

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
September 3, 2019

The regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held this date in Room 1017, Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby:

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Donna Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Ashley Noble, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Sally Meseret, Arlene Wang, Tyler West

Regrets: Trustees Chris Braney, Carolyn Morton

Officials Present: Director Lisa Millar, Associate Director David Visser, Interim Associate Director Anne Marie Laginski, Superintendents Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Jamila Maliha, Jim Markovski, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Silvia Peterson, Communications Manager Peter Blake, Communications Officer Charles Senior

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

Trustee Darlene Forbes welcomed new Student Trustee Arlene Wang and new Superintendent of Education, Secondary Curriculum and Family of Schools, Stephen Nevills.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2019:15

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Report from Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Michael Barrett reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with appointments, administrative transfers and placements and personnel issues.

Interim Associate Director Anne Marie Laginski advised that the Principal and Vice Principal transfers will be communicated to the system through the Communications Department.

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) 100 Strong Academy

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced Eleanor McIntosh, Principal, Ajax H.S. who provided trustees with a PowerPoint update on the 2019 100 Strong Academy Summer Program, as the Board continues to implement the commitments outlined in the Compendium of Action for Black Students 2018-2021. She provided a program overview, highlighted why the program is effective, and who the program engaged. She also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Durham Integrated Arts Camp

Superintendent Stephen Nevills introduced Angela Davis, Curriculum Facilitator and Melissa Rabjohn, Teacher, Viola Desmond P.S. who provided trustees with PowerPoint information and highlights from the Durham Integrated Arts Camp 2019 (DIAC 2019). They showed trustees a video of two senior students who highlighted the benefits of attending DIAC. Senior students that attended DIAC performed the DIAC song for trustees. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Cheryl Wellwood, Special Education Facilitator and Renata Colantonio, Psychometrist who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation overview regarding current supports for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) supported through the DDSB Autism Resource Team in collaboration with Inclusive Student Services colleagues and school staff. They shared a video with trustees that highlighted the programs for students with

(d) Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Continued)

autism that are occurring within the DDSB. They also answered questions of trustees.

(e) Early Development Instrument (EDI)

Superintendent Jim Markovski introduced Stacey Lepine, Senior Manager of Early Years and Claire Morgan, Manager, Early Years who provided trustees with PowerPoint information on the Cycle 5 Early Development Instrument (EDI) data collected by Kindergarten teachers in 2017-2018. They showed trustees a video of what EDI is about, highlighted the five cycles of data collection, and what is done with the data collected. They also answered questions of trustees.

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Tyler West welcomed new Student Trustee Arlene Wang from Pickering H.S. He noted Grade 9 Day today and recognized the student leaders in Grades 10-12 that helped with Grade 9 Day. He introduced the new Student Voice Initiative resulting from the Student Voice Committee last year. Many students had ideas about positive change in schools, but didn't know where to go. The new student voice model poster was given to all trustees and outlines how student voice is channeled at the DDSB and the impact.

Student Trustee Arlene Wang advised that the Student Senate Leadership Symposium is scheduled to be held on September 20, 2019. The symposium will prepare student senators for the upcoming year. Senators are the crucial link to the school student body. The symposium will equip the senators in their role and further develop their skills.

Student Trustee Sally Meseret advised that OSTA has responded to the Ministry mandated courses. A survey was released to students in grades 8 – 12 regarding their experiences with eLearning. 6,000 student responses were received. An accompanying report will be released next week on the findings of the data, students' perspective on eLearning, and the impact on moving forward.

(b) Summer Learning Program

Superintendent Jim Markovski, on behalf of the senior team, provided trustees with an update on the Summer Learning Programs. Director Lisa Millar also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Special Education – Supporting Many Paths to Success

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with information about the DDSB special education document “Supporting Many Paths to Success” (revision of document previously titled, “Pathway to IPRC”).

(d) Igniting Accessibility

Superintendent Heather Mundy introduced Lisa Bianca, Senior Manager, Facilities Services and they provided trustees with information on the Durham District School Board Ignite Accessibility Communication Campaign.

(e) Ministry of Education – Secondary Class Size Announcement, August 22, 2019

Associate Director David Visser provided trustees with an analysis of the Ministry of Education announcement regarding secondary class sizes for the 2019-2020 budget year, that was received on Thursday, August 22, 2019.

(f) TDSB Dress Code

Trustee Ashley Noble commented on the Toronto District School Board article dated June 4, 2019 regarding student dress code. She advised trustees that it is time to modernize the DDSB dress code for 2019. She indicated that it is important for all students to be welcome in the Board, which includes allowing them to express themselves.

Director Lisa Millar advised trustees that Superintendent Georgette Davis currently has a committee to review student dress code, which was last reviewed in 2015, and it does include student voice. She noted that student dress code is included in school agenda books. School Community Councils also have input into student dress code per Ministry PPM. The committee will partner with Superintendent Heather Mundy to include SCCs in the discussion. Schools are required to review their dress code annually with their students.

(f) TDSB Dress Code

Student Trustee Tyler West advised that student dress code is the biggest issue brought to Senate by students because they do not like the dress code. In cooperation with the SCC at his school, the dress code was changed and students reacted positively. Students feel that they have greater ownership of the space and it helps students to feel the school is theirs.

It was suggested that student trustees should work with the committee in partnership with the schools through Student Senate.

(b) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that the Canadian School Boards' Association/OPSBA AGM was held from July 4-6, 2019. A variety of speakers presented including Dr. Gabor Mate, renowned addiction expert. Dr. Mate believes that the source of addiction is not to be found in genes but in the early childhood environment. He spoke about the importance of the development of childhood attachments. He has written several books and his presentation is available through the OPSBA website. Trustee Donna Edwards highlighted skills development and the skill revolution indicating that 84% of high school students will change careers by the time they are 25. A lot of company needs are for doers, crafters, facilitators, providers, and problem solvers. The soft skill development of students is failing. Technical skills can be applied from one job to another and teachers need to understand that the workforce is changing. Current jobs didn't exist when they went to school and she noted the mining profession. The OPSBA Executive core positions will remain the same following the elections with Cathy Abraham as Present, Michael Barrett as First Vice President, and Carol Ann Sloat as Second Vice President. The Regional Chair, Central East Region is Corrie McBain from York Region DSB. The OPSBA Central East Regional meeting is scheduled to be held on November 2, 2019 and Durham is hosting

9. Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports at this time.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

(a) Student Dress Code

Director Lisa Millar indicated that Superintendents Georgette Davis and Heather Mundy will take the lead working on student dress code. The current committee will be expanded to include student trustee representation. Superintendent Georgette Davis will reach out to the student trustees and Superintendent Heather Mundy will follow up with the SCCs for next steps to include more voice. The recommendations received will be reported back to the Standing Committee and will include intentional increased student voice.

12. Adjournment

2019:16

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Chair

Secretary