

## **APPROVED**

## **MINUTES**

### **The Regular Meeting of the Board Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

**A Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date, virtually.**

**1. Call to Order:**

Chair Carolyn Morton called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees James Kay, De-Mario Knowles, Kayla Malcolm

Regrets: Trustee Niki Lundquist

Officials Present: Director Norah Marsh, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Jack Nigro, Executive System Lead Robert Cerjanec, General Legal Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

**3. Moment of Silence/Acknowledgement**

Chair Carolyn Morton 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. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

4. O Canada

5. Adoption of Agenda

2021:RB81

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2021:RB82

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

(a) REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2021

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

(b) REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2021

(c) SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2021

(d) SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

CARRIED

7. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

8. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with an update on the following items:

Mandatory Vaccinations Declaration: The Ministry of Education directed Districts to implement a mandatory vaccination declaration for staff, trustees, transportation providers and regular and required visitors to board sites. Days before school started, the necessary information was received from the Ministry. One week after launching the process we have approximately 11% of staff yet to declare. Staff are following up with individuals, and most staff that haven't declared are occasional staff. We are confirming whether they are planning to continue to work within the DDSB.

Of those who have declared, 92% are fully vaccinated. For staff who are not fully vaccinated, the Ministry direction, which we have implemented, is that they need to complete two rapid COVID-19 tests per week. This information is available on our public website and will be updated as we address the 11% who have not yet declared.

EQAO Assessments: Director Norah Marsh shared with trustees that the government has mandated that EQAO assessments begin again this year for grades 3 and 6 for Reading, Writing and Mathematics and grade 9 Mathematics, but only for in-person learners.

The Ministry of Education is moving forward with the OSSLT for this year and students currently in grades 10 and 11 will need to have met the literacy requirement to graduate. The test needs to be written in-person which creates a significant barrier to those students enrolled in the virtual school.

Last year staff advocated to have the literacy requirement waived for the current grade 11 and 12 classes given that it was only available to in-person students and that we were in the middle of a pandemic. The Ministry responded by waiving the requirement for the current grade 12 students but has mandated it for grade 10 and 11 students, despite the inequity this creates for the students who are learning virtually. Staff will work with families and home schools to do their best for those students in the virtual school, but the Ministry's current stance will mean that those in virtual school will need to be physically present in a school to write an assessment that is required for graduation.

Grade Nine Proficiency Test: As indicated to trustees last year with regards to the concerns on the Ministry's plan to move forward with the Math Proficiency Test for new teachers. The concern was that for many teachers, especially French, the teaching of Mathematics is not required, and there is a teacher shortage. The Ministry has delayed the certification from August 31<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. It should be noted that it is currently under judicial review in terms of whether they are able to continue with its implementation.

Enrolment: In terms of teaching staff, we are responding this year to unexpected increases in enrollment. Staff won't finalize enrollment numbers until the end of October, currently we are up by just over 1,400 pupils and almost 800 FTEs at the secondary level. Prior to school starting Director Norah Marsh informed trustees that there were approximately 400 teaching jobs to fill, progress has been made. We recognize it is disruptive when an Occasional Teacher is placed in the position while the District works through collective agreement expectations in terms of who is eligible for the position. Often these are educators who are in another class and so there is a ripple effect. Director Norah Marsh thanked families for their patience during this process, and the federations and staff who are working through this as quickly as possible.

After the assessment of class sizes, staff have removed classes from schools where their enrolment didn't warrant it and are placing teachers where there are higher enrollments. This normally doesn't happen until the end of September, but we had

committed to addressing the largest classes as quickly as possible. Additional Early Childhood Educator positions have been added when addressing increases to kindergarten classes.

Director Norah Marsh shared that it has been an incredibly challenging beginning to the new year with shifts in enrollment, a number of vacancies to fill, and pandemic management. We appreciate the efforts of all who are making this work as best as possible.

Director Norah Marsh has visited several schools thus far and appreciates the focus on the transition and supporting students as best as possible. Trustee questions were answered.

9. Public Question Period

Dylan R., a student of DDSB presented 2 questions virtually and staff responded.

Tracy Tuberfield, a parent of the DDSB presented 2 questions virtually and staff responded.

10. DDSB Presentations

(a) Annual Operational Plan-2020-2021, End of Year Update

Director Norah Marsh and Senior Staff provided a PowerPoint presentation for trustees highlighting the Annual Operational Plan as an end-of-year update for the Annual Operating Plan, capturing work completed from January to June 2021. Trustee questions were answered.

(b) 2021 Summer Learning Programs

Superintendent Jack Nigro introduced System Lead Monique Muller and Denise Nickerson and Senior Manager and Clinical Lead-Social Work Carolyn Ussher who shared a PowerPoint presentation and provided trustees with a summary of 2021 Summer Learning Opportunities for students (Kindergarten to Grade 12).

11. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Christine Thatcher reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera meeting and confirmed that the following matters were discussed: The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian and employee relations issues.

2021:RB83  
MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

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

CARRIED

12. Good News from the System

Sila C. and Sajad M. shared good news from across the system on behalf of the DDSB students.

We are excited to welcome new and returning students to DDSB schools for the 2021-2022 school year. There is lots of positive energy as we begin another year of learning.

The Grove School, teacher, Justin Heenan was awarded 2021 Educator of the Year by Special Olympics Ontario. Justin is the Head Coach of the Bolton C. Falby Special Olympics Walking Club, Organizer of the 2021 Durham Virtual Sports Festival, Manager of the Durham Active Start and FUNdamentals Programs and Community Council Member of the Greater Durham Special Olympics.

Over the summer, well-being and mental health workshops were offered to Durham Region parents and guardians, in partnership with Durham Catholic District School Board. These workshops were aimed at supporting positive mental health amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Group and individual supports were offered to students and families throughout the summer; including supports for Black youth, and school transition supports for students, families, and guardians.

Working on more than fifty projects throughout the summer, Facilities Services kept busy with ventilation upgrades, library renovations, roofing projects, masonry restoration, childcare projects and building outdoor classrooms. Some highlights include a roof replacement at Port Perry High School; window replacement at Glen Street Public School; the addition of a Family Grouping Centre at Glengrove Public School; ventilation projects at Uxbridge and Sir John A. MacDonald public schools; and five additional ventilation projects.

Two new school communities were welcomed to the DDSB family on the first day of school, Rosemary Brown Public School in Ajax and Willows Walk Public School in Whitby. Staff at both schools have been working hard to open the doors and put into practice the values instilled in all DDSB schools: leadership, success, innovation, well-being, and equity, through community engagement.

Durham Continuing Education welcomed over 6,200 students accounting for over 8,300 registrations across several programs this past summer. They supported learners in Durham and from across Ontario in both credit and non-credit programming. Staff were available to all students to support their success.

A highlight of the summer was the successful implementation of an International Elementary Language Program focusing on Farsi.

Schools across the District are hosting pop-up vaccine clinics to help communities roll up their sleeves for first and second vaccine shots throughout September. As of September 21, 2021, eighteen high school communities along with their feeder school families have been invited to get their vaccination. We continue to work with Durham Region Health Department to facilitate future vaccination clinic opportunities.

The third annual 'Make A Difference' Students in Need campaign has come to an end. The campaign was created to support DDSB families with challenges brought on by the pandemic. Thanks to donations from the Ajax Rotary Club and Durham Child Nutrition Program, 123 families continued to receive grocery gift cards throughout the summer, totaling \$28,525. To date \$123,015 in gift cards have been delivered to DDSB families.

Local Olympians Pierce LePage, a former student from Fallingbrook Public School, and Nichelle Prince, a graduate of Pickering High School, represented Canada at the Olympics in Tokyo. Pierce competed in the decathlon finishing fifth while Nichelle played on the women's soccer team that won gold.

John Morrison, a retired Principal of Anderson CVI, recently became a best-selling author on Amazon. John's book, titled "*The It Factor: Discover and Unleash Your Own Leadership Potential*," is a compilation of interviews John conducted with inspirational and diverse leaders in education across Canada. The book details insights that educators have gained from embracing challenges to support their communities.

Julie Payette Public School student, Sumal A. came out on top in a national contest that included 685 entries which featured students in Grade 4 to 8 who submitted poetry and short stories in the Kids Write 4 Kids Creative Challenge. Sumal, a Grade 8 student, earned the top spot for her poetry collection, *The Wonder of Words*.

Dates of Significance:

Sept. 27-Oct 1	Safety Week
Sept. 21	International Day of Peace
Sept. 25	Franco-Ontarian Day
Sept. 27	Simchat Torah
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
Sept. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October	Islamic Heritage Month
	Hispanic Heritage Month
	Women's History Month
	LGBTQ+ History Month
	Disabilities Awareness Month
	Dyslexia Awareness Month

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Oct. 2	National Custodial Workers' Day
Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 4	Standing Committee Meeting
Oct. 5-9	Ally Week
Oct. 7	Navratri
Oct. 11	National Coming Out Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving
Oct. 14	Virtual Parent Involvement Committee Mtg
Oct. 21	Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting
Oct. 18	Board Meeting

Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2021

The following resolution was passed at the Standing Committee on September 7, 2021. It was noted that the motions contained within the Standing Committee meeting minutes of September 7, 2021 are approved as part of the minutes.

2021:RB84

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Michael Barrett

- i. THAT THE DRAFT AMENDED CONSOLIDATED BY-LAW BE REFERRED BACK TO THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.
- ii. THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PASSED.

CARRIED

(b) Indigenous Education Policy

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst provided trustees with an overview of the draft Indigenous Education Policy and accompanying Procedures which were initially presented and discussed at the June 7, 2021, Standing Committee meeting. At the June 21, 2021 Board meeting, a notice of motion was presented to bring the matter forward at the next regular Board meeting to consolidate and update the Aboriginal Education Policy and the Voluntary Confidential First Nation, Métis and Inuit Student Self-Identification Policy.

2021:RB85

MOVED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

SECONDED by Trustee Chris Braney

(Indigenous Education Policy continued)

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE DRAFT INDIGENOUS EDUCATION POLICY AND ACCOMPANYING PROCEDURES THAT ARE DISTRIBUTED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

(a) Short Term Borrowing Resolution

Associate Director David Wright introduced Senior Manager Finance Melissa Durward who presented to trustees the resolution for short-term borrowing for the 2021-2022 school year. Trustee questions were answered.

2021:RB86

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

SECONDED by Trustee Chris Braney

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BORROWING RESOLUTION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Lisa Bianca, Head of Facilities Services who provided trustees with an overview of the quarterly report of the construction and major projects that are currently in progress up to August 31, 2021. Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Draft Accommodation Plan: Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities 2021-2022

Associate Director David Wright introduced Manager of Property & Planning Services Carey Trombino and Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca. Lisa Bianca provided trustees with an overview of the Accommodation Plan. The Accommodation Plan is updated annually and provides a broad spectrum of short- and long-term information related to enrolment and school utilization. Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Report: SEAC Meeting of May 20, 2021

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC meeting minutes of May 20, 2021.



OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with a brief update with regards to the upcoming meeting.

15. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

- i. Toronto Youth Cabinet

2021:RB87

MOVED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WRITE A LETTER OUTLINING WHY FREE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE, ONTARIO WIDE, WHICH WILL PROVIDE EQUITY ACROSS THE PROVINCE FOR ALL STUDENTS.

DEFEATED

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT WE POSTPONE THE DECISION TO THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING.

DEFEATED

(b) Other:

- i. Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
- ii. Halton District School Board
- iii. Joint Statement on Menstrual Equity in Education
- iv. Limestone District School Board
- v. Niagara Catholic District School Board
- vi. Waterloo Region District School Board

The above other correspondence was presented to trustees for information.

16. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

17. Adjournment

2021:RB89

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary