

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
January 4, 2021

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

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustee Niki Lundquist

Officials Present: 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: Kathy Fitzpatrick

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 Approve the Agenda

2021:01

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

(a) Brooklin High School – Menstrual Products

Trustee Christine Thatcher introduced the presenters from Brooklin High School, students Brianna Robson and Krissa Silva and teacher, James Cook. The group shared with trustees a PowerPoint presentation and information on an initiative that provides free menstrual products in secondary schools. The following areas were highlighted, period poverty, absenteeism from school, mental health issues, the financial implication to the board and available resources. The students provided a recommendation to the Board that all menstrual products should be free to secondary students at the Durham District School Board. The students answered trustee questions. The Board of Trustees asked staff to bring back a report.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Leaders Learn: Professional Learning Series for Aspiring Superintendents

Superintendent Georgette Davis provided trustees with a PowerPoint and shared the proposed details for the professional learning series for aspiring superintendents. This leadership program is an opportunity to provide a responsive and job-embedded professional development series for aspiring principals to support their leadership capacity. The program also supplements the existing learning opportunities that is provided for vice-principal who aspire to be principals. The learning reflects our commitment to Human Rights, Equity, Leadership, Indigenous Education, Innovation and Well-being. Year one is about learning and process and in year two, participants will be mentors to year one participants. The goal of the program is to develop future system leaders and to gather feedback from participants to inform future planning. Superintendent Georgette Davis answered questions from trustees.

(b) Draft FSL Review

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided the Board of Trustees with an overview of the draft French as a Second Language (FSL) Review for information. The draft is being presented to allow trustees and the public time to review and provide feedback prior to making a decision about FSL programming within the District. Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced French Facilitator, Danielle Hunter, Education Officer David Fitchett who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Ministry requirements for FSL, the consultation process and program options. Superintendent Margaret Lazarus answered questions from trustees. This item is to be presented at the Board Meeting on January 18th, 2021. Any additional questions or comments should be sent to Director Norah Marsh or Superintendent Margaret Lazarus.

Recommendation:

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

8. Information Item

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Logan Keeler shared that during the December 14, 2020 Student Senate meeting Ms. Campbell from the Canadian Student Leadership Association (CSLA) gave a presentation. CSLA is providing students with a 4-level certification program. All DDSB Students can receive this program at member pricing. The Western Region of the DDSB held its first ever rivalry week. During the rivalry week the Western schools competed in spirit activities. Congratulations to J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate for winning. The new year has brought some changes to students' academic culture and students are appreciative of the DDSB's response. Some concerns are the lack of resources which impact student success.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that as trustees, we are doing our best to guide students towards the correct staff for technological resources. Students have voiced concerns around food security. There are students in certain schools across the board who are dependent on the food services provided by staff and are now worried about the lack of resources. Students would appreciate it if they had assistance around resources that would support their needs. All support being provided is recognized and students are grateful. As student

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trustees, we hope to encourage and strengthen the communication between students and the Board, allowing all accessible resources to be used effectively. Once again, we would like to thank the staff, the school board, and students for pivoting so quickly.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel shared that December's character trait of the month was integrity, we would like to shout out to our DDSB schools for their continuous efforts to connect with their students and raise spirits, even when those efforts go unseen. Collections continued for various charitable drives, and the holiday spirit week became prominent in the days before the Winter Break, inviting a little extra cheer before the holidays as is looked very different for families this year. A special shoutout to Oshawa and Whitby schools for showing their gratitude by writing letters to seniors and frontline workers in their community and generating some extra positivity. Another shoutout goes to Dunbarton High School for beginning an elementary engagement program with their feeder schools to introduce younger students to leadership. Responsibility is the character trait for January, we are optimistic that staff and students of DDSB will take responsibility in their actions keeping themselves and those around them safe by respecting the newly introduced lockdown restrictions.

(b) Life Beyond High School Transition Support

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided information to trustees about a recently launched online resource for families: DDSB Life Beyond High School Transition Support. This initiative supports transitions and pathway planning for students with special education needs; specifically, those with Developmental and/or Intellectual Disabilities. The program provides ongoing, regular communication through a variety of virtual tools and platforms and builds opportunities for two-way communication with various committees and community partners. Superintendent Andrea McAuley answered questions from trustees.

(c) Trustee Attendance Records

Chair Carolyn Morton presented the attendance records for information.

(d) OPSBA Report

No items to report at this time.

(e) Positive School Climate/Well Being Report

Gary Crossdale provided information related to Positive School Climate and the data that supports the initiative. As a result, the equity focused proactive work, the Safe Schools Department has been rebranded to the Positive School Climate Department. The work is reflective of the integrative work across school teams. The Positive School Climate is prevention focused providing mentally healthy classrooms, schools and workplaces with a shared approach to support trauma informed practices. Educational research shows that a positive school climate improves student outcomes. The department is working closely with Human Rights, Equity and Indigenous Education and the Mental Health Department.

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided an overview related to Well-being and Mental Health and how schools are working to create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces for all students and staff as well as providing mental health services to meet the individual needs of students. She provided a summary of the three-year strategy which will build capacity and system implementation with respect to trauma informed practices which is working towards healing centered approaches, supports and learning environments. The DDSB has a strong commitment to enhance the mental health of students. Contained within the report were a number of data sets which were discussed. Superintendent Andrea McAuley and Gary Crossdale answered questions from trustees.

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 November 18, 2020. The draft Human Rights Framework and Student Census data was reviewed at this meeting. The next meeting will take place on January 20, 2021.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

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12. Adjournment

2021:02

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Chair

Secretary