

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, October 19, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date in the Boardroom.

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

Officials Present: Acting Director Norah Marsh, Associate Director David Wright, Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski, Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Jack Nigro, Legal Counsel Patrick Cotter, Communications Officer Robert Cerjenac

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence/Acknowledgement

Chair Chris Braney advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation.

4. O Canada

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5. Adoption of Agenda

2020:129

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards  
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2020:130

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher  
SECONDED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JULY 8, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JULY 15, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2020;

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020;

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2020.

CARRIED

6. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

7. Ministry Memorandums – Information

Acting Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with an overview of recent Ministry Memoranda. She noted that the Ministry of Education provided an update regarding secondary assessment, evaluation and reporting for 2020-2021, allowing school boards to determine if secondary schools will participate in a final summative task. The district previously indicated to the Ministry that our direction to educators is to not plan a final summative assessment task given that courses are accelerated and the negative impact they could have on student well-being. Term work only will determine final grades.

On October 5, 2020 the COVID-19 Funding: High Priority Areas memo was received announcing the details of the federal funding to support four high priority areas identified as Ottawa, Peel, Toronto and York to enhance school reopening plans of the twelve school boards in these identified areas. Durham will not be receiving the extra federal funding from this round.

The Update on Teacher Hiring Practices memorandum was received on October 16, 2020 advising that as of October 29, 2020, Ontario Regulation 274/12 (Hiring Practices) will be revoked. Along with the revocation of O.Reg 274/12, the Ministry of Education is issuing an interim provincial teacher hiring policy, which will be in effect until school boards have adopted their own teacher hiring policies. The Ministry will consult on the draft PPM between now and November 2020. To date, details of the consultation have not been received, but will be shared with trustees as soon as they are available. The new PPM will be released in November and school boards are expected to have their own hiring policies that meet the expectations in the PPM no later than December 31, 2020.

8. Public Question Period

Acting Director Norah Marsh advised that one public question was received regarding an update on the Explorica Educational Tours and Student Travel trip cancellations due to the pandemic. She noted that families purchased travel insurance through two Explorica insurance providers who are responsible for reimbursing families.

General Counsel Patrick Cotter confirmed that families obtained trip cancellation insurance through Arch Insurance Canada Ltd. and Cooperators Life Insurance Company. Families have not received responses to their refund questions. Approximately 300 families are affected with an average of \$4,000/family in outstanding refunds. The district has no direct standing as the insurance is with the families. Andrew Evangelista, Evangelista Barristers & Solicitors has been retained to attempt to facilitate payment to families. He will coordinate efforts with other boards to combine resources for a coordinated position with insurers.

General Counsel Patrick Cotter noted that a dedicated email account has been established to collate email messages and communicate to families. Responses will be provided to the common issues raised. The email account is: [tripcancellations@ddsb.ca](mailto:tripcancellations@ddsb.ca).

9. Presentations

(a) Educational Services Staff Award 2020

At the June 2013 Board meeting, the Board approved the establishment of an annual Educational Services Staff Award. The award is to recognize a staff member/team affiliated with CUPE, consisting of office-clerical-technical staff, custodial and maintenance staff, and Educational Assistants. These staff support the safe operation of schools, keep schools clean and systems operating, and provide program support to teachers and students. The award provides the Board with the opportunity to recognize an educational services staff member who has made an exceptional contribution to the support of students, schools or the growth of others in the Board.

The winner receives an award and \$500 to be allocated by the winner in a manner related to his/her project/program or initiative.

A Committee consisting of the Vice Chair of the Board, Niki Lundquist, Trustee Christine Thatcher, Rod King, President of CUPE Local 218, and Kathryn Gooding, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed nominations and have selected Mike Carter, Chief Custodian at Carruther's Creek PS as the recipient for 2020. Mike Carter was nominated by numerous teachers, parents, administrators and retired administrators of Carruther's Creek P.S.

Mike Carter has been at Carruther's Creek PS since 2014. He has been described as a kind, caring, compassionate, dedicated and reliable staff member, who leads many programs with teachers such as the recycling club, Terry Fox Run, and the "boys on bikes" club during his lunch hour to teach bike safety to the youngest students. He greets each and every student and staff member he crosses paths with each day by name. From always being available to help staff when they need it, to being available within minutes of a phone call, he truly cares about the school.

Mike Carter will do whatever it takes to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the school and exemplifies positive leadership with his custodial team. Along with being a consummate professional, his dedication to the school extends well beyond his job description. He takes immense pride in the Carruther's Creek community and student body and has been described as much more than the custodian at a school; he is a mentor, teacher, friend and a pillar of the Carruthers' Creek community.

As an individual who demonstrated dedication, Mike Carter is a most deserving recipient of the Educational Services Staff Award.

Acting Director Norah Marsh advised that the award and cheque will be forwarded to Mike Carter by mail.

Mike Carter attended the meeting virtually and stated that he was flattered, overwhelmed and thrilled to receive the award and hopes the cash award will be put to good use where it is needed.

