

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
February 7, 2022**

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 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michael Barrett, Patrice Barnes, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Scott Templeton, Student Trustees James Kay, Kayla Malcolm

Regrets: Trustees Chris Braney, Linda Stone, Student Trustee De-Mario Knowles

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 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

That the agenda be amended to move item 8.(b) Draft Timelines for Approval of the Draft Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy to item 9.(f) under Information items.

2022:SC08

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Student Presentation, Grade 11 Entrepreneurship Course, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid introduced Principal Jeff Maharaj and Vice Principal Susanna Neblett who provided trustees with an overview of the Entrepreneurship course that was designed in partnership with Tech Spark Canada. Principal Maharaj introduced the student video that was shared with trustees.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided the following update for trustees:

Broadcast Learning Program

The program is continuing within the District for elementary students until February 15, 2022 after which time the transitions for students switching to DDSB@home will take place. Staff are currently working through the registration and transfer process. The Broadcast Learning Program numbers have gone from 1450 students at the start of the program to approximately 700-800 a day. It is expected that most of the families who are now tuning into Broadcast Learning are those who are going to be moving over to virtual learning. Staff have seen a bit of a return to in person learning from some families that chose to keep their children home for the first few weeks following the winter break and so these students are not accessing the Broadcast Learning Program. Director Norah Marsh thanked central staff for quickly organizing the engaging sessions to assist with the return to school for all students.

Move to Virtual Learning

Staff committed to providing one opportunity for students to transfer to virtual learning that will take place in mid-February. Registration has closed and there are currently 1000 students moving into to virtual learning and 500 students

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returning to in person learning at the elementary level. Staff will work to support the transition with the commitment to minimize disruption to in-person classes.

Semester Two

Semester two has started at the secondary level. This will increase the amount of instructional time for students with their classroom teachers, which will be positive for their learning. Moving to the semester system will extend student opportunities for consolidating learning as they will now have the whole semester instead of the accelerated quadmester model.

Return to Extra-Curricular Activity

Staff are waiting for direction from the Ministry of Education with regards to the return of extra-curricular opportunities. Staff have not only been advocating for the return to extra-curriculars but other programming as well, such as music. Knowing that community athletics has returned, we have indicated to the Ministry of Education that parents are keen to start seeing extra-curriculars being offered once again in elementary and secondary schools.

September Planning, Virtual Learning

Staff have been reaching out to the Ministry of Education, as previously, they had directed school boards to offer a choice of virtual or in-person learning in fall 2022 as a response to the pandemic. Staff are seeking insight from the Ministry with regards to the direction for the next school year. There are funding considerations if the Ministry is going to commit to the virtual learning option. At secondary, we are already beyond the usual timeframe for course selection activities, and some boards are going ahead and planning for the virtual learning option. Last year the DDSB went ahead with the virtual option as staff were confident that there would be a need, but at this point staff do not have direction from the Ministry so they may have to go ahead and provide the registration option.

eLearning

The Ministry of Education released a memo last week confirming that for students to graduate they will still need two eLearning course credits. The Ministry has confirmed that current grade ten students will only need one eLearning course, as the time spent in virtual learning last year will count as an equivalent to one eLearning course. Grade nine students will have to take the two eLearning courses. Parent can apply for an exemption for their child. Staff are working on what that will look like for families in terms of applying for the exception.

EQAO

The Ministry of Education released a memo last week confirming the expectation that all school boards will participate in EQAO assessments. There was recent media attention in terms of some school boards not participating in the grade nine Assessment for Mathematics. Once the Minister of Education confirmed the expectation to complete the assessment, staff were aware that the EQAO Act required the board legally to apply to administer the assessments. Staff did not suggest to schools that they not participate in the assessment. Because the new EQAO Assessment has greater flexibility in terms of when students can access assessments, staff worked with schools to determine when the best time was to administer the Grade Nine EQAO assessment. During both quadesters, schools have participated in the EQAO assessment with the exception of students in virtual learning because there is no virtual platform for EQAO. The assessment has to be administered in-person. When the OSSLT was administered in the fall of 2021, a significant amount of planning by staff was required to organize DDSB@home secondary students attending an in-person location and being supervised while completing the assessment.

The Ministry of Education memo has also directed school boards to participate in national and international assessments this year. Staff continue to work with the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) to ensure that staff will be following through with the Ministry of Education expectation.

Director Norah Marsh shared two positive announcements.

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) received the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) Bravo Award for excellence in communications for development and implementation of the communication plan with regards to the return to school from the pandemic. This is an annual national award available across the public education sector, and all school boards from across Canada are considered for this award. Director Norah Marsh acknowledged staff for their exemplary communication work and in particular, Executive System Lead Robert Cerjanec and his team.

Forbes Canada has listed the DDSB as 30th on the top employer list from across Canada and the top school board. Staff were not aware that DDSB was being considered for the award. DDSB is very fortunate to have so many staff that make DDSB a great place to work and appreciate the support from staff. Senior Team acknowledges the need to continue to do more to ensure that DDSB is a positive place for staff to work.

Trustee questions were answered.

8. Recommended Actions

(a) Draft Amended Consolidated Bylaws

Trustee Michael Barrett provided an overview of the Revised Draft Consolidated Bylaws and the Code of Conduct and reviewed each section of the document with trustees.

2022:SC09

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

SECONDED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISED DRAFT CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS AND CODE OF CONDUCT SO THAT THEY MOVE TO THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 BOARD MEETING AS A NOTICE OF MOTION.

CARRIED

The following are amendments to the Revised Draft Consolidated Bylaws and the Code of Conduct and to the foregoing motion (2022:SC09).

Revised Draft Consolidated Bylaws

Section 2: Roles and Responsibilities

2022:SC10

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

THAT SECTION 2.4.12 BE AMENDED BY ADDING AS LONG AS THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO THE END OF THE SENTENCE.

CARRIED

Section 3: Organizational Meeting

General Counsel Patrick Cotter to provide clarification of the language under 3.2.2

Section 5: Board and Committee Meetings-Rules and Procedures

2022:SC11

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT SECTION 5.12.21 BE AMENDED BY REMOVING UNLESS WITHDRAWN FROM THE SENTENCE.

CARRIED

2022:SC12
MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist
SECONDED by Chair Carolyn Morton

THAT SECTION 5.13.5 BE AMENDED BY ADDING GOOD FAITH BEFORE
DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

CARRIED

2022:SC013
MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT SECTION 5.13.15 BE AMENDED BY MOVING ITEM (c) UP AS PART OF
ITEM (b) AND ADJUST THE SEQUENCE.

CARRIED

Draft Revised Bylaw: School Board Member (Trustee) Code of Conduct

Section 5.0

2022:SC014
MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist
SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

UNDER THE THIRD PARAGRAPH AFTER POLICIES REMOVE AND, ADD
A COMMA. AFTER ONTARIO ADD A COMMA. ADD TO THE END OF THE
PARAGRAPH, AND IS RECOGNIZED IN THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS
CODE.

CARRIED

2022:SC015
MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton
SECONDED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISED DRAFT
CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS AND CODE OF CONDUCT AS AMENDED SO THAT
THEY MOVE TO THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 BOARD MEETING AS A NOTICE
OF MOTION.

CARRIED

9. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee James Kay provided an overview of the Student Senate meeting that took place on January 17, 2022. Superintendent Andrea McAuley and Superintendent Gary Crossdale joined the meeting as panelists. Student Senators enjoyed the meaningful panel discussion regarding student leadership and appreciated the detailed answers to their questions.

Student trustee James Kay provided an update from the Northern Region and shared that the group has been working diligently towards the completion of the North Durham Introductory Video. The video will be sent to the three secondary schools in the north. The region has also started planning for a spirit week which will be taking place in the spring and will connect the North Durham students and schools.

Student trustee Kayla Malcolm provided an update from the Western Region Student Senators and shared that the Senators have been working on an initiative that will be launched soon. During the breakout session the Senators spoke about ways that they are helping their peers adjust to the semester system and ways to help with student mental health.

Student trustee James Kay shared that the Student Senate Project Coordinators, who are responsible for planning and organizing events, have been working to ensure the success of the Student Senate's Mental Health Symposium and Elementary Leadership Conference.

The Mental Health Symposium is set to take place during Children's Mental Health week at the beginning of May. Working with the guest speakers and the DDSB Mental Health and Well-Being Team, we will explore the importance of 'Hope During Difficult Times'.

Student trustee Kayla Malcolm shared that the Elementary Leadership Conference is taking place on Monday, February 28, 2022. The purpose of this conference is to promote student leadership within DDSB elementary schools.

(b) Redesignation of Growth Update Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca and Manager of Property and Planning Carey Trombino who provided trustees with an overview on the redesignation of growth from future developments to schools that have capacity to accommodate growth.

(c) Mental Health and Well-Being Update

Superintendent Andrea McAuley shared with trustees an overview of the implementation of a tiered approach to Mental Health and Well-Being supports for students across the Durham District School Board (DDSB) as implemented by the Mental Health Lead and the teams from Positive School Climates, Psychological Services, and Social Work.

The report also includes information about DDSB community partnerships supporting child & youth mental health and highlights leadership collaborations within the community.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Supporting Employee Well-Being

Director of Education Norah Marsh and Superintendent Heather Mundy provided trustee with information on the new strategies being considered to support staff well-being and operations during the pandemic and shared that some strategies will become permanent while others will be as a direct result of pandemic management.

(e) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided an update on the OPSPA Symposium that trustees attended on January 28, 2022. The next Annual General Meeting will take place on June 9, 2022.

(f) Draft Timelines for Approval of the Draft Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with the draft timeline for the approval of the draft Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy which will be discussed further at the February 24, 2022 Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee, November 11, 2021

Patrice Barnes provided trustees with the November 11, 2021 Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee meeting.

(b) Governance and Policy Committee, November 9 and 23, 2021 and January 24, 2022

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Trustee Michael Barnes provided trustees with the Governance and Policy Committee meeting minutes from November 9, and 23, 2021 and January 24, 2022.

12. Correspondence

- i. Greater Essex County District School Board
- ii. Lakehead District School Board
- iii. Thames Valley District School Board
- iv. Upper Canada District School Board (2 Letters)
- v. York Region District School Board

The above correspondence was shared with trustees for information.

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

14. Adjournment

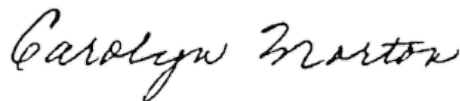
2022:SC16

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.



Chair



Secretary