

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Board

August 10, 2020

A virtual Special Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Trustee Chris Braney, Chair of the Board

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Ashley Noble, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher

Regrets: Trustee Michael Barrett

Officials Present: Acting Director Norah Marsh, Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko, Superintendents Georgette Davis, Jamila Maliha, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Communications Officer Robert Cerjanec

Regrets: Superintendents Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2020:90

MOVED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Report from Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Niki Lundquist reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with administrative transfers and placements.

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2020:91

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Ashley Noble

THAT THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN-CAMERA BE
RECEIVED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Return to School Update

Acting Director Norah Marsh, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko, Acting Director Jim Markovski, Superintendents Andrea McAuley, Georgette Davis, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, and Communications Officer Robert Cerjanec provided trustees with a Return to School update highlighting the following:

- Timeline Overview
- Guiding Principles
- Health and Safety (Return to School Guide)
 - Ministry of Education Mask Policy
 - Daily Screening and Attendance
 - Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection
 - Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
 - Signage and Traffic Flow
 - Classroom Setup
 - Ventilation and Physical Infrastructure
 - COVID-19 procedure
- School Programming
 - Timetable Models
 - In-Person Learning
 - DDSB@Home
- Special Education
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- COVID-19 Protocols
 - Ministry Direction and Public Health
 - Health Room
- Ministry Funding (Health and Safety, Staffing and Programming)

Acting Director Norah Marsh acknowledged the cross section of staff members and all employee groups that have been dedicated to planning thus far, noting that there is still much to do to welcome students back. A commitment to the guiding principles and understanding the necessity to work with the individual needs of students is important for families as the district moves forward during these unusual times.

(a) Return to School Update (Continued)

2020:92

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

- (i) THE DDSB ADOPT THE PLAN AS PROVIDED IN RESPECT OF SECONDARY STUDENTS, WHICH PROVIDES FOR BOTH IN CLASS LEARNING AND VIRTUAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND SMALLER COHORTS, UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BOARD HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS “ADAPTIVE/BLENDED” BY THE PROVINCE AND CANNOT, AT THIS TIME, RETURN TO 5 DAYS OF IN CLASS LEARNING FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS. SHOULD THE DDSB SEEK TO IMPLEMENT ADAPTATIONS OF THE PLAN, WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE APPRISED OF ANY INTENDED CHANGES TO THE PLAN AND INFORMED OF WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE STUDENT AND STAFF SAFETY;
- (ii) THE DDSB ADOPT THE PLAN FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AND ADJUST ITS PLAN FOR STUDENTS ELECTING TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING BY:
 - a. ENSURING ALL CLASSES ALLOW FOR THE DISTANCING OF STUDENTS, AT A MINIMUM OF ONE METER AS RECOMMENDED IN THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR OTHER ASPECTS OF ITS REOPENING PLAN;
 - b. TAKING WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE A MINIMUM OF ONE METER SPACING FOR STUDENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REORGANIZING CLASSES, PROVIDING PORTABLES, EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR USING COMMON SPACES AS CLASSROOMS, REDEPLOYING OR HIRING ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL STAFF, AND TAKING ANY OTHER STEPS THAT ARE OPERATIONALLY NECESSARY TO GIVE EFFECT TO SUBSECTION (II) (A);
- (iii) THE DDSB AUTHORIZES THE BOARD TO USE RESERVE FUNDS, OF UP TO 1% OF THE BOARD’S 2020 BUDGET, TO FACILITATE THE ADOPTION OF MITIGATION MEASURES TO KEEP STUDENTS AND STAFF AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE;
- (iv) THE DDSB CREATE A PROGRAM THAT ENCOURAGES MASK USE FOR ALL STUDENTS (SUBJECT TO THE DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE);

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(a) Return to School Update (Continued)

- (v) THE DDSB IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE A STRONGLY WORDED LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION EXPRESSING ITS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE FAILURE TO USE SMALL CLASS SIZES AS A PRIORITY SAFETY STRATEGY AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE ALL FUNDING NECESSARY TO ALL SCHOOL BOARDS TO ENSURE THE FULL HIERARCHY OF SAFETY CONTROLS BE PUT IN PLACE AS SCHOOLS REOPEN, INCLUDING THE FUNDS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAFF TO CREATE SMALLER AND SAFER COHORTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR UPGRADES/IMPROVEMENTS TO VENTILATION IN DDSB SCHOOLS; AND
- (vi) THAT THE DDSB PUBLICLY RELEASE A COPY OF THAT LETTER, IN THE FORM OF A PRESS RELEASE.

MOTION POSTPONED LATER IN THE
MEETING (SEE FOLLOWING MOTION)

A discussion period ensued and Acting Director Norah Marsh and Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko responded to questions from trustees.

2020:93

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE FOREGOING MOTION (2020:92) OF TRUSTEES NIKI LUNDQUIST AND SCOTT TEMPLETON BE POSTPONED TO A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.

CARRIED LATER IN THE MEETING

A discussion period ensued and Acting Director Norah Marsh responded to questions from trustees.

The motion (2020:93) of Trustees Paul Crawford and Christine Thatcher was then put to a vote and CARRIED.

Acting Director Norah Marsh responded to questions of trustees regarding the Return to School Update.

(b) Durham Student Transportation Update

Kelly Mechoulam, CEO, Durham Student Transportation Services provided trustees with a PowerPoint update regarding COVID-19 Transportation for the 2020-2021 School Year and highlighted the following:

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(b) Durham Student Transportation Update (Continued)

- Routing Parameters
- Student Loading Capacity
- Special Education Classes and Transportation
- Transportation Survey to Parents/and Guardians
- Health and Safety, and PPE Requirements
- Health and Safety – Bus Poster
- Schools, School Buses and anticipated Traffic
- Driver Retention and Recruitment
- Transportation Re-Routing Work Plan

CEO Kelly Mechoulan, Acting Director Norah Marsh, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko and Superintendent Heather Mundy also answered questions of trustees.

5. Adjournment

2020:94

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONED by Trustee Ashley Noble

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary