



APPROVED Minutes – Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 6:00 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

Trustee Emma Cunningham, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton (virtual), Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare (virtual), Neha Kasoju (virtual)

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson

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, Superintendent's Heather Mundy and Erin Elmhurst, Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur, Senior Manager Lisa Coppins, System Leads Jackie Williams-Leacock and Quincy James, 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

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Minutes

(a) Draft revised minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee meeting of December 13, 2023

(b) Draft minutes of the Special Governance and Policy Committee meeting of February 5, 2024

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE REVISED DRAFT MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2024 SPECIAL GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

(a) 2023 Year End Report on Policies, Procedures and Regulations

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec provided trustees with an overview of the report which summarized the policies, regulations and procedures that were changed, rescinded or developed over the course of 2023, noting that staff continue to prioritize the rescission of regulations in accordance with the March 2020 Board resolution to phase out regulations. The report also included a status update on the number of regulations that remain active.

There were no trustee questions.

(b) Bylaws – Public Question Period

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec and General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided trustees with an overview of the report which was prepared in response to a motion passed by the Governance and Policy Committee at its December 13, 2023 meeting which relates to trustees seeking clarification of questioners during public question period and the applicable Bylaw. Staff completed a jurisdictional scan of several similar sized school boards in Ontario, and noted that none have a public question period. Staff noted concern around the potential allowance of unstructured follow-up questions during public question period and presentations.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron suggested a motion to delete sections 5.13.13 to 5.13.16 of the Bylaws.

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT SECTIONS 5.13.13 TO 5.13.16 OF THE BYLAWS BE DELETED AND THAT IT BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Further discussion took place, and a second motion was moved, taking precedence over the original motion.

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo
SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE ABOVE FOREGOING MOTION BE DEFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

As part of the discussion there was some interest in learning about other Boards' processes around public participation in meetings through question period, deputations or other means.

(c) Draft Policy: Board Self-Assessment

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that it was prepared in response to initial discussion which took place at the February 5, 2024 Special Governance and Policy Committee meeting around the establishment of a process for the Board of Trustees to evaluate its own performance and set a framework for continued growth and improvement.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT POLICY BE ADOPTED, WITH THE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 5.2 (VI):

- PROGRESS ON THE GOALS AND PRIORITIES SET FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Rescission of Accessible Customer Service Policy and Regulation

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that it has been revised since its initial presentation at the December 13, 2023 meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee. The revised report includes information about additional consultations that took place with the Special Education Advisory Committee to consider rescission of the Accessible Customer Service Policy and Regulation and the move of relevant and applicable provisions into the new Accessibility Procedure that has been adopted as part of the Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

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 PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION AND THAT STAFF CONSULT WITH PARTNERS IN DEVELOPING AN ACCESSIBILITY POLICY.

Further discussion took place, and Trustee Deb Oldfield proposed that the original motion be divided into two separate parts.

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

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 PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT STAFF CONSULT WITH PARTNERS IN DEVELOPING AN ACCESSIBILITY POLICY AND REPORT BACK TO THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

**(b) Child Care, Early Years and After-School Recreation Programs:
Rescission of Regulations and Consolidation of Policies**

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that the recommendation to rescind three regulations and consolidate and revise three policies into a single consolidated policy is being made following in depth consultation guided by a working group that was established in 2021. The draft consolidated policy considered feedback from individual staff and a variety of child care, education and community partners.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT:

1. THE EARLY YEARS, CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL EARLY YEARS RECREATION PROGRAMS REGULATIONS BE RESCINDED;
2. THE EARLY YEARS, CHILD CARE AND AFTER-SCHOOL EARLY YEARS RECREATION PROGRAMS POLICIES BE CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE NEW COMPREHENSIVE POLICY AND THAT THE MATTERS BE REFERRED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

(c) Update and Recommendations: Human Rights Advisory Committee

Associate Director Jim Markovski introduced System Lead Jackie Williams-Leacock and Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur who provided trustees with an overview of the report which shared an update on actions taken to establish the Human Rights Advisory Committee and seeks the Committee's approval of the staff recommended selection criteria, recruitment strategy and number of committee members.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

Trustee Donna Edwards requested that the selection criteria for Committee members should include a candidate with experience advocating on behalf of people with disabilities and that AODA training be a requirement for all Committee members.

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE COMMITTEE SELECTION CRITERIA, RECRUITMENT STRATEGY AND NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS BE APPROVED, WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE FOLLOWING

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION UNDER RECOMMENDED RECRUITMENT STRATEGY:

- EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE WITH ACCESSIBILITY ADVOCACY.

CARRIED

(d) Update and Recommendations: Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

Associate Director Jim Markovski introduced System Lead Quincy James who provided trustees with an overview of the report which shared an update on actions taken to establish the Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee and seeks the Committee's approval of the staff recommended selection criteria, recruitment strategy and number of committee members.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE COMMITTEE SELECTION CRITERIA, RECRUITMENT STRATEGY AND NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS BE APPROVED, WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION UNDER RECOMMENDED RECRUITMENT STRATEGY:

- EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE WITH ACCESSIBILITY ADVOCACY

CARRIED

8. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.