

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
October 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held in the Boardroom.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes (virtual), Michael Barrett (virtual), Paul Crawford (virtual), Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes (virtual), Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Ashley Noble, Scott Templeton (virtual), Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Aaliyah Jaleel, Logan Keeler, Arpita Savaliya

Regrets: Trustee Chris Braney

Officials Present: Acting Director Norah Marsh, Associate Director David Wright, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko, Superintendents Gary Crossdale Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Jack Nigro, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Communications Staff Robert Cerjanec

Regrets: Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2020:21

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

Acting Director Norah Marsh introduced David Wright, new Associate Director, Corporate, and welcomed him to the Board.

Acting Director Norah Marsh acknowledged the departure of Superintendent Jamila Maliha as there was not an opportunity to do so at a Board meeting earlier. Unfortunately, Jamila was unable to join the meeting virtually, but her token of appreciation will be mailed to her.

4. Statement

Chair Niki Lundquist advised the following:

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to make a statement to clarify any misconceptions arising from an article posted on September 21, 2020 on the news site: Durhamregion.com.

The Board’s termination of the prior Integrity Commissioner did not stop or obstruct any active investigations that she may have had underway. Any investigations that she was handling remain active and the complete file materials have been transferred to the Board’s Interim Integrity Commissioner, Jan Parnega, in accordance with the provisions of the board’s Code of Conduct.

The board of Trustees remains committed to holding each other to the highest standard of ethical conduct under the Code of Conduct.”

5. Departing Senior Team Members

Chair Niki Lundquist and Acting Director Norah Marsh presented Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko with a token of appreciation to acknowledge her contribution to the district during a particularly tumultuous year. Staff and students benefited through her stewardship and it was a privilege to work with her.

Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko thanked trustees, the senior team and her colleagues for their support.

The group participated in a photo opportunity.

6. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

7. DDSB Presentations

(a) DDSB@Home Update

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with an update regarding DDSB@Home virtual school planning. She introduced Danielle Denike, Elementary Principal, DDSB@Home, Paul Reid, Elementary Vice Principal, DDSB@Home, Tim Ralph, Administrative Officer, and Chris Conley, Research and Assessment Manager who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the teaching and learning that has taken place in the last 20 days of DDSB@Home. They noted the focus on fostering partnerships, communication, communities, feedback from students, staff and families, well-being, RealTime/FlexTime learning, professional development needs and hardware needs. Superintendent Georgette Davis highlighted next steps, the need to address technical challenges, and working collaboratively with interdepartmental leadership teams. Acting Director Norah Marsh, Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko and Superintendent Georgette Davis answered questions of trustees.

8. Recommended Actions

(a) Community Consultation on the Development of a Human Rights Policy

Human Rights & Equity Advisor Devika Mathur provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation to seek approval to proceed with community consultations on the development of a proposed Human Rights policy. She highlighted the proposed framework for the development of a Human Rights policy, legislative framework, considerations, key elements, organizational commitment rationale, objectives/purpose, proposed policy principles, and a summary of key consultations. Acting Director Norah Marsh and Human Rights & Equity Advisor Devika Mathur answered questions of trustees.

2020:22

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE BOARD PROCEED WITH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

CARRIED

9. Information Item

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Logan Keeler advised that throughout this past month, the Student Trustees developed the overall structure of this year's Student Senate based on elements of the 2017-2021 DDSB Strategic Plan while also hosting the first ever virtual student senate symposium. The student senate, composed of 2-3 representatives from each DDSB secondary school, will be meeting on the third Monday of every month. The Student Trustees decided that they will continue focusing on Student Voice, Wellbeing, and Equity as the three working groups to ensure that they are engaging all aspects of the school experience.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya advised that on October 1, Student Trustees hosted the annual student senate symposium through google meets. There were 29 participants who engaged in a series of sessions including team bonding activities, working group brainstorming sessions, and regional breakout calls. Word clouds were used to collect senators' perception of student voice through which many respondents stated "powerful" and "important", and Google Jamboards were used for collaborative discussions about the working groups. In the regional breakouts students discussed how they are feeling about the return to school and the leadership initiatives that are currently in the works.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel advised that based on the feedback forms, the event was well-received, and students felt that communicating in smaller groups allowed their voices to be genuinely heard in a safe and comfortable environment. Student Trustees followed up with the proposal of interacting more frequently as a team. Understanding that optimism was the character trait of September, Student Trustees wanted to recognize all DDSB Schools, staff, and students for adapting to this new academic year with open minds and continuous enthusiasm.

(b) Update on Summer School 2020

Superintendent Stephen Nevills provided trustees with an update on enrolment and completion rates for Summer School 2020. He also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Parent Involvement Committee Report – 2020 - 2021

Superintendent Heather Mundy presented the membership for the DDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) 2020-2021 for trustee information. She also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Revised Student Device Plan

Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko provided trustees with an update on student and staff device stock levels and the new student device model with updated figures. She introduced David Rule, Chief Technology Officer, who highlighted the components of the plan including device deployment statistics, damage rates and the transition plan. Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko and Chief Technology Officer David Rule responded to questions from trustees.

(e) Attendance – Committee Meetings

This item was withdrawn.

(f) Update on Virtual Board Meetings

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided trustees with an update regarding virtual meeting attendance. The emergency order regarding meeting attendance ended on September 1, 2020, therefore regular meeting attendance rules now apply. Pursuant to the Education Act, a member must attend three consecutive regular board meetings and attendance can be electronic and in-person. There is no provision in legislation for a member to be absent. The Human Rights Code contains the duty to accommodate if a member cannot attend three consecutive regular meetings.

(g) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised trustees the following elections were confirmed at the OPSBA Annual General Meeting held virtually on September 26, 2020:

- Cathy Abraham, President
- Michael Barrett, First Vice President
- Kathleen Woodcock, Second Vice President
- Patrice Barnes, representative, Central East Region, Education Program Committee

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that she was successful in running for Regional Chair for the Central East Region and that her previous position of Voting Board of Director member will need to be filled until the organizational meeting scheduled to be held on December 7, 2020.

(g) OPSBA Report (Continued)

2020:23

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT TRUSTEE PATRICE BARNES BE APPOINTED AS THE ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION'S VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE DDSB FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM.

CARRIED

2020:24

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON BE APPOINTED AS THE ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION'S NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE DDSB UNTIL THE END OF THE TERM.

CARRIED

10. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports at this time.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

12. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

13. Adjournment

2020:25

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:41 p.m.

Chair

Secretary