

Minutes - Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

Trustee Tracy Brown, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Donna Edwards, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustee Ben Cameron

Regrets: Trustees Emma Cunningham, Stephen Linton, Deb Oldfield, Jill Thompson, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Not in Attendance: Trustee Linda Stone

Staff Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, Superintendents of Education Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy (virtual), Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur, Legal Counsel Phanny Im, Policy Analyst Ahmad Khawaja (virtual)

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Trustee Tracy Brown gave the Land Acknowledgement: 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2023

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MAY 24, 2023 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Recommended Actions

(a) July 10, 2023 Resolution: COVID-19 Update

Trustee Shailene Panylo introduced the report, noting that it was originally presented at the July 10, 2023 Special Board meeting before being referred to the Governance and Policy Committee to allow further discussion before considering the recommendation contained in the report.

Based on staff analysis and updated provincial and public health guidelines, at this time it is not necessary to continue maintaining a reporting tool for COVID-19 cases but the Board is committed to revisiting its position on this should the Government's direction related to COVID-19 monitoring and reporting change.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT IT RESCIND THE JANUARY 5, 2022 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD WHICH PROVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. THAT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, AND/OR HER DESIGNATES, TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO PUBLICLY REPORT DATA, TO THE EXTENT IT IS AVAILABLE, ON CONFIRMED AND PRESUMED CASES IN DDSB SCHOOLS;
- B. THAT THE DDSB ENSURE FAMILIES AND STAFF HAVE A MECHANISM FOR SELF-REPORTING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ACCESS TO TESTS;
- C. THAT THE BOARD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SCHOOL AND CLASS CLOSURES AND UNUSUAL RATES OF ABSENTEEISM IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES;
- D. AND SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT ALTER ITS DIRECTION ON THE COLLECTION OF THIS DATA, THE BOARD WILL REVISIT ITS POSITION.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT WE WORK WITH STAFF TO WIDELY COMMUNICATE AND REMIND THE COMMUNITY ABOUT OUR AUTOMATED SELF-REPORTING TOOL THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF TO SELF-REPORT ILLNESSES, AND THAT THIS DATA IS COLLECTED, PUBLICIZED, AND REGULARLY MONITORED FOR FUTURE OUTBREAKS OR ABSENCE TRENDS. THIS SHOULD BE USED IN COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOL-SPECIFIC VENTILATION AND AIR QUALITY DATA TO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR PREVENTION MEASURES.

Following discussion among trustees and staff questions, the above motion was withdrawn.

(b) Rescission of Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy

Superintendent of Equitable Education Andrea McAuley introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of the Use of Service Animals in Schools Policy and Procedure. It is recommended that the policy as outlined in the report be rescinded as it is redundant and dealt with through other DDSB policies and procedures and Ministry of Education directives, including PPM 163.

Trustee Edwards expressed concerns about the PPM calling for a “policy” and lack of consultation with SEAC. General Counsel Cotter advised that reference to a “policy” in the PPM is not dictated to school boards as between policy, procedure, or directive.

Trustee questions were answered.

Committee Chair Tracy Brown read out the recommendation contained in the report, however there was no mover for the proposed motion.

(c) Revised Privacy Policy and Rescission of Regulation

General Counsel Patrick Cotter and Legal Counsel Phanny Im introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of the Privacy Policy, Regulation, Protocol and Procedure. It is recommended that the policy be revised and the regulation as outlined in the report be rescinded as it is either redundant or dealt with through other DDSB policies and procedures or Ministry of Education directives.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE PRIVACY REGULATION BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE PRIVACY POLICY BE REPLACED WITH THE DRAFT POLICY THAT STARTS AT PAGE 41 OF THE AGENDA PACKAGE AND THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AT THE OCTOBER 16, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

CARRIED

(d) Revised Trustee Criminal Reference Checks Policy and Rescission of Regulation

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of the Trustee Criminal Reference Checks Policy. It is recommended that the policy be revised and the regulation as outlined in the report be rescinded as it is either redundant or dealt with through other DDSB policies and procedures or Ministry of Education directives.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE TRUSTEE CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS REGULATION BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE POLICY BE REPLACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DRAFT POLICY FOUND AT PAGE 95 OF THE AGENDA PACKAGE AND THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AT THE OCTOBER 16, 2023 REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

CARRIED

(e) Timing of Organizational Meeting and Clarification of Other Meeting Dates

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that changes to the Bylaws are proposed in response to recent amendments to the Municipal Election Act which impacts the date by which Board's must hold the annual Organizational Meeting. Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec noted that additional amendments to the Bylaws are proposed to clarify the scheduling of meetings through the summer months of July and August and that the final Board meeting of the calendar year will be held on the first Monday of December to more closely align with past and current practice.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS:

3.1.1 AN INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE PLACE AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD IN ~~NOVEMBER~~ ~~DECEMBER~~ OF EACH YEAR (THE "ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING") DURING WHICH THE BOARD SHALL:

- A) ELECT THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD;
- B) ESTABLISH AND REVIEW COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD;
- C) APPOINT MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD;

- D) ELECT THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE – STANDING AND APPOINT THE VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AS THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – STANDING;
- E) APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE BOARD ON EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND
- F) ADOPT AN ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR BOARD AND COMMITTEE OF WHOLE - STANDING MEETINGS.

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3.2.1 IN AN ELECTION YEAR, THE BOARD WILL HOLD THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE DAY ON WHICH THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BOARD COMMENCES AND THEN, IN EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR, AT THE FIRST MEETING ON OR AFTER THE ANNIVERSARY DATE THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BOARD BEGAN AT THE FIRST MEETING IN DECEMBER.

~~3.2.2 IN AN ELECTION YEAR, THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD NO LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER THE START OF THE TERM OF THE BOARD. AND~~

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4.2.4 THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SHALL ALSO MEET REGULARLY ON THE FIRST (1ST) MONDAY OF THE MONTH (WHICH SHALL BE REFERRED AS “THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE – STANDING”) EXCEPT IN THE SUMMER MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, AND IN DECEMBER WHEN A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WILL TAKE PLACE. SHOULD THE DATE OF SUCH A MEETING FALL ON A STATUTORY, CIVIC, OR SCHOOL HOLIDAY, THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE TUESDAY OF THE SAME WEEK OR THE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

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5.5.1 REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD (3RD) MONDAY OF EACH MONTH, EXCEPT IN THE SUMMER MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, AND IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WHEN THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN DECEMBER, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M. OR, IN ANY CASE WHERE THAT MONDAY IS A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR OTHER SCHOOL HOLIDAY, THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE TUESDAY OF THE SAME WEEK OR THE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK. AS MAY BE DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE CHAIR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR, THE BOARD WILL CONVENE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION, PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING, TYPICALLY COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M. AND AGAIN, IF NECESSARY, FOLLOWING PUBLIC SESSION, IN WHICH CASE THE MEETING SHALL NOT EXTEND PAST 11:00 P.M.

AND THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDER AND ADOPT THESE CHANGES AT THE BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2023.

CARRIED

MOVED BY Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES A REVISION TO THE CURRENT MEETING SCHEDULE, SUCH THAT THE MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 20 AND DECEMBER 4 BE FLIPPED SUCH THAT NOVEMBER 20 BECOMES THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND DECEMBER 4 BECOMES THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDER AND ADOPT THIS CHANGE AT THE BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2023.

CARRIED

7. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.