

Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
November 4, 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 7:10 p.m.

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

Officials Present: Director Lisa Millar, Superintendents Georgette Davis, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Jamila Maliha, Jim Markovski, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Silvia Peterson, Communications Manager Peter Blake, Communications Officer Kim Brathwaite

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2019:19

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

The agenda was amended to include Items 11. (a) TCDSB Statement – Gender Identity and Gender Expression and 11. (b) Safety Policy

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Leadership Implementation Update

Director Lisa Millar provided trustees with an update on the implementation of the Ignite Learning 2018-2020 Leadership Strategic priority designed to address succession planning challenges and to promote leadership development in the DDSB. She introduced Michelle MacDonald, Leadership Officer who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the initiatives that have been implemented to identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders and responsively support current leaders. She shared a recruitment video with trustees containing principal perspectives of why they wanted to be a leader in the DDSB.

(b) Compendium for Black Student Success

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided trustees with an update on the Compendium of Action for Black Students 2018-2021, a companion resource to the Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework. She introduced Jacqui Steer, Chrystal Bryan, Camille Alli, Facilitator, Equity Department, Michele Liverpool, teacher, Village Union P.S. and Keishia Facey, Principle Consultant for RFWC Consulting Services. The group provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the work accomplished and initiated by the Equity Department in response to the actions outlined in the Compendium.

(c) Youth Strategy/Youth Hub Update

Superintendent Jim Markovski introduced Lisa Rankin, Coordinator, Partnership Development, Events and Youth Strategy, Eleanor McIntosh, Principal, Ajax H.S. and J'Mone Manhertz, Youth Liaison Worker, who provided Trustees with a PowerPoint update on the DDSB Youth Strategy and Youth Hubs. This initiative was developed to provide valuable community-based resources and supports to help youth, in under-served communities, reach their full potential. Eleanor McIntosh shared testimonials regarding the important work that J'Mone Manhertz has done with the Ajax H.S. family of schools. They also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Trade Mission

Student trustee Sally Meseret provided trustees with an overview of the Global Vision Junior Team Canada Trade Mission to Southeast Asia in July 2019. She shared her journey and experiences with trustees and introduced Tessa Vandenbroek from Anderson C.V.I. and Dennalia Fray from O'Neill C.V.I. who stressed the importance of various opportunities for students to thrive. She noted that the mission focusses on commercial opportunities for Canadian enterprises in economic sectors with growth potential in the Southeast Asian marketplace and reports on the market intelligence gathered, opportunities identified and key contacts made. She commented on the emphasis on high quality teacher training to adequately support students, and that funding supports are heightened for students. There is collaboration alongside notable industries to develop curriculum. She noted the need to share the competencies needed for students to learn while being educated for a career. Younger students need to be aware of the opportunities for traveling and learning abroad. A video was shared with trustees highlighting the Trade Mission experience and she noted that opportunity is the key to educating students.

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Arlene Wang indicated that the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the evening focused on equity, student voice, and well-being initiative based action plans. The group worked with Steffanie Pelleboer, Mental Health Lead to discuss the implementation of the health resources and Superintendents Margaret Lazarus and Mo Hamid on the efforts to support student identity. A variety of student council structures were reviewed to identify weaknesses.

Student Trustee Tyler West advised that a discussion was facilitated regarding eLearning. OSTA-AECO introduced a report at the last meeting and senators expressed serious concerns with the information contained in the mandate as it relates to technology and WIFI access, learning styles, identified students in eLearning, lack of teacher to student participation, and a lack of understanding on what is happening with the eLearning mandate in community. Students are not in support of the requirement of four eLearning credits and would like to see it reversed.

(b) Student Trustee Report (Continued)

Student Trustee Sally Meseret commented on the recent OSTA fall general meeting. Preparing for the role of student trustee was a discussion topic, and addresses were given by Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education, on engaging students from across the Province regarding the direction of Education, and Norah Marsh, CEO of EQAO regarding the revisions to EQAO. There was an opportunity for students to learn more and grow more in their roles.

Trustee Donna Edwards indicated that she would like the students' comments to discuss them at the upcoming OPSBA Board of Director's meeting on November 25, as the group will be meeting with local MPPs.

(c) Art of Public Dialogue: Hosting Conversations on Race and Identity

Superintendent Jamila Maliha shared with trustees highlights of Art of Public Dialogue: Hosting Conversations on Race and Identity Training, Part 1.

(d) Optional Continuous Learning at Home

Superintendent Silvia Peterson provided trustees with information about learning at home on days when learning is interrupted; such as inclement weather and bus cancellations.

(e) C.E. Broughton P.S. Modified School Year Consultation Process, Town of Whitby

Superintendent Georgette Davis introduced Christine Nancekivell, Chief Facilities officer who provided trustees with information to commence a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation School Boundaries with regards to collapsing C.E. Broughton P.S.'s modified school year. They also answered questions of trustees.

(f) School Trip Supervision Requirement Review

Director Lisa Millar introduced Paul Brown, Operations Officer, who provided trustees with handout information as it relates to the school trip supervision requirement review. He also answered questions of trustees.

(f) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that the OPSBA Central East Regional meeting took place at the Education Centre this past Saturday. The group discussed legislative updates, labour, and ongoing issues amongst boards. The next Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled to be held on November 25. The day is an advocacy day where Boards are invited to meet with MPPs to talk about education issues across the Province.

9. Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports at this time.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

(a) Toronto Catholic DSB

Trustee Ashley Noble advised that the Toronto Catholic DSB is proposing that its updated code of conduct will not include protection for discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression. She noted that this is disappointing with all the equity work being done in the Board. She asked that the Board reaffirm its commitment as an ally to the LGBTQ community, and more specifically to transgender and gender non-conforming students and staff.

THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD RELEASE A PUBLIC STATEMENT REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT AS AN ALLY TO THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY, MORE SPECIFICALLY TO TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING STUDENTS AND STAFF.

(b) Safety Policy

Trustee Paul Crawford presented the following motion:

- (i) THAT WHETHER, OR NOT, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS CONFORMING TO POLICIES ON SAFETY AND THE HANDLING OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS WITHIN THE DDSB.

(c) Safety Policy (Continued)

- (ii) THAT WE NEED TO DETERMINE IF THE METHODS BEING USED TO CONTROL INCIDENTS ARE WITHIN POLICIES ON SAFETY, AND VIOLENT ACTS.
- (iii) THAT THE POLICY ON SAFETY IS THAT SAFETY IS PRIORITY ONE, OR THE HIGHEST PRIORITY AND THAT THE SAFETY OF ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF IS A BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITY AND THE RESPONSIBILITY ALSO RESTS WITH EVERYONE.
- (iv) THAT STAFF SHOULD PRODUCE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS DESCRIBING WHAT ACTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN WHEN AN INCIDENT OCCURS, AND WHEN IT OCCURS REPEATEDLY, AND WHEN THE SAME STUDENT(S) ARE PART OF THE REPEATED INCIDENTS.
- (v) THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEEDS TO DETERMINE THAT THE HANDLING OF THESE INCIDENTS IS BEING DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PRESENT POLICIES, OR DO THOSE POLICIES NEED TO BE AMENDED.

Trustees discussed the motion and it will be presented at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on November 18, 2019.

Director Lisa Millar confirmed that reports are received bi-annually in January and June and they outline current strategies, interventions, processes, and include an info graphic. The Incident Ad Hoc Steering Committee meets during the year and monitors information between the reporting periods.

Trustee Niki Lundquist asked that the next report include a flowchart of processes regarding intervention.

Trustee Paul Crawford requested that the report also include statistics on litigation, injuries, staff injuries, police involvement, suspensions and expulsions.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2019

12. Adjournment

2019:20

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist.

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

---

Chair

---

Secretary