

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
February 1, 2021**

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

1. Call to Order:

Chair Christine Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustee Darlene Forbes

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. Motion to Approve the Agenda

Chair Thatcher sought approval of the draft Agenda.

Trustee Michael Barrett made a Point of Order with regards to item 8. (b), Rescinding Board Motion.

Chair Thatcher made a ruling on the Point of Order that item 8. (b), Rescinding Board Motion is out of order and struck the item off the draft agenda.

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2021:SC03
MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton
Seconded by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE AGENDA, AS SET OUT IN THE REVISED DRAFT AGENDA, BE
APPROVED

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. Director's Update on Lock-Down and Schools

Director Norah Marsh provided an update on the current status of school closures and thanked staff for their incredible effort and work as well as acknowledging the challenges that communities and families are facing during this time. The following items were shared:

A mental health tool kit is being released this month for staff which focuses on acknowledging, bridging, and connecting with students in terms of their mental health and well-being.

An Additional 3800 devices have been deployed during the current shut down. A parent survey was conducted to determine which families do not have one-on-one devices. There are approximately 2000 more devices needed to meet the threshold of one-to-one devices in grades K-6. The model from grade 7-12 is 1:1 device. Staff are currently working on deploying a second device to families where needed. Schools will be flexible, when working with families, where there is a need for additional devices.

Over the past month professional development has been provided to support the engagement of students by working with staff on innovative practices and new software. Teacher and educators can connect with Innovative Facilitators through "Office Hours" if they are having specific challenges.

A memo was received announcing that the district will receive additional Federal Funding. Staff will be analyzing the memo and will be providing trustees with more information regarding the funding.

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The Minister of Education in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health will announce on Wednesday when they anticipate schools will be returning in terms of in-person learning.

Director Norah Marsh answered trustee questions.

7. DDSB Presentations

(a) Black History Resource

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided an overview of the report for trustees and introduced Administrative Officer Merrill Mathews, Facilitator Camille Alli, Principals Chrystal Bryan and Jacqueline Steer. A PowerPoint was shared that included examples of the resources that will be distributed to schools during Black History Month to support the commitment to igniting and supporting learning through focused, impactful, educational, and inspiring activities. Schools across the DDSB will participate in engaging activities throughout the month of February to celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians and reflect on their stories, experiences, and accomplishments. Trustee questions were answered.

8. Recommended Actions

(a) Naming of Schools Policy

Chair Carolyn Morton advised the trustees that she would like to put forward a motion with regards to revising the Naming of Schools Policy.

2021:SC04

MOVED by Chair Carolyn Morton

Seconded by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE BOARD DIRECT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO BRING FORWARD A PROPOSED REVISED DRAFT POLICY ON THE NAMING OF SCHOOLS TO THE BOARD MEETING IN MARCH 2021.

CARRIED

A discussion took place and the following motion was put forward to amend the foregoing motion (2021:03)

2021:SC05

Moved by Trustee Niki Lundquist

Seconded by Trustee Michael Barrett

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TO AMEND THE MOTION TO ADD TO THE MOTION THAT INCLUDES A PROCESS WHEN RENAMING IS CONSIDERED AND THAT A COMMITTEE BE STRUCK THAT INCLUDES 3 TRUSTEES FROM DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITIES TO PUT INPUT INTO THE POLICY BEFORE THE POLICY COMES BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

That motion (2021:03) of Chair Carolyn Morton be amended as follows:

2021:SC06

MOVED by Chair Carolyn Morton

Seconded by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE BOARD DIRECT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION TO BRING FORWARD A PROPOSED REVISED DRAFT POLICY ON THE NAMING AND RENAMING OF SCHOOLS TO THE BOARD MEETING IN MARCH 2021 AND THAT A COMMITTEE BE STRUCK THAT INCLUDES 3 TRUSTEES FROM DIFFERENT MUNICIPALITIES TO PUT INPUT INTO THE POLICY BEFORE THE POLICY COMES BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

9. Information Items

(a) Ignite Learning Implementation Mid-Year Operational Goals Update

Director of Education Norah Marsh and the Senior Team provided trustees with an update regarding the Ignite Learning Mid-Year Operating Goals and highlighted the key initiatives and programs being implemented to meet the goals set out in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Senior staff will continue to implement the major initiatives as well as assess the impact of the initiatives on student achievement, evolving equity initiatives, building leadership capacity and system improvement. A year-end update will be provided. Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Elementary Enrolment Update

Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with an update on the elementary enrolment for 2020-2021 for both in-person and virtual schools (DDSB@Home) and how they are committed to supporting individual family preferences in the transition to and from virtual learning. He also answered trustee questions.

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(c) Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit

Associate Director David Wright introduced the Manager of Property & Planning Services Carey Trombino and the Chief Facilities Officer Christine Nancekivell who provided an overview on the future Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project. It was noted that information on the proposal will be shared as it becomes available. Trustee questions were answered.

2021:SC07

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

Seconded by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE BOARD WRITE A LETTER TO METROLINX TO EXPRESS THE BOARD'S CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED DURHAM-SCARBOROUGH BUS RAPID TRANSIT ROUTE AND COPY OUR COTERMINOUS BOARDS AND THE TOWN OF WHITBY.

CARRIED

A discussion took place and the following motion was put forward to amend the foregoing motion (2021:SC07) from Trustee Donna Edwards.

2021:SC08

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

Seconded by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE CHAIR WRITE A LETTER TO METROLINX TO EXPRESS THE BOARD'S CONCERNS WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSED ROUTE AND OTHER CONCERNS RELATED TO THE DURHAM-SCARBOROUGH BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT, WITH A COPY TO THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM, IMPACTED MUNICIPALITIES, THE MINISTER OF SENIORS AND ACCESSIBILITY, LOCAL MPPS, DSTS AND DCDSB.

CARRIED

(d) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Logan Keeler shared that at the January 18th Senate meeting, Senators had the chance to sign up for a leadership role in the upcoming Elementary Leadership Conference. The conference will take place on February 24th, virtually. The conference includes guest speakers, senate panelists, and lots of learning opportunities. The conference goals are to educate elementary students about Student Senate and Student Trustees' responsibilities and to gain

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feedback from elementary students, foster leadership within elementary students and answer questions. At the Senate meeting on February 8th, we will have the pleasure of welcoming Symone Taylor and Principal McIntosh from the Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Committee. Senators will share their feedback on the Compendium of Action for Black Student Success.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that over the past few months, OSTA-AECO's executive council worked towards developing its advocacy project for the term. On January 26th, we officially released our project titled "Volume of our Voices". The project aims to allow students to share their experiences in Ontario's education system through a form where they can address three of the following themes: the impact of COVID-19, cultural and racial diversity, and diversity in gender identities and sexual orientation. Every student has a one-of-a-kind experience in our education system, and OSTA-AECO has the privilege of hosting a platform to share these stories. The hope is that this platform will be effectively used to improve our already thriving education system.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel reported that on January 29th she took part in the OPSBA Public Education Symposium. The event was full of speakers and opportunities for discussion regarding the struggles and successes faced in our classrooms. Alongside five members of OSTA-AECO's Public Board Council, Aaliyah Jaleel had the privilege and opportunity to engage in an hour-long discussion centering around a student's perspective of the global pandemic and the presence of racism. Through the student panel, she shared powerful input with trustees from across the province, recognizing and commending the students for their undying resilience through these trying circumstances. A huge shoutout goes to all our staff and students for demonstrating January's trait of the month, responsibility, through maintaining dedication to their education. We know that no matter how the next few months will play out, the passion embodied within DDSB will help drive us all forward.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Governance Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020

Trustee Linda Stone presented the report of the Governance Ad Hoc Committee meeting of November 23, 2020.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

12. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

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Adjournment

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Carolyn Norton

Noreah Blair

Chair

Secretary