

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
May 3, 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, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Scott Templeton, Student Trustees Aaliyah Jaleel, Logan Keeler, Arpita Savaliya

Regrets: Michael Barrett

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:SC14

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

That the agenda be amended to add item 8.(b) Letter to MPPs with regards to the CBC Article on online learning.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

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 acknowledged that May 3-7, 2021 is Education Week and recognized staff for their commitment to public education and serving our students. Director Marsh recognized the incredible efforts of students and families as they navigate their way through the pandemic. Secondary students shared with Director Marsh, that staff continue to support student well-being and relationship building.

May 3-7, 2021 is Children's Mental Health Week. Throughout the school year, staff have continued to provide schools with resources to support student mental health.

A memo was received from the Ministry of Education that vaccinations will open up to education workers as part of the next phase including school-based staff and bus drivers. Staff will need to register for their vaccination through the Durham Region Health Department's website.

Director Marsh provided the final numbers for students that have special education needs and are currently learning in person. 93 students met the criteria for in person learning. 69 students are provided with transportation and 30 students are currently part of the Grove Program. There are 90 educational assistants and 51 teachers as well as the additional staff that are required when schools are in operation.

Planning is under way for next year, secondary school registration for virtual and in person learning has been completed. 1800 students have registered for virtual learning for the 2021-2022 school year. The elementary survey is in process and will close tomorrow. Director Marsh recognized that it is a challenge for families to make a decision at this time. The survey results will help the board to plan for September and create timetabling and staffing for the system.

Families where children attend in person learning have shared that there is a need for greater stability for in person learning.

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Director Marsh shared that last year additional funding was received from the Ministry of Education which made it possible to hire 200 additional teachers.

2021:SC15

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT TRUSTEES WRITE TO THE MINISTRY THROUGH THE CHAIR TO ADVOCATE FOR THE MINISTRY TO PROVIDE EXTRA AND FLEXIBLE PANDEMIC FUNDING FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR TO ALLOW THE DDSB TO MORE APPROPRIATELY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES AND STUDENTS IN THE SYSTEM.

2021:SC16

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE FORGOING MOTION 2021:SC15 BE AMMENDED TO ADD AFTER FUNDING "FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR".

CARRIED

2021:SC17

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE FORGOING MOTION 2021:SC15 BE AMMENDED TO REPLACE "ASKING" WITH "TO ADVOCATE FOR"

CARRIED

2021:SC18

MOVED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT TRUSTEES WRITE TO THE MINISTRY THROUGH THE CHAIR TO ADVOCATE FOR THE MINISTRY TO PROVIDE EXTRA AND FLEXIBLE PANDEMIC FUNDING FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR TO ALLOW THE DDSB TO MORE APPROPRIATELY ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES AND STUDENTS IN THE SYSTEM.

CARRIED

8. Recommended Actions

(a) School Year Calendar, 2021-2022

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided an overview of the purposed 2021-2022 School Year Calendars for trustee approval:

- Elementary Regular
- Secondary Regular

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- Elementary Modified (C.E. Broughton Public School, Winchester Public School)
- Secondary Modified (Brock High School, Henry Street High School, Maxwell Heights Secondary School)

2021:SC19

MOVED by Trustee Scott Templeton

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS BE APPROVED (APPENDICES A-D).

CARRIED

(b) Letter to MPPs Regarding the CBC Article on Online Learning

2021:SC20

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

THAT THE BOARD WRITE A LETTER TO ALL MPPS IN THE DURHAM REGION THROUGH THE CHAIR INFORMING THEM OF THE BOARD'S CONCERNS OVER THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ONLINE LEARNING AS DETAILED IN RECENT MEDIA ARTICLES.

CARRIED

2021:SC21

MOVED by Trustee Linda Stone

SECONDED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

THAT THE FORGOING MOTION 2021:SC20 BE AMENDED TO ADD "AND THE USE OF TVO/TFO" BEFORE "AS DETAILED"

CARRIED

2021:SC22

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Niki Lundquist

THAT THE FORGOING MOTION 2021:SC20 BE AMENDED TO REPLACE "PROPOSED CHANGES TO ONLINE LEARNING" WITH "THE PERMANENT ONLINE LEARNING PROPOSAL"

2021:SC23

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Darlene Forbes

THAT THE BOARD WRITE A LETTER TO ALL DURHAM REGION MPPS THROUGH THE CHAIR INFORMING THEM OF THE BOARD'S CONCERNS OVER THE PERMANENT ONLINE LEARNING PROPOSAL AND THE USE OF TVO/TFO AS DETAILED IN RECENT MEDIA ARTICLES.

CARRIED

9. Information Item

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Logan Keeler shared that over the past month the Student Senate has been working on hosting a senate open house and a second Elementary Leadership Conference. The Well-Being Working Group has been making Instagram posts on ways to get a good sleep and habits to manage your time better. The Student Voice Working Group received data from the ThoughtExchange. They plan on releasing their second survey for the brick-and-mortar schools later this month. The West Regional Breakout will be putting together a video highlighting what their schools have been doing to maintain student spirit.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that the senate has been focused on increasing elementary engagement and building relationships with students across the board. As a result, they have been working on organizing the second Elementary Leadership Conference being held on Thursday, May 20, 2021. They have been organizing the role of the senators and the agenda, for students that will be attending. A huge shout out to Makayla M. who has been an incredible project coordinator. They have been working towards the Senate Open House, which is to be hosted on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. The senate has been preparing for the event and organizing themselves into different roles, ensuring that the event has the most impact for the community. We would like to thank Ananya M. for being our wonderful project coordinator.

Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel shared that students have been faced with, for the third time, a sudden shift to virtual school. It has been a difficult transition, especially approaching the end of the year when motivation tends to decrease. Although students have not necessarily been appreciative of the transition, there is a sense of familiarity that has taken place over the past two virtual learning periods. That familiarity will continue to help staff and students adapt and make the best of their learning experience.

We recognize May's character trait, perseverance, as ever-present within our DDSB staff, students, and families, and we appreciate them for their dedication that never ends.

(b) Inclusive Student Services Report: Special Education Programs 2021-2022

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with an update on the Special Education Program Planning that is taking place for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent McAuley share that the DDSB is committed to fostering success and independence for each student by providing a range of pathways, programs, opportunities, and services. Students with special education strengths and needs are supported in inclusive environments that enable them to develop to their potential. Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Ignite Accessibility Annual Report

Superintendent Heather Mundy introduced the co-chairs of the Accessibility Advisory Working Group, Senior Manager Human Resources Lisa Coppins and Education Officer Michelle Crawford-Eade who provided trustees with an overview of the Durham District School Board Ignite Accessibility Annual Status Report for 2020. Trustee questions were answered.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Governance Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2021

Trustee Linda Stone shared with trustees the Governance Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes from the February 25, 2021 meeting.

(b) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting of March 25, 2021

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee meeting held on March 25, 2021.

11. Correspondence

i. District School Board North East

The above correspondence was shared with trustees for information.

12. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

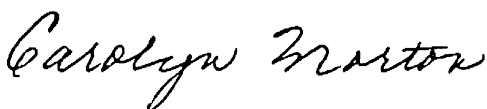
13. Adjournment

2021:SC24

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.



Chair



Secretary