

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
March 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held this date in the Boardroom, 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: Acting Director Norah Marsh, Superintendents Georgette Davis, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Jamila Maliha, Jim Markovski, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Communications Manager Peter Blake, Communications Officer Kim Brathwaite

Regrets: Director Lisa Millar, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko, Superintendent Silvia Peterson, General Legal Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2020:05

MOVED by Trustee Ashley Noble

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Report from Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Christine Thatcher reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with administrative transfers and placements and personnel issues

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Durham Continuing Education (DCE)

Superintendent Stephen Nevills introduced Alex Toulis, Principal, Durham Continuing Education who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the varied programming offered by Durham Continuing Education (DCE) that meets the learning needs for a wide range of students. Information was provided on the number of students connected to each program during the 2018-2019 school year and, where applicable, the number of credits earned. He also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Leveraging Digital Update

Superintendent Jamila Maliha introduced David Rule, Chief Technology Officer, Tim Ralph, Innovative Education Officer and Warren Palmer, Principal, Brooklin H.S. who provided trustees with a PowerPoint update of the current state of the DDSB Leveraging Digital Initiative within the Innovation Strategic Priorities. They also answered questions of trustees.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) District-Wide FSL Programs Review

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided trustees with information to approve the scope of a District-Wide Review of all French as a Second Language (FSL) programs. She also answered questions of trustees.

(a) District-Wide FSL Programs Review (Continued)

2020:06

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE SCOPE OF THE DISTRICT WIDE
FSL PROGRAM REVIEW.

CARRIED

(b) Correspondence to Minister of Education

Chair Chris Braney presented trustees with draft correspondence to the Minister of Education regarding negotiations and eLearning. A discussion ensued.

2020:07

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
REFLECT THE FOLLOWING:

- THAT THE SLOW PROGRESS AT THE BARGAINING TABLE IS NOT ADEQUATE;
- THAT COMPULSORY ELEARNING COURSES CONTINUE TO RAISE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS;
- THAT LARGER CLASS SIZES RESULT IN REDUCED ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS;
- THAT FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT STUDENTS;
- THAT KINDERGARTEN CLASSES BE MAINTAINED WITH A TEACHER AND ECE; AND
- THAT INCREASED ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT WELL-BEING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF BE CONSIDERED.

CARRIED

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Sally Meseret provided trustees with an update about OSTA-AECO. She highlighted the equity of programs and achievement gaps for students with racialized backgrounds and advised that OSTA-AECO is embarking on developing the Barriers to Education Equity report that will address concerns relating to geography, special education and representation. The three phases to the report creation include: data collection, recommendations, and operationalizing key issues. The survey can be found at studentsurvey.ca. Students believe that the recommendations will pave a path forward for student advocacy and equity in education.

Student trustee Arlene Wang highlighted the recent OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference. The conference brought together student trustees to build on initiatives within their working committees and further develop their best practices. They heard from speakers such as Annie Kidder, co-founder for People for Education, and engaged in sessions on communications and advocacy. She also shared that the Equity Committee from Student Senate has created an equity package for the month of March, which will be distributed to all high school student governments in the DDSB. It covers student perspective on Bangladeshi Heritage Month, World Down Syndrome Day, as well as International Women's Day

Student trustee Tyler West provided trustees with an overview of the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the evening. Students discussed the Board policy on Service Animals in Schools, social media engagement, and how student voice can best be promoted online. He noted that the student voice, equity, and well-being working committee met during the Student Senate meeting. The regional committees of Uxbridge/Scugog/Brock, Pickering/Ajax, Oshawa and Whitby met to discuss geography specific initiatives and issues. The Uxbridge student senators thanked the guidance staff at Uxbridge S.S. for running a volunteer fair as it connected students with volunteer opportunities in the community.

The students also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation Report

Superintendent Jim Markovski provided trustees with information on the development of the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation.

(c) Student Help-Seeking Initiative: “You Matter: It’s OK to Ask for Help

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with the Student Help-Seeking Initiative: “You Matter: It’s OK to Ask for Help. This initiative is in response to the commitments outlined in the DDSB Well-Being and Mental Health Action Plan 2019-2020. She also answered questions of trustees. This item will be added to budget deliberations.

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards provided trustees with an overview of the OPSBA Board of Directors’ meeting held on February 21/22, 2020. She advised that the group discussed negotiations and copyright. A presentation was received from Toronto Medical Officer of Health Dr. Eileen de Villa regarding the coronavirus and she stressed the importance of handwashing and reminded people of the progress made since the SARS outbreak. A presentation was also received regarding teacher qualifications and the impact that the change to a two-year course at Teachers’ College may have on the diversity of applicants and equity for applicants. She also answered questions of trustees.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of February 20, 2020

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on February 20, 2020.

10. Correspondence

(a) Ministry of Education

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

11. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2020

12. Adjournment

2020:06

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:36 p.m.

Chair

Secretary