

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

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

1. Call to Order:

The Chair Christine Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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. 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:SC09

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

There were no Community Presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

There were no DDSB Presentations at this time.

7. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided an update on the management of the pandemic and school operations. She noted that schools have adapted to the provincial initiatives that have come forward this week around updating Health and Safety Protocols in terms of COVID 19 management which includes compulsory eyewear for staff within schools, compulsory screening and reporting out in secondary schools prior to the school day and continued screening for grades K-12. Director Marsh shared that the province has introduced a revised screening tool for COVID 19 symptoms and self-isolating. The revised procedure states, if you have one or more symptom, you must self-isolate. Director Marsh noted that this could have a potential impact on schools and staff attendance.

8. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

9. Information Item

(a) FSL Review, Supplementary Report

Director Norah Marsh introduced the FSL Review, ~~S~~supplementary report on capping and the community consultation process.

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with supplemental information with respect to the capping of Grade 1 enrolment in the French Immersion program, as proposed in the Draft French as a Second Language (FSL) Review Report, dated January 4, 2021.

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided trustees with an overview of the FSL Review's ongoing public consultation process, which included surveys, Thoughtexchanges, and online gatherings over the past 14 months. An additional opportunity was provided to community members to provide feedback on the draft report and recommendations through the designated FSL Review email address.

Staff responded to questions from trustees.

(b) Naming of Schools Policy

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an overview of the draft Naming of Schools Policy. At the January 18, 2021 meeting of the Board of Trustees, a motion was approved to review and update the policy for the naming of schools, and for the revised policy to include parameters for the re-naming of schools.

A discussion took place on items 4.0 in the policy and updating this section to reflect the trustees' responsibilities as it pertains to policy.

Staff responded to questions from trustees.

(c) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Logan Keeler shared that during the February 8th Student Senate meeting, Director Marsh attended and spoke to the senators and answered questions regarding Chromebooks, guidance, co-op programs, and accessibility in schools. During the meeting, there were breakout groups to give feedback on the Compendium of Action for Black Student Success. Thank you to Symone Taylor and Principal McIntosh for running the session and allowing the Senate a chance to provide feedback. At the end of the meeting, the Durham District School Board Student Senate and the Durham Catholic District School Board's Student Senate came together for a game night where senators got the chance to meet and participate in activities.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that on Wednesday, February 24th, the student senate had the opportunity to host an elementary leadership conference, virtually. There were over 112 elementary students registered for the event. In the three sessions, there was a minimum attendance of 45 people, including the attendees, guest speakers, organizers, facilitators, and staff supervisors. Trustee Savaliya extended a special thank you to all of those involved in making the

conference possible. At the conference, they learnt how the senate can better support elementary students with resources around transitioning to high school and providing leadership opportunities through more events like this conference so they can continue to foster student voice.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel shared that from February 18-21, 2021, they had the opportunity to engage in the OSTA-AECO Board Council Conferences. The four days were filled with speakers, breakouts, and engagement opportunities for Student Trustees across Ontario. The focus of these conferences was the work of both the Catholic Board Council (CBC) and Public Board Council (PBC). As the Communications Officer of PBC, trustee Jaleel worked to receive feedback from different regions on the Wellness Position Paper that they are currently developing. They broke out into working groups to focus on individual initiatives, and addressed OSTA's advocacy project, Volume of the Voices, continuing to receive student input on their experiences with COVID-19, cultural diversity, and gender identity.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting of January 20, 2021

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee meeting held on January 20, 2021.

(b) Governance Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Report, January 11, 2021 and October 26, 2020.

Trustee Linda Stone provided trustees with an overview of the Governance Ad Hoc Committee meeting of January 11, 2021.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

11. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

12. Adjournment

2021:10

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 1, 2021

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:38 p.m.

*Carolyn Norton*

*Noreah Hall*

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Chair

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Secretary