

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
April 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held virtually.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Ashley Noble, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Sally Meseret, Arlene Wang, Tyler West

Officials Present: Acting Director Norah Marsh, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko, Superintendents Georgette Davis, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Jamila Maliha, Jim Markovski, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, General Legal Counsel Patrick Cotter, Communications Staff Robert Cerjanec, Peter Blake, Kim Brathwaite, Charles Senior

Regrets: Director Lisa Millar

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2020:07

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

The agenda was amended by moving Item 7. (b) COVID-19 Update to the beginning of the agenda, followed by Item 6. (b) Policy: Use of Service Animals in Schools, and Item 6. (e) Notice of Motion: Student Dress Code Policy.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

5. DDSB Presentations

There were no DDSB presentations at this time.

7. Information Item

(a) COVID-19 Update

Acting Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with an update on phases one and two of Ministry of Education directed school closures from March 13, 2020 – April 3, 2020. She highlighted the planning for phase two: potential extended school closures, family consultation, announcement of phase two of school closures – April 6 – May 4, 2020, device inventory, access to internet, distance learning preparation, community relationships, and distance learning next steps. She also answered questions of trustees.

6. Recommended Actions

(b) Policy: Use of Service Animals in Schools

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with the draft policy for Use of Service Animals in Schools. She also answered questions of trustees.

2020:08

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS POLICY BE
APPROVED.

CARRIED

(e) Notice of Motion: Student Dress Code Policy

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with the proposed revisions to the Student Dress Code Policy and answered questions of trustees.

(e) Notice of Motion: Student Dress Code Policy (Continued)

2020:9

MOVED by Trustee Ashley Noble

THAT THE NOTICE OF MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO
THE STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(a) Report: SEAC Committee Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2020

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2020.

2020:10

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE SEAC MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020 BE
RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(b) Policy: Use of Service Animals in Schools

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

(c) Definitely Durham

Acting Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with information relating to the policy and regulation pertaining to Definitely Durham. She also answered questions of trustees.

2020:11

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR BEGIN THE DEFINITELY
DURHAM PROMOTION PROCESS FOR NEW INDUCTEES.

CARRIED

(d) FSL Review Consultation Process

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided trustees with information to commence a public consultation process for the District-Wide French as a Second Language Review of Core French and French Immersion. She noted that there is no charge for the DELF exam and answered questions of trustees.

2020:12

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE DISTRICT COMMENCE A PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PROCESS FOR THE DISTRICT-WIDE FRENCH AS A SECOND
LANGUAGE REVIEW OF CORE FRENCH AND FRENCH IMMERSION.

CARRIED

(e) Notice of Motion: Student Dress Code Policy

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Tyler West advised that with the roll out of learning at home this week, student trustees have been fielding a variety of questions from students across the board. Student trustees have been in contact with the student senators and have been gathering questions that they have, while also passing along information as it is received. Student trustees have done their best to use DDSB resources in order to find the answers to student questions. OSTA-AECO has also been actively engaged in trying to answer as many student questions as possible. Student senators and student councils across DDSB secondary schools have also made a very strong effort in helping student mental health and well-being, during this time, by posting a variety of interesting and helpful content. Special recognition was given to Henry Street H.S. and J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate, among many others, for doing a wonderful job utilizing Instagram.

Student trustee Arlene Wang advised that throughout the past few weeks, student trustees have heard many questions and concerns regarding school closures from students, especially on the logistics of distance learning. Some common inquiries have included how marks will be impacted, how future events such as exams or summer school will be affected, and how technology inaccessibility will be

(a) Student Trustee Report (Continued)

accommodated. Student trustees have found the DDSB Q&A to be an excellent resource for many questions. They have ensured that student senators are informed of what decisions have been made as they come up, as well as what decisions there has been no announcement on. Although all interactions with students are now virtual; student trustees hope they can continue to support the well-being and academic achievement of DDSB students. She also answered questions of trustees.

(b) COVID-19 Update

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

(c) DDSB Partnership Development

Superintendent Jim Markovski provided trustees with an overview of a cross-sectoral partnership development review that is aimed at advancing the strategic priorities outlined in the DDSB Ignite Learning Strategic Plan, and guide partnership development work moving forward. He also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Modified Calendar Promotion Update

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with an update on the promotion of C.E. Broughton Public School's modified calendar year. She also answered questions of trustees.

(e) 2019-2020 Interim Financial Report
Operating Expenditures for the Period Ending February 29, 2020

Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko provided trustees with information relating to the operating expenditures as at February 29, 2020 (Quarter 2). She noted that the Education Finance Committee will be meeting on April 21, 2020.

(f) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that the OPSBA Central East Regional Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. She noted that ratification votes will continue to take place for the agreements that have been settled. It is anticipated that the May Board of Directors' meeting will be cancelled and the June OPSBA AGM postponed.

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9. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports at this time.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

2020:13

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE BOARD RATIFY THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE MARCH
23, 2020 BOARD MEETING.

CARRIED

12. Adjournment

2020:14

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Chair

Secretary