



Minutes - Governance and Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Virtual

Trustees: Linda Stone (Chair), Donna Edwards, Carolyn Morton, Christine Thatcher, Michael Barrett, Paul Crawford, Patrice Barnes, Scott Templeton, Darlene Forbes, Chris Braney

Regrets: Trustee Niki Lundquist

Staff present: Director of Education Norah Marsh, Associate Directors Jim Markovski and David Wright, Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Executive System Lead Robert Cerjanec, Superintendents of Equitable Education Stephen Nevills, Jack Nigro, Gary Crossdale, Margaret Lazarus, Georgette Davis, Heather Mundy, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Andrea McAuley, Policy Analyst Ahmad Khawaja

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

1. Call to Order

Director of Education Norah Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Director Marsh read out the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes – November 23, 2021

CARRIED

6. Election of Chairperson

Director Marsh opened nominations for the position of Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee.

Trustee Paul Crawford nominated Trustee Linda Stone. Trustee Stone accepted the nomination.

Trustee Scott Templeton self-nominated.

After three calls for additional nominations and seeing none, nominations for Chair were closed and Trustees Stone and Templeton were provided the opportunity to speak to their nomination.

Confidential polling took place. Trustee Stone was elected Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee and took over the remainder of the meeting.

7. Bylaw Review

Counsel Cotter reviewed and summarized revisions included in the updated version of Bylaws as presented in this agenda. The latest changes represent items that were discussed and agreed upon by members at the last Committee meeting.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the following changes:

Section 1.4, reference to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as may be amended from time to time* to be changed to *Latest Edition of Robert's Rules*

Section 1.5 amended to remove 'at any time'

Section 3.2.1 amended to remove 'In all other years'

Section 5.3.2 amended to include 'No member of the public or staff...'

Section 5.4 5.4.5 amended to read '.... or the disclosure is to the Integrity Commissioner in relation **to** the Code of Conduct'

Section 5.5.3 to be amended to include 'Subject to the procedures described below....' at the beginning of the provision

Section 5.5.5 to be amended to correct spelling of 'Chair'

Section 5.58 amended to add an "s" on the end of the word Trustee (second line)

Section 5.12.6 amended to include language to the effect that 'it is expected that members will limit their comments on a motion to no longer than the predetermined amount of time as set at the time the motion is put forth'
Suggestion to check TDSB language. Discussion followed, and members agreed that a visible timer, managed by staff, be used in public sessions to ensure speaking time provided to members is transparent, accurate and equal.

Section 5.12.12 amended to insert 'shall' between 'Chair' and 'read'

Following discussion, Chair Stone asked the Committee for a motion to move the Bylaws including amendments as determined at this meeting, to Standing Committee for consideration.

Motion to send Bylaws to Standing Committee put forth by Trustee Barnes.

CARRIED

Trustee Barrett advised the Committee and left the meeting at 6:17 p.m. and rejoined later.

8. Code of Conduct Review

Counsel Cotter reviewed and summarized revisions included in the updated version of the Code of Conduct as presented in this agenda. The latest changes represent items that were discussed and agreed upon by members at the last Committee meeting.

The Committee reviewed and considered additional proposed revisions. Staff responded to questions of clarification asked by trustees.

Proposed changes to be incorporated prior to Standing Committee:

6.7, Integrity and Dignity of Office – Principles, amended to read ‘...., and at all other times, that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the Trustee, **any other Trustee, or the Board**’

6.11, Integrity and Dignity of Office – Principles, amended to include ‘**shall avoid** the improper use...’ instead of ‘to avoiding the improper use’

6.28, Upholding Decisions, amended to read ‘When individual trustees express their opinions in public, **through any medium, including social media**, ...’ And amended to remove ‘....and must otherwise comply with this Code of Conduct’

6.58, Acting on Advice of Integrity Commissioner, amended to correct missing letter ‘t’ from first word of sentence

Following discussion, Chair Stone asked the Committee for a motion to move the Code of Conduct, including amendments as determined at this meeting, to Standing Committee for consideration.

Motion to send Code of Conduct to Standing Committee put forth by Trustee Templeton.

CARRIED

Trustee Barrett advised the Committee and left the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

9. Draft Human Rights Policy and Procedures

Director Marsh introduced the revised draft policy and procedures package, commending staff for their collaborative work conducting additional consultations

and revisions leading to the revised documents package presented today. Appreciation for the feedback provided by stakeholders was also expressed.

Human Rights and Equity Advisor Mathur summarized phase two of the consultation process, which took place following presentation of the draft policy and procedures package in fall 2021. A variety of stakeholders were consulted in phase two, and opportunities to provide feedback were provided through an open house, survey, dedicated telephone line, email address, direct email outreach from schools and social media and website promotion. Phase two consultations were supported by summarized documents and an explainer video to assist with understanding the purpose, scope and application of the policy and procedures. It was pointed out that no significant changes to content have been made following phase two of consultations, but that minor revisions and rearrangement of sections to streamline the documents and reduce overall volume where possible have been made.

Implementation of the procedures was discussed, including the establishment of an Implementation Committee, whose work will focus on ensuring a robust professional learning component, including access to resources and training opportunities is made available to all staff.

Staff reaffirmed that the intent of the policy and procedures is not to promote censorship or fear of reprisal, but to give voice, safe space and strength to members of the community who have historically been marginalized and negatively impacted by the lack of enforceable human rights policies.

Staff responded to questions from trustees.

The Committee agreed to defer further discussion of the draft policy and procedures to the next meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

January 31, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.