



REVISED Approved Minutes - Governance and Policy Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 7:30 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

Trustee Emma Cunningham, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Tracy Brown, Donna Edwards (virtual), Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustee Ben Cameron

Regrets: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Shailene Panylo, 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 (virtual), General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, Superintendent Heather Mundy, Senior Manager Lisa Coppins, Policy Analyst Ahmad Khawaja (virtual)

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Trustee Emma Cunningham 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

The agenda was approved as presented.

5. Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2023

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Rescission of Accessible Customer Service Policy and Regulation

Heather Mundy, Superintendent of People and Culture introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of the Accessible Customer Service Policy and Regulation and they are now being recommended for rescission as the Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy govern those matters and would now take precedence on matters related to accessibility, which has led to policy redundancies. Superintendent Mundy advised that consultation regarding the recommendation to rescind the policy and regulation included the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), the Accessibility Committee and others. Following a 2021 accessibility audit, it was recommended that DDSB contain all matters related to operationalizing accessibility in a single document where possible. As part of this review process, a new Accessibility Procedure has been created and all relevant operational provisions from the policy and regulation have been moved into the new procedure.

Trustee questions were answered.

Trustee Donna Edwards expressed concern that, although the October 2023 SEAC minutes noted a discussion on the Human Rights (Accessibility) Procedure, there was no indication or it was unclear in the minutes that the rescinding of the Accessible Customer Service Policy and Regulation was discussed. It was suggested that staff take the recommendation back to SEAC to confirm its awareness and get feedback on the recommendation to rescind the Accessible Customer Service Policy and Regulation, as both are proposed to be replaced by the Human Rights (Accessibility) Procedure.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT RESCISSION OF THE ACCESIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY AND REGULATION BE DEFERRED UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT CONSULTATION WITH SEAC AND OTHER ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERS TAKE PLACE BEFORE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE.

DEFEATED

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY AND REGULATION BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

DEFEATED

(b) Rescission of Advocacy Policy

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of the Advocacy Policy and that it has been deemed redundant and is therefore recommended for rescission. It was noted that OPSBA is the only official advocating body of the DDSB and that rescission of this policy would not preclude the DDSB from supporting advocacy through the payment of membership fees to appropriate organizations.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE ADVOCACY POLICY BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

(c) Revised Public Concerns Policy and Rescission of Regulation

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of the Public Concerns Policy, Procedure and Regulation. Proposed amendments to the policy were summarized, including relevant provisions being retained from the regulation that is now recommended for rescission and a name change to the Public Concerns and Engagement Policy. The review process was undertaken collaboratively with the Associate Director of Equitable Education and the Superintendent of Family and Community Engagement, and as a result of the review, the accompanying procedure has been amended to include any operational provisions contained in the regulation and to align with current best practice.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE PUBLIC CONCERNS POLICY BE AMENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF APPENDIX B AND THE PUBLIC CONCERNS REGULATION BE RESCINDED AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

(d) Revised Consolidated Bylaws – Advisory Committees

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that staff have undertaken a review of sections of the Bylaws pertaining to Advisory Committees and that amendments are being proposed to introduce a more robust structure, with increased participation of trustees and staff, to increase efficacy and engagement of Advisory Committees.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS BE AMENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF APPENDIX A AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) Revised Consolidated Bylaws – Agenda Planning and Public Question Period

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec introduced the report, noting that this item is on the agenda at the request of a trustee and with the consent of the Committee Chair, staff are providing the applicable sections of the Consolidated Bylaws related to agenda planning and public question period to assist trustees in reviewing the relevant sections of the Bylaws. As part of the request, staff have provided proposed draft revisions to sections of the Bylaws applicable to agenda planning.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT SECTION 5.5.4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THAT THE CHAIR OF

THE BOARD HAS THE DISCRETION TO INVITE CHAIRS OF ANY COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD TO ATTEND ALL OR PART OF AN AGENDA PLANNING MEETING.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron suggested that the motion be amended so that it can be considered at the next meeting of the board of trustees.

The above foregoing motion was amended:

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown
SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT SECTION 5.5.4 OF THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THAT THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD HAS THE DISCRETION TO INVITE CHAIRS OF ANY COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD TO ATTEND ALL OR PART OF AN AGENDA PLANNING MEETING AND THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SECTION 5.13.16 OF THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE THAT INDIVIDUAL TRUSTEES MAY RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AT BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION.

DEFEATED

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT STAFF BRING FORWARD A REPORT AND RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE ON THE ISSUE OF BEING ABLE TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS AT BOARD MEETINGS.

CARRIED

(b) Policy Review Process and Plan

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec introduced the report, noting that it summarizes the process through which policies, procedures and regulations are reviewed and developed. The report also includes a policy review schedule for the period of January to June 2024 as well as a listing of all policies that have not been reviewed in the past five years and all regulations that remain in place.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Board Motions: November 15, 2022 – November 6, 2023

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec introduced the report, noting that it provides all material resolutions adopted by the Board of Trustees during the first year of the current four year term, during the period of November 15, 2022 to November 6, 2023. This report will be presented annually to the Governance and Policy Committee.

Trustee questions were answered.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.