(b) Operational Plan 2020-2021: Activating Ignite Learning Strategic Plan

Acting Director Norah Marsh and Senior Staff provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Ignite Learning Strategic Priorities and Operational Goals Action Plan to support the implementation of the Ignite Learning strategic priorities. Trustees spoke in support of the plan and Superintendents Mohamed Hamid and Andrea McAuley also answered questions of trustees.

10. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Niki Lundquist reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with employee relations issues and property matters.

2020:131

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

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

CARRIED

12. Good News from the System

Grade 12 students Trinity and Nolan, from Anderson CVI., on behalf of the students and staff at the DDSB, shared the good news from across the system via video.

DDSB administrators participated in the annual Safety Week event on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. They discussed mental health and COVID-19 safety protocols. Students and staff at Glen Dhu Public School also had a successful fire drill, while physical-distancing of course.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, schools across the board celebrated the French language and the contributions of the French speaking community to the strength and culture of our beautiful province by raising a flag acknowledging Franco-Ontario Day.

By wearing orange shirts on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and continuing conversations throughout the year, students and staff across the system commemorated and honoured residential school survivors. As a community, we must listen, learn and act on our commitment to reconciliation.

We were very excited to celebrate National Custodial Workers' Day this year. Now more than ever, we understand how important our amazing custodial and facilities services workers are. Thanks to them, high touchpoints in schools are cleaned multiple times a day to help keep us safe.

12. Good News from the System (Continued)

October is known as LGBTQ plus History Month, as well as Islamic Heritage Month. In this month of recognition, we are reflecting, learning and celebrating LGBTQ plus history and Islamic heritage by continuing conversations in classrooms and hosting fun and interactive virtual community engagement events.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, students, staff along with parents and guardians celebrated World Teachers Day acknowledging the tireless work our teachers do to ensure that we are successful and matter.

We would also like to recognize that one of our teachers, Mr. James Cook from Brooklin High School recently won the 2020 Prime Minister's Award for teaching excellence. Mr. Cook inspires at-risk teens and keen students alike to not only learn about the world, but also to advocate for change.

Donning masks and keeping their distance, students and staff in schools and at the Education Centre hosted Terry Fox Run events. These events helped to raise awareness and support the fight against cancer. Since 1981, DDSB schools have raised over 4.5 million dollars to the Terry Fox Foundation.

The Dates of Significance to the end of November 2020 are below.

October	Islamic Heritage Month Hispanic Heritage Month Women's History Month LGBTQ+ History Month Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
Oct. 22	Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day
Oct. 13-23	October Break – Modified Elementary Schools
Oct. 23-26	Durga Puja
Oct. 25	Dussehra
Oct. 27	Ontario Dress Purple Day
Oct. 29	Eid-Milad-un-Nabi Islam
Oct. 31	Samhain
Oct. 31	Halloween
November	Albanian Heritage Month Hindu Heritage Month
Nov. 1	All Saints' Day
Nov. 2-6	Treaties Recognition Week
Nov. 2	Standing Committee Meeting
Nov. 7	Inuit Day
Nov. 8	Indigenous Veterans Day
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day

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12. Good News from the System (Continued)

Nov. 14 Diwali  
Nov. 15 – 18 Bullying Prevention Week  
Nov. 16 Board Meeting  
Nov. 19 SEAC Meeting  
Nov. 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women  
Nov. 28 Holodomor Memorial Day  
Nov. 30 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji  
Nov. 24 Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

13. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020

Trustee Niki Lundquist presented the Standing Committee meeting minutes of October 5, 2020.

2020:132  
MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards  
SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

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

CARRIED

2020:133  
MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards  
SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

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

2020:134  
MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton  
SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

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

CARRIED

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(b) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020 (Continued)

2020:135

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist  
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2020  
BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(c) Report: SEAC Meeting of July 7, 2020

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC meeting minutes of July 7, 2020.

2020:136

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards  
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE SEAC MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2020 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) C.E. Broughton Public School Modified Calendar Enrolment Update

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with an update on the enrolment statistics for September 2020's enrolment, highlighting the efforts to increase enrolment and the effect of those efforts.

(b) Unnamed North Ajax French Immersion Public School Boundary Consultation Process, Town of Ajax

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid 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 regards to establishing boundaries for Unnamed North Ajax French Immersion Public School, located at 270 Williamson Drive West, Town of Ajax. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Unnamed North Whitby Public School Boundary Consultation Process, Town of Whitby

Superintendent Georgette Davis introduced Carey Trombino, Manager of Planning who provided trustees with information to commence a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation School Boundaries with regards to establishing boundaries for Unnamed North Whitby Public School at 51 Lazio Street in Whitby. They also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Staffing and Enrolment 2020-2021

Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with an overview of elementary and secondary enrolment and staffing. Acting Director Norah Marsh, Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski and Superintendent Jack Nigro answered questions of trustees.

Trustee Patrice Barnes requested that the official enrolment projections be broken down by school and grade for virtual learning and provided to trustees for their information. Acting Director Norah Marsh advised that the information can be obtained through a manual process and would be available in December.

14. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested

(i) Township of Scugog

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

(b) Other

15. Other Business

There was no Other Business at this time.

16. Adjournment

2020:137

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary