

APPROVED Minutes – Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2024 7:00 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

Trustee Kelly Miller, Committee Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault (virtual), Donna Edwards, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare (virtual)

Regrets: Trustees Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Stephen Linton, Shailene Panylo, Jill Thompson, Student Trustee Neha Kasoju

Staff Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, Policy Analyst Ahmad Khawaja (virtual)

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Trustee Kelly Miller 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. Minutes

(a) Draft revised minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee meeting of March 27, 2024

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2024 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

(a) Bylaws – Public Question Period

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec provided trustees with an overview of the report which was prepared following trustee discussion of an initial report presented for information at the March 27, 2024 Committee meeting. The update report shared additional information on public participation in meetings at other school boards and current activities underway. Staff recommended that further investigation be undertaken to contemplate suggestions for the Committee to consider.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron proposed the following motion:

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.

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

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.

Trustee Deb Oldfield moved a motion to defer, which took precedence.

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE MOTION BE DEFERRED TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 2024.

CARRIED

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Motion: Amendment to Consolidated Bylaws

Trustee Carolyn Morton provided an overview of the proposed motion, noting that it is intended to bring greater clarity and ensure consistency at Board and Committee meetings by requiring all motions to have a mover and seconder to be debated and voted on.

Discussion took place.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE BYLAWS BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS AND THAT THE AMENDMENT BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Section 5.12.21: At Board and Committee meetings, a motion that has been moved and seconded is considered to be on the floor and will be decided by a vote.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron proposed the following motion:

THAT THE MOTION BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE MOTION BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

CARRIED

(b) Revised Naming of Schools Policy

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided an overview of the report, which proposes revisions to the Naming of Schools Policy following a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees in January 2024. Proposed revisions give the Board the ability to request the School Naming Committee propose additional names, provide clarity that a renaming process means a school will have a new name, and that if a request to rename a school does not meet the established criteria, the Director is no longer required to provide a formal report to the Board.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron proposed the following motion:

THAT SECTION 5.2 BE AMENDED BY ADDING “a Student Trustee” AFTER “fewer than two Trustees),”.

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT SECTION 5.2 BE AMENDED BY ADDING “a Student Trustee” AFTER “fewer than two Trustees),”.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ben Cameron proposed the following motion:

THAT SECTION 5.5 BE AMENDED TO READ: “The Board will only choose a name on the short-list of names recommended by the School Naming Committee, but may refer the matter back to the School Naming Committee for additional recommendations or a new short-list of recommendations.”

The proposed motion was not moved.

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT SECTION 5.3 BE AMENDED TO ADD: IF THE DIRECTOR IS NOT SATISFIED THAT THE REQUEST IS, OR IS LIKELY TO BE A CONCERN THAT ENGAGES ONE OR MORE OF THE RENAMING CRITERIA STIPULATED IN SECTION 5.4 OF THE POLICY, THEN THE DIRECTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A RECORD OF SUCH REQUESTS AND SHALL DELIVER A SUMMARY REPORT AT THE END OF THE YEAR OF ALL SUCH NAMES.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED NAMING OF SCHOOLS POLICY AS INCLUDED IN APPENDIX B AND AS AMENDED AT THIS MEETING AND THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

CARRIED

(c) Revised Director of Education Performance Review Policy

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided an overview of the report, noting that proposed revisions have been made in response to new legislation seeking to bring province-wide standardization to the Director of Education Performance Appraisal process.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

Seeing no opposition and as part of the discussion process, the Committee agreed to the following additional minor amendments:

“Review” changed to “Appraisal” throughout the document.

Section 4.1.4 revised to read: If the Committee is reduced to less than three members, then additional members shall be placed on the Committee at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Reference to “a 360- degree performance review questionnaire” be changed to reference a “questionnaire”.

Reference to “member” in dispute resolution sections revised to make it clear that the reference is to a panel member, not a Board member.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION POLICY AND THAT THE MATTER BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.