

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
April 6, 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 7:01 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 Jim Markovski, David Wright, 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 Legal 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:SC11

That the agenda be amended to include item 8 (a), motion brought forward by Trustee Niki Lundquist.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

(a) French Immersion Program-Delegations

Trustee Christine Thatcher welcomed the delegates and provided an overview of the delegation process and shared that the Durham District School Board welcomes presentations by individuals and groups at the Standing Committee meetings. The trustees heard from 7 delegates with regards to the French Immersion Review.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Elementary Mathematics Plan

Superintendent Jack Nigro provided trustees with information on the 2020-2021 DDSB Elementary Mathematics Plan. Updates included the current plans and initiatives of the Student Achievement and Curriculum Department for providing system professional learning and resources focused on mathematics teaching and learning. Superintendent Jack Nigro introduced Education Officer Linda Ford-Decunha, Principal Sharon Knights, Facilitators Deepa Gohill and Aaron Mark who shared a PowerPoint presentation and answered trustee questions.

(b) DDSB@Home - Secondary Update

Superintendent Stephen Nevills introduced Principals Alyson Van Beinum and Peggy Perkins who provided trustees with an update regarding the DDSB@Home Secondary virtual school and its evolution during the 2020-2021 school year in response to the extenuating circumstance of the pandemic.

7. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided the trustees with a COVID-19 update and shared that it has been reported in the media the Ministry of Education will be implementing new school safety protocols after the April Break. Ministry direction has not been received in writing, however, a verbal update indicated that screening at the elementary level will be starting after the break, similar to the secondary level.

The Director and staff have met with both the Durham Regional Health Department and the Senior Officials from the Ministry of Education to discuss the rising numbers of Covid-19 cases within schools. Director Norah Marsh provided data/numbers on school closures and active identified COVID cases within the DDSB to illustrate how the situation has been rapidly evolving over the last three weeks.

Staff are continuing to provide schools with the operational needs to stay open when educators have to self-isolate despite a shortage of supply teachers. Staff

continue to add additional people to the emergency occasional teacher and educational assistants list. A plan has been implemented to reallocate central staff to schools to ensure that they can remain open. Schools have not been closed due to a shortage of operational staff. All class/school closures are due to COVID-19 cases within the schools.

8. Recommended Actions

(a) Motion: Immunization of School Staff and Bus Drivers

2021:SC12

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE DDSB, THROUGH ITS CHAIR, IMMEDIATELY CORRESPOND WITH DR. KYLE AND DURHAM PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLOING THEM TO PRIORITIZE THE IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL STAFF AND STAFF ENGAGED IN THE DIRECT TRANSPORT OF STUDENTS, AND THAT COPIES OF THAT CORRESPONDENCE BE PROVIDED TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, AND THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

CARRIED

9. Information Item

(a) Indigenous Student Achievement Data

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst and Mohamed Hamid shared with the Board of Trustees the data and achievement trends for the past six years experienced by students who self-identify as Indigenous. Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Draft Trustee Expense Policy

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an update of the draft Trustee Expense Policy. At the January 18, 2021 Board meeting, trustees passed a motion to post quarterly expenses online. At that meeting, a commitment was made by staff to update the Policy/Procedure. The Trustee Expense Policy and Procedure has been updated to reflect the most current template format, and the content has been updated to ensure alignment with Ministry regulation and leading practice. Senior Manager Finance Jennifer Machin answered trustee questions.

(c) Extension of Standing Committee Meeting, April 6, 2021

2021:SC13

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING MOVE BEYOND 10:00 p.m.

CARRIED

(d) Draft Community Use of Schools Policy

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an overview of the draft Community Use of Schools Policy and Procedure. The Community Use of Schools Policy and Procedure have been updated to reflect the most current template format. Trustee questions were answered.

(e) 2020-2021 Interim Financial Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Senior Manager Finance Jennifer Machin who provided trustees with information relating to the operating expenditures for the period ending February 28, 2021 (Quarter 2).

(f) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Logan Keeler shared that the Student Senate's three working groups have been working on awareness posts for social media and a ThoughtExchange. The well-being working group has been creating post with tips on mental and physical health and posting resources/helplines and websites that students can go to for help. The equity working group has been creating a social media campaign that focuses on defining terminology used for equity-based advocacy. While emphasizing that creating equitable and inclusive spaces is a priority. The student voice working group has partnered with DDSB@Home to create a ThoughtExchange for students and parents. Questions included within the ThoughtExchange, directly correlate with Student Senate and student voice. The current ThoughtExchange is for DDSB@Home students only, we are planning on sending out a survey to the bricks-and-mortar schools.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that they are in line with the senate goals and currently working on the second phase of their plan. One of our primary goals has been to increase elementary engagement by developing a social studies lesson plan for students in grades 5 and 6. This lesson will allow students to learn about the election process, roles and the responsibilities of the student trustees and the student senate. The second edition of the Elementary Leadership Conference is taking place on Thursday, May 20, 2021. One of the goals was to maintain transparency with the student body and increase outreach. As a result, the first Student Senate Open House will take place on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 between 5:30-7:00 p.m. This is a virtual event open to all students, staff, parents, and community members. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the 2020-2021 student senate.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel shared that the first round of Student Trustee Elections occurred during the first week of March. Student Trustees Jaleel and Savaliya had the opportunity to attend within their regions. The second and final

round of elections will be held this week, and today the Pickering/Ajax trustee was elected. Congratulations to Kayla Malcolm from Dunbarton High School.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel is currently working with the Muslim Educators Network of Durham Region, by putting together videos and challenges for the month of Ramadan, as Muslims will begin celebrating starting next week. With representatives from each high school in Durham contributing, it is rewarding to see how widespread diversity is within our region.

The character trait for April is honesty, it fits well because we honestly all need this April Break and we truly deserve it after these relentless months of work.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting of February 17, 2021

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee meeting held on February 17, 2021.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

12. Other Business

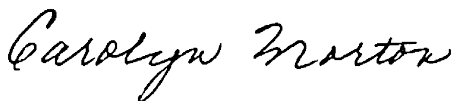
There was no other business at this time.

13. Adjournment

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:17 p.m.



Chair



Secretary