

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday February 22, 2022

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 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, 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 Chris Braney

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, Executive System Lead Robert Cerjanec, General 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

2022:RB14

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2022:RB15

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

(a) REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2021

(b) SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2022

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

(a) REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2022

CARRIED

7. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

8. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with the following updates:

The Ministry of Education announced the 2022-2023 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding, Capital Funding, and Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF) on February 17, 2022.

Grants for Student Needs funding is projected to be \$26.1 billion provincially, which represents an increase of approximately 2.7% over the prior year, with an average provincial per-pupil funding of \$13,059.

Capital funding for School Renewal is projected to be \$1.4 billion split between two programs:

- School Condition Improvement \$1.070 billion
- School Renewal Allocation \$370 million

To facilitate budget planning for the 2022-2023 school year, the Ministry of Education confirmed approximately \$144 million of PPF funding to school boards and school authorities to support Ministry priorities.

High level analysis of the announcement reflects that:

- The Supports for Student Fund was a product of central collective bargaining and was used for additional staffing supports which will continue in the 2022-2023 school year. The funding will be used to support student learning needs as outlined in the respective collective agreements for various employee groups. The Durham District School Board (DDSB) received \$6.9M of this funding in 2021-2022.
- Additional staffing supports from the 2021-2022 COVID-19 funding will continue in 2022-2023 as the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund. The DDSB received \$9.9M of this funding in 2021-2022 for the hiring of teachers, Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants and other support staff.
- The Ministry is providing additional funding of \$10M for student mental health province wide. The funding increase would be allocated to the mental health and well-being GSN base amount, and the amount allocated per pupil. The funding increase is approximately \$600k for DDSB in 2022-2023.
- The Ministry is providing an additional investment of \$7.4M to the Special Education Equipment (SEA) per pupil amount to support assistive technology for students with Special Education needs. This is an increase of approximately \$250k for DDSB in 2022-2023.
- An increase of \$39.9M provincially is being allocated for the Broadband Network Operations with funding through the GSN. This will help support network connectivity, infrastructure and security needs. This is an increase of approximately \$1.4M for DDSB in 2022-2023.
- Salary benchmarks for Principals and Vice Principals will be increased by 1% based on the provincial terms and conditions that have been agreed upon. This increase is similar to other employee groups across the broader public sector.
- There has been a 5.45% salary increase for the non-staff school operations allocation (reflecting a 2.3% commodity price increase and a 3.15% increase to reflect the higher cost of running ventilation systems).
- There is a 2.3% salary increase for other non-staff amounts outside of school operations which is allocated through the GSN.
- There is a 2% funding increase to the Student Transportation Grant. This has not been allocated to school boards, which may be an indication that not all boards will be receiving an increase.
- There is a funding increase of \$7.9M across the province to support French as a Second Language initiatives.

Included in the GSN announcement are the changes to how online learning classes are funded.

Online Learning: This year the secondary benchmark will use a funded average credit load of 7.5 credits per pupil split between online learning (approximately 0.15) and in-person learning (approximately 7.35). The online learning credit load benchmark assumes that approximately 15% of secondary students will take one course online in 2022-2023, a slight decrease from the 16% announced last year.

PPF Transfers to GSN: The following items will be transferred from Priorities & Partnership Fund (PPF) to the GSN. Please note that all amounts below are provincial figures:

- The former Supporting Student Mental Health allocation, and Well-being and Positive School Climates allocation are moving to the Mental Health and Well-Being Grant in the GSN.
- \$16.3M in Special Education PPF funding to the Differentiated Special Education Needs Amount (DSENA) in the GSN.
- \$2.4M from the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants from PPF to a new component of the Parent Engagement Allocation in the GSN.
- \$3.5M will be moving from the Learning and Innovation Fund for Teachers funding PPF grant to the GSN.

A more detailed analysis of the funding impact will be completed once the Ministry of Education releases the Technical Paper (an overview and detail of grant formulas for education funding that are used to calculate school boards' budget allocations) and Education Financial Information System (EFIS) forms. This information is expected to be released next month and will be discussed at the upcoming Education Finance Committee meetings.

The Population of Electoral Groups or PEG Report shows overall growth across all wards from 2018 of about 4%, with a total electoral group of approximately 389,500 which is just short of the 400,000 threshold for DDSB to be funded for an additional Trustee.

Director Norah Marsh shared that the Ministry of Education is ensuring that all boards are participating in EQAO assessments as part of the Learning Recovery funding. The EQAO assessments are prevalent in gathering baseline data on student learning. The DDSB has been and is currently following the EQAO Act and providing assessments for students. The EQAO assessments and GSN funding are connected within the memo as it is a predominant factor in terms of seeking data on student learning.

9. Public Question Period

Dylan R., a student of DDSB presented a question virtually with regards to COVID-19 management. Staff responded to the question.

Deborah Williams presented a question virtually with regards to mask mandates in schools. Staff responded to the question.

Rita Verhoog provided a written question with regards to the McCaskill's Mills PS bell times. Staff responded to the question.

Nina Tzambazis provided a written question with regards to the pausing of sports in schools. Staff responded to the question.

10. DDSB Presentations

There were no DDSB presentations at this time.

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 appointment of the Audit Committee External Member.

2022:RB16

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

Director Norah Marsh acknowledged that February 23, 2022 is Pink Shirt Day and recognized the important role that we all play in preventing bullying behaviour. Director Marsh shared that the origin of the day goes back to a student who experienced extreme homophobia and how students rallied around the student to support them. There will be events and education happening across the District.

Jalen and Kiara, students from Dunbarton High School, shared good news from across the system on behalf of Durham District School Board (DDSB) students.

We would like to thank DDSB staff, fellow students and parents, and guardians for support as we moved to remote learning in early January.

DDSB communities came together to:

- Organize the deployment of technology to elementary students;
- Provide guidance on digital learning and mental health supports; and
- Help students learn at home.

With heavy snowfall last month across Durham and the GTA, students and staff in our schools made sure to make the best of the snowy situation. Students at Roland Michener Public School used the snow as a canvas for connection, collaboration, and creation on their first day back to in-person learning. Fallingbrook Public School

students created a fort, and Winchester Public School students found innovative ways of creating art with snow!

We want to take the time to specifically thank our custodial staff for their efforts during the snowstorm. They made sure staff, students, parents, and guardians were able to access our buildings safely by clearing school entrances, community sidewalks, and parking lots.

Some schools are enjoying newly renovated spaces thanks to the amazing Facilities Services team.

A few highlights include:

- A renovated learning space in the Glengrove Public School library;
- Re-finished floors in the Lincoln Alexander Public School gym, and
- A brand-new accessibility ramp in the Uxbridge Public School main hall.

Facilities Services staff are hard at work making sure DDSB schools are safe for everyone. They prepared and distributed over 170,000 rapid antigen tests to schools, and over 1,000 additional HEPA units in January for a total of 2,257 units as of February 4, 2022.

On January 26, 2022 students and staff continued to recognize Bell Let's Talk Day. Messages of support for continued discussion around mental health and talking to someone when you need help were shared at both elementary and secondary schools.

Congratulations to Sinclair Secondary School alumni Cam Stones on reaching his second Olympic games. Cam is a member of the 2-man and 4-man bobsleigh teams. Since 2019, he has racked up four 2-man bronze and five 2-man silver medals on the world circuit.

Ms. Ashley Underwood, a Grade One teacher at Valley View Public School, found a creative outlet during the pandemic, by writing a book based on her son Frankie and his love for playing make-believe. In Ms. Underwood's first children's book, *"I Love You, For You"* the main character Frankie imagines all the different people he can be during his adventure-filled day. No matter what he dreams up in his creative mind, he knows, at the end of the day, he always has a safe place to call home with his family. The book also reflects themes of a positive mindset and self-love, something that Ms. Underwood embeds in everyday classroom lessons.

Ms. Julie Banks, a Grade 8 DDSB At Home teacher, has been recognized for the outstanding impact she has on her students. Knowledgehook named Ms. Banks an "Impact Influencer" because she encourages a growth mindset among her students by using the phrase "we don't know YET". Ms. Banks says connecting with her students, even though the computer, is of utmost importance. It empowers students to take risks, make mistakes, celebrate their success, and to learn and grow together.

Durham District School Board has been selected by Forbes Canada as one of Canada's Best Employers, 2022. Forbes has ranked DDSB 30th out of the top 100 employers in Canada through an external survey process.

Based on the responses, DDSB falls within the top 10% of employers nationally and the top school board in Canada.

We believe this acknowledgement by Forbes reflects the quality of the staff we have at the DDSB. We would like to thank our staff for what they do to make DDSB a positive place for others and are humbled by the positive responses so many staff members gave about how they feel to be a DDSB staff member.

We would also like to share with you the good news that we have won a BRAVO! Award after being evaluated by a panel of judges for our return to school communications for September 2020. A BRAVO! Award is a national award recognizing and honouring exemplary work in all aspects of school public relations, communications, marketing and engagement.

It is given out by the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education and is the highest recognition for education public relations programs and campaigns in Canada.

Congratulations to all members of our Communications and Public Relations Department on this recognition.

Dates of Significance:

Feb. 23	Pink Shirt Day
March	Women's History Month / Social Work Month / Hellinex Heritage Month / Bangladeshi Heritage Month
March 7-23	Lent (Orthodox)
March 16-17	Purim
March 1	Shivratri
March 2-14	Ash Wednesday
March 8	International Women's Day
March 14	Pi Day
March 14-18	March Break
March 17	Irish Heritage Day
March 18	Holi
March 20	Spring Equinox
March 20	Eostre
March 20	Shunki-Sorei-Sai
March 21	Nowruz
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day
March 21	United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racism
March 25	International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
March 26	International Epilepsy Awareness Day
March 26	Purple Day for Epilepsy
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility

13. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared with trustees the resolutions and minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on February 7, 2022.

2022:RB17

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

2022:RB18

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 2022 STANDING COMMITTEE AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PASSED.

CARRIED

(b) Preliminary Budget Planning

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an overview of the Education Finance Committee meeting dates for the development of the 2022-2023 Board budget for their consideration.

Trustee questions were answered.

Trustee Michael Barrett suggested that the Education Finance Committee meeting calendar include an additional date for public deputations. There was no objection from the Chair to amend the motion to add amended as underlined in the motion below.

2022:RB19

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2022-2023 AMENDED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

(c) School Year Calendars 2022-2023

Associate Director Jim Markovski shared with trustees the draft 2022-2023 School Year Calendars for their consideration:

- Elementary Regular
- Secondary Regular
- Elementary Modified (C.E. Broughton Public School, Winchester Public School)
- Secondary Modified (Brock High School, Henry Street High School, Maxwell Heights Secondary School)

Regulation 304 of the Education Act requires school boards to submit proposed school year calendars to the Ministry for approval on or before March 1st, 2022.

2022:RB20

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROPOSED 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS BE APPROVED (APPENDICES A-D). THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ENSURING THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD IS COMPLIANT WITH THE RESPECTIVE DEADLINES AS OUTLINED IN REGULATION 304.

CARRIED

14. Information Items

(a) Notice of Motion: Revised Draft Consolidated Bylaws and Code of Conduct

Trustee Michael Barrett provided an overview of the Draft Consolidated Bylaws and Code of Conduct for trustees. The bylaws and code of conduct will move to the March 21, 2022 Board meeting for consideration.

(b) Capital Priorities

2022:RB21

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Michael Barrett

TO SEND A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE WAY THAT THE CURRENT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROCESS ON APPROVING NEW SCHOOLS IS NOT ADDRESSING STUDENT NEEDS IN THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND TO SPECIFY OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE BOARD'S PRIORITY PROJECTS.

CARRIED

2022:RB22

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

That the foregoing motion (2022:RB21) be amended to:

TO SEND A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE WAY THAT THE CURRENT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROCESS ON APPROVING FUNDING FOR NEW SCHOOLS IS NOT ADDRESSING STUDENT NEEDS IN THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD;

TO SPECIFY OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE BOARD'S PRIORITY PROJECTS;
AND

TO SEEK A REAL ANSWER ON WHY THE BOARD'S TOP CAPITAL PRIORITY FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN OSHAWA AND THE BEAVERTON PS REBUILD HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED FOR FUNDING BY THE PROVINCE.

CARRIED

2022:RB23

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

That the foregoing motion (2022:RB22) be amended to:

TO SEND A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE WAY THE CURRENT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROCESS ON APPROVING FUNDING FOR NEW SCHOOLS IS NOT ADDRESSING STUDENT NEEDS IN THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD;
AND

TO SEEK A REAL ANSWER ON WHY THE BOARD'S TOP CAPITAL PRIORITY FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN OSHAWA THAT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE PROVINCE; AND TO SEND A SECOND LETTER TO ASK WHY THE BEAVERTON PS REBUILD HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL AND FUNDING.

CARRIED

(c) Elementary Enrolment and Staffing Update

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided trustees with an update on the elementary staffing and enrolment for both in-person and virtual schools (DDSB@Home) following the February 2022 transition.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Donald A Wilson SS Program and Boundary Consultation Process, Town of Whitby

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca and Manager of Property and Planning Carey Trombino, who provided trustees with an update on the proposed public consultation process in accordance with Regulation School Boundaries. The proposal includes revisions to the Donald A Wilson SS's French Immersion (FI) program boundary and the Regular program boundary given the accommodation pressures and inability to add portables on-site to accommodate the 2022-2023 projected enrolment.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) Human Trafficking-PPM 166 Implementation Update

Superintendent Gary Crossdale provided trustees with an update on the Implementation of PPM 166 – Keeping Students Safe: Human Trafficking Protocol.

On July 6th, 2021, the Ministry of Education released a policy framework (PPM 166) on Human Trafficking. School districts were asked to develop and implement a protocol for this PPM. The purpose of the PPM 166 framework is to provide a foundation for Ontario school districts to use as they develop a protocol. Once in place, the protocol will support coordinated action by all community partners in order to prevent, identify and recognize human trafficking, and to develop strategies that will facilitate early and appropriate intervention and support.

Trustee questions were answered.

(f) Report: SEAC Meeting of December 16, 2021

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC meeting minutes of December 16, 2021.

OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided a brief OPSBA update for trustees.

15. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

16. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

17. Adjournment

2022:RB24

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:08 p.m.

Chair

Secretary