

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, March 20, 2017

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, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Avery Jackman, Kofi Richter (students left at 9:45 p.m.)

Regrets: Trustees Larry Jacula, Carolyn Morton, Student Trustee Kevin Zheng

Officials Present: Director Lisa Millar, Superintendents Luigia Ayotte, John Bowyer, Mark Fisher, Mohamed Hamid, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, John Legere, Jim Markovski, Silvia Peterson, Martine Robinson, Camille Taylor, Associate Director David Visser, Communications Manager Terry Simzer

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence

Chair Michael Barrett acknowledged that the Board is on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation which is under the Williams Treaties.

The moment of silence was used to remember the sudden and tragic loss of Trustee Elinor Hansen. Condolences were extended to Elinor's husband Peter and daughter Lynda. Elinor touched all of our lives greatly. The moment of silence was also used to remember the sudden and tragic loss of Brett Steeves, husband of Debbie Steeves, Vice Principal, Roland Michener PS. Condolences were extended to Debbie's family along with well wishes for the full recovery of her son's injuries.

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3. Moment of Silence (Continued)

The Board also sent special thoughts to Trustee Larry Jacula who is in hospital experiencing an extreme medical trauma. The Board wished him a speedy recovery and thoughts are with his wife, Linda, during this difficult time.

4. O Canada

5. R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I.

Trustee Linda Stone welcomed the R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I. Jazz Ensemble. The group, directed by Tim Watson, entertained trustees with two selections entitled, "Watermelon Man", and "Angel Eyes". Trustee Linda Stone congratulated the group, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2017:37

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2017:38

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2017; AND

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017.

CARRIED

Chair Michael Barrett recognized John Bowyer, Superintendent, Family of Schools/Safe Schools in honour of his pending retirement. He thanked him for his support, leadership and guidance especially in the safety and welfare of DDSB schools. He recognized John's leadership involvement at the local and provincial level and indicated that he will be missed at the Board table.

John Bowyer thanked the Board and senior team for their support and noted that he is proud of the work completed by schools in the area of safety and security.

7. Presentation

(a) “The Leader in Me: Awareness to Action: and Word Power”: Addressing Verbal Bullying: Student Conferences

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Family of Schools/Safe Schools introduced Dan Hogan, Substance Abuse Co-ordinator and Danielle Hunter, Safe Schools Facilitator who provided trustees with a PowerPoint overview about the student conferences: Durham Youth Drug Awareness conference, and Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week conference. They introduced two students from Sinclair S.S. who spoke about their experiences at the conference. Ken MacNaughton, Safe Schools Officer was also thanked for his leadership. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Supporting Student Success

Martine Robinson, Superintendent, Family of Schools/Parent Engagement introduced Christina Baggesen, Principal, and Tracy Gray, Literacy and Numeracy, Lord Elgin P.S. and Brent Woodward, Principal, Alicia Russell, Teacher, and Anna Dagher, Teacher, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate who provided trustees with a PowerPoint overview of the focused and intentional work to close academic gaps, improve student outcomes and ensure sustainable academic success. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Canada 150

Chair Michael Barrett advised trustees that at the February Board meeting the Canada150/We are DDSB initiative was introduced. He noted that student voice provides an incredible insight to help continue to evolve as a system to support our most precious resource, our students. Trustees watched a video of students celebrating being Canadian and focusing on being Ontarians.

8. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Chris Braney reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with resignations, retirements, appointments, leaves of absence, personnel issues, property matters and employee relations issues.

9. (a) Public Question Period

- (i) Michelle Armstrong, Ajax spoke about the optics of transparency with respect to the Bell Time report. She noted that crucial information was buried in the reports (released in the last 48 hours) with very little time given for families to respond, leaving just over a month since information was initially shared, when the Board has had over two years to compile their data. She asked for an explanation.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer confirmed that Board practice is to post Board agendas the Friday before meeting dates. He shared the procedure around bell times which was created September 2015, and is a hybrid model of the boundary review process, of which over 50 have been completed in the past 10 years. Procedure 6161 outlines that DSTS will provide a bell time review report for efficiency purposes. Once created, the information is shared with the DCDSB and the DDSB in order to move to a January start for the consultation process which would then end in March. The process does not begin later in the year as feedback can come back too late. The procedure balances consultation with the community and provides time for families to adjust.

Michelle Armstrong stated that the parent/family night at Dunbarton H.S did not show any information about Pickering H.S. on any posters in the gymnasium. Information was only disclosed this past Friday. The Town of Ajax was not aware of what the Board was contemplating and has asked why the Town was not made aware of the changes. She asked if the night was a matter of formality and felt the community was being oppressed.

David Visser advised that the Town of Ajax was consulted, as DSTS forwarded an email on January 27, 2017, indicating the full changes to Pickering H.S. and asking for comment on the changes. Contact will be made with the Ajax partner. The bell time was made available at the public consultation meeting, and a great amount of feedback was received at all three open houses. From a DSTS perspective, it appeared that buses could come into Pickering H.S. and not overlap with the other school. The move from 8:15 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. is to alleviate traffic. Through the consultation process, ridership on buses is at 56% utilization. Students should be on the bus, and actual riders are about 170 less. Combined with the bell time review traffic could be vastly reduced. All unchanged and changed bell times were in the January 23 staff report and changes were noted at all open houses.

- (ii) Sheri McCleary, Ajax stated that considering the recent final report on the regional bell time review and the original proposed 8:15 a.m. start time for Pickering H.S., she asked why the Board is recommending an 8:05 a.m. start time without any further consultation, or communication to parents. She advised that 48-72 hour notice at the end of March break does not allow parents time to consider the new changes.

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer reiterated that it is the Board's practice to issue reports the Friday prior to the Board meeting. Consultation took place from mid-January to mid-March and a vast amount of data was collected from 126 schools, a 171 in total including the DCDSB. To have the information available in November is a large task. The recommendation is based on staff comments. There is no impact to roll back the start time from 8:15 to 8:05 a.m.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Sheri McCleary indicated that she was still not clear and asked if there will be an opportunity for further investigation with respect to moving from an 8:30 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. start time, as there is limited time for families to react to the new time change.

David Visser indicated that the Board shares information through a variety of pathways including newsletters to all schools, the Facebook page, many news outlets (CP24, Toronto Star, 680 News). Word has spread to the greater community. The move from an 8:30 a.m. start time to an 8:15 a.m. start time was based on the feedback received. All trustees received a binder, containing every comment received to date, for their consideration and approval.

- (iii) Cayden Nassar, Ajax asked how the Board would feel if they had to work a full time job to keep a source of income strong enough to support their family, and now a bell time change could happen that could prevent them from being able to support their family, as money will be spent on babysitting and nannies.

Chair Michael Barrett advised that most trustees are parents and grandparents and understand the parameters of raising children and the costs associated with that. The Board must look at fairness and equity across the entire board. 1,600 more students will be on a bus, and some are currently paying for bus passes that they cannot afford either. The Board must balance all communities and it understands the difficulties caused by the move they are making.

Cayden Nassar stated that student grades and studying abilities will be affected by having to wake up early, with less sleep. Students have trouble getting to school in time for an 8:30 a.m. start. He can't see how they will survive, and grades will suffer.

Chair Michael Barrett stated that having raised six children, he understands the dilemma of getting to school on time. He noted that half of our schools start before 8:30 a.m. and the other half start later. The realities and economics of bussing students precludes all students from starting at an optimum time. At other Boards, some schools start at 8:45 a.m. The Board must be fair and equitable with all 70,000 students

- (iv) Eva Kyriakides, Ajax asked how the Board can justify moving a high school start time to 8:05 a.m. with all of the evidence pointing to the importance of proper sleep for student achievement and well-being.

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer advised that the bell time change also means that 1,281 students will not have to walk to school. The tiering of bussing is necessary to maximize the number of start times across the board. There are some pains, but also significant gains. He also noted that 245 students are from priority neighbourhoods, as identified in the Durham Region Health Department report, that will benefit from this.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Eva Kyriakides indicated that it was noted that justification for changing bell times is related to community feedback, but the chart in the report indicates that two sections have the highest number of comments, traffic issues, and student well-being. She asked how community feedback suggested a bell time change to 8:05 a.m. She believes feedback indicated to leave the time alone.

David Visser advised that 1,070 of the Pickering H.S. families provided comments and only 8% related to safety and an early start time. The move to an 8:05 a.m. start was for safety and to alleviate traffic between the two schools.

- (v) Mary Hindle, Ajax stated that 1,400 students are going to get bussing and she appreciates that 4 km is a long walk for them. She noted that an 8:05 a.m. start time was never presented to parents and when the issue came to the information night, it was based on a 15 minute time change not a 25 minute time change, which would skew the data for the whole package. There was really no appropriate follow up time to communicate a 25-30 minute time change when it was never presented in the first place.

David Visser advised that to receive feedback, the Board needed to look at viable options. The community has not fully been consulted with regarding moving the school back 10 minutes. It is within the mandate of trustees to consider the options presented. They can review the information and maintain an 8:15 a.m. start and proceed to work through traffic congestion at both schools. If it is felt that an 8:15 start is prudent, the change can be made. If consultation is moved into April or May, it is too late in the year. The modification to the start time is a result of what the community wants, but trustees can change it.

Mary Higgins indicated that Pickering H.S. parents responded with concerns regarding an earlier start time and were told it was an "all or nothing" proposal. 34 comments are opposed to moving the bell time any earlier. Now the indication is that the bell time is moving even earlier.

Chair Michael Barrett advised that the bell time proposal came from staff to trustees and it is for trustees to make the decision. The proposal is coming forward to move the bell time from 8:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. It is the maximum amount of time that does not impact tiering of buses. Any longer would have an impact. Feedback indicated that the community did not want it earlier, and wanted it to remain status quo. To move some of the other proposals could cost over \$100,000. The Board is hearing that there is not a desire to move the bell time to an 8:05 a.m. start

- (vi) Andy Lubczynski, Ajax advised that on January 23, 2017 notice was received about the bell time review process. He noted that, two years prior to that, trustees had the opportunity to study and review the changes for 177 schools and 169,000 students to make up the shortfall. He referenced the letter from the Town of Ajax and asked how the Town of Ajax was not consulted in the process.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Director Lisa Millar confirmed the receipt of the correspondence from the Town of Ajax last week. She advised that each municipality was contacted by DSTS for consultation, specifically identifying the email correspondence that was sent to the Town of Ajax on January 27, 2017, which included a chart of all bell times and asking for input and consultation. Municipalities were asked to contact staff and we reached out to all municipalities. She indicated that she will follow up with the municipality and speak with the mayor specifically.

Andy Lubczynski cited many studies on sleep deprivation and referenced a University of Minnesota study. He asked how it is possible that all of the studies from the American Association of Pediatrics, stating that high school should not start prior to 8:30 a.m., have been overlooked.

Chair Michael Barrett advised that he sits on the DSTS Committee. He noted that the original recommendation to change bell times at the Education Finance Committee was two years ago. About two years ago the walk distance for northern schools was changed, with the agreement that DSTS would look at the walk distance for the remainder of the municipalities. He noted that he is not discounting studies, or the academic knowledge being referenced, but there must be a balance between research and the realities of transporting students, and between fiscal responsibility and recognizing there must be a move to an equitable and fair process.

- (vii) Akila Haneef-Jabari, Whitby asked who participated in “100 Strong”, what the cost is, and how it is being financed.

Director Lisa Millar stated that 100 Strong is an initiative coming out of the Equity and Diversity Steering Committee, chaired by Justice Donald McLeod. The Board will fund the initiative and the Committee is currently in the planning process. Participants will be determined at the next Steering Committee meeting, as six subcommittees have been established. More information will be available after the April meeting.

(b) Director’s News from the System

Trustee Michael Barrett welcomed Mohamed Hamid, Superintendent, Family of Schools/Safe Schools to the Board and indicated that the Board looks forward to his contribution.

The remainder of the Director’s News from the System was presented later in the meeting.

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10. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting of March 6, 2017

Trustee Chris Braney presented the report of the Standing Committee meeting of March 6, 2017.

2017:39

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2017 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of January 19, 2017

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the report of the SEAC meeting of January 19, 2017.

2017:40

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE REPORT OF THE SEAC MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2017 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(c) Proposed Amendment to Regulation #1350 Definitely Durham

Director Lisa Millar provided trustees with information regarding a change to Regulation #1350 – Definitely Durham.

2017:41

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE REVISION TO REGULATION #1350 – DEFINITELY DURHAM BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

(e) Motion Regarding Use of Dunbarton Annex

Anne Marie Laginski, Superintendent, Family of Schools provided trustees with information to rescind the approval of a motion from the February 21, 2017 Board meeting, regarding the relocation of alternate programs from the leased units on Bayly Street into the Annex Building Dunbarton H.S., based upon updated information. She also answered questions of trustees. Trustees also discussed the cost differential.

2017:42

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee by Donna Edwards

THAT THE FOLLOWING MOTION BE POSTPONED TO THE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON APRIL 18, 2017.

THAT PART ONE OF THE APPROVED MOTION FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2017, WHICH STATED "THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE RELOCATION OF THE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY ACCOMMODATED IN LEASED SPACE ON BAYLY STREET PICKERING, INTO THE DUNBARTON ANNEX BUILDING FOR SEPTMEBER 2017, WHICH IN TURN, RELOCATES DUNBARTON H.S. PUPILS BACK INTO THE DUNBARTON H.S. BUILDING", BE RESCINDED; AND

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE CONTINUED USE OF THE BAYLY STREET LOCATION UNTIL FUTURE OPTIONS UNFOLD.

CARRIED

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

Director Lisa Millar provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following Director's News from the system:

- On February 22nd more students than ever before were involved in recognizing Pink Shirt Day across the DDSB. Students and staff could be seen sporting pink shirts and sharing messages of being kind to one another, and standing up to bullying.
- On February 16th, West Lynde Public School hosted a successful Family Wellness Evening inviting students, families and community members to the school to learn more about some of the wellness initiatives and services available in the community. The school invited local speaker, Paralympian and humanitarian *Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt* to attend and speak with attendees around wellness, accessibility and inclusion for everyone. Tracy was born a 4-way amputee. She spoke with students at an assembly in the day and attended again in the evening to share with parents and community members her message of personal experience, courage, commitment and determination to challenge misconceptions about disability and to inspire achievement.

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

- On March 1st our Equity Program continued progress on the Racialized and Aboriginal Leadership initiative for staff by continuing the conversation with Racialized and Aboriginal staff in seeking positions of leadership within the DDSB. Our Racialized and Aboriginal staff program helps to develop a critical race framework for understanding equity and inclusive issues, envision new forms of leadership and advocacy with a goal of encouraging Racialized and Aboriginal staff to feel more prepared and equipped to take on leadership roles within our Board.
- On March 6th, the DDSB Education Centre once again hosted the annual *And Still We Rise* student leadership conference. All of our secondary schools had a presence at the annual conference, which aims to provide opportunities to successfully engage, promote and cultivate the vast leadership talents of our African Canadian secondary students. This year's message was *Cultivating Courageous Change - Redressing Oppression*, which was articulately addressed by former DDSB Maxwell Heights Secondary School student and current University of Toronto student Shailene Panylo. Her keynote addressed former peers to raise their awareness toward self-reflection and future opportunities.
- Teaching staff has also been hard at work as seventy-five elementary grades 4 to 8 teachers attended training on math and the inquiry process February 16th and March 3rd to focus on exploring digital information tools to ignite curiosity and develop rich questioning and wonder in the math classroom. Links were developed between our Library Learning Commons inquiry process and development of the three-part math lesson. Participants were given numerous tools to use across all stages of math planning while encouraging the use of inquiry, student exploration and wonder. The workshops introduced tools such as: Curio streaming video, the provincial Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), the DDSB Library Learning Commons web environment, Office365, OneNote and various mobile, numeracy-based apps.
- On March 8th, DDSB schools participated in many activities to support International Women's Day.
- Over 600 secondary students from 16 DDSB secondary schools will attend the 100th anniversary at Vimy Ridge next month. Students will engage in a momentous occasion to mark the battle that came to symbolize Canada's coming of age as a nation. We wish our students well.
- At Sherwood Public School in Oshawa, JK and SK classes have created a pen pal relationship with students in a Cree classroom who are helping them to answer questions on the Cree culture and to assist our students to learn to count to ten and the correct pronunciations in their rendition of 'O Canada.' We are excited to see the intersectionality of Igniting Learning through math and culturally responsive pedagogy.

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

Upcoming Events:

- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21
- SEAC Committee – March 23
- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade – March 25
- Grade 10 OSSLT – March 30
- World Autism Day – April 2
- Parents As Partners Symposium – April 8
- Student Trustee Elections – April 10-12
- Land Based Language (AkinoomoshinIn) – April 13
- Durham Black Educators' Network *And Still We Rise* Elementary Edition – April 15

It was noted that International Down Syndrome Day is on March 21, 2017

(d) Regional Bell Time Review – Final Staff Report

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer introduced Christine Nancekivell, Manager of Property and Planning Services, and Kelly Mechoulan, CAO, DSTS, and provided trustees with information regarding adjusted bell times. They also answered questions of trustees.

2017:43

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE BELL TIME ADJUSTMENTS AS OUTLINED IN TABLE 1 OF THE REGIONAL BELL TIME REVIEW – FINAL STAFF REPORT.

CARRIED LATER IN THE MEETING
(See Following Motions)

2017:44

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Paul Crawford

THAT THE FOREGOING MOTION (2017:43) OF TRUSTEES CHRIS BRANEY AND DONNA EDWARDS BE AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

AND, THAT A TWO YEAR GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD BE ESTABLISHED FOR S.A. CAWKER P.S. AND JOSEPH GOULD P.S.

MOTION DEFEATED LATER IN THE MEETING (See Following Motion)

(d) Regional Bell Time Review – Final Staff Report (Continued)

Trustee Paul Crawford moved a motion to adjust the suggested gradual implementation of the 45 minute time change for S.A. Cawker P.S. and Joseph Gould P.S. from 20 minutes in year one and 25 minutes in year two, to 10 minutes in year one and 10 minutes in year two. The motion was not tabled as there was no seconder.

The amending motion (2017:44) of Trustees Patrice Barnes and Paul Crawford was then put to a vote and DEFEATED.

2017:45

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE BOARD MEETING CONTINUE PAST 10:00 P.M.

CARRIED

Trustee Paul Crawford moved that Pine Ridge S.S. and Bayview Heights P.S. have the change in their start times reduced to 10 minutes each. The motion was not tabled as there was no seconder.

The foregoing motion (2017:43) of Trustees Chris Braney and Patrice Barnes was then put to a vote and CARRIED.

The following notice of motion will be presented at the board meeting scheduled to be held on April 18, 2017:

THAT THE BOARD COMMENCE THE PROCESS TO AMEND THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR A SECONDARY WALK DISTANCE OF
3.2 KM.

(f) Filling the Trustee Vacancy on the Durham District School Board

Director Lisa Millar provided trustees with information relating to a Trustee vacancy, and the options available to fill the trustee vacancy and the process. She also answered questions of trustees.

2017:46

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE BOARD ESTABLISH AN APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE WITH THE
AUTHORITY TO INTERVIEW AND APPOINT.

CARRIED

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(f) Filling the Trustee Vacancy on the Durham District School Board (Continued)

Trustees agreed that the Committee will meet prior to the Standing Committee meeting scheduled to be held on April 3, 2017.

11. Information Items

(a) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer presented the Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report for the information of Trustees.

12. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested

There was no correspondence at this time.

(b) Other

- (i) Waterloo Region DSB
- (ii) Waterloo Region DSB
- (iii) Blue Water DSB
- (iv) Durham DSB/Peel DSB
- (v) Durham DSB/Toronto DSB
- (vi) Town of Ajax

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

14. Adjournment

2017:47

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 p.m.

Chair

Secretary