

Minutes - Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

Trustee Tracy Brown, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Emma Cunningham (virtual), Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton (virtual), Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Jill Thompson (virtual), Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Gwen Kuyt

Not in Attendance: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Deb Oldfield, Christine Thatcher, Linda Stone, Student Trustee Lauren Edwards

Staff Present: Associate Director Jim Markovski, General Counsel Patrick Cotter (virtual), Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, Superintendent of Equitable Education Stephen Nevills, Policy Analyst Ahmad Khawaja (virtual)

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Trustee Tracy Brown gave the Land Acknowledgement: 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2023

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton:

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2023 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Youth and Adult Student Engagement and Success Grades 7 – 12+: Rescission of Policies and Regulations

Superintendent of Equitable Education Stephen Nevills introduced the report, noting that staff supporting the portfolios under Youth and Adult Student Engagement and Success Grades 7 – 12+ have undertaken a review of policies and regulations under their purview. It is recommended that the policies as outlined in the report be rescinded as they are either redundant or dealt with through other DDSB policies and procedures or Ministry of Education directives. It is recommended that the regulations as outlined in the report be rescinded in accordance with the Board's direction to phase out Regulations.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS IN APPENDIX A BE RESCINDED.

CARRIED

(b) School Operations: Rescission of Policies and Regulations

Associate Director of Equitable Education Jim Markovski introduced the report, noting that the School Operations department has undertaken a review of policies and regulations under their purview. It is recommended that the policies as outlined in the report be rescinded as they are either redundant or dealt with through other DDSB policies and procedures or Ministry of Education directives. It is recommended that the regulations as outlined in the report be rescinded in accordance with the Board's direction to phase out Regulations.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS IN APPENDIX A BE RESCINDED.

CARRIED

(c) Legal Services: Rescission of Legal Opinions Policy and Regulation

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that Legal Services has undertaken a review of policies and regulations under their purview. It is recommended that the Legal Opinions Policy be rescinded as it is operational in nature and that the Legal Opinions Regulation be rescinded in accordance with the Board's direction to phase out Regulations.

Trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Jill Thompson

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT THE LEGAL OPINIONS POLICY AND REGULATION BE RESCINDED.

CARRIED

(d) Revised Consolidated Bylaws and Board Member Code of Conduct

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that since the adoption of the Consolidated Bylaws in March 2022, various points of potential improvement have been raised. Proposed amendments to Sections 5, 6 and 9 of the Consolidated Bylaws and Section 6 of the Board Member Code of Conduct, including rationale, are summarized in the report and are included as tracked changes in Appendix A (Bylaws) and B (Code of Conduct). Proposed amendments will clarify and bring processes more in line with current practice.

The Committee reviewed each proposed amendment in sequence and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE IN SECTION 5.5.8 BE DELETED:
IN CASES OF URGENCY, SUCH A MATTER MAY BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY
TO THE BOARD WITHOUT FIRST GOING TO THE GOVERNANCE AND
POLICY COMMITTEE PROVIDED THAT WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE
PROPOSED POLICY, RESCISSION OF AMENDMENT IS PROVIDED TO
TRUSTEES AT LEAST 5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BOARD MEETING.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT SECTION 5.13.6 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS AND THAT ALL SUBSEQUENT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5.13 BE RENUMBERED:

THE CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE-STANDING SHALL INFORM THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WHEN AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN DENIED, INCLUDING THE RATIONALE.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton
SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT SECTION 5.13.15(A) BE AMENDED TO THE FOLLOWING AND THAT 5.13.15(F) BE DELETED:

(A) EACH PERSON SHALL BE ALLOWED TO ASK ONE QUESTION AND MAY, FOLLOWING THE ANSWER PROVIDED AT THE MEETING, ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY;

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT SECTION 3.1.1 BE AMENDED TO ADD NEW PROVISION: (E) ELECT A TRUSTEE AS STUDENT TRUSTEE MENTOR.

DEFEATED

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT SECTION 2.4.10(F) BE AMENDED TO REMOVE ‘...WITH EACH SHARING DUTIES AS CHAIR;’

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT SECTION 3.1.1(D) BE AMENDED TO: ELECT THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE – STANDING AND APPOINT THE VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AS THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – STANDING;

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT SECTION 2.4.10 BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (E)
COMMUNICATE AND FORWARD ALL RESOLUTIONS PASSED AND
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STUDENT SENATE TO THE BOARD;

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MOVE THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AS NOTED IN TRACKED CHANGES IN THE
CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR
CONSIDERATION.

CARRIED

Following discussion by trustees on various items in the Code of Conduct, it was determined that staff would bring forward revised amendments to the Code of Conduct based on discussion and further review of the Code.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE DEFER DISCUSSION
OF SECTIONS OF THE BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT REFERRING
TO USAGE OF SOCIAL MEDIA TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE AND THAT STAFF PROVIDE AN UPDATED BOARD MEMBER
CODE OF CONDUCT INCLUDING ALL SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS AS
DISCUSSED AT THIS MEETING.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) Suggested Motion from Student Trustees

Trustee Tracy Brown introduced the suggested motion that has been received from DDSB Student Trustees. The suggested motion proposes amendments to the current Student Trustee Election process as outlined in the Consolidated Bylaws and includes changing the number of regularly elected Student Trustees from three to two, while having a third self-identified Indigenous Student Trustee.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron spoke to the suggested motion, noting that its purpose is to make space in DDSB's processes for an Indigenous student representative.

MOVED by Trustee Jill Thompson:

- ~~1. THAT THE NUMBER OF REGULARLY ELECTED STUDENT TRUSTEES REFERENCED IN SECTION 2.4.2 OF THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS BE AMENDED FROM "THREE" TO "TWO".~~
- ~~2. THAT STAFF, IN CONSULTATION WITH INDIGENOUS STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES, DRAFT AN UPDATE TO THE BOARD'S CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH A SELF-IDENTIFIED INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE MAY BE ELECTED TO THE BOARD, TO BE PRESENTED BY WAY OF REPORT TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.~~
- ~~3. THAT UPON RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL BY THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE, THE INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCESS BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE BOARD MEETING FOR APPROVAL.~~
- ~~4. THAT AN APPROVED DDSB INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION PROCESS BE IN PLACE PRIOR TO THE ELECTION FOR THE 2024-2025 STUDENT TRUSTEE TERM.~~

Trustee Shailene Panylo brought forward an amendment to strike out the above foregoing motion and replace it with the following:

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT STAFF, IN CONSULTATION WITH INDIGENOUS STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES, DRAFT AN UPDATE TO THE BOARD'S CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH A SELF-IDENTIFIED INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE MAY BE ELECTED TO THE BOARD, TO BE PRESENTED BY WAY OF A REPORT TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

(b) Process for Adding Items to Meeting Agendas

General Counsel Patrick Cotter introduced the report, noting that it outlines the process for agenda planning and having matters placed on meeting agendas.

There were no trustee questions.

8. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Carolyn Morton:

That the meeting does now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.