

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, December 7, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held this date in the Board Room, Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters (attended at 7:15 p.m.), Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Melanie Manning, Kevin Zheng (attended at 7:15 p.m.)

Regrets: Student Trustee Michelina Aguanno

Officials Present: Director Martyn Beckett, Superintendents Luigia Ayotte, Janet Edwards, Ed Hodgins, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, John Legere, Lisa Millar, Silvia Peterson, Camille Taylor, David Visser, Communications Manager Andrea Pidwerbecki

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence

Chair Michael Barrett indicated that the moment of silence could be used to reflect on the fragile nature of life and keeping family close, as the town of St. George rallied to bring Christmas early to Evan Leversage, a seven-year-old boy who lost his battle with brain cancer last Sunday.

4. O Canada

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5. S.A. Cawker P.S.

Trustee Carolyn Morton welcomed the S.A. Cawker P.S. Intermediate Choir 'The Soaring Eagles Chorus', directed by Julie Renwick and Hanna Ovsenek and accompanied by Jackie Crawford, played two selections entitled "Blackbird" and "Believe." Trustee Carolyn Morton congratulated the group, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2015:97

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2015:98

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2015; AND

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2015.

CARRIED

7. Presentation

There were no presentations at this time.

8. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Donna Edwards reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with retirements, appointments, administrative transfers and promotions, and employee relations issues.

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Operations/Leadership/Early Years advised that the list of transfers and promotions is available on the Board website.

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9. (a) Public Question Period

- (i) Philip Abbott, Whitby indicated that the proposed boundary changes do not appear to be straight forward. He asked if it would be possible to use major streets to define the boundaries ie. east of Thickson and north of the 401. The current boundaries used are based on students attending John Dryden P.S. or Julie Payette P.S.

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools advised that the boundaries are currently in the consultation process and the process will continue to December 18 through designated email and voicemail. Comments received will be incorporated in the final report. A decision has not been made as it is only a proposed boundary. The concern raised has been received previously and will be taken into consideration.

(b) Director's News from the System

Director Martyn Beckett shared that the DDSB's Education Centre played host to the inaugural Geo Day 2015 engaging young minds in the discovery and adventure of Canadian Geography. The Durham Geography Teachers' Association started Geo Day to ignite geographic learning amongst DDSB students with the goal to inspire students to think about geography as more than just a compulsory subject. More than 130 grade nine secondary students from O'Neill CVI, Uxbridge SS, Pickering HS, Donald A Wilson SS, Anderson CVI, Eastdale CVI, and Sinclair SS, attended the day of fun learning centred on local and national geographic study units. Geo Day began with a key note discussion from Parks Canada. Students attended sessions on geospatial technologies, Canadian geography, food security in Durham, waste diversion programs and energy production. Students also explored actions they can take as individuals to make Durham more sustainable. Students were put to the test at the end of the day with geography related trivia games. Uxbridge Secondary School succeeded to bring home the maiden, Geo Day trophy. The Director thanked the grade 12 geography student volunteers and the Durham Geography Teachers' Association for their passion and planning of Geo Day 2015. You can read more about this and other stories on our website at [www.ddsb.ca](http://www.ddsb.ca).

Director Martyn Beckett wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. He also took the opportunity to thank all DDSB staff and students and our school communities for their generous support of those less fortunate. Whether it was through a hat and mitten tree, food drive or by adopting a family – the DDSB school communities and our staff continue to demonstrate caring, generosity and leadership in our schools and offices

Director Martyn Beckett recognized Superintendent of Education/Employee Relations, Janet Edwards on her 25 years of dedicated service to the Durham District School Board.

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10. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

11. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Kevin Zheng provided trustees with an overview of the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the evening. The students focused on the planning of their initiatives and conference in second semester. They also discussed issues that were submitted by participants in order to provide assistance to students.

(b) Committee Membership Overview - 2016

Chair Michael Barrett presented trustees with the Committee Membership Overview for 2016.

12. Committee Reports

(a) Communications Adhoc Committee Report – Meeting of November 10, 2015

Trustee Elinor Hansen advised trustees that the Communications Adhoc Committee met on November 10, 2015 and discussed the trustee's section of the communications strategy. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on February 8, 2016 to discuss the implementation of the strategy.

(b) Special Education Adhoc Committee Report – Meeting of November 30, 2015

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that the Special Education Adhoc Committee met on November 30, 2015. The group received data regarding enrolment of special education students and the high needs gap for various Boards. The campaign logo was discussed and further defined. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on January 11, 2016.

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that she attended the OPSBA Board of Directors' meeting, along with Trustees Linda Stone and Michael Barrett, on November 27 & 28, 2015. Board members were updated and discussed School Boards' readiness for the 25,000 refugees coming to Canada, Legislative Updates, FDK, First Nations Report, GSN Funding, AODA, Community Hubs, Communications & Media, Collective Bargaining and Transportation.

(c) OPSBA Report (Continued)

**Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.**

Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth was a guest speaker at the OPSBA meeting Friday evening. He informed OPSBA Directors of the mandate and jurisdiction of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. The children and youth who fall within the mandate of the Advocate's Office include those who are seeking or receiving services from the children's services sector in areas such as child welfare, youth justice, children's mental health, developmental services and children's treatment services. The jurisdiction of the Office also includes students of the provincial and demonstration schools, youth in court holding cells or being transported to and from court holding cells, First Nations children and youth, and children and youth with special needs. In response to a request, a complaint, or on its own initiative, the Provincial Advocate acts on behalf of concerns of individuals or groups of children or youth and can undertake reviews, make recommendations, and provide advice to governments, facilities, systems, agencies, or service providers. The Provincial Advocate's definition of Advocacy means partnering with youth and children to bring issues forward. They cannot proceed with any request or complaint unless they have the consent of the child or youth.

Erwin explained that there were 93 children or youth that have died within care or who have been provided services within the care umbrella. Members were saddened by this statistic and wanted to know what we could do. The Provincial Advocate is wanting to spread the word about the role of the Advocate by partnering with school boards to ensure contact information is made available to children and youth.

**Communications and Media Relations**

OPSBA has been discussing the readiness of boards for the influx of new students, as a result of the commitment from the Federal Government to take in 25,000 refugees from Syria. Mental health support of the families and students will be key to welcoming the refugees to the community and into our schools. OPSBA has gathered a list of leads from all boards responsible in supporting the student refugees.

**Labour Relations**

OPSBA members discussed the status of the various negotiation tables and issues. It was also noted that the government is collecting feedback on the School Board Collective Bargaining Act. There will be a workshop at the Pre-Symposium for PES to collect feedback from Trustees. This item has also been slated for discussion at our own board meeting prior to PES.

**Legislative Update**

On Wednesday, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk released a nearly-800 page [annual report](#). The report contains 14 value-for-money audits of various government programs, as well as sections on access to government agencies' reports and on government debt. The recommendation for student transportation calls for the government to strengthen its oversight of school buses.

(c) OPSBA Report (Continued)

*Student Transportation: The Ministry of Education, along with Ontario's school boards, are largely responsible for providing daily school bus service to more than 830,000 students each year. The Ministry of Transportation enforces laws and regulations that relate to the safe operation of school vehicles. The audit assessed whether there were effective systems and procedures to safely and efficiently transport elementary and secondary school students; ensure service across the province is equitable and based on need; and measure and report on performance.*

**Bill 113, Police Record Checks Reform Act**

Bill 113 was introduced on June 3, 2015 by the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and received Royal Assent on December 3, 2015. The legislation establishes and standardize three types of record checks: a criminal record check, a criminal record and judicial matters check, and a vulnerable sector check. It will allow a person to transfer their "check" approval if they were to move to a different area instead of having to get a new check.

Other issues discussed were the **Bill 115, Electoral Boundaries Act, Bill 117, Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Amendment Act, Bill 139, Smoke-Free Schools Act**

**Upcoming Events**

Public Education Symposium will be held from Jan. 28 - 30. Note that the workshop on the School Board Collective Bargaining Act will take place at the Pre-symposium on Thursday, January 28. Keynotes this year include [Richard Gerver](#), inspiration business speaker, former teacher and principal, and [Natalie Panek](#), rocket scientist. Plenary and workshop sessions will delve into topics such as cognitive neuroscience, poverty reduction, the Ontario Ombudsman's role and school board audit committees. The Sheraton Hotel is now booked, however an overflow hotel is being identified.

Children & Youth Mental Health Symposium is being held April 7 & 8, 2016. Registration is open.

13. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

There was no correspondence at this time

(b) Other

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

14. Chair's Annual Report

Chair Michael Barrett reflected on the activities of the Board, as a whole, during the past year. A copy of the Chair's Annual report is available on the website at [www.ddsb.ca](http://www.ddsb.ca).

15. Election of Board Chair

Director Martyn Beckett informed trustees of the process for election of the Board's Chair following the Board's By-Laws. Nominations were called for the position of Chair of the Durham District School Board.

2016:01

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

THAT TRUSTEE MICHAEL BARRETT BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
CHAIR OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Barrett accepted the nomination.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Director Martyn Beckett, and there being none, nominations for the position of Chair were closed.

Trustee Michael Barrett was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the Durham District School Board. Trustee Michael Barrett as the newly elected Chair assumed the chair and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Michael Barrett thanked trustees for electing him to the position of Chair of the Board.

16. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Michael Barrett explained that the process for electing the Vice Chair was the same under Board By-laws as it was for the position of Chair. Nominations were called for the position of Vice Chair of the Board.

2016:02

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

THAT TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
VICE CHAIR OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Donna Edwards accepted the nomination.

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16. Election of Vice Chair (Continued)

2016:03  
MOVED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
VICE CHAIR OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Carolyn Morton accepted the nomination.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Michael Barrett, and there being none, nominations for the position of Vice Chair were closed.

2016:04  
MOVED by Trustee Elinor Hansen  
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustees Donna Edwards and Carolyn Morton spoke to their nomination.

Trustee Carolyn Morton was elected to the position of Vice Chair of the Durham District School Board.

9. Election of Standing Committee Vice Chair

Chair Michael Barrett called for nominations to the position of Standing Committee Vice Chair.

2016:05  
MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT TRUSTEE ELINOR HANSEN BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
STANDING COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Elinor Hansen accepted the nomination.



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9. Election of Standing Committee Vice Chair (Continued)

2016:06

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
STANDING COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Donna Edwards accepted the nomination.

2016:07

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT TRUSTEE LARRY JACULA BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
STANDING COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Larry Jacula accepted the nomination.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Michael Barrett, and there  
being none, nominations for the position of Standing Committee Vice Chair were closed.

2016:07

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustees Elinor Hansen, Donna Edwards, and Larry Jacula spoke to their nomination.

Trustee Donna Edwards was elected to the position of Standing Committee Vice  
Chairperson of the Durham District School Board.

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10. Election of Chair of Education Finance Committee

Chair Michael Barrett called for nominations to the position of Chair of Education Finance Committee.

2016:08

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT TRUSTEE ELINOR HANSEN BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
CHAIR OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Elinor Hansen accepted the nomination.

2016:09

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

THAT TRUSTEE CHRIS BRANEY BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
CHAIR OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Chris Braney declined the nomination.

2016:10

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT TRUSTEE LARRY JACULA BE NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF  
CHAIR OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD.

CARRIED

Trustee Larry Jacula declined the nomination.

2016:11

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

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10. Election of Chair of Education Finance Committee (Continued)

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Michael Barrett, and there being none, nominations for the position of Chair of Education Finance Committee were closed.

Trustee Elinor Hansen was acclaimed to the position of Chair of Education Finance Committee of the Durham District School Board.

11. Committee Elections

Chair Michael Barrett called for nominations and/or volunteers for the following committees, and the following appointments were confirmed:

<p><b>Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)</b></p> <p>Patrice Barnes Linda Stone</p> <p><b>Alternates</b></p> <p>Donna Edwards Elinor Hansen</p>	<p><b>Supervised Alternative Learning (S.A.L.)</b></p> <p>Elinor Hansen Carolyn Morton</p> <p><b>Alternates</b></p> <p>Patrice Barnes Donna Edwards</p>
<p><b>Education Finance Committee</b></p> <p>All Trustees</p>	<p><b>Joint Services Committee</b></p> <p>All Trustees</p>
<p><b>Board Expulsion Committee</b></p> <p>All Trustees</p> <p><b>Board Suspension Appeal Committee</b></p> <p>All Trustees</p>	<p><b>Parent Involvement Committee</b></p> <p>Kimberly Zeppieri</p> <p><b>Alternates</b></p> <p>Christine Winters</p>

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11. Committee Elections (Continued)

<b>Ontario Public School Boards' Association (O.P.S.B.A.)</b>  Linda Stone Donna Edwards  <b>Alternates</b>  Patrice Barnes Christine Winters	<b>Audit Committee</b>  Paul Crawford Elinor Hansen Larry Jacula
<b>Code of Conduct</b>  Larry Jacula Kimberly Zeppieri	

2015:12  
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri  
SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

12. Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates 2016

Chair Michael Barrett stated that Board and Committee Meeting dates for 2016 were for the information of trustees.

2016:13  
MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford  
SECIBDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2016 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

14. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

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15. Adjournment

2016:14

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary