

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, March 23, 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 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michael Barrett, Patrice Barnes, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Kimberly Zeppieri, Christine Winters, Student Trustees James Hare (left at 8:45 p.m.), Aidan Woodcock-Russell (left at 7:40 p.m.)

Regrets: Student Trustee Naleesha Giga

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

Regrets: Superintendent John Bowyer

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence

Chair Michael Barrett suggested that the moment of silence could be used to reflect on the recent passing of an R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I. student. It is important to remember how fragile life is and that the family and school family are suffering this loss.

4. O Canada

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5. Altona Forest P.S.

Trustee Paul Crawford welcomed the Altona Forest P.S. Intermediate Band. The students, directed by Andrew Tyas, Teacher performed a song entitled "Surge". Trustee Paul Crawford congratulated the group, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2015:32

MOVED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2015:33

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2014;

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2015.

CARRIED

7. Presentations

(a) Joseph Gould P.S.'s Journey to Improving Student Achievement

Anne Marie Laginski, Superintendent, Brock/Uxbridge/Scugog, DEC, DASS provided trustees with an overview of Joseph Gould P.S.'s Journey in Improving Student Achievement through the Power of CO. Gayle Gailits, Principal, Stephen Robertson, Vice Principal, Maryann Chilton, Teacher, Tammy Ropitzky, Teacher, and Jennifer Rodych, Teacher provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation depicting how the administration set the direction in leading the instructional program to improve student achievement and build a collaborative learning culture with a focus on the power of the co-process. Teachers have made a shift in their practices and are now much more collaborative in the way they plan, teach, assess and reflect. The group also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Health and Physical Education Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with information as it relates to the Human Development and Sexual Health Component of the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8. 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, personnel issues, property matters and employment relations issues.

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation announced the following transfer:

Conor Jinkinson, Vice Principal, Westney Heights P.S., will be transferred to Vice Principal, Unnamed Imagination P.S. effective July 1, 2015.

9. (a) Public Question Period

(i) Sandeep Kakan, Pickering asked if the Board inquired and/or received the timeline of operations wind down at the Pickering works yard. He noted that Creekwood and Duffin Heights community members drafted a response in support of a neighbourhood school and forwarded the response to the Minister of Education. A copy of the response was submitted for the information of trustees.

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services referred to the report that was presented to the Board at the Standing Committee meeting of March 2, 2015. In particular, he referenced Section 2.3 and 3.1.3.2 regarding the elementary school site that has been designated through the Pickering official plan. The site is currently a Works Yard owned by the City of Pickering, and will not be available to use until the city secures new lands in the Seaton development area. Purchasing the future school site is dependent upon the overall development of the Seaton lands and the relocation of the municipal Works Yard. There has been no further update on the Seaton lands. Staff will be moving forward to ask the City if environmental testing can be conducted on the proposed site, which is part of the normal site acquisition process.

(ii) Akilah Haneef-Jabari, Whitby stated that at 16.7%, Ajax boasts the highest percentage of Blacks in Canada according to the 2011 census. She asked, in the interest of proportional representation, what the percentage of non-white educators in the Durham District School Board is. She also asked where the public can obtain copies of the leadership framework for each individual school.

9. (a) Public Question Period

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation advised that individual schools use the DDSB strategic plan, Ignite Learning, and follow the three pieces outlined in the plan. The Board Improvement Plan is a support document for schools to build their school improvement plan. The school will determine what they decide to use as part of their framework. The Ministry website is another area the public can access leadership framework. Some schools will have their framework and/or priorities within the school on their website. The public can also contact the area superintendent for information.

Janet Edwards, Superintendent, Employee Relations advised that the Board does not maintain statistics on the number of non-white educators in the system. As a Board, we have taken a proactive approach with hiring practices and always look for the best candidate ie skills, qualities. The Board builds strong relationships with faculties of education and has an excellent pool of applicants. It ensures that the diversity of the community is reflected in those groups, and provides mandatory training that focuses on equity in hiring. Staff reflects the communities that they serve. With the introduction of Regulation 274, administrators now have to offer candidates employment based on their qualifications and seniority as an occasional teacher. There is less flexibility now than prior to the introduction of the regulation.

Akilah Haneef-Jabari asked if it was fair to say that less than 2% of educators are non-white.

Janet Edwards indicated that it would be difficult to speculate on what the percentage is, as the statistics are not tracked.

Chair Michael Barrett stated that part of the issue is with the regulatory changes and the lack of ability for school boards to have a broader framework for hiring teachers. This controls the ability of school boards to balance the best teacher and the teachers reflected in the community. The last contract really restricts school boards to do that. The basis for hiring is now the length of time on the list and seniority.

(b) Director's News from the System

Director Martyn Beckett highlighted the recently held "And Still We Rise" student leadership conference, held at the Education Centre. This fifth annual conference hosted by the Durham Black Educators' Network supported and sponsored by the Durham District School Board (DDSB). This year, the conference theme was: Cultivating Courageous Change. Conference organizers developed a day designed to motivate the 150 DDSB students in attendance to give back to their communities while maximizing their potential, and planning for future pathways. Keynote speaker was Trey Anthony. Trey is known for the ground-breaking and award-winning television and theatrical production 'da Kink in My Hair. She is the first Black Canadian woman to write and

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

produce a television show on a major prime time Canadian network among many other accomplishments. The Director thanked the conference organizers and speakers for their efforts to both welcome and inspire our students. The Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN) is currently celebrating 10 years. DBEN's focus is on implementing leadership and curriculum development initiatives. A video about the event is now available on the DDSB's YouTube channel.

Director Martyn Beckett mentioned a recent initiative called the 21st Century Math Classroom, now available on our staff portal. This initiative supports the DDSB's focus on numeracy by providing teaching staff from kindergarten through grade 12 with a comprehensive resource. Staff can find resources, links, videos and ideas all in one section on the staff portal. The Director thanked the Programs team and the many educators involved in developing this important resource focussed on helping to improve student achievement in numeracy and to ignite learning.

With Earth Hour coming up at the end of the week, the Director took the opportunity to focus on some of the ongoing environmental initiatives at the DDSB. In particular, the Highbush Public School Eco Club, the winner of this year's \$10,000 grant to improve local green spaces in Pickering. The group won 'Best Group Effort' at a recent celebration event, recognizing the City's 2014 Celebrating Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program. The Highbush PS Eco Club, a student/teacher group of 11, will now work with the City on a community enhancement project. This group undertook a broad and diverse group of initiatives such as a tree planting and vegetable garden building event, litter cleanups, nature hikes, and environmental workshops. The Director congratulated the students and staff at Highbush PS for their award and also for inspiring leadership and community engagement.

The Director took the opportunity to remind everyone of an upcoming event – the Advanced Technology Parent Training Evening. The event is geared toward helping adults to assist their child with reading, writing and organization. This technology training evening will highlight software such as Kurzweil, SpeakQ/WordQ and MS OneNote. The event will take place on Monday, March 30th at Pickering High School from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. In order to register for this session, please contact your school Special Education Resource Teacher.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting of March 2, 2015

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the Report of the Standing Committee Meeting of February 2, 2015.

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- (a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting of March 2, 2015 (Continued)

2015:34

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF
MARCH 2, 2015 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

- (b) Motion: SEAC Meeting of February 19, 2015
Report: SEAC Meeting of January 15, 2015

Trustee Patrice Barnes presented the motion of the SEAC meeting of February 19, 2015 and the Report of the SEAC Meeting of January 15, 2015.

2015:35

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT KATHY KEDEY BE THE SEAC REPRESENTATIVE AND DOROTA
SIMPSON BE THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR VOICE FOR
HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN.

CARRIED

2015:36

MOVED by Trustee Linda Stone

SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

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

CARRIED

- (c) Policy and Regulation #5550 – Student Dress Code

Ken MacNaughton, Administrative Officer, Safe Schools on behalf of John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools provided trustees with information to approve the proposed revisions to Policy and Regulation #5550 – Student Dress Code. He also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Policy and Regulation #5550 – Student Dress Code (Continued)

2015:37

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Larry Jacula

THAT THE REVISIONS TO POLICY AND REGULATION #5550 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

11. Information Items

(a) Grandview Children's Centre

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with information regarding the partnership with Grandview Children's Centre to expand and provide programs and services for early years and school age children with special needs in the Northern schools. She introduced Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, Executive Director, Grandview Children's Centre who expanded on the strategic plan highlighting partnership and collaboration. She noted the growing need to provide a full service opportunity in the North and the partnership with the Durham District School Board is a perfect fit. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Student Ride Time in Excess of 60 Minutes

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation provided trustees with the number of students whose school bus ride time to their designated school is in excess of 60 minutes. He also introduced Kelly Mechoulan, CAO, DSTS.

(c) Annual Operating Plan – Mid-Year Update

Director Martyn Beckett presented trustees with a mid-year update regarding the Annual Operating Plan for the Durham District School Board.

(d) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

David Visser, Superintendent Facilities Services presented the quarterly report of the current construction and major projects progress for the information of trustees.

(e) By-law #2 – Rules of Procedure - Revised

Chair Michael Barrett presented revised By-law #2 – Rules of Procedure as a notice of motion.

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12. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

(b) Other

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

14. Adjournment

2015:38

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary