



Board Meeting Agenda

October 18, 2021 — 7:00 p.m.



Indigenous Art Highlighted at the DDSB

Artist Jon Colwell of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and an alumni of Port Perry High School, painted a number of Indigenous murals throughout the DDSB and one in the Education Centre to honour Treaty partners and to create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment at the Durham District School Board.

Shown above are the door to the Director of Education, Norah Marsh's office, and the atrium of Uxbridge Secondary School.

The painting in the director's office is reflective of the land and water of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island. The painting at Uxbridge Secondary School, titled Ohhkii Miikan, is a new trail/a new path/new way forward while honouring the ones that were here before us.

For more information please contact Jon Colwell at: jonnyonethree@gmail.com

Members of the public can participate in the board meeting by watching the live-stream on YouTube.

Durham District School Board
calendar.ddsb.ca/meetings
Twitter: [@DDSBschools](https://twitter.com/DDSBschools)

Carolyn Morton
Chair of the Board
Townships of Brock,
Scugog & Uxbridge

Christine Thatcher
Vice Chair of the Board
Town of Whitby

Patrice Barnes
Vice Chair, Standing
Committee
Town of Ajax
Wards 1 & 2

Michael Barrett
City of Oshawa

Chris Braney
City of Pickering

Paul Crawford
City of Pickering

Donna Edwards
Chair, Education Finance
Town of Ajax, Ward 3

Darlene Forbes
City of Oshawa

Niki Lundquist
Town of Whitby

Linda Stone
City of Oshawa

Scott Templeton
Town of Whitby

Kayla Malcolm
Student Trustee

James Kay
Student Trustee

De-Mario Knowles
Student Trustee

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL

BOARD MEETING

Monday, October 18, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

	PAGE
1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Moment of Silence/Acknowledgement</u>	Verbal
<p>The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. 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.</p>	
3. <u>O Canada</u>	
4. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
5. <u>Adoption of Agenda</u>	
6. <u>Minutes</u>	
(a) APPROVED Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 21, 2021	1-11
(b) APPROVED Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 22, 2021	12-13
(c) APPROVED Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 7, 2021	14-15
(d) DRAFT Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 21, 2021	16-25
7. <u>Community Presentations</u>	
8. <u>Ministry Memorandums-Information Update</u> (Director Norah Marsh)	Verbal

9.	<u>Public Question Period</u>	Verbal
10.	<u>DDSB Presentations</u>	
11.	<u>Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera</u>	Verbal
12.	<u>Good News from the System</u> (Director Norah Marsh)	Verbal
13.	<u>Recommended Actions</u>	
	(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting October 4, 2021 (Trustee Christine Thatcher)	26-32
14.	<u>Information Items</u>	
	(a) Audit Committee Meeting Summary, September 2021 (Trustee Michael Barrett)	33-34
	(b) Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education (Associate Director David Wright)	35-37
	(c) Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees (Associate Director David Wright)	38-41
	(d) Bell Time Review (Associate Director David Wright)	42-47
	(e) Discussion of Vaccination Policy	Verbal
	(f) Report: SEAC Meeting of June 17, 2021 (Trustee Donna Edwards)	48-54
	(g) OPSBA Report (Trustee Patrice Barnes)	Verbal

15. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

(b) Other:

i. Avon Maitland District School Board	55-56
ii. Halton District School Board (2 Letters)	57-60
iii. Keewatin Patricia District School Board	61-62
iv. Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	63
v. Thames Valley District School Board (2 Letters)	64-67
vi. Waterloo Region District School Board	68

16. Other Business

17. Adjournment

Ad Hoc Committees

(a) Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee

(b) Governance and Policy Committee

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday June 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 Aaliyah Jaleel, Logan Keeler, Arpita Savaliya

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 Officer Communications 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:RB64

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2021:RB65

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2021

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2021

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF May 17, 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:

The Ministry of Education released the new Grade Nine De-Streamed Math Curriculum. Educators are reviewing and working on the curriculum to prepare for the September implementation.

On June 17, 2021, the Ministry of Education announced a French Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy. The Ministry worked with French First-Language stakeholders in terms of informing the strategy and also recognized the needs of English Boards with regards to FSL teachers. Director Marsh shared that

there are two components to the strategy, the oversees recruitment and the certification strategy.

Director Norah Marsh shared with trustees that it has been reported in the media that the Ministry of Education will be announcing their reopening plan in July. Staff will be returning to work in August to work with families to prepare for the September reopening.

9. Public Question Period

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

Richard Kranjec provided written questions and staff responded.

10. DDSB Presentations

(a) Student Trustee Recognition

Chair Carolyn Morton, on behalf of trustees, thanked outgoing Student Trustees, Aaliyah Jaleel, Logan Keeler, Arpita Savaliya for the work they have done this school year – advocating for their fellow students, truly making a difference and developing leadership skills. A short video from Student Trustees Aaliyah Jaleel, Logan Keeler, Arpita Savaliya highlighted their experiences as trustees.

(b) Chairperson's Scholarship Award

Chair Carolyn Morton shared that every year since 2003, the Board has recognized a graduating student who exemplifies excellent leadership and citizenship and who has well represented student issues to others with the Chairperson's Scholarship. A committee comprised of Chair Carolyn Morton and Trustees Linda Barnes, Paul Crawford, Niki Lundquist and Scott Templeton reviewed the nominations and awarded this year's Chairperson's Scholarship to Zaid Cathcart, from Eastdale C.V.I.

(c) Abilities Scholarship Award

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced the members of the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region, Donna Cook and Rowin Jarvis who presented Aidan Campbell from Brooklin High School, with the 2021 Abilities Scholarship Award. Aidan share his presentation with trustees.

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 decisions in respect of negotiations with employees.

2021:RB66

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

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

CARRIED

12. Good News from the System

Director Norah Marsh provided a reflection on the many accomplishments of the Durham District School Board over the past year and acknowledged the commitment from the community to support our children and youth. The DDSB commitment was to focus on relationships, student well-being, mental health and learning. The staff in schools and all support positions have given and achieved this goal over the past year.

Director Marsh shared that there was extensive fundraising in our communities to support families in need and thanked the people who supported the DDSB and the staff from the DDSB for their generosity.

Director Marsh thanked staff for supporting the public health initiatives with regards to contact tracing, organizing testing sites and vaccination clinics in our schools.

Safety protocols continue to be part of the Ignite Learning Strategic Plan which provided guidance and inspiration through all of the work over the past year and also thanked trustees for their decision to extend the Ignite Learning Strategic Plan so staffs' work can continue.

The engagement pillar was a challenge this year as children were in different learning environments moving from in-person to remote learning or attending virtual school. There was a lot of positive engagement and incredible achievement and it was a great opportunity to reach parents, guardians, and family members through community engagement.

Director Norah Marsh shared that student leadership was remarkable in terms of how they coped and how difficult this year has been. She thanked and acknowledged the Student Trustees and the Student Senate for their incredible work and the positive opportunities they created between schools in terms of managing the pandemic.

The DDSB continued to host events such as career days, school trade events and inspirational speakers for students across the District.

Staff continue to move the District forward focusing on professional development with regards to the Inherent Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Human Rights Policy.

Director Norah Marsh thanked each of the trustees for their extensive work throughout the year and recognized the work that was done last summer by them which ensured that the DDSB exceeded the province's health and safety standards by committing \$8.1 million from the Board's reserve fund to support schools.

Director Norah Marsh congratulated Chief Facilities Officer Christine Nancekivell on her retirement after 31 years with the DDSB.

Habiba and Nathan, shared good news from across the system on behalf of the DDSB students.

Many students and teachers were recently awarded for their leadership and successes in the classroom and beyond. Congratulations to the following award winners:

- Emily L., student at Maxwell Heights Secondary School, was awarded the Exceptional Student Achievement Award from the City of Oshawa.
- Fareen Kanji, educator at Sir Samuel Steele Public School, was awarded the Knowledgehook Impact Award for Mathematics Best Practices.
- Dorothy Lai, educator at Anderson CVI, was awarded the Queen's University Baillie Award for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching.
- Karen Lowhar, Vice Principal at Pringle Creek Public School was awarded the Alternative Field Experience Supervisor's Award for Excellence from the Western University Faculty of Education.

Parents and caregivers of children who identify as Black joined a virtual session to discuss using the 2019 DDSB student census data to address anti-Black racism. The session focused on how Black students are doing, what DDSB is presently doing to address these outcomes and what the Board plans to do in the future to ensure an equitable outcome for all Black students in the DDSB. The session was interactive, a panel of staff answered questions from the audience.

In recognition and celebration of Asian and South Asian Heritage Month, Durham Educators' Network for South Asians hosted a series of virtual events throughout May in addition to sharing educator resources and highlighting South Asian personalities on social media. The virtual sessions were focused on wellness and conversations about race and identity.

A total of 65 Student Recognition Awards and letters were presented to secondary students to honour their hard work and achievements this past year.

School communities have organized a variety of fundraising initiatives to help those in need:

- The Pickering High School Students for Change group raised \$5,375 for the Moon Time Sisters organization to supply menstrual products to Indigenous communities in northern Ontario.
- Tanner, a Grade 3 student at Brooklin Village Public School has sold over 200 tomato plants for close to \$2,300 to raise money for SickKids Hospital.

- The Dunbarton High School community raised \$13,165 for the Canadian Cancer Society through their virtual relay for life fundraiser.
- In a live virtual ceremony, selected students who identify as Black in the DDSB were recognized for their achievements and leadership at the 2021 Durham Black Educators' Network Activating Student Success Awards. 19 talented students were recognized with awards and scholarships totaling almost \$10,000.
- Elementary and secondary students across the province competed in the 2021 Virtual Skills Ontario Competition where they were challenged in a variety of skilled trades. Three secondary and six elementary DDSB students achieved a combination of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Congratulations to the 2021 Skills Ontario winners from William Dunbar, Prince Albert, Northern Dancer and Applecroft Public Schools as well as Brooklin and Pickering High Schools!
- The new French Second Language Parent Network is launching in the Fall of 2021 and the FSL team is excited to bring together parents, caregivers and families of students in both Core French and French Immersion programs. At their first meeting, the team featured FSL department highlights, current programs and goals for the parent network. Families were also asked to complete a survey which will help build the vision and direction of the network.
- The Indigenous Education Department hosted an evening with Indigenous families, entitled "Building Indigenous Family and Community Relationships". The agenda for the evening offered the opportunity to share DDSB student census trends in achievement data, for students who self-identify as Indigenous and current initiatives and ongoing commitments that are intended to address the disproportionate outcomes experienced by Indigenous youth. With a focus on building relationships and community, families were invited to ask questions and offer suggestions.

Chair Carolyn introduced the S.A. Cawker Public School choir who performed a song virtually.

Dates of Significance:

June 22	Gahambar Maidyoshem (Zoroastrianism)
June 24	St. Jean-Baptiste Day (Quebec)
June 27	Multiculturalism Day
June 28	Stonewall Rebellion Day
June 28	Last Day Secondary Schools
June 29	Last Day Elementary Schools
July 1	Canada Day
July 15	World Youth Skills Day
July 18	Nelson Mandela International Day
July 30	International Friendship Day
August 1	Emancipation Day
August 2	Simcoe Day (Civic Day)
August 9	Int. Day of the World's Indigenous People
August 12	International Youth Day
August 19	World Humanitarian Day

Recommended Actions

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

The following resolution was passed at the Standing Committee meeting during closed session on June 7, 2021.

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE ACCEPT THE STAFF RESPONSE TO THE CITY OF OSHAWA LETTER THAT WAS RECEIVED ON MAY 28, 2021.

2021:RB67

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

I MOVE THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE JUNE 7, 2021 STANDING COMMITTEE, INCLUDING DURING CLOSED SESSION, AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PASSED.

CARRIED

(b) Proposed Notice of Motion: Indigenous Education Policy

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEIVE THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, BOARD MEETING.

(c) Report: Name Change and Proposed Mandate for the Governance and Policy Standing Committee

Trustee Linda Stone shared that the Governance and Policy Committee met on May 10th and June 14th, 2021 and that the committee makes three recommendations to the Board.

2021:RB68

MOVED by Trustee Linda Stone

SECONDED by Patrice Barnes

THE FIRST TWO RECOMMENDATIONS ARE FOUND ON PAGE 64 OF THE AGENDA PACKAGE.

I NOW MOVE THOSE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE "THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE".

2. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- To ensure all of the Board's policies are up-to-date, accurate and consistent with the current legislation and government requirements;
- To ensure that the Board of Trustees review policies at least once every five years or when required by a new legislative act or regulation, new government policy, resolution of the Board or as recommended by staff;
- To develop policies that are developed with evidence-based data, equitable and reflect the Board's vision, values and strategic plan;
- Monitor the effectiveness of Board policies through consultation and evidence-based data;
- Monitor the effectiveness of Board policies in addressing human rights and equity in consultation with the Human Rights and Equity Advisor, through the Director of Education;
- Report and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on governance and Board policies;
- Review Bylaw/Policies for ad-hoc committees and develop/review/document procedures (document mandate, clearly identify quorum, membership);
- The committee shall meet at least twice annually; and
- All trustees are eligible to sit on the committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected annually at the Organizational Meeting.

CARRIED

2021:RB69

MOVED by Trustee Linda Stone

SECONDED by Patrice Barnes

(d) Notice of Motion: Amended Consolidated By-Laws

THE THIRD RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE IS THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AMEND THE EXISTING BY-LAWS (FOUND ON PAGES 115-163 OF THE AGENDA PACKAGE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE *DRAFT CONSOLIDATED BY-LAWS* DEVELOPED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE. THE PROPOSED REVISED BY-LAWS CAN BE FOUND AT

PAGES 65-114 OF THE AGENDA PACKAGE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE BOARD'S BY-LAWS, NOTICE OF THIS PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS BEING PROVIDED NOW FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IN SEPTEMBER. FOR EASE OF REFERENCE, A TRACK CHANGES VERSION OF THE DRAFT WILL BE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

CARRIED

(e) Official Naming of the Unnamed North Ajax French Immersion Public School

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided trustees with an overview of the process for the official naming of the Unnamed North Ajax French Immersion Public School.

2021:RB70

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SELECT THE FIRST CHOICE, ROSEMARY BROWN PUBLIC SCHOOL, AS THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE CURRENTLY UNNAMED NORTH AJAX FRENCH IMMERSION PUBLIC SCHOOL IN AJAX, ONTARIO.

CARRIED

(f) Official Naming of the Unnamed North Whitby Public School

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with an overview of the process for the official naming of the Unnamed North Whitby Public School.

2021:RB71

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SELECT THE FIRST CHOICE, WILLOWS WALK PUBLIC SCHOOL, AS THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE CURRENTLY UNNAMED NORTH WHITBY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN WHITBY, ONTARIO.

CARRIED

(g) International Education Attestation

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided the trustees with an overview of the International Education Attestation for the Durham District School to accept international students following the Designated Learning Institute (DLI) and Ministry of Education guidelines. The attestation is a new requirement from the Ministry of Education.

2021:RB72

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE DDSB INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM, WHICH MEETS FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS AS PER MINISTRY GUIDELINES.

CARRIED

(h) Consideration of the 2021-2022 Draft Budget

Associate Director David Wright shared with trustees the Draft budget for 2021-2022. Trustee questions were answered.

2021:RB73

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE 2021-2022 DRAFT BUDGET CONTAINING TOTAL REVENUES OF \$959,181,205 AND TOTAL EXPENSES OF \$959,181,205, BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Chief Facilities Officer Christine Nancekivell who provided trustees with the quarterly report of the construction and major projects that are currently in progress.

(b) 2021 to 2025 Official Enrolment Projections

Associate Director David Wright introduced Chief Facilities Officer Christine Nancekivell who provided trustees with the report on the October 31, 2021 Official Enrolment Projections (OEP).

(c) Summer Learning Opportunities

Superintendents Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Andera McAuley, Stephen Nevills and Jack Nigro shared with trustees a summary of the Durham District School Board (DDSB) 2021 Summer Learning Opportunities for students (Kindergarten to Grade 12). The report contains information on a range of differentiated and responsive programs intended to increase student learning and achievement. All Summer Learning Opportunities will have an intentional focus on supporting student mental health and well-being.

(d) Report: SEAC Meeting of April 8, 2021

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC meeting minutes of April 8, 2021.

OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an OPSBA update on the June 11, 2021 Board of Directors meeting and at the June 14, 2021 Annual General meeting. At the Annual General meeting Cathy Abraham was elected as the OPSBA President.

Trustee Patrice Barnes shared that the CSBA Conference on Equity and Inclusion for Student Well-Being is taking place virtually on July 7-9, 2021 and is open to trustees and senior administrators.

2021:RB74

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF ONE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SO THAT TRUSTEES AND SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS CAN BENEFIT FROM THE WORKSHOPS BEING OFFERED AT THE CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION MEETING IN JULY.

CARRIED

15. Correspondence

- i. Halton Catholic District School Board

The above correspondence was presented to trustees for the information.

16. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

17. Adjournment

2021:RB75

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Carolyn Morton

Norah Blair

Chair

Secretary

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

8:00 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date virtually, directly after the Committee of the Whole, Standing Committee meeting.

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Trustee Carolyn Morton, Chair of the Board

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Aaliyah Jaleel, Arpita Savaliya

Regrets: Trustee Niki Lundquist, Student Trustee Logan Keeler

Officials Present: Director Norah Marsh, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Executive Officer Communications 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. Adoption of Agenda

2021:SB75

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

Special Meeting of the Board Minutes
June 22, 2021

3. Director's Performance Review Update

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared that the Director's Performance Review Committee confirmed the following:

- Together with the external consultant and the Director of Education, the committee has finalized the Director of Education position profile and objectives for the upcoming year.
- The current version of the Director of Education's employment contract is posted publicly on the website.
- That a performance appraisal of the Director of Education has been completed.

2021:SB76

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Paul Crawford

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION POSITION PROFILE AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR, A COPY OF WHICH HAS BEEN SHARED WITH TRUSTEES AND CONFIRM THAT THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF THE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT IS POSTED PUBLICLY ON THE BOARD WEBSITE AND THAT THE BOARD CONFIRM A PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

CARRIED

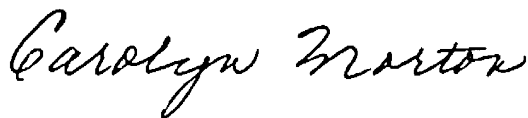
5. Adjournment

2021:SB77

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately: 8:30 p.m.



Chair



Secretary

APPROVED

MINUTES

**The Special Meeting of the Board
Tuesday, September 7, 2021
8:00 p.m.**

A Special Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date virtually, directly after the Committee of the Whole, Standing Committee meeting.

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Trustee Carolyn Morton, Chair of the Board

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 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

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. Adoption of Agenda

2021:SB78

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

Special Meeting of the Board Minutes
September 7, 2021

3. Proposed Change of Date for The Regular Board Meeting, September 2021

2021:SB79

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

DUE TO THE FEDERAL ELECTION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021, I MOVE THAT
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHANGE THE DATE OF THE REGULAR BOARD
MEETING FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 21, 2021.

CARRIED

5. Adjournment

2021:SB80

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately: 8:40 p.m.

Carolyn Norton

Noreah Hall

Chair

Secretary

DRAFT

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 Canada5. 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 31st to December 31st. 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

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.

Chair

Secretary

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
October 4, 2021**

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

1. Call to Order:

The Chair, Christine Thatcher 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, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Student Trustees James Kay, De-Mario Knowles, Kayla Malcolm

Officials Present: Director Norah Marsh, Associate Director 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. Land Acknowledgement

The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2021:SC30

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

There were no DDSB presentations at this time.

7. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with an update on the School Testing Pilot Program. Director Marsh shared that earlier this year the Ministry of Education chose the following schools to participate in the pilot until October 29, 2021, Ajax HS, J. Clarke Richardson C, Pickering HS and Port Perry HS. In the event of staff or students being dismissed due to a high-risk contact of an identified cohort with an outbreak of COVID 19, those students would receive a take home self-collection kit to complete testing at home and drop the kit off at school for processing.

Director Norah Marsh noted that to date, there has been no opportunity in terms of using this pilot because in those four schools due to a lack of COVID 19 cases and there haven't been any cohort dismissals for students or staff. There is currently no feedback to share with the Ministry of Education.

Director Norah Marsh shared that similar to last year, there is a challenge around staff absences, that the absences are due to COVID 19 management and the District is feeling this challenge earlier than last year. Last year we identified a number of strategies to ensure that we could keep schools open in terms of unfilled vacancy rates.

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided an update on the approaches being used to overcome staff shortages including strategies to increase the current supply pool with the ongoing hiring of teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, clerical and custodian staff. The processes have been expediated to get new supply staff into schools by having COVID 19 protocols available on YouTube to review prior to DDSB staff access as well as paper attestations and criminal background checks that can be emailed into staff.

Staff have posted and hired dedicated supply educational assistants to be placed at specific schools based on information provided through Inclusive Student Services. Dedicated supply educational assistants are also being placed in unfilled jobs at specific schools after staff review the vacancy data.

Dedicated teacher supply positions have been posted and a process is being set up for schools where there are unfilled jobs. There will be a dedicated supply provided on site for these schools.

Superintendent Heather Mundy shared that staff continue to assign emergency supply teachers, these teachers have met the qualifications to be considered for an interview and will be provided the opportunity for an interview. They will be hired on a limited contract so that they can work in our schools so schools will have the option of specific emergency supply teachers that they can call when there is an unfilled position.

Staff are continuing to reassess vacancies in the morning and assign and adjust staff to support schools.

Triage Process: If schools are concerned with their absences, they can utilize staff on site, reduce prep time or use on calls at the secondary level. Staff inform FOS superintendents or system leads so that central staff are aware of the schools with the highest need and then provide responsive support.

Postings for uncertified French teachers have gone out and staff have been attending career fairs to encourage teachers to apply to vacancies at DDSB.

Director Norah Marsh noted that this is a provincial challenge and all Directors of Education have discussed and have asked the Ministry of Education to reconsider the number of days a retired teacher can work. The District is currently running out of occasional teachers and other positions at a time when we are still making use of them as they haven't met the threshold of the number of days they can work. Once they have met the threshold and teachers come off the supply list the teacher shortage across the province will become an issue. Health and safety are the key concern when we don't have educators to fill positions and there is also a concern of the progression of learning. Our priority is keeping schools open.

Trustee questions were answered.

8. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

9. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee James Kay shared that over the past month, students have transitioned smoothly into being back in school from summer vacation. Whether that transition be in-person or virtually. He thanked the Durham District School Board in making this transition as smooth and efficient as possible and that students have been responding positively to the 'new' in-person model. This model has enabled students to return to a more 'normal' routine both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are thoroughly enjoying the ability to participate in extracurricular activities, such as student leadership committees and sports teams. Student trustee James Kay shared that the student body is responding and abiding very well to public health guidelines and regulations put in place by the Regional Health Department.

Student trustee Kayla Malcolm shared that the DDSB celebrated and acknowledged the importance of the new national holiday - the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Students across the region wore orange in efforts of supporting our Indigenous students, staff, and community members.

Student trustee James Kay added that the effort of DDSB schools in acknowledging the resilience of Indigenous peoples has left a positive impact on our students. Students are feeling safer, valued, and represented within their learning environment which is very important to ensuring the success of our students.

Student trustee De-Mario Knowles shared that over the course of September, the Student Senate has been inviting the student senators and school representatives to the Student Senate Google Classroom. The Student Senate Symposium will be held on October 18, 2021 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

Student trustee Kayla Malcolm provided an overview of the finalized Student Senate Working Group. Student trustee Kayla Malcolm will be leading the Student Voice Working Group, student trustee De-Mario Knowles will be leading the Equity Working Group, and student trustee James Kay James will be leading the new Student Success Working Group. This new working group will replace the Well-being Working Group. The plan is to implement well-being initiatives and workshops within each of the working groups and regional breakouts to ensure 'well-being' is still represented within student senate operations.

Below are some of the goals the student trustees hope to accomplish through these working groups.

Student trustee De-Mario Knowles shared that through the Equity Working Group, he will aspire to work towards overcoming injustices within our school board to create a more equitable environment for our diverse set of students. He firmly believes that if we remove the barriers that are limiting our students and educate the people of the DDSB about global social injustice issues, we will create opportunities for our students to achieve their true potential and make informed decisions in their lives.

Student trustee Kayla Malcolm shared that through the Student Voice Working Group, and with the help of the other student senators, she plans on making sure that every student within our board truly feels that they have a voice and understands that it goes beyond just their classroom. Her plan is to lead initiatives throughout the school year to touch upon student voice within schools, their communities, mental health talk, and student engagement.

Student trustee James Kay shared that through the Student Success Working Group and with the help of student senators, he would like to 'redefine student success' and challenge the preconceived notions that students have, in thinking success is about achieving a grade as close to 100% as possible on a test, quiz, or an assignment. Whereas student success is so much more than that. Together,

they will explore barriers to the success of students and teach our student leaders and councils how to identify and address these barriers within their own schools to ensure all students have equal opportunity to succeed.

Student trustee De-Mario Knowles added that the east region schools are gradually transitioning back to a 'more normal' school environment. Leadership committees, school clubs, and sports are starting to be implemented into schools once again. He noted that the students have been enjoying the opportunity to converse with their friends and teachers as well as being able to participate in intramurals. Some schools are beginning to run events and activities for days of significance such as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. O'Neill CVI have been involved with activities related to the Terry Fox Run and many schools in the east region have either had the opportunity to have a picture day or are planning one for the future. Although this month hasn't been perfect, there have been many highlights and noteworthy things that took place in our east DDSB schools.

Unfortunately, there is an issue that has significantly impacted the students of the east region, school time changes. Many students have mentioned that there have been many conflicts with their schedules due to school ending so late. Picking up younger siblings and getting to work on time are examples of the conflicts that have been created because of the changes to the school time.

Student trustee James Kay shared that a prevalent issue within the northern region is the lack of student engagement in extracurricular activities. There has been a generalized downward trend in student participation. Although the pandemic may be a contributing factor to this trend, he would like to address this issue by working closely with the students of the northern region to devise an action plan to tackle this issue. As it is known, extracurriculars and student engagement are vital aspects of student life in which all help to shape us, the students, as individuals. He looks forward to brainstorming methods to keep our students as engaged as possible.

An area that students have been commenting on is school hours. With secondary schools starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m., students are finding it difficult to balance part time jobs on top of their schoolwork. Many students require the money earned through part time jobs to pay for post secondary education and their day to day lives. The student trustees and student body are aware of the reasoning behind the new time frame and understand that it is implemented for our health and safety. However, the later end time of school and the time it takes for north Durham students to commute to their workplaces has made after school life very stressful for students. Despite this concern, this September has been a successful one. Student trustee James Kay thanked everyone for their dedication and devotion to the student body of the Durham District School Board.

Student trustee Kayla Malcolm shared that like the northern and east regions, the school time change has had a huge impact on the students within the western region this past month. Students have found it extremely difficult to end school at 4:00 p.m., with sometimes not getting home until 4:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. depending

on the buses. For example, I have heard from quite a few students that they had to leave class early to get to work on time, which isn't something that we should have to be worried about doing. Students are finding that there are not enough hours after school to go to work, finish homework, potentially go to practices, and any other extracurricular activities that they may have, and finish at a reasonable time. The new school times have made the after school life of high school students extremely stressful.

The west region schools have been busy this month! Starting with J. Clarke Richardson C., they ran a very successful Terry Fox run on September 24, 2021 with lots of participation from students and with local food truck vendors. Dunbarton HS ran an informative and engaging welcome week for new grade 9 and 10 students the first week and a half of school. It included a Dunbarton HS trivia event and a Q&A with SAC members. There were also events for students throughout the week to help engage the younger grades with the older students. Pine Ridge SS also ran a successful Terry Fox run on September 29, 2021 with lots of participation from students. On Thursday September 30, 2021 every school participated in Orange Shirt Day. September was a successful month for the west region!

(b) Elementary and Secondary Staffing and Enrolment 2021-2022

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided trustees with an overview of the elementary and secondary staffing and enrolment report, which includes an update on the elementary class size and the staffing needs of elementary schools for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Trustee questions were answered.

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes shared that a Trustee Code of Conduct survey was emailed to trustees last week. The survey results will be shared with the Ministry to help develop the Trustee Code of Conduct. The survey closes November 1, 2021. Parents are also being asked to complete the survey. A link will be provided for school websites and will be posted on the Board website and through social media.

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided an overview of the Student Experience survey data that students completed with regards to their experience during COVID-19.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Governance and Policy Committee

Trustee Linda Stone provided trustees with the Governance Ad Hoc Committee minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be held on October 25, 2021.

(b) Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with the Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be held on October 27, 2021.

12. Correspondence

- i. Durham Catholic District School Board
- ii. Greater Essex County District School Board
- iii. Upper Grand District School Board
- iv. Waterloo Region District School Board (3 Letters)

The above correspondence was shared with trustees for information.

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

14. Adjournment

2021:SC31

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

**DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT****REPORT TO:** Durham District School Board**DATE:** October 18, 2021**SUBJECT:** Audit Committee Meeting Summary**PAGE:** 1 of 2**ORIGIN:** Audit Committee**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with a summary from the September 29, 2021 Audit Committee meeting public session.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Success – *Set high expectations and provide support to ensure all staff and students reach their potential every year.*

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

Leadership – *Identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders and responsively support current leaders.*

Equity – *Promote a sense of belonging and increase equitable outcomes for all by identifying and addressing barriers to success and engagement.*

Engagement – *Engage students, parents and community members to improve student outcomes and build public confidence.*

Innovation – *Re-imagine learning and teaching spaces through digital technologies and innovative resources.*

3.0 Background

The primary purpose of an Audit Committee is to provide oversight of the financial reporting process, the audit process, the company's system of internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations and is governed by Ontario Regulation 361/10: Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee is comprised of three Trustees and two External Members and meetings include the Director, Associate Director of Corporate Services, Business staff, External Auditors and Regional Internal Auditors. Meetings typically take place in March, June, September and November.

4.0 Analysis

The following is a summary of the September 29, 2021 meeting:

- Public Session
 - Approval of the November 9, 2020 public meeting minutes.
 - A discussion took place to consider the scope of the Audit Committee's responsibilities with respect to the DDSB's Code of Conduct.
 - Associate Director Wright presented a report entitled 'Annual Agenda Plan', which was approved by the committee.

- Associate Director Wright presented a report entitled 'Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees', which was approved by the committee to be presented at the October Board meeting.
- Associate Director Wright presented a report entitled 'Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education', which was approved by the committee to be presented at the October Board meeting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2021.

5.0 Financial Implications

N/A

6.0 Evidence of Impact

N/A

7.0 Communication Plan

N/A

8.0 Conclusion

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

9.0 Appendices

N/A

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Michael Barrett, Audit Committee Chair

**DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT****REPORT TO:** Durham District School Board**DATE:** October 18, 2021**SUBJECT:** Annual Audit Committee Report
to the Ministry of Education**PAGE:** 1 of 2**ORIGIN:** Norah Marsh, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of Trustees of the Durham District School Board's Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education, for the year ended August 31, 2021.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Success – *Set high expectations and provide support to ensure all staff and students reach their potential every year.*

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

Leadership – *Identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders and responsively support current leaders.*

Equity – *Promote a sense of belonging and increase equitable outcomes for all by identifying and addressing barriers to success and engagement.*

Engagement – *Engage students, parents and community members to improve student outcomes and build public confidence.*

Innovation – *Re-imagine learning and teaching spaces through digital technologies and innovative resources.*

3.0 Background

The Education Act Ontario Regulation 361/10; s.15 states:

“Reporting

15. (1) An audit committee of a board shall submit to the board on or before a date specified by the board an annual report that includes,

- (a) any annual or multi-year audit plan of the board's internal auditor;
- (b) a description of any changes made to a plan referred to in clause (a) since the last report of the committee;
- (c) a summary of the work performed by the internal auditor since the last annual report of the committee, together with a summary of the work the auditor expected to perform during the period, as indicated in the plan referred to in clause (a);
- (d) a summary of risks identified, and findings made by the internal auditor; and
- (e) a summary of any enrolment audits planned by the internal auditor. O. Reg. 361/10, s. 15 (1); O. Reg. 204/15, s. 3 (1).

(2) A board who receives a report under subsection (1) shall submit the information described in clauses (1) (c) and (e) to the Minister in each fiscal year on or before a date specified by the Minister.”

The purpose of this report is to summarize the Regional Internal Audit Team’s actions for the prior fiscal year.

This report is provided annually to the Audit Committee for review and approval and is then presented to the Board of Trustees at the following Board meeting for information. The report is required to be forwarded to the Ministry of Education on or before a date specified by the Minister, typically January 15.

4.0 Analysis

At the September 29, 2021 Audit Committee Meeting, the DDSB Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education was presented, which summarized the Regional Internal Audit Team’s and DDSB’s Internal Audit actions for the year ended August 31, 2021. This report is attached as Appendix A.

5.0 Financial Implications

N/A

6.0 Evidence of impact

N/A

7.0 Communication Plan

Appendix A will be submitted to the Ministry of Education, as required by O. Reg 361/10.

8.0 Conclusion

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

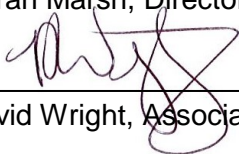
9.0 Appendices

Appendix A – DDSB Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Norah Marsh, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board



David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services

**Audit Committee
Annual Report to the Ministry of Education
For the year ended August 31, 2021**

District School Board Name: Durham District School Board

Fiscal Year: 2020-2021

Re: Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education, as per
Ontario Regulation 361/10

Regional Internal Audit Team

2020-2021

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the following internal audits were completed by August 31, 2021:

- Legislative Compliance (Phase 1 completed)
- Cyber Security Risk Assessment (Regional Report completed)

2021-2022

Based on the Regional Internal Audit plan, we are expecting the following audits for 2021-2022:

- Legislative Compliance (Phase 2)
- Strategic Risk Assessment
- Workforce Planning – Facilities and IT

September 29, 2021
Date

Michael Barrett

Audit Committee Chair
Title

**DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT****REPORT TO:** Durham District School Board**DATE:** October 18, 2021**SUBJECT:** Annual Audit Committee Report
to the Board of Trustees**PAGE:** 1 of 2**ORIGIN:** Norah Marsh, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Trustees on the duties performed by the Durham District School Board's Audit Committee for the year ended August 31, 2021.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Success – *Set high expectations and provide support to ensure all staff and students reach their potential every year.*

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

Leadership – *Identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders and responsively support current leaders.*

Equity – *Promote a sense of belonging and increase equitable outcomes for all by identifying and addressing barriers to success and engagement.*

Engagement – *Engage students, parents and community members to improve student outcomes and build public confidence.*

Innovation – *Re-imagine learning and teaching spaces through digital technologies and innovative resources.*

3.0 Background

The Education Act Ontario Regulation 361/10; s.15 (3) states:

“Reporting

15. (3) An audit committee of a board shall submit a report to the board in each fiscal year on or before a date specified by the board, and at any other time as may be requested by the board, that includes,

- (a) a summary of the work performed by the committee since the last report;
- (b) an assessment by the committee of the board's progress in addressing any findings and recommendations that have been made by the internal or external auditor;
- (c) a summary of the matters addressed by the committee at its meetings;
- (d) the attendance record of members of the committee; and
- (e) any other matter that the committee considers relevant.”

The purpose of this report is to summarize the Audit Committee's actions for the prior fiscal year.

This report is provided annually to the Audit Committee for review and approval and is then presented to the Board of Trustees at the following Board meeting for information.

4.0 Analysis

At the September 29, 2021 Audit Committee Meeting, the DDSB Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees was presented, which summarized the Audit Committee's actions for the year ended August 31, 2021. This report is attached as Appendix A.

5.0 Financial Implications

N/A

6.0 Evidence of impact

N/A

7.0 Communication Plan

N/A

8.0 Conclusion

This information is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

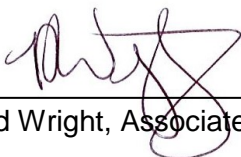
9.0 Appendices

Appendix A – DDSB Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Norah Marsh, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board



David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services

Durham District School Board

Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees

For the year ended August 31, 2021

This report summarizes the Audit Committee's actions for the year ended August 31, 2021.

Audit Committee Members

The following members served on the Committee for the 2020-2021 year:

Patrice Barnes – Trustee Representative and Chair (term ended December 2020)
 Michael Barrett – Trustee Representative and Chair (term commenced December 2020)
 Paul Crawford – Trustee Representative
 Ashley Noble – Trustee Representative (term ended October 2020)
 Linda Stone – Trustee Representative (term commenced December 2020)
 Karla Mansfield – External Member
 Olufunke Majebi – External Member (term commenced March 2021)
 Matthew Tapscott – External Member (term ended March 2021)

Trustee representatives are appointed on an annual basis at the Board's December Organizational meeting. Election of the Chair will occur at the first Audit Committee meeting after the December Organizational meeting.

In accordance with the committee terms of reference approved by the Board on October 17, 2011, the external members are appointed for a three-year term.

In addition, regular attendees at the committee meetings were:

- Partner, KPMG LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants
- Regional Internal Audit Manager
- Senior Regional Internal Auditor
- Director of Education
- Associate Director of Corporate Services
- Senior Managers of Finance
- Internal Auditor

Meetings

Four meetings were scheduled for the 2020-2021 year and were held virtually. The members in attendance at each meeting were as follows:

Member's Name	September 29, 2020	November 9, 2020	March 24, 2021	June 15, 2021
Patrice Barnes	P	P	X	X
Michael Barrett	X	X	P	P
Paul Crawford	P	P	P	P
Ashley Noble	R	X	X	X
Linda Stone	X	X	P	P
Karla Mansfield	P	P	P	P
Olufunke Majebi	X	X	P	P
Matthew Tapscott	P	P	X	X

P = Present, R = Regrets, X = Not an active member of the Committee at that time

Governance

The Audit Committee operated throughout the fiscal year ended August 31, 2021. All of the members satisfied the eligibility requirements in accordance with Ontario Regulation 361/10.

External Auditors

The relationship with the external auditors has been productive and private meetings were held during the year. The external auditors, KPMG LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, were appointed to provide auditing services for the fiscal years 2021. External auditors were present at all meetings, during which the Audit Committee:

- Received and approved the audit plan for the year ended August 31, 2021;
- Reviewed the annual engagement letter confirming their independence; and
- Received the audit findings report and audit opinion on the annual financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2020.

Regional Internal Auditors

The relationship with the regional internal auditors has been productive and private meetings were held during the year. The committee reviewed and approved the 2020-2021 audit plan.

Summary of the Work Performed

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee in the last twelve months:

- Reviewed the External Audit Findings Report and Management Representation Letter for the year ended August 31, 2020;
- Reviewed the Audit Committee report to the Board of Trustees for the year ended August 31, 2020;
- Reviewed the Audit Committee report to the Ministry of Education for the year ended August 31, 2020;
- Presented the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2020;
- Reviewed and approved the KPMG Audit Planning Report for the year ending August 31, 2021;
- Reviewed Regional Internal Audit Team's Internal Audit Update Reports;
- Performed a self-assessment and reviewed the findings;
- Drafted an annual agenda plan; and
- Reviewed the audit committee duties and responsibilities.

Conclusion

By the signature noted below, we attest that to the best of our knowledge we have discharged our duties and responsibilities under Ontario Regulation 361/10.

On behalf of the Audit Committee

Michael Barrett
Audit Committee Chair

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT TO: Durham District School Board

DATE: October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Bell Time Review

PAGE: 1 of 3

ORIGIN: Norah Marsh, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
 David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services
 Kelly Mechoulan, CAO Durham Student Transportation Services

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with information on a regional bell time review.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Success – *Set high expectations and provide support to ensure all staff and students reach their potential every year.*

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

Leadership – *Identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders and responsively support current leaders.*

Equity – *Promote a sense of belonging and increase equitable outcomes for all by identifying and addressing barriers to success and engagement.*

Engagement – *Engage students, parents and community members to improve student outcomes and build public confidence.*

Innovation – *Re-imagine learning and teaching spaces through digital technologies and innovative resources.*

3.0 Background

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) has had in place a Bell Times Procedure effective September 22, 2015. This is attached as Appendix A.

The procedure provides a process for establishing new school bell times and adjusting school bell times to reduce costs while maximizing services to students.

The procedure outlines that bell time adjustments of 10 minutes or less are provided for information to the Board of Trustees at the January Board meeting.

Bell times that are adjusted more than 10 minutes require a public consultation process and be approved by the Board of Trustees. The consultation process is outlined in Section 3.0 of the Procedure.

An extensive review of school bell times occurred in the spring of 2017. The review resulted in 28 schools having their bell times adjusted.

The following is a breakdown of changes to school bell times made in spring 2017:

- 10 minutes or less = 17 schools
- 15 to 25 minutes = 7 schools
- 30 to 45 minutes = 4 schools

The 2017 bell time review provided some financial flexibility to meet future transportation needs. As part of the review, the walk distance eligibility for secondary students was increased from 4.0 kilometers to 3.2 kilometers from a school, providing 8-12% more students busing within the same funding envelope.

In September 2020, the majority of secondary school bell times were adjusted to a 10:00 a.m. start time to address COVID19 related operational issues that included an anticipated bus driver shortage. Alternative options were evaluated including public transit, but it was determined to not be a viable option at this time.

4.0 Analysis

In addition to student experience, one of the key performance metrics for student transportation is the tiering of buses. Where a bus can be used for multiple routes within the available time both in the morning and afternoon. The more routes a bus is available, the more students it can transport within an allotted time.

By coordinating and optimizing school start times, it enhances the Durham Student Transportation Services' (DSTS) ability to tier buses and to maximize ridership, thereby minimizing the number of buses required.

DSTS operates within a defined window of time during both the morning and afternoon, which is determined by school bell times and routes that are formulated to ensure that students traveling time is 60 minutes or less each way.

The benefits of optimizing school bell times to find efficiencies in student transportation, include:

- Ensuring students can consistently access in-person education, by lowering the number of drivers required to a level that can be adequately serviced by local operators;
- Ensuring transportation services for all students currently being bused are maintained (no service reductions), and supports and services for all students are not impacted;
- Improving traffic conditions and reducing the school board's carbon footprint and contribution to greenhouse gases;
- Adapting to traffic congestion within the region and around DDSB schools; and
- Ensuring DSTS is able to provide bus service to growing communities and increased student enrolment within the District.

DSTS will be reviewing all school bell times using the following guiding principles:

- Priority for students to be present and on time for school;
- Minimize the changes in bell times where possible at elementary schools;
- Reduce the travel time as much as possible for all students;
- Manage school bus capacity;
- Optimize tiering between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. to eliminate the need for a 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. secondary bell-time.
- Maintain a delivery and departure window of fifteen minutes for elementary schools and thirty minutes for secondary schools.

The bell time review is expected to be completed and presented at the January 2022 Board meeting. Following the Board meeting, the consultation process outlined in Section 3.0 of the Bell Time Procedure will be completed.

5.0 Financial Implications

Transportation funding is embedded within the current school year budget.

6.0 Evidence of Impact

N/A

7.0 Communication Plan

N/A

8.0 Conclusion

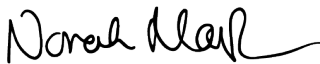
To maintain the most efficient use of buses, reviewing and adjusting bell-times is an important process. A comprehensive review of existing bell times is required to manage transportation within the funding provided and within operational constraints, such as the ability to attract and retain drivers.

This report is provided to Trustees for information.

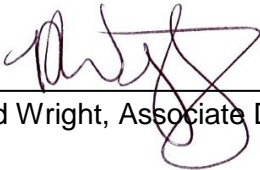
9.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Bell Time Procedure

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Norah Marsh, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board



David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services

PROCEDURE

INTERNAL BOARD OPERATIONS

Bell Times

To provide a uniform procedure for establishing new school bell times and adjusting existing school bell times to ensure maximum transportation efficiency, to reduce transportation costs while maximizing overall services to all students.

As there is finite transportation funding available, the most efficient use of busses needs to be determined and managed. Factors such as an increase in overall traffic congestion place additional pressure on existing service levels.

1.0 Criteria:

1.1 Bell Times – New Schools

If bussing is required for any pupils who live within the approved boundary of a new school, overall transportation efficiency will be maintained in establishing bell times. Discussion will take place between the Superintendent of Education responsible for Transportation, the Area Superintendent, and the Principal.

1.2 Bell Times – Adjustments to Existing School Times

Where DSTS believes it is prudent and cost effective to change bell times of an existing school(s), an analysis confirming the savings of such a change will be prepared and presented to Administrative Council for their review, and to the Governance Committee of DSTS for consideration.

1.2.1 Bell time adjustments that are 10 minutes or less in any school year (earlier or later than the existing bell time) will not require a Public Consultation process, but will follow the communication process outlined in Section 2.0 and does not require Board approval.

1.2.2 Bell time adjustments that are greater than 10 minutes phased in over one or more years (earlier or later than the existing bell time) will require a Public Consultation process, as outlined in Section 3 of this procedure and communication of this process is outlined in Section 2.0 and does require Board approval.

1.3 Bell Times-Adjustments to Existing School Times Experiencing Program and/or Boundary Changes

1.3.1 Bell time adjustments that are 10 minutes or less in any school year (earlier or later than the existing bell time) will not require a Public Consultation process, but will follow the communication process outlined in Section 2.0 and does not require Board approval.

1.3.2 Bell time adjustments that are greater than 10 minutes (earlier or later than existing bell time) will require a Public Consultation process, which may be combined with an ongoing ARC or School Boundary process and does require Board approval.

2.0 Communication:

By January 15th each year, it will be determined by DDSB and DSTS staff which schools require adjustments to bell time for the following school year to manage transportation efficiency. Board report informing of school bell time changes will be provided to Trustees at the January Board Meeting.

The criteria outlined in Section 1.0 determines if a Public Consultation process is required.

2.1 No Public Consultation Required

If a Public Consultation process is not required based on criteria outlined in Section 1.2.1, the school community will be notified of the bell time adjustment by end of January via the school's newsletter, individual school Websites, letters home with students, and through automated calls to each student. Communication regarding the bell time adjustment will continue through to the end of the school year, as facilitated by Durham Student Transportation Services, school Principal, Superintendent responsible for Transportation and the Area Superintendent

2.2 Public Consultation Required

If a Public Consultation process is required based on criteria outlined in Section 1.2.2, the school community will be notified of the bell time adjustment and need for a Public Consultation process, as outlined in Section 3.0, by the end of January via the school's newsletter, individual school Websites, and through automated calls to each student. Information will include the proposed bell time adjustment along with the date, time and location of an Open House to be held in February to gather feedback on the bell time adjustment.

3.0 Consultative Process:

3.1 Decisions regarding bell time adjustments greater than 10 minutes will ultimately rest with the Board. The consultative process is as follows:

- (a) By the end of each November, DSTS staff will prepare a report outlining potential changes in bell times for bussing efficiency. As part of this annual transportation review and assessment, bell time adjustments will be considered to enhance route efficiency.
- (b) Where bell time adjustments are being considered, an analysis confirming the savings of such a change will be prepared and presented to Administrative Council by the end of December. This information will be developed by DSTS and shared with the Governance Committee of DSTS jointly.
- (c) An Open Session report to Trustees will be presented as information at the January Board meeting regarding the bell time adjustments that are required to improve and maintain transportation efficiency. The schools where a public consultation process is required will be outlined within the report.
- (d) DSTS staff and the Superintendent of Education responsible for Transportation will meet with the Principal(s) and School Community Council chair(s) or Executive(s) of the schools where a public consultation process is required, and/or, unless it is a regional or major review, then 3.1(e) will provide the public consultation opportunity.

- (e) The Superintendent of Education responsible for Transportation and the appropriate trustee(s) will initiate a public consultation process, involving an Open House, with parents/guardians of students to be affected and involve the appropriate Principal(s), the School Community Council chair(s) or executive(s), Durham Student Transportation staff and Planning Department staff. Information on the bell time adjustments will be outlined by DSTS staff at the Open House and input from parents/guardians will be received. The Open House will occur prior to the end of February.
- (f) A dedicated email address and phone line will be set up to gather input, from the time the community are informed of the consultation process, to when an approval has occurred.
- (g) An administrative report will be prepared by the Superintendent of Education responsible for Transportation in consultation with Durham Student Transportation Services and presented to Administrative Council. This report will be presented to the Board for final approval in March.
- (h) Details of the adjusted bell times will be communicated via the school's newsletter and Website and through automated calls to each student.

Appendix:

None

Effective Date

2015-09-22

Amended/Reviewed

2017-01-17

2020-04-21

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Thursday June 17, 2021 6:30 P.M.

An on-line meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on this date.

ROLL CALL:

SensaRNab Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
 Craig Cameron, Member At Large
 Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
 Elizabeth Daniel, Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders
 Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
 Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
 Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) (SEAC Chair)
 Carolyn McLennon, Member At Large
 Christina Salisbury, Easter Seals Ontario

Trustees: Donna Edwards Darlene Forbes

Staff: Superintendent Andrea McAuley
 Special Education Officer Michelle Crawford-Eade

Recording Secretary: Lisa Wry

1. **Call to Order:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgement:**

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. 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.

3. **DDSB Human Rights & Equity Statement**

The Durham District School Board is committed to learning environments that are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive and free from discrimination while placing Human Rights and Equity at the center

4. **Regrets:**

- Claudine McLennon Member at Large
- Craig Cameron, Member at Large
- Absent: Hannah Nguyen

Welcome Guests:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides welcomed special guests: Caitlin Twitchin-Curriculum Facilitator, Michelle Monk and Russ Davidson, Secondary Administrator representatives, and David Robson and Peter Bonzanis Elementary Administrator representatives

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for June 17, 2021 be approved, with amendment of the addition of new correspondence from Halton CSB.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

SECONDED BY: Kathy Kedey

CARRIED

6. **Approval of the Minutes from May 20, 2021:**

That the minutes from May 20, 2021 be approved.

MOVED BY: Donna Edwards

SECONDED BY: Rowin Jarvis

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports:**
Administration:

The Administrative report this month has focus in appreciation as many of the updates for consultation are embedded across the SEAC agenda including conversations about de-streamed Math and planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Well-being, mental health and special education supports are once again infused into summer planning. Students accessing summer learning will have access to professionals in the roles of Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) and Educational Assistants (EA) as part of the team providing support. Our mental health services teams have put together a plan that weaves some opportunity for individual continuity of service, community program access and parent/caregiver focused supports. To help families navigate to the resources, a mental health tab specific to summer supports has been added to the front of the DDSB website which will be shared out with SEAC members.

<https://www.ddsb.ca/en/family-and-community-support/your-well-being-matters.aspx#Summer>

The school year ahead will start with a focus on welcome and connection. We will be a system and community in transition. For example, many students and staff return to in-person learning, a model of virtual learning moves into Year 2 for students accessing through DDSB@Home and we welcome a cohort of students new to their first school experiences in kindergarten. Plans for the fall include additional resources both across the school year, such as increased mental health staff, and those focused on the first eight weeks of the school year, such increased support to some kindergarten programs.

We have learned a lot through the 2020-2021 school year; much of which we will continue to embed as we move out of the pandemic. We have a collective commitment to centring student identity and family voice, we have learned to leverage technology in so many ways including increasing collaboration and engagement, and we have experienced a reshaping of professional learning. We are on a journey of change with a continued, steadfast commitment to students at the core.

We thank families/caregivers, staff across all roles and most importantly students for the privilege of being part of their supports.

This is our Administrator report for June 2021.

Board: Trustee Donna Edwards informed SEAC members that the Board of Trustees received presentations and information on: the budget was passed at Standing Committee, the biggest constraints for the budget are the unknown of what next school year will bring. Additional funding has been allocated to special education \$6.7 million taking some from reserves. Received an update from the Parent Involvement Committee new draft of Indigenous education policy and procedure will be going to board, as well as information regarding the naming of the two new schools.

Inclusive Student Services Report –June 2021

Inclusive Student Services Department Update to SEAC June 2021

- Student Recognitions
- 2020-2021 School Year Update – June
- 2021-2022 Planning
- Parent/Caregiver Workshop Series
- Summer Supports
- Transition Supports

Student Recognitions

LDADR/DDSB -Abilities Scholarship

- Annual \$1000 Scholarship presented to a graduating student, with diagnosis of a Learning Disability moving to post-secondary studies
- Congratulations to Aidan Campbell from Brooklin High School who is the Abilities Scholarship 2021 recipient
- In the fall, Aidan will be attending a Sports Administration Program.

City of Oshawa -Exceptional Student Achievement Award

Annual recognition of a secondary student within Durham Region

- Congratulations to Emily Ling from Maxwell Heights SS who is the 2021 recipient.
- In the fall, Emily will be attending Durham College in the Early Childhood Educator program with goal of becoming an Educational Assistant.

2020-2021 School Year - June

- The Ministry of Education announced June 2nd that students will continue to learn remotely for the remainder of the school year, except for those who are currently learning in-person as part of accommodation for those who cannot learn remotely.
- Schools are finalizing planning for graduations (Grade 8, Secondary School graduation) and student material retrieval.

2021/2022 Planning

- A survey for parents/guardians will be open at the beginning of August as a further opportunity to indicate in-person or virtual preference.
- School staffing (elementary and secondary) will then be adjusted mid-August.
- Secondary school bell times will remain on the later start to the day (10am-4pm schedule).
- To support inclusion and meaningful integration, our partners at DSTS have worked to embed transportation planning that is foundational to alignment of bell times for all students. Letter, shared with SEAC, was sent to families/guardians of students currently

in secondary special education classes as well as those with finalized IPRCs/new to special education class for the 2021-2022 school year. A separate letter was sent to support communication and ensure that families have three months of planning time.

Making Mental Health and Well-Being Our Priority

The DDSB realizes that:

- This has been a challenging school year.
- Educators care and want to do their best as they support students and families.
- Relationships matter and are essential to resilience.
- Supports and resources are available to students and families.
- Educator well-being matters as well!

Parent/Caregiver Workshop Series

Summer Parent/Caregiver Workshop Series on topics of:

- Thriving, Not Just Surviving Another Pandemic Summer with Jennifer Kolari (June 17 or July 15)
 - Supporting Your Child's Mental Health through the Impact of Racism and Oppression with Charmaine Lane (August 19 or September 23)
 - From Zoom to Classroom: How to Support Your Child's Social-Emotional Development When Return to School with Nicole Tuzi (August 26 or September 28)
- Series planned in partnership, and cost sharing between DDSB and DCDSB.

Parent/ Caregiver Workshop Series

- Flier distributed with SEAC agenda with request for sharing.
- Poster will also soon be posted at Youth Immunization Clinics. We thank the Durham Region Health Department for helping with promotion of these sessions.

Parent/Caregiver Workshop Series

- Please follow @DDSBHealthyMinds and @DurhamSchools to retweet upcoming session information posts.

Summer Supports for Students and Families

- Funding provided for summer supports Mental Health, Well-Being & Summer Learning.
- Direct Access Button on DDSB webpage for families to connect with DDSB Mental Health Team (Social Work & Psychological Services).
[connecting with our mental health team.](#)
- Ongoing direct student support via Social Work & Psychological Services.
- Collaboration with DCDSB and community partners to provide summer MH supports for students and families, including culturally relevant services.

Summer Learning Supports for Students and Families

Collaboration with Curriculum department regarding the integration of daily well-being themes into summer learning programs.

- Prioritized Psychological assessments, with Mental Health focus.
- SLPs providing language/literacy assessments for high-priority students and supporting the DDSB reading summer camp (July).
- SERTs added for secondary credit recovery and courses for both July & August.
- Virtual learning hubs provided to support students with IEPs accessing supports.
- ESL/ELL support embedded.
- EAs added to both elementary and secondary summer learning opportunities.

Transition Supports for Students – August/September

Multi-disciplinary ISS team approach to supporting students entering school in September.

- *Getting Ready for High School* program for students entering grade 9 will have added mental health component.
- Students with IEPs will have support for self-advocacy and awareness of available supports.
- Transition Co-ordinator Sade Gbalajobi will continue to partner with families and school teams to support individual student pathways and planning.

Youth mental health needs are at a very high need, with the engagement. The Mental Health Connect button on ddsb.ca, will be staffed Monday-Thursday, not for acute situations. Noted: there has been a spike in the past 2-3 weeks in the button use.

9. Presentation:

Presentation: De-streaming Math – Russell Davidson, Michelle Monk & Caitlin Twitchin provided a presentation on the de-streaming of grade 9 math, gave a brief history of streamed education and how it creates barriers and bias for students.

The question posed at the end of the presentation-*What are some thoughts considerations that SEAC would like for us to share back to support students and families De-Streaming Math?*

Responses to SEAC Inquiries:

- Amalgamated academic and applied math into the de-streamed credit. Locally developed is still an available option. Student through consolation/abilities, can move from locally developed to de-streamed math.
- Support needs to start in grade 7 with regards to consideration of moving toward locally developed for the few who will require.
- It is about delaying the choice so that students do not have to make a choice of what they will do post secondary too early.
- It is recommended that the majority of students making course selection for grade 10, in order to keep their pathways open, chose academic.
- Educators will be completing training to assist in eliminating biases moving to grade 10, this is something that is being addressed on many levels.

10. a) Open Discussion Period:

The open discussion period was used to discuss the following topic: K-12 Educational Standards Committee Initial Recommendations. Discussions took place among the committee members and the following reflections were shared:

- Inclusive Education at one time meant no small classes, it is based on the acceptance and inclusion of all students. Diversity is honoured and all individuals are respected.
- Ableism is key, not restricting pathways and perceived abilities.
- Document out for public consultation.
- What are the systemic barriers to education and special education?
- Often been good at focusing on the individual, but not always the system.
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and how classrooms can be set up for the needs of all children, some of the accommodations, might be helpful for others in the classroom as well.

- Students that need accommodations are uncomfortable accessing them because of concerns about standing out. Incorporating supports into the classroom for use by all would help ease these concerns.
- The K-12 initial recommendations are due September 2, there might be a request for an extension to get through the document, however, the concern is that if it does not get passed it might be lost in the next government.
- The decision was made by SEAC to have a group response over the summer months.
- Changing attitudes and mind sets is key to making changes.
- We need to model Inclusive Education in our meetings ie. closed captioning.

10. b) Business Arising from the Minutes:

MCSS Letter response.

11. Association Reports:

No association reports.

12. Correspondence:

- HWDSB Letter
- MCCSS-started looking for providers on March 30, 2021 of this year, expecting the program to start March 2022. A long time for families waiting without service. A lot of answers but not to the questions that the members have put forward.
- Amendment Halton CSB – Bill 172.
- Parent/Caregiver Summer Series Workshops.

13. Community Concerns:

Eva Kyriakides shared that many students with special education needs are struggling with the quadmester model; they find the pace to be overwhelming, content is double, and the progress is very quick. Difficulty implementing IEPs and extra time for supports. Kathy Kedey also added some students like having fewer classes, they know the expectation and focus on only two classes, fewer transitions.

Superintendent Andrea McAuley responded that Ministry has mandated a maximum of two courses at a time for Fall 2021, which may be re-evaluated in January. Waiting to see if there is a change in the Fall.

Tara Culley shared her concerns regarding the change of secondary bell times for the 2021-2022 school year, and inclusion.

Superintendent Andrea McAuley noted, that for the 2020-2021 school year students in special education classes need to be able to access in person for full days; however, the rest of the school went to half day at school and the other half from home. Which worked for sharing co-horts opportunities, but we were missing out on integration. For 2021-2022 aligned bell times for the full school are needed for an inclusive community within the building, and we needed to provide meaningful and individualized learning/integration opportunities. At the same time there is a problem with a province wide bus driver shortage, with COVID-19 protocol we will not be able to have maximum seats used on the bus. This is a one-year solution. The decision was made to give families 3 months to make adjustments and/or arrangements. Officers Kyla McKee and Michelle Crawford-Eade have been meeting with schools to support meaningful integration.

14. Celebrations and Success:

We made it through 2020-2021 school year.

June 17, 2021

Superintendent Andrea McAuley thanked the group for their participation and the appreciation for the members and administrators.

Trustee Donna Edwards is pleased with the group we have had this year.

Eva Kyriakides is proud of our group for not letting the pandemic stand in the way of our advocacy.

15. **Next S.E.A.C. meeting – Thursday, September 16, 2021.**

16. **Adjournment:**

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

MOVED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

SECONDED BY: SensaRNab Burrell.

Report respectfully submitted by: Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

ACTION PLAN

Activity, Responsibility, Completion Date

- Data on Button use – Superintendent Andrea McAuley – September 16, 2021
- K-12 Document Discussion email to SEAC Chair Eva Kyrakides-Any members wishing to participate in summer discussions- ASAP
- MCCSS response- sensaRNab Burrell & Eva Kyriakides- within the week

October 1, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dr. Miriam Klassen
Huron Perth Public Health – Perth Office
653 West Gore Street
Stratford, ON N5A 1L4

Dear Minister Lecce, Minister Elliott and Dr. Klassen:

RE: Vaccination Requirements for Extracurricular School Athletics

At the direction of the Board of Trustees of the Avon Maitland District School Board, at our September 28, 2021 meeting, we respectfully request that you reconsider your positions on vaccination for extracurricular sports participants in our schools. Our requests are:

1. Mandate vaccination for all organized extracurricular sports where masking and distancing protocols cannot be maintained; and/or
2. Provide antigen test-kits for all participants of these extracurricular sports.

Although extracurricular sports are considered part of the school experience, they are run, organized, and coached by volunteer teachers who have taken the responsibility on for this full school experience. Though every student should have the opportunity to participate in school extracurricular sports there are many reasons why a given student may not qualify to become a member of a team. We believe that if a student chooses to decline the vaccine, this should be one of the disqualifiers. We do recognize that the choice to not be vaccinated may originate from various reasons. In some cases, the solution might include barrier free access to mass immunization clinics; credible/validated sources of information to promote informed vaccine literacy; and ensuring vaccine hesitant students and caregivers had local and provincial, culturally sensitive opportunities to obtain information. These circumstances must be mitigated to allow every student their best opportunities.

If we allow unvaccinated athletes to participate, not only is there a heightened risk to the physical health of all the players and their families, it adds an unnecessary layer of uncertainty – mental health effects - to the whole process. Parents and students may not want to play sports with an unvaccinated and unmasked individual. Teachers/coaches may feel unsafe with coaching unvaccinated and unmasked players. For them, a layer of protection has been removed from the classroom setting. Activities involving close contact may be less available since coaching is provided by volunteers and those individuals could decide to withdraw their

services for their own safety. Furthermore, with a patchwork of policies around the province, regional and provincial tournaments will likely be impacted. Boards, Public Health Units and/or municipalities with varying vaccine mandates, may refuse to allow unvaccinated students from elsewhere into their buildings and those same boards may not allow their athletes to participate against unvaccinated teams.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission came out with a statement on September 22, 2021.
http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/ohrc-policy-statement-covid-19-vaccine-mandates-and-proof-vaccine-certificates

While respecting the fact that all students should ideally have equal opportunity to participate in athletic activities, during these difficult times we must consider safety as our number one priority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Hunking
Chair, Avon Maitland DSB

cc Randy Pettapiece, MPP Perth-Wellington
Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce
Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)
Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA)



October 8, 2021

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
Box 12, Toronto, ON M7A 1N3
Kieran.Moore@ontario.ca

RE: Request to add COVID-19 as a “designated disease” to the Immunization of School Pupils Act

Dear Dr. Moore,

The Minister of Education has publicly indicated that, per your advice, he will not make vaccines mandatory for students. The Trustees of the Halton District School Board would like to bring to your attention a [letter we wrote to the Ministers of Education and Health](#) advocating for the addition of COVID-19 as a “designated disease” under the “Immunization of School Pupils Act” (ISPA). We believe that the addition of COVID-19 as a “designated disease” will provide a valuable tool to reduce vaccine hesitancy and ensure the safest possible school environments for students, staff, their families and their communities. This would align with the purpose of the ISPA which is to increase the protection of the health of children. It would also put the onus on the parents/guardians to complete the prescribed program of immunization.

The ISPA could also be used to combat parent/guardian vaccine hesitancy and increase student COVID-19 vaccination rates, which is increasingly important as Health Canada is poised to approve vaccination of 5-11 year old children. As you are aware, an exemption process is available in the ISPA that would provide a mandatory educational component to parents/guardians who are simply hesitant or choose not to vaccinate their children. This mandatory education component is currently absent with regard to COVID-19.

We are aware that other school boards, as well as the [Ontario Public School Boards' Association](#), have also requested the Minister of Education to add COVID-19 to the compulsory vaccination list.

Thank you for your dedication to Public Health in Ontario and thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andréa Grebenc'.

Andréa Grebenc
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Halton District School Board

Cc: Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8
Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

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Hon. Christine Elliot, Minister of Health

Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP

Stephen Crawford, MPP

Hon. Parm Gill, MPP

Hon. Jane McKenna, MPP

Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP

Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) President and Member Board Chairs

Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)



October 12, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Re: Decision Making Regarding the Return to Traditional Semester Model

Dear Minister Lecce,

Secondary Schools in the Halton District School Board (HDSB) are currently operating with a modified semester model to satisfy both the Ministry of Education and Public Health COVID-19 related Guidelines. This model has students taking four courses during the semester, however, they attend only two courses per day for a week and then attend the remaining two courses the next week. This alternates week by week. This model was chosen due to its flexibility to quickly pivot back to a traditional four-course per day model within a maximum of two weeks' notice. The modified semester model is not optimal for student achievement or student and staff well-being. For example, students with learning challenges who take a General Learning Strategies course are not as consistently supported in this model as they would in a traditional semester course. In addition, learning time is adjusted daily to allow for outdoor mask and refocusing breaks as students spend two and a half hours in each class. All students would benefit from the return to the traditional semester model as it would support their academic and social and emotional well-being.

During the summer, the Ministry indicated that the use of modified semester models would be temporary, as it focussed on controlling COVID in schools at the beginning of the school year with the assumption that it significantly reduces student contacts. The reality is that teenagers are currently congregating and mixing before and after school, at lunchtime, for co-curriculars, and evening activities; be it jobs or recreational activities. There is very little benefit to continuing with modified semester schedules when all of these other factors are at play, given that the other COVID prevention measures in place appear to be working well over an extended period of time.

Halton's COVID-19 vaccination rate as per the Region's website for 12-17 year-olds is exceptional. The rate for this age group is 93% with a single dose and 87% that are fully vaccinated. Additionally, Milton's rate for vaccination for this age group is 98% with a single dose and 91% fully vaccinated.

Street Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington, Ontario L7P 5A8

Mailing Address: J.W. Singleton Education Centre • P.O. Box 5005, Stn. LCD 1, Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z2

Phone: 905-335-3663 | 1-877-618-3456 Fax: 905-335-9802

www.hdsb.ca

The COVID-19 vaccine along with protocols and PPE set out in collaboration between our school board and local health authorities is working exceedingly well as demonstrated by the extremely low transmission rate seen in our secondary schools. Out of 19,390 students learning in-person in HDSB secondary school facilities over the past month, we have had COVID-19 transmission to only two students out of a total of nine student cases. Considering the increased transmission rate of the Delta variant, our defences against in-facility transmission are outstanding.

When Trustees asked HDSB staff if a vaccine uptake threshold or other criteria had been shared with the school boards to determine when the modified semester could be adjusted back to the traditional semester model, staff responded that no such information had come from the Ministry. This is disheartening as everyone is seeking positive news, especially related to the efforts to date.

As the recently announced rapid antigen testing program focuses on the local Public Health Unit as the decision-making authority, the Trustees of the Halton District School Board request that the decision-making around the return to the traditional secondary school semester model also reside with the local Public Health Units in collaboration with School Boards. They most clearly understand their local contexts with regard to vaccination rates, organizational adherence to IPAC protocols and COVID-19 outbreak data.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Andréa Grebenc
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Halton District School Board

Cc: Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP
Stephen Crawford, MPP
Hon. Parm Gill, MPP
Hon. Jane McKenna, MPP
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP
Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair
Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) President and Member Board Chairs
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)

Kenora - Head Office

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Cecile Marcino
 Chair of the Board of Trustees
cecile.marcino@kpdsb.ca

September 16, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
 Ministry of Education
 5th Floor, 438 University Ave.
 Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

The Honourable Christine Elliott
 Ministry of Health
 8th Floor, 438 University Ave.
 Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce and Minister Elliot:

The Trustees of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board unanimously adopted the following motion at the most recent regular meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 14, 2021:

MOVED that Trustees give authority to the Chair of the Board to ask that the Immunization of School Pupils Act be amended to include COVID-19 as a “designated disease”.

Currently, there is no mandate for eligible students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The addition of COVID-19 as a “designated disease” within the Immunization of School Pupils Act will serve important purposes:

- First, it may inspire an increased uptake of the vaccine which will provide protection for those who are too young or medically unable to be vaccinated in school communities. This will result in a safer learning environment for students, staff, and their families.
- Second, the Act provides a mechanism for exemptions that includes parental education on vaccination. This element is missing right now in consideration of COVID-19 vaccination for students.

We are adding our voices to the Ontario Public School Board Association, People for Education, and a number of boards who have made this same request.



On behalf of the Trustees of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request to further improve the safety of the learning environments in our district and across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

Cecile Marcino
Chair of the Board of Trustees

C Hon. Greg Rickford, MPP
Dr. Kit Young-Hoon, NWHU Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) President and Member Board Chairs
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Office of the Chair of the Board

29 September 2021

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2J3

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Ave, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

Dear Ministers Elliott and Lecce:

At its meeting on 28 September 2021, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board unanimously approved the following recommendation:

THAT the Chair write a public letter to the Ministers of Education and Health to advocate for an evaluation by provincial health authorities and experts as to the wisdom of adding the COVID-19 vaccination to the list of compulsory vaccinations for all eligible students.

As government ministers, you have access not only to the expertise of provincial and local public health authorities but also to the expertise of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table to integrate and assess the best Canadian and global evidence on the safety and efficacy of available COVID-19 vaccines.

All of us are aware of the effectiveness of mandatory vaccination programs against diseases such as smallpox, measles, and polio. For the past 18 months, the impact of COVID-19 has affected the safety and wellbeing of Ontario students and their families as well as their access to education, to devastating effect. If a mandatory vaccination program for students would be a safe and effective way to curtail the spread and severity of COVID-19 infections, please have the approved COVID-19 vaccines evaluated with a view to adding COVID-19 to the current list of compulsory vaccinations.

Sincerely,

Lynn Scott
Chair, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

cc: Cathy Abraham, President, OPSBA
W.R. (Rusty) Hick, Executive Director, OPSBA
T.J. Goertz, Senior Communications and Policy Officer, OPSBA
Trustees, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Senior Staff, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Corporate Records



Mark Fisher, Director of Education and Secretary

2021 October 1

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

This is a letter is to inform you of a motion approved by Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) at its 2021 September 28th, regular meeting of the board. The motion relates to the provision of funds for COVID-19 rapid antigen testing for student athletes:

"That the Board request the government provide the funds for testing student athletes who have a first dose of the vaccine and wish to participate in extracurricular sports."

It has been communicated to families that TVDSB secondary students who wish to participate in extracurricular sports must have received their first vaccination dose by 2021 September 17th, and be fully vaccinated no later than 2021 November 1st.

Students who have received one dose must undergo COVID-19 rapid testing twice a week, with results confirmed visually with school staff. Once a second dose is received, students can participate fully without the need for rapid testing.

Thames Valley recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities for the mental and physical well-being of students. Providing these opportunities while putting in place procedures to ensure the health and safety of students and staff is important. Confirming all participants are fully vaccinated or working towards full vaccination is a critical layer of protection.

We recognize that not all families can equally access COVID-19 rapid antigen tests – cost, and ability to purchase these tests may present a barrier to some students. By providing rapid antigen testing free of charge to all student athletes will ensure equity across our Board.

As such, the Board requests that the province fund the costs of the COVID-19 rapid antigen tests, as well as reimburse those students who have purchased rapid antigen tests since this protocol came into effect on 2021 September 17th. Full funding will help school boards and their public health partners protect the health and safety of students, staff and the community and help keep our schools open.

We appreciate the extraordinary costs brought on by the pandemic and we do not want funding to be an obstacle to equal access to student participation in extracurricular sports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Pizzolato".

Lori-Ann Pizzolato, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board

cc Trustees
 M. Fisher, Director of Education

2021 October 5

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce:

This is a letter to inform you of a motion approved by Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) at its September 8th, 2021, regular meeting of the board. The motion relates to the provision of Health Canada approved respirators for daily Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use:

"The Minister provide to all education staff Health Canada approved respirators for daily PPE use. That Education staff that obtain their own Health Canada approved respirators be permitted to wear these in the workplace, provided staff follow the application and removal guidelines stipulated by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). Staff will continue to be supplied with the Ministry approved PPE."

Thames Valley is committed to the health and safety of staff, students and families. Working with our local public health units we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, including ongoing risks related to the incidence of variants of concern (VOCs), and adjust our health and safety procedures as necessary.

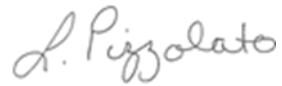
As stated in the Ministry's COVID 19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools 2021-22, there is not one specific measure that will prevent transmission from occurring in schools, but rather there are multiple elements that contribute to making schools healthier spaces and reduce the risk of infection to in-person attendees.

According to the World Health Organization, properly fitting respirators filter out at least 95% of particles in the air, including large and small particles, and provides the wearer with a more reliable level of protection as compared to medical face masks.

As such, providing education staff with Health Canada approved respirators for daily PPE use would increase staff and student safety and help keep our schools open to in-person learning. We are committed to training and supporting staff in the proper fit and use of respirators should they wish to wear them as part of their PPE.

We appreciate the extraordinary costs brought on by the pandemic and would appreciate the Ministry adding respirators to the list of provided PPE equipment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "L. Pizzolato". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori-Ann Pizzolato, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board

cc Trustees
 M. Fisher, Director of Education


Waterloo Region District School Board

51 Ardelt Avenue
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 T: 519-570-0003
 F: 519-742-1364
wrdsb.ca

October 7, 2021

Karen Redman, Regional Chair, Region of Waterloo
 Regional Council, Region of Waterloo
 Region of Waterloo
 150 Frederick Street
 Kitchener, ON, N2G 4J3

Dear Chair Redman and Regional Council,

In June 2021, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Board of Trustees voted to end the School Resource Office (SRO) Program, effective immediately, due to the disproportionately negative impact of the SRO Program on Black, Indigenous, and racialized students.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the WRDSB, I am writing to request funds previously used to deliver the SRO Program within the WRDSB be reallocated to community-based services for children and youth. Our staff look forward to working together to provide these services in consultation with our Indigenous, Black and racialized students and communities.

The WRDSB and the larger community are tasked with ensuring our students' well-being, safety and ability to thrive. Reallocating the SRO funding to community based services for youth, will support the students in our community with programs staffed by professionals that have expertise in helping youth in a positive, inclusive environment where they feel comfortable and welcome.

This is an important opportunity to support students and ensure safe and caring school communities. We ask for the Regional Council's serious consideration of this request as we all work together to positively support students in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Weston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joanne Weston
 Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
 Waterloo Region District School Board

CC: Ontario Public School Boards' Association, Ontario Public School Boards