

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, June 15, 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 Michael Barrett, Patrice Barnes, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Naleesha Giga, James Hare, Aidan Woodcock-Russell (attended at 7:30 p.m. and left at 9:15 p.m.)

Regrets: Trustee Larry Jacula

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

Regrets: Superintendent Anne Marie Laginski

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence

Trustee Linda Stone indicated that the moment of silence could be used to participate in meditative breathing while thinking of someone special in need.

4. O Canada

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5. Glen Street P.S.

Trustee Linda Stone welcomed the Glen Street P.S. Choir and Orff Ensemble. The students, directed by Tania Brachmayer, Teacher performed two selections entitled "I Won't Give Up" and "Michael Meets Mozart." Trustee Linda Stone congratulated the group, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2015:58  
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri  
SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

The agenda was amended by adding Item 11. (f) OPSBA Report.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

2015:59  
MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney  
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2015;

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 19, 2015; AND

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2015.

CARRIED

7. Presentations

(a) Chairperson's Scholarship Award

The Chairperson's Scholarship Award was not presented at this time.

(b) Student Trustee Recognition

Chair Michael Barrett, on behalf of the Board, thanked Student Trustees James Hare, Naleesha Giga and Aidan Woodcock-Russell for their contribution at the Board meetings and for bringing a student perspective to the Board table. He wished the students well in

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(c) Student Trustee Recognition (Continued)

their future endeavours and, along with Vice Chair Donna Edwards, presented the students with a token of appreciation.

James Hare, Naleesha Giga and Aidan Woodcock-Russell thanked staff and trustees for supporting student voice and providing students with the opportunity to serve as student trustees. They also shared their plans for September with trustees.

(d) Chair Presentation

Chair Michael Barrett presented Director Martyn Beckett with his 25 year service pin. He commented on the Director's leadership within the Board, moral compass, and his success in reaching out to communities beyond the Board. All trustees participated in a photo opportunity with the Director.

(e) Kindergarten Educator Team Project

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with a PowerPoint update on the current status of the Kindergarten Educator Team Project. She introduced audience members Andrew Harris, Principal, Frenchman's Bay P.S. and Jennifer Sheehan, Kindergarten teacher, Da Vinci P.S. Alex Toulis, Accountability and Assessment Officer, Chris Conley, Research Analyst, and Erin McKinney, Research Associate shared the quantitative data collection survey results with trustees. The group also answered questions of trustees.

(f) Make a Difference/Oshawa Poverty Initiative Update

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with a PowerPoint update on "Make A Difference - An Initiative to Address Poverty" that began implementation in September 2013. The initiative was developed to address early learning, preparing the youngest learners for schools, reducing the achievement gap at entry levels, addressing the impact of poverty and engaging and providing supports to Oshawa families. She also answered questions of trustees.

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 resignations, retirements, appointments, leaves of absence, administrative transfers and promotions, property matters and employee relations issues. A copy of the administrative transfers and promotions was available to members of the public for their information.

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9. (a) Public Question Period

- (i) Sandra Forsyth, Ajax asked how many male students received an Activating Student Success Award last April from DBEN. She also asked how the Board will ensure that the students that are placed in the behaviour intervention classrooms need behaviour intervention when the Board reduces the behaviour intervention classrooms from five to two.

Chair Michael Barrett noted that as a member on the Committee, there were very few male applications. Organizers of DBEN are looking at ways to encourage the submission of more applications.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education indicated that all students recommended for behaviour intervention classes will come through the area teams. Each team has a member from psychological services and that person is aware of the needs of the student.

- (ii) Sarah Costa, Uxbridge asked when the next review is scheduled for the transportation policy. She asked if JK/SK students attend FDK at a single track French Immersion school, what happens to the money allocated to bus them to their home school (as per the current policy JK/SK students will not be bussed to a single track French Immersion school).

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation advised that the transportation policy for DSTS was developed in the 2011/2012 school year, went through public consultation and was approved in March 2013. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Sarah Costa asked what the funding is if a JK/SK student attends FDK at an FI school and not their home school.

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation advised that funding is received in the form of a grant from the Ministry based on an historical bench mark. \$20M is received each year based on enrolment and cost adjustments are made for fuel etc. The Board will then make arrangements with DSTS to provide transportation according to eligibility within our policy.

Chair Michael Barrett confirmed that specific money is not allocated for JK/SK students, but is based on a grant.

- (iii) Rachael Grace, Brooklin asked how the Board is planning to address the issue of class sizes specifically for full day kindergarten and grades 4-8.

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care advised that the Ministry provides direction on class size and numbers. There needs to be a Board average of 26:2 or 13:1. The Board continues to monitor numbers by working

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9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

closely with the Operations and Planning Departments and making adjustments as needed. This week a few new classes were added in growth areas and several classes were collapsed that had less than 15 students.

Rachel Grace asked if the class that contains 13 students is allocated in the 26:2 ratio.

Lisa Millar advised that the less than 15 model savings can be used for the high growth model. The Board will review the numbers in August, and noted that not every class will have the 26:2 average.

Rachel Graces noted that in Grades 1-3 there is a cap or guideline in place and Grades 4-8 there is no guideline. She asked what measures are in place to ensure numbers are in control.

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation advised that the Ministry has requirements for grades 1-3 in that 90% of classrooms must have 20 students or less and 100% of classes must have 24 students or less. For grades 4-8, the overall Board average must be 24.5. These averages are maintained and reported to the Ministry by October 31 each year.

- (iv) Julie Worthington, Whitby asked specifically what the Board's long term plan is for the Special Education Program in the face of continued cuts to the high needs amount by the Ministry of Education. She also asked if an impact survey has been conducted to establish the impact of the most vulnerable citizens and if the results of the survey would be shared.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education advised that a long term plan is in process. The Board is meeting the reductions that are anticipated from the decreased high needs funding amount by reviewing program efficiency and how the program can be more effective with the same or fewer dollars. There is no set plan on how the Board will meet the reductions every year, or if the Board will continue with the changes, or something different. In response to the impact survey query, Richard Kennelly advised that the Board always looks at what the impact is and what the impact supports are. An impact survey is tied to people and mostly tied to students. BIC students are diverse and their needs need to be looked at separately. The Board Chief Psychologist Mary Morrison will determine the impact of students in the classroom and the potential program for them in a BI class, and what the best options are. An impact study is more specific to the student in that class or those classes and is part of the conversation the Board is having. Due to the detailed information of the students with the highest needs, the information would not be shared.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Chair Michael Barrett also indicated that as part of the long term plan, trustees have formulated a Special Education Adhoc Committee Terms of Reference in order to take action politically.

- (v) Akilah Haneef-Jabari, Whitby indicated that there are many reports of students being suspended without consultation of mitigating and/or other factors. Such reports are underscored by administrators who, in 2015, stated that they were suspending under zero tolerance. She asked if such suspension practices are contributing to the Board's elevated suspension rates which are above the Provincial average.

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools advised that following Policy, Regulation and Procedure 5500, Code of Conduct, staff are to take into consideration mitigating, other, and human rights factors (these factors are outlined in those policies). The Board suspension rates are at 3.91% which is slightly above the provincial rate of 3.17%. Our suspension rates are declining, but at the same time School Climate and Attitude data shows that students feel safe. It is an expectation that staff follow "Progressive Discipline: A Bias-Free Approach. The suspension trends can be found in the June 1 Standing Committee report entitled Suspension Trends. Administrators are trained and do not use 0 tolerance. Resources are available, including a flow chart to assist staff. The expectations in the resource are reviewed at area and staff meetings.

Akilah Haneef-Jabari asked what specific steps are being taken to ensure that DDSB staff are following policies with respect to progressive discipline and suspensions.

John Bowyer advised that administrators follow the Bias Free approach and not the zero tolerance approach. This is reviewed at area meetings and through specific instances. Progressive discipline is the process used.

Akilah Haneef-Jabari asked if there is a consequence for not following policy.

Chair Michael Barrett advised that there is a consequence. He also noted that the Ministry measures each board differently and there is a need for a better standard on how things are measured. The Durham Board is counting things for suspensions that are not counted at other boards and this includes graduation rates. Data collection is difficult and comparisons are difficult.

(b) Director's News from the System

Director Martyn Beckett congratulated the ambitious and talented Grade 2 class from Queen Elizabeth Public School in Oshawa, for inspiring Kraft Canada to make a generous donation of 2,000 boxes of Kraft Dinner to a local food bank. Teacher Harold Rankin and his class sent a video letter to Kraft Canada in the hopes of raising some food bank donations. The video letter was part of a class discussion about how everyone can have a positive effect in their community. The video shows the students on a mission to help others at their school and asks Kraft to help by supporting local food banks at a time of year when donations are often low. The company was so impressed with the video that it donated 2,000 boxes of Kraft Dinner to a food bank in Oshawa, on behalf of the class. The food bank serves as many as 70 local families on a busy week. The students were thrilled with the response from Kraft and visited the food bank to see how 2,000 boxes stack up -- and learn a bit about how the food bank works. The video was shown for the information of trustees. The Director thanked the students and their teacher for igniting leadership and contributing to the well-being of our community.

The Director offered his congratulations to Eastdale CVI student Mariam Abdul-Rashid who was recently named the 2014 Myrtle Cook Youth Athlete of the Year. Mariam demonstrates an exceptional work ethic both on and off the track. She set Canadian youth records in both the 300m and 400m hurdles. She also placed fifth in the 400m hurdles at the IAAF World Junior Championships in Oregon. At the Canadian youth championships in British Columbia, she reached the podium four times among many other accolades. Her efforts in both the classroom and on the track paid off with a scholarship to the University of Texas. Mariam, and her coach, will be honoured by Athletics Canada at a special Pan American Games themed alumni reception July 24 in Toronto.

The Director highlighted that today at the Education Centre, forty-six self-identified students from grade six to eight participated in the **Proud To Be First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Student Day**. The official opening was conducted by Elder Merritt Taylor from Curve Lake First Nation. The event included a number of cultural workshops including: traditional hand drumming and singing, Métis culture, jigging, fiddling and playing the spoons among many other engaging activities. A class from our own Gandatsetiagon Public School learned how to make their own traditional hand drum in class and today performed some traditional songs for the participants during lunch. Students had the opportunity to network with other self-identified students from across the region, learn teachings from the various mentors, create crafts and take pride in their culture and identity. Director Beckett thanked the many mentors and elders who participated in today's event to make it a very special one for our students. The work displayed in the Education Centre atrium this week celebrates the inclusion of First Nation, Métis and Inuit culture, history and perspectives in elementary and secondary curriculum and classrooms across the DDSB.

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(b) Director's News from the System (Continued)

The Director concluded by extending his very best wishes to all of the DDSB retirees. Director Beckett thanked the 2014-2015 retirees for their years of service in supporting student success and wished them the very best wishes for a happy, healthy retirement.

The Director also congratulated all graduating students as they near the completion of their secondary school careers. He wished all DDSB graduates much future success as they embark on this next chapter in their lives.

On a final note, the Director took the opportunity to thank students, staff and trustees for all their hard work this school year and wished everyone his best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting of June 1, 2015

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the Report of the Standing Committee Meeting of June 1, 2015.

2015:60

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
JUNE 1, 2015 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of April 15, 2015

Trustee Patrice Barnes presented the Report of the SEAC Meeting of April 15, 2015.

2015:61

Moved by Trustee Patrice Barnes

Seconded by Trustee Donna Edwards

SEAC RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD REJECTS THE BUDGET BASED ON  
THE SMALL CLASS PLACEMENTS BEING CLOSED WITHOUT CLEAR  
GUIDELINES, TRANSITION PLANNING AND ON-GOING MONITORING FOR  
STUDENTS BEING MAINSTREAMED.

MOTION DEFEATED



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(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of April 15, 2015 (Continued)

2015:62

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards  
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE REPORT OF THE SEAC MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2015 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(c) Report: Education Finance Committee Meetings of May 20, 2015, May 26, 2015, June 3, 2015

Trustee Carolyn Morton presented the Report of the Education Finance Committee Meetings of May 20, 2015, May 26, 2015 and June 3, 2015. She also answered questions of trustees.

2015:63

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton  
SECONDED by Trustee Paul Crawford

THAT THE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT RATE BE CONFIRMED AT \$0.45/KM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2015.

CARRIED

2015:64

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton  
SECONDED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE 2015-2016 DRAFT BUDGET CONTAINING TOTAL REVENUES OF \$786,301,344 AND AMENDED TOTAL EXPENSES OF \$775,952,790 PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING BOARD (PSAB) STANDARDS BE APPROVED, INCLUDING THE USE OF \$200,000 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS – WORKING FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ADDITIONAL FOUR FTE TEMPORARY SYSTEM EA'S FOR TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT IN THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR;

THAT THE BOARD GRANDFATHER TRANSPORTATION FOR A ONE YEAR PERIOD FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS IMPACTED BY THE CLOSURE OF THE LEARNING STRATEGIES AND BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION CLASSES WHO CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN THEIR CURRENT SCHOOL; AND

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- (c) Report: Education Finance Committee Meetings of May 20, 2015, May 26, 2015, June 3, 2015 (Continued)

THAT THE BOARD MAKE USE OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS TO PUT TOGETHER A TRANSITION PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS, INCLUDING RESOURCES REQUIRED, AND MONITORING WITH MEASURES OF SUCCESS, TO BE IMPLEMENTED THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

CARRIED

- (d) DSTS Student Transportation Report

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation introduced Kelly Mechoulan, CAO, DSTS and provided trustees with information regarding secondary student transportation and walk distance including potential options and estimated costs. He also answered questions of trustees.

2015:65

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE DSTS TRANSPORTATION POLICY BE AMENDED TO A 3.2 KM SECONDARY WALK DISTANCE IN NORTH DURHAM (BROCK, SCUGOG, UXBRIDGE) TO BE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2015.

CARRIED

Trustee Chris Braney suggested that staff investigate extending the 3.2 km secondary walk distance in north Durham to the remainder of the Board by completing a study in 2015/2016, and investigate the impact of the loss of students to the DCDSB due to the current walk distance.

- (e) Uxbridge P.S. Program Review, Township of Uxbridge Supplemental Report

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services provided trustees with information on a transition plan item related to the January 19, 2015 approved program relocation of the English program from Uxbridge P.S. to Quaker Village P.S., effective September 2015.

2015:66

MOVED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

- (e) Uxbridge P.S. Program Review, Township of Uxbridge Supplemental Report (Continued)

THAT ANY CURRENT JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS WHOSE ENGLISH HOME SCHOOL IS CURRENTLY UXBRIDGE P.S. AND WHOSE INTENT IS TO ATTEND FRENCH IMMERSION IN GRADE 1, BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE INTO SENIOR KINDERGARTEN AT UXBRIDGE P.S. AS THEIR DESIGNATED HOME SCHOOL FOR SEPTEMBER 2015.

CARRIED

- (f) Special Education Adhoc Committee – Terms of Reference

Trustee Donna Edwards reported on the actions of the first Special Education Adhoc Committee meeting.

2015:66

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SPECIAL EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

- (g) Notice of Motion: Public Concerns – Policy and Regulation

Director Martyn Beckett presented the following notice of motion:

THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE DRAFT POLICY AND REGULATION RELATING TO PUBLIC CONCERNS.

11. Information Items

- (a) Human Rights – Equity and Inclusive Education

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs introduced Barry Bedford, Education Officer, Equity and Inclusive Education, Jim Markovski, Staff Development Officer and Martine Robinson, Staff Development Officer and provided trustees with information as it relates to the work that has been undertaken in the Durham District School Board to ensure we address the prohibited grounds of discrimination set out in the Ontario Human Rights Code. She also answered questions of trustees.

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(b) Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, March 2015 and Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline, March 2015

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services introduced Carey Trombino, Senior Planner who provided trustees with information on the following:

- 1) Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, March 2015
- 2) Ministry of Education Community Planning and Partnership Guideline, March 2015

(c) 2015 – 2019 Draft Official Enrolment Projections

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services provided trustees with information on the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Official Enrolment Projections (OEP). He also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Annual Operating Plan – Year End Update

Director Martyn Beckett presented trustees with the year end update for the Annual Operating Plan 2014-2015.

(e) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services presented trustees with the Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report.

(f) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that she attended the 25th OPSBA AGM from June 11 - 14, 2015 along with Chair Michael Barrett and Trustees Elinor Hansen, Patrice Barnes and Linda Stone. She noted that OPSBA members showed their confidence in the OPSBA Executive, as they were all acclaimed. She congratulated Chair Michael Barrett as the OPSBA President, Laurie French from Limestone DSB as the 1st Vice President, and Mark Bailey from the Upper Grand DSB as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

John Ralston Saul, Friday's keynote speaker, told attendees how we need to rethink the role indigenous people played in our history. Their stories can tell us how we need to rethink our ethical and intellectual approaches, as we move away from European education concepts. He also said we have to build discussions in our schools that counter fear and increase openness. Discussion in the classrooms will prepare students for the different atmosphere coming from other societies.

David Chilton, the second keynote speaker talked about his Dragon's Den experience but expressed to OPSBA members that technology will change education sooner than we think. He highlighted technology proposals he has seen that will make us rethink the traditional classroom.

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(g) OPSBA Report (Continued)

Attendees listened to a very moving speech from a First Nation's young woman who talked about her experience as a teenager in school and society.

Highlights of successful practices or pilots from various boards were provided. Topics discussed were from Avon Maitland DSB going mainstream for all Special Needs students, to the parent information session called Parent Academies to Resiliency projects.

OPSBA Committee elections were held on Saturday and Trustee Donna Edwards indicated that she was again elected to the OPSBA's Policy Committee.

During the Board meeting, discussions included the new filing of copy right fees from access copyright of \$13.85 per student, legislation, GSNs and approved OPSBA's priorities and Financial Statement.

Overall it was a very informative and productive weekend.

12. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

There was no correspondence at this time

(b) Other

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

13. Other Business

Chair Michael Barrett noted that he will be enforcing that one question will be allowed during public question.

14. Adjournment

2015:67

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary