

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
June 7, 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

Regrets: Trustee Linda Stone

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. Moment of Silence

The DDSB Indigenous Advisory Circle, trustee representative, Darlene Forbes shared a moment of silence to honour the 215 children who lost their lives at the Kamloops Residential School and for all those who have been lost as a result of the actions of the past and present.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2021:SC25

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

7. DDSB Presentations

(a) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Annual Report

Trustee Scott Templeton introduced the PIC Chair Valerie Estridge who provided trustees with an overview of the PIC Annual Report on behalf of the committee. Trustee questions were answered.

8. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with the following update:

Director Norah Marsh recognized that there have been challenges for parents and staff that are working full time at home and supporting their children who are learning remotely. The school communities continue to create caring connections and an engaging learning environment for students. Director Marsh thanked staff who are providing in-person learning for students that have special education needs where remote learning was not possible and thanked staff who volunteered or were part of the virtual school transfer process as they adapted their engagement practices during past year.

Director Marsh commented that the Board of Trustees had the foresight prior to any provincial discussion on the matter, to fund additional classroom staffing to ensure a minimum of 1 metre distance between students. They funded additional safety measures with \$8.1M from their reserves. Despite these safety measures being in place, in March and April, there was still a rapid escalation of the number and cases of COVID 19 outbreaks within schools as reported to trustees through regular briefings at this time given the concern.

Vaccinations have been rolling out provincially. Approximately 43% of educators province-wide have received their first vaccination, although more have received it

but did so under a category other than educator. Students aged 12-17 are eligible for their first vaccination. In Durham Region approximately 5% of students have received their first vaccination. This is lower than the provincial rate, but over the next two weeks DRHD has a ramp up of student vaccinations which will put our students in a good position by early July with at least one vaccination. Medical Officers of Health are indicating that a second vaccination will be important to prevent a fourth wave dominated by the Delta variant. The Ministry has identified educators and students as a priority group for second vaccinations prior to the start of school in September.

Volunteer staff and School Community Councils have been working collaboratively to plan the end of year graduations for school communities. During this process staff have been working and receiving advice from Durham Region Health Department. The plans that have been in the works since February for virtual graduations will go ahead. There will be opportunities for some in-person acknowledgements, where feasible and without large group gatherings. When planning in-person acknowledgements, schools will have to follow Durham Region Health Department protocols. Director Marsh shared that staff recognize the disappointment for students and families and that it has been a difficult year. Educators have been planning and working to make end of year and graduations as special as possible.

Staff are currently planning for a safe return in September. The Ministry is providing additional funding to support the reopening of schools. Information will be shared with families in early August with specific details regarding September opening and the final registration for virtual or in-person school.

Staff have met with the Ministry to discuss the return of the semester system for secondary schools if education workers and students ages 12-17 have received their second vaccination. The Ministry will share more information during the summer.

Director Marsh provided an update on the new Ministry of Education mathematics curriculum and shared that it is a key equity strategy in the province. The Ministry has not released the information to school boards with regards to the new curriculum.

9. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

10. Information Item

(a) Student Trustee Report

The student trustees shared the “2020-2021 Student Senate Year in Review” and “Students Equity” videos with the trustees.

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Student Trustee Aaliyah Jaleel shared that as the year is coming to an end, Student Senate is finalizing initiatives for the year. Last week, the DDSB In-person ThoughtExchange was completed. During the last senate celebration meeting, they will be discussing the results. They had the opportunity to discuss the results of the DDSB@Home Thoughtexchange, to help reflect on the structure and roles of the senate for the next school year.

A number of social media posts have been shared with a connection to equity and well-being. There will be collaboration with the Durham Catholic District School Board for an end of year spirit week from June 21-25, 2021.

Student Trustee Logan Keeler shared that from May 27- 30, 2021 Aaliyah Jaleel, Arpita Savaliya, De-Mario Knowles, James Kay, Kayla Malcolm, attended the OSTA's Annual General Meeting. During this meeting Student Trustees Aaliyah Jaleel, Arpita Savaliya and Logan Keeler learned about life after being a student trustee, and ways to stay involved and how to use the skills they have learned going forward. The incoming student trustees De-Mario Knowles, James Kay, Kayla Malcolm, had the chance to meet incoming student trustees from other boards and received professional development.

OSTA just released the second volume of the "Volume of Our Voices", it is titled "Negative Spaces" and dives into how race, ethnicity, nationality, and/or cultural identity affects the student school experience.

We'd like to thank and congratulate Habiba, the student senate's Social Studies Lesson Plan Project Coordinator on completing the lesson plan. The goal of the plan is to inform grade five and six students on the student senate, and the role of the student trustee.

Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that on May 20, 2021 they had the opportunity to host the second Elementary Leadership Conference led by Makayla Marshall. There were over 140 elementary students who join students throughout the day. Students had the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with Student Senators and ask questions about leadership and high school. Students were challenged to organize a potential movie night in different logistical teams. On May 25, 2021 they had the honour of hosting a virtual Student Senate Open House which engaged students, parents, and staff members allowing attendees to ask questions of the senate panelists about their journey.

Both events received positive feedback and demonstrated that DDSB's elementary and secondary students are excited to become involved in their community. They expressed their appreciation for the leadership opportunities that the senate has provided this year. They thanked all of the people involved in making these events possible, the staff advisors who connected us with the board staff, the project coordinators Makayla and Ananya, senators who volunteered for the events, and senior staff members and trustees for their support. We thank each and every one of you for empowering us with the opportunity to leverage student leadership.

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Student Trustee Arpita Savaliya shared that every moment of being a student trustee is one to remember. In a year full of uncertainty, we were able to find comfort in one another and our teams every step of the way. Thank you to all of you for your unconditional support and allowing us to extend beyond the potential we thought we had, making memories and creating opportunities.

A special thank you goes out to Arpita Savaliya for her relentless work behind the scenes with senate, OSTA. Her guidance has been invaluable over the course of the year.

(b) Draft Indigenous Education Policy

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst and Mohamed Hamid provided trustees with an overview of the proposed draft Indigenous Education Policy and Procedures. The Aboriginal Education Policy and Regulation were last updated on March 17, 2014, and the Voluntary Confidential First Nation, Métis and Inuit Student Self-Identification Policy and Procedure were updated on January 15, 2015. This shift has been guided by the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (2015), the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) by the Government of Canada in 2016 and work with our Treaty partners, DDSB Advisory Circle and Indigenous Scholars. The draft policy focuses on centering Indigenous Inherent Rights, furthering the DDSB's systemic commitment to reconciliation, preventing anti-Indigenous racism and addressing the disproportionate outcomes for Indigenous students. Trustee questions were answered.

11. Committee Reports

(a) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee Meeting of April 28, 2021

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee minutes from the April 28, 2021, meeting.

12. Correspondence

- i. Halton District School Board
- ii. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- iii. Waterloo Region District School Board

The above correspondence was shared with trustees for information.

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

14. Adjournment

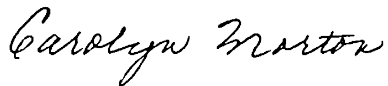
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2021:SC26
MOVED By Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:16 p.m.



Chair



Secretary