

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday April 19, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

Officials Present: Director Norah Marsh, Associate Directors 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. 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

Following the National Anthem, Chair Carolyn Morton acknowledged and welcomed the new Student Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2021:RB30

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

That the agenda be amended to remove item 12. (b) Appointment of External Auditor.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

2021:RB31

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2020

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2021

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2021

The April 6, 2021 Special Board meeting minutes were amended to Item 3. (a), page 2 as follows:

Trustee Christine Thatcher reported that a motion was moved at the Standing Committee meeting of April 6, 2021 by Trustee Niki Lundquist and that a resolution was adopted by the committee.

CARRIED

6. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

7. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

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

Vaccinations: On April 7, 2021 the Ministry of Education announced that education staff working with students with complex needs can register for vaccinations. Letters have been sent to the staff who meet the Ministry of Education's criteria. DDSB has offered to provide schools/sites for vaccination clinics.

On April 12th, 2021, the Ministry announced the extension of the stay-at-home order which included the closure of schools. Most DDSB students are learning remotely, however, students with complex education needs that are not able to engage in remote learning, could potentially access in person learning. Staff and administrators are working with families to communicate which students meet the criteria for in person learning.

Director Norah Marsh noted that remote learning has been challenging for students, families and educators. Prior to the break the number of COVID 19 cases were increasing and transmission was happening in schools as well as the community. The Ministry is watching the modelling and will not open school until the community spread has decreased.

Active screening will be in place for students attending in-person learning. Parents will be responsible for screening their children for symptoms before each school day. If a student tests positive for COVID 19, all students in the class will need to stay home until direction has been received from Durham Region Public Health.

Technology: Staff are reviewing inventory and continue to distribute technology. As we receive new orders, they will be distributed to students. Replacement laptops are being distributed when possible to students in Grades 9 and 10, whose learning is impacted due to the age of the laptop.

Staff continue to focus on engagement, connection and well-being.

8. Public Question Period

Dylan R. a student of DDSB presented 2 questions and staff responded.

9. DDSB Presentations

There were no DDSB presentations at this time.

10. 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 with regards to the acquisition or disposal of a school site.

2021:RB32

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

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

CARRIED

11. Good News from the System

Director Norah Marsh shared that Superintendent Andrea McAuley and staff will be launching Well-Being Strategies by the end of next week.

James and Hannah, DDSB students, shared good news from across the system.

Shaundell Parris is not only a DDSB@Home Secondary Vice Principal, but she is also an accomplished, professional musician and song writer. She wrote and produced a song being played in schools across the District called *Stay Six Feet Apart (Fight COVID)*, to help students follow health and safety regulations and stay safe.

World Down Syndrome Day-March 21st, 2021: staff and students across the DDSB participated in the "Rock Your Socks" campaign. Everyone wore colourful and mismatched socks to raise awareness, support inclusion and celebrate the contributions of people with Down Syndrome.

During Autism Awareness Day, students and staff at McCaskill's Mills Public School purchased custom blue t-shirts made by community member Taryn Talsma. Students with Autism provided her with positive words to describe themselves, which were included in the design. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Precious Minds, a charity for children in North Durham Region.

Vic Lua, a Lunchroom Supervisor, from Gandatsetiagon Public School, shared a video with the school community, where he spoke about his experience as someone with Autism. Students were so inspired by Vic's story, they responded with heartfelt comments such as "everyone is different and unique in their own way".

Organized by the Equity and Inclusive Education department, Canadian folk and jazz singer-songwriter Faith Nolan joined over 4,000 students in Grades 5 to 8 for the virtual event Free to Be Me: A 2SLGBTQI Musical Journey. Nolan's powerful lyrics and catchy tunes reminded students to be themselves and to stand up for others.

Abigail D. is a Grade 10 student at Brooklin High School. She is also a budding journalist who recently helped to broadcast a Toronto Maple Leafs' game. Abigail has written stories for CBC News Kids and Sports Illustrated Kids.

Congratulations to Pickering High School alumna, Alex Cappuccitti who has just been named to the Canadian Special Olympic Team for speedskating. Alex is scheduled to go to Kazan, Russia for the Special Olympics World Winter Games in January 2022.

We would like to congratulate an alumna of Dunbarton High School, Shaina Pellington who recently played for the University of Arizona in the finals of the

Women's NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. She had a stellar performance.

There is a lot of work to do to ensure the safety and visibility of Transgender youth, staff and families. On March 31, 2021, the DDSB recognized International Transgender Day of Visibility. On this day and every day, we continue to celebrate our students' identities and our commitment to ensuring Transgender students feel seen, heard, and valued.

Parents Reaching Out Grants: the DDSB at Home School Community Council and administrative team have been hosting virtual wellness events every Wednesday for families. Some of the engaging sessions include, How to Support Your Child's Mental Health and Well-Being, Family Coding, and Digital Wellness. With the help of guest speakers from a range of professional fields, Wellness Wednesdays have been a great success and will continue until the end of the school year.

We teamed up with the Durham District Catholic School Board, for an exclusive virtual concert with French recording artist Corneille. Grade 9 French and elementary students had the opportunity to ask questions and receive a response from the well-known Francophone singer.

Dates of Significance, April/May:

April 20	Ridvan
April 22	International Earth Day
April 23	International Day of Silence
April 30	Holy Friday (Orthodox)
May	Asian Heritage Month
May	South Asian Heritage Month
May	Jewish Heritage Month
May	Dutch Heritage Month
May 3	Standing Committee Meeting
May 9	Mother's Day
May 13	Ascension (Christianity)
May 14	Eid-ul-Fitr (Islam)
May 15	International Day of Families
May 17	International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia
May 17	Shavuot
May 17	Board Meeting
May 19	Education Finance Committee Meeting
May 20	SEAC Meeting
May 23	Pentecost (Christianity)
May 24	Victoria Day
May 26	Wesak (Buddhist)
May 28	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh

12. Recommended Actions

(a) Naming of School Policy

Associate Director David Wright provided Trustees with an overview of the revisions to the Naming of Schools Policy that were presented to the Board of Trustees at the January 19th, 2021, Board meeting for information and as a Notice of Motion for consideration at the March 22, 2021, Board Meeting.

2021:RB33

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE REVISIONS AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED

(b) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2021

Trustee Christine Thatcher presented the Standing Committee meeting minutes of April 6, 2021.

A resolution was passed by the standing committee on April 6, 2021, in closed session on matters involving the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian and decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board, litigation of the board and administrative transfers and placements.

2021:RB34

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

I MOVE THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE APRIL 6, 2021, STANDING COMMITTEE, INCLUDING DURING CLOSED SESSION, AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PASSED.

CARRIED

(c) Motion: Establish a Standing Committee of the Board for Policy Development

Trustee Donna Edwards provided trustees with an overview with regards to her notice of motion that was brought forward at the March 22, 2021, Board meeting.

2021:RB35

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

I MOVE THAT THE DDSB TRUSTEES CHANGE THE NAME AND MANDATE OF THE EXISTING GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TO REFLECT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY UNDER THE EDUCATION ACT AND MAKE IT A STANDING (PERMANENT) COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD.

THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONSTITUTED ANNUALLY AT THE BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING.

CARRIED

(d) Proposed Notice of Motion: Draft Trustee Expense Policy

2021:RB36

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 17, 2021, BOARD MEETING.

(e) Proposed Notice of Motion: Draft Community Use of Schools

2021:RB37

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 17, 2021 BOARD MEETING.

(f) FSL Review

Associate Director Jim Markovski, David Wright and Superintendent Margaret Lazarous provided the Board of Trustees with a supplementary report on the French as a Second Language (FSL) review to assist with their decision-making process. As set out in the initial report of January 4, 2021, three recommendations to adjust FSL programming were presented for the Board's consideration, with the intent of supporting sustainable growth for French Immersion (FI) while balancing robust FSL and English programming within the DDSB.

2021:RB38
MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT THE FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION 1: PHASE OUT KINDERGARTEN IN ALL SINGLE-TRACK FRENCH IMMERSION (FI) SCHOOLS. GIVEN THE CAPACITY ISSUES AT FI SCHOOLS, REMOVING THE ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MORE FLEXIBILITY WITHIN SCHOOLS TO FOCUS ON FI CLASSROOMS.

CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes:

Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher

No:

Abstain:

2021:RB39
MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist
SECONDED by Trustee Scott Templeton

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT THE FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION 2: CHARGE A PARTIAL FEE FOR THE DIPLÔME D'ÉTUDES EN LANGUE FRANÇAISE (DELF) EXAMINATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT DDSB CHARGE STUDENTS A FEE OF FOR THE DELF EXAM THAT IS A PERCENTAGE OF THE ACTUAL COST INCURRED BY THE DDSB. FOR THOSE WHERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP PREVENTS THE PAYING OF THE FEE, THE DDSB WILL FULLY SUBSIDIZE THOSE STUDENTS.

DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes:

No:

Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher

Abstain:

2021:RB40
MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT THE FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION 3: ADJUST FSL PROGRAMMING. GIVEN THE CURRENT GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR FI PROGRAMMING AND THE CHALLENGES OUTLINED IN THE REPORT, THE STATUS QUO OF GROWING THE FI PROGRAM WITHOUT CHECKS IS NOT SUSTAINABLE, NOR IN THE BEST INTEREST OF QUALITY FRENCH PROGRAMMING WITHIN CORE AND FI. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS A NEED TO ADDRESS THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ENGLISH PROGRAMS IN DUAL SITE SCHOOL THAT HAVE REDUCING POPULATIONS OF ENGLISH STUDENTS. IN THIS REGARD, IT IS NOTED THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HAS RECENTLY PASSED POLICY THAT FUNDING FOR NEW SCHOOL BUILDS CANNOT BE USED FOR SINGLE-TRACK FI SCHOOLS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOARDS. MOVING FORWARD, THE DDSB IS REQUIRED TO CONSIDER FI OFFERINGS IN NEW SCHOOL BUILDS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DUAL TRACK SCHOOLS.

RECOMMENDATION 3 INCLUDES THREE OPTIONS. PLEASE NOTE THAT EACH OPTION IS A "COMPLETE PACKAGE".

Extension of April 19, 2021, Board Meeting

2021:RB41
MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett
SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

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

CARRIED

(f) FSL Review Continued

2021:RB42
MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

OPTION 1: EXPAND CORE FRENCH IN THE PRIMARY GRADES/INITIATE AN EXTENDED FRENCH PROGRAM (GR. 7 ENTRY)/REDUCE FI TO 50% OF THE PROGRAM BEING TAUGHT IN FRENCH IN THE PRIMARY GRADES/CAP FI ENROLLMENT.

DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes:

No:

Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher

Abstain:

Absent: Trustee Paul Crawford

2021:RB43

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

OPTION 2: EXPAND CORE FRENCH IN THE PRIMARY GRADES/MOVE THE FI ENTRY POINT FROM GRADE 1 TO GRADE 4 WITH 100% INTENSITY IN GRADE 4, 80% IN GRADES 5-7 AND 50% IN GRADE 8.

DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes:

No:

Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher

Abstain:

Absent: Trustee Paul Crawford

2021:RB44

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

OPTION 3: EXPAND CORE FRENCH IN THE PRIMARY GRADES/MOVE THE FI ENTRY POINT FROM CURRENT GRADE 1 TO GRADE 2 WITH 100% INTENSITY IN GRADES 2 AND 3 AND 50% IN THE JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE GRADES/CAP FI ENROLLMENT.

DEFEATED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes:

No:

Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Christine Thatcher

Abstain:

Absent: Trustee Paul Crawford

Staff indicated that they will proceed with boundary reviews as needed.

13. Information Items

(a) Mental Health Update

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with updated information on the implementation of a tiered approach to Mental Health and Well-Being supports that have been put in place for students across the Durham District School Board. This is being implemented by the Mental Health Leadership Team and Psychological Services and Social Work Teams.

(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of February 18, 2021

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the SEAC meeting minutes of February 18, 2021 and put forward the following motion for receipt with regards to a SEAC membership change.

2021:RB45

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

THAT CHRISTINA SALISBURY WILL BE THE SEAC ALTERNATE FOR THE
EASTER SEALS ONTARIO.

RECEIVED

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an OPSBA update on the meeting that took place on April 10, 2021. Trustee Patrice Barnes shared that OPSBA has sent out a governance survey to trustees for their feedback.

15. Correspondence

- i. Bluewater District School Board
- ii. Rainbow District School Board
- iii. Upper Canada District School Board
- iv. Metrolinx

The above correspondence was presented to trustees for the information.

16. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

17. Adjournment

2021:RB46

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Carolyn Morton

Noreh Hall

Chair

Secretary