

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, May 16, 2016

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 7:12 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, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Michelina Aguanno

Regrets: Student Trustees Melanie Manning and Kevin Zheng

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

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Karen Douglas

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence

