

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, April 20, 2020

A virtual Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 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, Human Rights Equity Adviser Devika Mathur, Communications Staff Robert Cerjenac, Peter Blake, Charles Senior

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence/Acknowledgement

Chair Chris Braney indicated that the moment of silence can be used to remember the tragedy of the recent mass shooting in Nova Scotia and indicated that our thoughts are with them at this time.

Chair Chris Braney advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.

4. O Canada

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5. Blair Ridge P.S.

A Blair Ridge P.S. recording of O Canada was played.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2020:53

MOVED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

SECONDED by Trustee Ashley Noble

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2020:54

MOVED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

SECONDED by Trustee Ashley Noble

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2020; AND

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020.

CARRIED

7. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

8. Ministry Memorandums – Information

Acting Director Norah Marsh advised trustees that OSSTF reached a tentative central agreement today and the district looks forward to a ratification and local bargaining. The principal and vice principal selection process has taken place and the district will move forward with the promotion process. It is anticipated that staffing will remain on track despite the challenges of the virtual environment. Although delayed, it is anticipated that the GSNs will come in early May. The school year calendar approvals have also been delayed. Updates have been shared on many of the recent memos received from the ministry. Two memos are anticipated; one regarding special education during the time of distance learning and the other regarding assessment and evaluation. It has been suggested that schools will be closed past May 4, but there has been no official notification of an extension date received.

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9. Public Question Period

This item was considered later in the meeting.

10. Presentations

There were no presentations at this time.

11. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Niki Lundquist reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with personnel issues and employee relations issues.

2020:55

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

12. Good News from the System

This item was considered later in the meeting.

13. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020

Trustee Niki Lundquist presented the Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020. It was noted that the motions contained within the Standing Committee meeting minutes of March 2, 2020 are approved as part of the minutes.

2020:56

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Ashley Noble

(i) THAT THE CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION REFLECT THE FOLLOWING:

- THAT THE SLOW PROGRESS AT THE BARGAINING TABLE IS NOT ADEQUATE;
- THAT COMPULSORY ELEARNING COURSES CONTINUE TO RAISE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS;
- THAT LARGER CLASS SIZES RESULT IN REDUCED ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS;

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(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020 (Continued)

- THAT FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT STUDENTS;
 - THAT KINDERGARTEN CLASSES BE MAINTAINED WITH A TEACHER AND ECE; AND
 - THAT INCREASED ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT WELL-BEING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF BE CONSIDERED.
- (ii) THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE SCOPE OF THE DISTRICT WIDE FSL PROGRAM REVIEW.
- (iii) THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2020 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(b) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2020

Trustee Niki Lundquist presented the Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2020. It was noted that the motions contained within the Standing Committee meeting minutes of April 6, 2020 are approved as part of the minutes.

2020:57

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

- (i) THAT THE NOTICE OF MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE STUDENT DRESS CODE POLICY BE RECEIVED.
- (ii) THAT THE SEAC MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2020 BE RECEIVED.
- (iii) THAT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR BEGIN THE DEFINITELY DURHAM PROMOTION PROCESS FOR NEW INDUCTEES.
- (iv) THAT THE DISTRICT COMMENCE A PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE DISTRICT-WIDE FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE REVIEW OF CORE FRENCH AND FRENCH IMMERSION.
- (v) THAT THE BOARD RATIFY THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE MARCH 23, 2020 BOARD MEETING.

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(b) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2020

- (vi) THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2020 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

2020:58

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

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

CARRIED

(c) Report: SEAC Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2020

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2020.

2020:59

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE SEAC MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2020 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

14. Information Items

(a) Distance Learning Update #2

Acting Director Norah Marsh highlighted the last two weeks of distance learning for the information of trustees. She noted the huge commitment on the part of staff, students and families in making this new reality work. SEAC equipment was prioritized and was delivered to families on April 7. The district continues to monitor need and is distributing the specialized equipment required. An additional 4,000 chrome books have been distributed, bringing the total number to 34,000 chrome books that have been allocated to students. Deployment will continue, as will a plan to address any potential tech problems or challenges with the chrome books. Internet in rural areas continues to be a challenge with 500 families in need. Grade 12 internet requests were a priority and this week the district will deploy the devices on backorder ensuring an accelerated arrival time for 400 additional families. Paper learning has been provided to the families who wished to receive it. She highlighted promising practices for educators that will focus on the needs of students, families, relationships, and flexibility, while supporting students that may have gaps and ensuring their needs are met. She commented on evaluation and assessment and noted that no student will be disadvantaged in the process. Community contributions have included the delivery of PPE to medical practitioners, providing access to 3D printers, and working with food caterers to support individualized dining for senior residents.

(a) Distance Learning Update #2 (Continued)

Playground signs are highlighting the risks of use while reinforcing physical distancing. It was a difficult decision, but given the circumstances, all special events have been cancelled from now until the end of June, with the exception of graduation ceremonies. A decision regarding graduations is forthcoming. 110,000 google and D2L classrooms have been established since March break. She recognized families and how much they are doing in support of their children. The district continues to do its very best with promising practices while engaging well-being at all times.

9. Public Question Period

Robert Whynot submitted the following electronic question:

“Despite much discussion and education against bullying, in our experience public school teachers and administration are not armed with adequate tools to monitor and properly address the actions of bullies while physically present in school, what steps will the board be taking to ensure children are safe from bullying in an online learning environment. Do teachers have admin controls to oversee all communication? Have classes been provided with reminders of the electronics safe use policy? What training has been provided to staff to empower them to monitor and counter bullying online? Is the board testing and certifying that resources and tools used by educators comply with privacy policies?”

Acting Director Norah Marsh and Superintendents Georgette Davis and Jamila Maliha responded to the question. It was noted that a code of conduct is in place for students. Prior to distance learning, the district actively trained teachers and administrators on safe school and bias free discipline. It is important to continue to build relationships and make a connection with students while engaged in distance learning. Goals for the delivery of equipment, student well-being, and teacher training have been met. Expectations will be forwarded to families and students regarding learning in the new distance learning environment and will address and remind students of their code of conduct commitment. There is an opportunity for staff to continue to build relationships with students in the distance learning environment. Cyber bullying training continues and students are encouraged to report bullying by using the ‘bullying now’ button online. Utilizing the button will send notifications to the principal, ITS and Safe Schools staff allowing staff to respond and support students. Incidents continue to be investigated. Students are trained as digital citizens in preparation for online engagement. Professional development is provided for teachers and digital citizenship is reviewed so that students are safe and are practicing safe behaviours. The innovation team has a technology innovation process where facilitators and the cyber facilities team must deem applications/platforms appropriate and to district standards. Teachers and principals consult the approved list prior to using online applications.

14. Information Items (Continued)

(b) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Report

Interim Associate Director Carla Kiso provided trustees with a quarterly report of the current construction and major projects progress. She also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Inclusive Student services – Supports During COVID-19 Related Closures & Distance Learning

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with an overview of supports and services for students with special needs and/or in risk during distance learning due to COVID-19 related school closures. She also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Your Well-Being Matters – Stronger Together – Even When Apart

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with an update on the DDSB Well-Being and Mental Health Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and shared information regarding community supports provided during distance learning. She also answered questions of trustees.

12. Good News from the System

A video was shared with trustees capturing learning prior to school closures and also highlighting what engagement looks like during distance learning.

Acting Director Norah Marsh shared that to continue to support families in need during this period, the district provided families with \$30,000 in gift cards. Further donations can be made to the Make a Difference Campaign to continue to support families in need during this period.

Students Danielle and Barrett from O'Neill C.V.I. narrated the following Good News from the System on behalf of the students and staff of the DDSB:

- The DDSB has donated to help support Lakeridge Health's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. DDSB Facilities Services staff collected over 14,000 N95 masks, 141,000 pairs of gloves, 150 face shields, nearly 1,700 sets of goggles and other much-needed personal protective equipment.
- The Pine Ridge Secondary School invited students and parents of their feeder schools to participate in the Parent Reach Out event. They toured the school and enjoyed workshops in art therapy, cooking, gardening, Zumba and much more.
- At the beginning of March, Toronto Argonauts player Fabio Foote visited Lakeside Public School and fellow Argo Nakas Onyeka visited Eastdale CVI. Each shared a personal story about bullying, perseverance, and the importance of inclusion.

12. Good News from the System (Continued)

- DDSB schools celebrated Black History Month in many ways. Anderson CVI participated in a flash mob with Durham Region Police, GL Roberts CVI enjoyed West-Indian style food, and Maple Ridge Public School students were treated to a play about Black History.
- Durham Region residents banded together to support the breakfast program at Bolton C. Falby Public School. Dressed in superhero attire, participants leapt into chilly Lake Ontario raising over \$11,000 for the school.
- February 26th was Pink Shirt Day, and DDSB staff and students proudly showed their support for inclusion and kindness across the Board.
- Eastdale CVI student Mamanar Diasse, has been named a 2020 Loran Scholar. The Loran Scholars Foundation selected 36 exceptional young Canadians from a pool of 5,194 applicants. Mamanar will receive an award of approximately \$100,000 over four years for her undergraduate studies.
- Recently, students at RS McLaughlin CVI welcomed Second World War Veteran Don White to the school. Using Zoom, they hosted a video conference with students in Toronto and Ottawa to ask Mr. White about his experiences during the war.
- Students and staff from Lincoln Alexander Public School, welcomed a friend of Lincoln Alexander, Patrick Case, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education to speak to them on Lincoln Alexander Day. He inspired them to always do what is right.
- Thirty Academy for Student Athlete Development students participated in the ParaTough Cup fundraising event that supports Paralympians to attend the upcoming Paralympics. The students engaged with the athletes and helped out with the event at the Mattamy Athletic Centre in Toronto.
- At this year's DECA Provincial Championships, Donald A. Wilson Secondary School students Hersh Kapur and Ritvik Bale placed in the top 20 in their categories, with Ritvik making it to the international competition for the second year in a row. Parminder Badyal also placed in the top 20 in the role play challenge category.
- It was a Beartastic day for students at Brooklin High School when their school played host to practices for Canada's National Men's Basketball Team, as they prepared for the FIBA AmeriCup 2021 qualifier game earlier this year.
- The Dates of Significance take us up to the end of May 2020.

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12. Good News from the System (Continued)

Dates of Significance:

April	World Autism Month
April	Sikh Heritage Month
April 19	Pascha-Easter
April 22	Administrative Professionals' Day
April 23	French Immersion Parent Information Night
April 23	Ramadan begins
May	Asian/South Asian Heritage Month
May	Jewish Heritage Month
May	Dutch Heritage Month
May 4	Standing Committee Meeting
May 5	South Asian Arrival Day
May 10	Mother's Day
May 15	International Day of Families
May 18	Victoria Day
May 19	Board Meeting
May 21	SEAC Meeting
May 23	Eid-ul-Ftr
May 28	Shauvot

15. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested

There was no correspondence at this time.

(b) Other

16. Other Business

There was no Other Business at this time.

18. Adjournment

2020:59

MOVED by Trustee paul Crawford

SECONED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary