

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
November 2, 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 7:15 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustee Niki Lundquist

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, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Communications Staff Robert Cerjanec

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. 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. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2020:26

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Compendium for Black Student Success

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced Merrill Mathews, Race Relations Officer, Steve Graffi, Chief of Psychological Services, Camille Alli, Equity Facilitator, Chris Anderson, Innovation Facilitator, and Jacqui Steer who provided trustees with an update on the Compendium of Action for Black Student Success 2018-2021, a companion resource to the Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework.

The group provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted professional learning, shared and committed leadership, policies, programs guidelines and practices, school community relationships, school climate and the prevention of discrimination and harassment practices, inclusive curriculum and assessment practices, and accountability and transparency. Chris Anderson and Steve Graffi provided an overview of their participation in the anti-black racism training and how the training impacts their work and student achievement.

(b) Make a Difference

Acting Superintendent Erin Elmhurst introduced Stacey Lepine-Fisher, Senior Manager, Poverty Strategy and Jacquie Protomanni, Interim Manager, Early Years who provided trustees with a PowerPoint update on the “Make a Difference (M.A.D.) – Poverty Strategy” Make a Difference Depot. They provided trustees with background information regarding the launch of the strategy and an overview of the Starfish Store, The Re:Source Program and the Nutrition Station. Voices of the Community were highlighted by video. Mark Strong, Toronto Raptors

(b) Make a Difference (Continued)

ambassador to Penny Appeal Canada and affiliated with Make a Difference, a parent and two children, and Mia and Melody, an educator team from DDSB@Home spoke about the benefits of the depot and how it has impacted them.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Filling the Trustee Vacancy on the Durham District School Board

Acting Director Norah Marsh and General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided trustees with information relating to a trustee vacancy, the options available to fill the trustee vacancy and the process. They also answered questions of trustees.

2020:27

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE BOARD ESTABLISH AN APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE WITH THE AUTHORITY VESTED UNDER BY-LAW 8 TO MAKE A DECISION.

CARRIED

(b) Strategic Planning Process

Acting Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with information to seek direction regarding addressing the strategic planning process.

2020:28

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE BOARD EXTEND THE IGNITE LEARNING STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF TWO-YEARS UNTIL JUNE 2023.

CARRIED

(c) Federal Funding Allocation by the Province

Trustee Christine Thatcher stated that on August 26, 2020 the ministry announced details of the first phase of federal funding to the province designed to ensure the safe return to school and protect the health of students and staff and was specifically for adapting learning spaces, improving ventilation, increased hand

(c) Federal Funding Allocation by the Province (Continued)

sanitization and hygiene, and the purchase of PPE and cleaning supplies. Up to \$2B was provided across the country to all provinces through the safe return to class fund of which Ontario's maximum total allocation was just over \$760M the first phase of which was \$381M. The Minister of Education announced at that time that \$50M was to be held back to address future pandemic education needs. On October 5, 2020, a follow up announcement highlighted that \$35M was to go to four areas identified as priority areas ie. Toronto, Peel, York and Ottawa for the 12 school boards that operate in these areas. Earlier this year it was announced by Interim Associate Director Carla Kisko that no school has adequate budget for PPE and unpredictable expenses. Each time we meet, we talk about additional expenses we have as school boards. All school boards face the same challenges and should be funded equitably. She questioned if the distribution of the \$35M is equitable and if the Board should advocate to the Minister of Education on behalf of the needs of our students, staff and school board.

Associate Director David Wright advised that the four areas are experiencing higher levels of Covid than the remainder of the province. It is now clear that the province will fund the purchase of PPE for boards and the bulk of the burden has been removed. The district has received \$7M in federal funds and an additional \$380M is being allocated in Ontario. The minister of education has indicated how the funds will be distributed. Supports above and beyond what the board would be expected to provide are not reconciled on how they will be funded in supporting access to technology to students. It is challenging from a supply and fiscal standpoint. This has not been fully funded. Durham elected to use reserve funds of up to \$8.1M and there is room for advocacy to the province to enhance the fund to fully fund the school year. Acting Director Norah Marsh and Associate Director David Wright answered questions of trustees.

2020:29

MOVED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

THAT THE BOARD DIRECT STAFF TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REQUESTING THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BE ALLOCATED A PROPORTIONAL ALLOTMENT OF FUNDING THAT AROSE FROM THE \$50M OF THE FEDERAL FUNDS TO ADEQUATELY BACKSTOP COVID RELATED EXPENSES.

CARRIED

(d) Notice of Motion: Election Process – OPSBA Board of Directors

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the following Notice of Motion:

THAT THE OPSBA NON-VOTING DIRECTOR BECOME THE VOTING DIRECTOR IN THE ABSENCE OF THE VOTING DIRECTOR; AND

THAT THE ALTERNATE OPSBA DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED AT LARGE AND ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY ELECTED AS VOTING DIRECTOR ALTERNATE AND NON-VOTING DIRECTOR ALTERNATE.

8. Information Item

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel advised that two weeks ago, student trustees hosted the first student senate meeting of the year, and the turnout was unbelievable. They organized breakout sessions to delve into each of the working groups and discuss initiatives they intend on running throughout the year. Later breaking out into regional discussions, they also gave senators the floor to discuss the highs and lows experienced at their respective schools. At the upcoming senate meeting, they will be hosting elections to offer students various positions. In doing so, they are promoting heightened leadership and giving senators the opportunity to generate their own channels of change. They look forward to progressing alongside these leaders in and out of the senate meetings to come.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya advised that from October 22nd to 25th, the three student trustees along with many of the student trustees across Ontario got to engage in OSTA-AECO's Fall General Meeting. As OSTA-AECO's professional development coordinator, she was responsible for the overall organization of the conference which included connecting with the guest speakers, maintaining the technology of the live events, and guiding attendees through the activities planned. The key takeaway from the backend of the conference was the quality of engagement that can be accomplished in spite of the challenges presented in the virtual format. As Durham Student Trustees they can use these technical skills to further improve virtual senate meetings and work towards community outreach goals for the term.

(a) Student Trustee Report (Continued)

Student Trustee Logan Keeler advised that at the conference, they had the chance to hear from many different speakers such as Ontario's Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Deputy Minister of Education Nancy Naylor, and digital marketing expert Kareem Perez. There were also two former DDSB student trustees, Tyler West and Risann Wright, featured as the conference alumni speakers. They also received professional development through sessions, where they improved media literacy and boardroom etiquette. Today was also the first day of two of the (Ontario Student Leadership Conference), conference that they, along with the student senators, are attending as a way to improve leadership skills. He noted the teamwork that J. Clarke Richardson exhibited through their submission for the OSLC Film Festival that reached the top 6.

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

Associate Director David Wright introduced Christine Nancekivell, Chief Facilities officer who provided trustees with an update on the timelines required for the public consultation process in accordance with Regulation School Boundaries with regards to establishing boundaries for Unnamed North Ajax French Immersion PS, located at 270 Williamson Drive West. Acting Director Norah Marsh also provided trustees with information regarding the French consultation.

(c) Explorica Update

Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with an update regarding the Explorica trip cancellation refund requests. He noted that external legal counsel has been retained and it has been determined that the most effective strategy to address this situation is to bring an application to court for a declaration of insurance coverage. A letter has been forwarded to families seeking one volunteer family/trip to be randomly selected as a test family to provide the district with assignments. This will provide the district with legal standing to act on their behalf. These actions, if successful, would serve as precedents and all families with the same coverage for each trip would benefit by the decision. If the insurers refuse to honour a positive test case ruling, the district would then be prepared to explore further legal action as necessary. Unrelated to the board, a proposed class proceeding has been filed. It is important to note that there is no class proceeding until a court has certified a class proceeding. Until that time it remains a proposed class action. It is anticipated that the proposed application will

(c) Explorica Update (Continued)

be adjudicated prior to the certification of any class proceeding. The district's strategy does not preclude families from participating in any class proceeding. Further updates will be provided to the impacted families as they become available.

(d) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised trustees that the Central East Regional meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on October 31, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The meeting will address the election of the vice chair for the region and discuss legislative issues, start-up issues, and Covid related issues.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting of October 21, 2020

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee meeting held on October 21, 2020.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

12. Adjournment

2020:30

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2020

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary