, not just through BoDs or Chairs;

7. Strengthening Positive Labour Relations
N/A

8. Advocating for Sustainable and Equitable Education Funding

- Need to advocate for high speed internet for the entire province to support online learning
- Need to invest in more technology for students who do not have access to devices

9. Last spring, the OPSBA Board of Directors approved funding for an enhanced government relations advocacy plan, including activities such as engaging with MPPs of all parties at our second Advocacy Day at Queen’s Park, polling research by Nanos Research and the public release of those results, as well as “Take Your MPP to School Day.” Do you support funding the continuation of this type of work?

It is important to connect with local MPPs with coordinated and facilitated activities such as these. As a new Trustee participating in the OPSBA Advocacy Day (in November), I not only saw the impact of all Trustees from across the province, but believe we had a positive impact through relationship building and presentation of research to support public education.
TO: CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
FROM: Jeff Hillman, Superintendent of Education
       Erin Kelly, Director of Education
SUBJECT: International Language Program (ILP)
DATE: May 19, 2020

International Languages Report to the Board 2019-2020

Our International Languages Program was scheduled to run on Saturdays from October 12th, 2019 to May 9th, 2020. Again, this year, the program was offered at three sites: Forest Glade Public School, Northwood Public School, and Queen Elizabeth Public School, with students from Grades 1-8 attending the program.

The program consisted of instruction in 14 languages across the three sites. Two languages with low enrolment (Bengali and Tigrinya) did not run this year, while two new languages were added (German and Persian). The following chart provides an overview of the 2019-2020 school year program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Enrolment</th>
<th>Languages Taught</th>
<th>Instructors Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Glade P.S.</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>Albanian, Arabic (2), German, Italian, Nepali, Serbian, Spanish (2)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwood P.S.</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>Arabic (7), Hindi, Korean, Mandarin (4), Persian, Punjabi, Spanish (2), Tamil, Urdu</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Elizabeth P.S.</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>Arabic (2), Spanish (2)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>14 different languages</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online registration was offered for the first time this year. This allowed us to more efficiently create a database of families who registered for the program. Where online registration presented a challenge (e.g. some newcomer families in Leamington), with the assistance of the school, paper registration forms were handed out, collected and submitted. The total number of registrations this year is similar to our numbers for the past few years (1032 students in 2018/19 and 936 students in 2017/18). This 3-year trend marks an increase over our registration numbers from previous years.

Next year, we look to incorporate an Arabic language program at Begley in an ‘after-school model’ under the ILP umbrella, with the possibility of simultaneous ESL instruction for parents. Due to the large number of classes at Northwood PS, we are considering expansion to a fourth location in the southwestern region of Windsor, to be determined. We also have been in discussions to add American Sign Language to our list of classes for next year, which will be an exciting addition to our program.
April 27, 2020

Honourable Stephen Lecce
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON  M5G 2K8
Email: stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Lecce,

As the Board of Trustees for the Greater Essex County District School Board, we are deeply concerned with the academic achievement and well-being of all our students and we are appreciative of the Ministry of Education’s decisive response to the COVID-19 emergency.

The actions taken to accomplish the primary objective of keeping our students and their families safe has allowed our administration the ability to establish a foundation for resuming and maintaining learning at home.

You can, however, alleviate some concerns expressed to us by students and their families that have become more relevant as the closure of schools is extended. Information on these vital issues would make a great difference to them as we proceed with this provisional learning platform.

Mr. Lecce, we urge you to provide confirmation that no 2019-20 graduation will be affected this year for eligible students. We would also like to see clear direction for receiving institutions to be prepared to take on additional instruction for content that may not have been covered in second semester courses due to the interruption of the traditional school format.

We need further guidance to prevent any inequities arising from this unprecedented disruption to student learning and strategies to make up for time lost. As well, we would like to see the Ministry advocate for additional support for students enrolled in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program or skilled trade apprenticeships in the community.

Sir, we make these requests with the deepest respect for the pressure under which you are now proceeding. It is our desire only to be able to share this information within our communities to reduce the many concerns of students and families in our Windsor and Essex County region.

Sincerely,

Ron La Clair
Chairperson of the Board

CC.
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