

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Tuesday, February 16, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date, virtually.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Carolyn Morton called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Aaliyah Jaleel, Arpita Savaliya

Regrets: Trustee Chris Braney, Student Trustee Logan Keeler

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, Executive Officer Communications Robert Cerjanec, General Counsel Patrick Cotter,

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence/Acknowledgement

Chair Carolyn Morton 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. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

4. O Canada

5. Adoption of Agenda

2021:RB013

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2021:RB014

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AMENDED MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2020

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2021

CARRIED

6. Definitely Durham Celebration

Chair Carolyn Morton, Trustees Paul Crawford, Darlene Forbes and Christine Thatcher introduced and presented awards to Christine Elliott, Dale Hawerchuk, Jessica Phoenix and Geoff Warbutron. Trustee Scott Templeton inducted the former DDSB students into the Durham District School Board's Hall of Fame – 2020.

7. Community Presentations

Dylan R. a student of DDSB presented 3 questions and staff responded.

8. Ministry Memorandums – Information

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with an update of the recent Ministry Memorandums:

A Ministry memo was received regarding the delay of the March Break. The District will be going ahead with the Board holiday on Friday, March 12, 2021. Classes will resume the following week. The senior team has been meeting to discuss how to mitigate the negative impact on students and staff because of the delay of the vacation period. More information will be shared on the strategies to support a focus on well-being.

The Ministry was notified of the DDSB's modified calendar for the elementary panel and that their holiday schedule was different from the system, it is a small group that will be impacted by the schedule. A response has not yet been received from the Ministry.

A memo was received from the Ministry of Education regarding teacher candidates within the DDSB who are on a teacher practicum and meet the criteria. Teacher candidates can now provide support when there are teacher shortages. The policy has changed so that teacher candidates can be employed as occasional teachers on an emergency basis if there are no qualified occasional teachers available.

Associate Director David Wright provided an update on the Federal Safe Return Funding, Memo B1 and the implication to DDSB. The funding is to be committed by March 31, 2021. A report will be shared with trustees which will highlight the impact of the funding on operations. Associate Director David Wright answered trustee questions.

9. Public Question Period

There were no public questions at this time.

10. DDSB Presentations

(a) Student Census Data

Director Norah Marsh acknowledged staff for their work on the Student Census Data and thanked the students, families and communities for their support and participation in the survey.

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid introduced Principal Jacqueline Steer who acknowledged the team that prepared the data and the report. The team shared a PowerPoint with the trustees and provided an overview of the achievement summaries from the analysis of the 2019 DDSB Know Every Student Census. Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Anti-Black Racism Strategy Update

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced Administrative Officer Merrill Mathews, Facilitator Camille Alli, Principals Chrystal Bryan, Jacqueline Steer, Vice-Principals Geoffrey DeCarlo and Leah Franklin who shared a PowerPoint with the trustees and provided trustees with an update on the work that DDSB is doing as part of its ongoing efforts to address anti-Black racism. The Equity Department is continuing to work with and train all stakeholders to ensure equitable outcomes for all students and increase an understanding of the impact of anti- Black racism. Trustee questions were answered.

11. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Christine Thatcher reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera meeting and confirmed that the Board approved the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with staff positions, an external committee member and decisions around negotiations with employees of the Board.

Trustee Christine Thatcher welcomed Olufunke Majebi to the DDSB Audit Committee as an external member.

2021:RB15

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

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

CARRIED

12. Good News from the System

Director Norah Marsh Shared that over 700 families have registered for the Parent Engagement Learning, "How to Talk to Your Children About Anti-Black Racism" which will take place on the evening of February 24th.

Maliea and Elijah, students from Ajax High School shared good news from across the system through a video on behalf of the students and staff at the DDSB.

Dunbarton High School welcomed two Indigenous scholars, Wilfred Buck and Dr. Juan Carlos Chavez to speak virtually to grade nine students in January. Buck, is an Elder who is known as one of the foremost Indigenous star-story experts in the world. Chavez, is the Director for NASA STEM Initiatives for the Northwest Earth and Space Sciences Pipeline project.

The City of Pickering provided an Environmental Schools Grant up to \$4,000, in 2020 for Pickering schools to create pollinator gardens, plant trees, shrubs and other vegetation native to Ontario. The amazing projects completed by staff and students will help sustain local and healthy ecosystems for years to come.

DDSB secondary schools and students are taking to social media to celebrate Black History Month through a High School Black Excellence Challenge. Staff and students are participating by using hashtag-Black-Excellence-DDSB to participate in a challenge on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. The challenge features videos, pictures, poetry, and art showcasing Black excellence.

Coronation Public School invited Dr. Nicole West-Burns to analyze their Anti-Black Racism Plan and to offer suggestions to the school moving forward. The school is dedicated to ensuring a safe, welcoming space for Black students and the community, and continues working on moving forward to address anti-Black racism on all school levels.

Recently, Bolton C. Falby Public School hosted Durham's first ever Virtual Special Olympics Sport Festival. Students from Durham to Peterborough participated in various physical activities throughout the day at their schools, while maintaining physical distancing. Thirteen schools, 16 classrooms, and 122 students in total took part in the event. All students earned a certificate to show their achievement.

The DDSB Special Education Advisory Committee hosted a virtual session called "The Edge of Compassion: Tools to Manage Caregiver Fatigue," through a partnership with the TEND Academy. Presenters from the TEND Academy and members of SEAC guided discussions on strategies for self-care, how to navigate caregiving during the pandemic and tailoring well-being tips for one's self.

Since the beginning of January, the DDSB Make A Difference team has provided grocery gift cards, essential food, clothing, and school supplies to DDSB families across the region. So far, they have:

- Mailed \$4,525 in gift cards to 160 secondary students
- Mailed \$3,000 in gift cards to 119 elementary students
- Delivered \$2,500 worth of school supplies, toiletries, food, and winter clothing to seven families with children and youth of varying ages.

Helping families is made possible thanks to the ongoing Make a Difference Students in Need fundraising campaign, and funding through the Durham Child Nutrition Project.

Alumnus Jeff Mitsuo and current R.S. McLaughlin CVI Visual Arts Teacher, Jake Stevens, developed a friendship when they attended Pickering High School. Jeff has cerebral palsy and graduated in 2008. With Jake's help and Jeff's beautiful artwork they now have over one million followers on TikTok.

Dates of Significance-March:

February	Black History Month
February	Psychology Month
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 18	Special Education Advisory Committee Mtg
Feb. 20	World Social Justice Day
Feb. 21	International Mother Language Day
Feb. 24	Pink Shirt Day
Feb. 24	Parent Engagement Series
Feb. 26	Purim
March	Bangladeshi Heritage Month
March	Social Work Month
March 1	Standing Committee Meeting
March 2	Lent

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March 8	International Women's Day
March 11	Shivratri
March 15	Lent (Orthodox)
March 17	Irish Heritage Day
March 20	Nowruz
March 20	Spring Equinox
March 20	Eostre
March 20	Shunki-Sorei-Sai
March 21	United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racism
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day
March 22	Board Meeting
March 25	International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
March 25	SEAC Meeting
March 28	Holi
Mar 28-Apr 4	Passover
March 28	Palm Sunday

13. Recommended Actions

(a) Preliminary Budget Planning

Associate Director David Wright and Senior Manager Finance Jennifer Machin provided trustees with information on the Education Finance Committee meeting dates for the development of the 2021-2022 Board budget, with the integration of Multi-Year Strategic Planning to enhance organizational direction.

2021:RB16

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2021-2022 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

(b) School Year Calendar Update

Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with an overview of the proposed consultative process for stakeholder input of the draft School Year Calendars for 2021-2022. A final board report, which includes the results of the consultation will be shared with Trustees for approval of the final School Year Calendars for 2021-2022 prior to submission to the Ministry of Education. Acting Associate Director Jim Markovski noted that we have not yet received the memorandum from the Ministry of Education and will provide necessary updates to the calendars once that is received.

2021:RB17

February 16, 2021

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT TRUSTEES APPROVE THE DRAFT SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS FOR 2021-2022 TO BE DISTRIBUTED FOR STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK. A FINAL BOARD REPORT, WHICH INCLUDES THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION WILL BE SHARED WITH TRUSTEES FOR APPROVAL OF THE FINAL SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS FOR 2021-2022 PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

CARRIED

(c) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2021

Trustee Christine Thatcher presented the Standing Committee meeting minutes of February 1, 2021.

2021:RB18

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

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 PROVIDE INPUT INTO THE POLICY BEFORE THE POLICY COMES BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARCH 1, 2021.

CARRIED

2021:RB19

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

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

2021:RB20

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE SOUGHT APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AND THE ACTIONS OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2021 STANDING COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

14. Information Items

(a) Report: SEAC Meeting of December 17, 2020

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC meeting minutes of December 17, 2020.

(b) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an OPSBA update. Trustees attended the Public Education Symposium on January 23-25, 2021 which included sessions on anti-Black racism and anti-Indigenous racism. OPSBA held a speaker series on student and adult mental health with Dr. Haley Hamilton on February 11, 2021. The next session is being held on Thursday February 25th.

15. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

16. Other Business

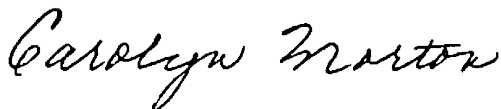
There was no other business at this time.

17. Adjournment

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:11 p.m.



Chair



Secretary