

Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
January 6, 2020

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 7:00 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustee Paul Crawford

Officials Present: Director Lisa Millar, Associate Director Norah Marsh, 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

2020:01

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Community Presentations

(a) C.E. Broughton Modified Program

John Higo, Parent, C.E. Broughton P.S. provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Modified or Balanced Calendar Year at C.E. Broughton P.S. He highlighted review time, instruction time, mental health, academic achievement, and enrolment numbers. He provided trustees with alternative proposals whereby the modified program is offered as an option when parents are searching for a school, and that the modified calendar program be promoted on the website. Promotion can be done by engaging the community, using social media and building on the success of the French Immersion Program and offer a modified stream so that they may also benefit from the advantages of a balanced school year calendar. He requested that the modified program at C.E. Broughton P.S. not be collapsed. He also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Reuniting Once Again/A Candle to Remember

Colby Farrell, Student, Brock H.S. provided trustees with handout material regarding two initiatives he is involved with: Reuniting Once Again and A Candle to Remember. A Candle to Remember is an international non-profit initiative, founded in 2018, which places candles beside the tombstones in Canadian War Cemeteries across France. His is requesting support from the DDSB by sending informational sheets to schools with pledge forms to permit students to have the chance to contribute to the event at Vimy Ridge. Reuniting Once Again is an intergenerational association, offering youth and older adult's opportunities to come together. He is requesting support from the DDSB by forming a pilot project within the family of schools of north Durham. This would allow for the implementation of the intergenerational initiative in a controlled manner where data can be gathered. He also answered questions of trustees.

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Increasing Engagement with Stakeholders

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided trustees with information on the Ignite Learning Implementation Guide and Resources for School Community Councils. She introduced Jill Foster, Principal, William Dunbar P.S., Lynne Malandrino, Principal, Pierre Elliott Trudeau P.S., and their respective SCC Co-Chairs, who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their engagement with stakeholders and the parent engagement initiatives at their schools.

(b) Faces on the Data Case Conference

Superintendents Silvia Peterson provided trustees with an overview of the Faces on the Data system priority and its impact on student achievement. She introduced Linda Ford-Decunha, K-8 Literacy & Numeracy and Kandis Thompson, Curriculum 7-12 and eLearning, Jackie Leacock, Principal, Pine Ridge S.S. and Debbie Sansford, Principal, Uxbridge P.S. who provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting examples of how the Student Achievement and Curriculum, Early Years, Inclusive Student Services, Assessment and Accountability and Equity Departments are working collaboratively to support educators and school administrators in their implementation of Faces on the Data case conferences.

(c) Ignite Learning Implementation Mid-Year Operational Goals Update

Director Lisa Millar and the Senior Team provided trustees with a PowerPoint mid-year update regarding the Ignite Learning Annual Operating Goals and Implementation Plan. The core initiatives highlighted by the senior team demonstrated how they are working collectively within the system. Senior staff will continue to implement the major initiatives as well as assess the impact of the initiatives on student achievement, evolving equity initiatives, building leadership capacity and system improvement.

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Tyler West advised trustees that Student Senate discussed upcoming social media campaigns to help increase student engagement from across the DDSB with the student senate. They also worked on consulting with senators for several initiatives including dress codes in schools. The feedback from the dress code consultation will be shared with the board dress code committee.

(a) Student Trustee Report (Continued)

Student trustee Arlene Wang shared the current initiatives of the student senate working groups.

The Equity committee is working to release equity packages that promote the diversity of identity amongst Durham students and offer a student perspective into the importance of awareness.

The student voice committee is working on strategies to create more efficient and effective student councils by empowering student leaders across the DDSB with strategies and systems to help execute their roles.

The well-being committee is developing strategies to promote wellbeing resources in schools, and working alongside the board mental health lead to develop the DDSB's 2nd annual wellbeing conference with a focus on resilience building.

Student trustee Sally Meseret advised that OSTA-AECO has begun developing key areas of focus to include in the province's annual pre-budget submission which invites individuals and organizations within Ontario to provide recommendations for areas in which our government should invest the annual budget. The pre-budget submission is a fundamental tool utilized to root fundamental equity, special education, and diverse student needs in the core operating budget of our province.

Areas for which OSTA-AECO continue to recognize need sustained and additional investments include the Learning Opportunities Grant, the Special Education Grant, and the Rural and Northern Education fund.

The finances of any corporation, business, or community, outline their ultimate values and priorities. It is based on the underlying belief that the province's finances must reflect the fundamental needs of a student and that OSTA-AECO develops the pre-budget submission to provide a clear focus on the specific needs of students within the education system.

(b) School Based Rehabilitation Services Changes

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, Executive Director, Grandview Children's Centre who provided trustees with information about the transition and enhancement of School Based Rehabilitation Services in Durham Region. She also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Dealing With a Traumatic Event Resource

Superintendent Georgette Davis introduced Ken McNaughton, Safe Schools Officer who provided trustees with an overview of the resource Dealing with a Traumatic Event. They also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Maple Ridge P.S. Boundary Review, City of Pickering

Superintendent Jim Markovski introduced Carey Trombino, Manager of Property and Planning who provided trustees with information to commence a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation School Boundaries with regard to establishing Maple Ridge P.S. as a single-track French Immersion school and adjusting the regular track boundary for Vaughan Willard P.S., as identified in appendix 1.

(e) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that there was no OPSBA report at this time. She reminded trustees that the OPSBA symposium is scheduled to be held from January 23-25, 2020 and a list of workshops are available on the website.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of October 23, 2019 & November 20, 2019

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Committee meetings held on October 23, 2019 and November 20, 2019.

(b) Incident Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of November 30, 2019

The Incident Ad Hoc Committee report update was not presented at this time.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

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12. Adjournment

2020:02

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:07 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary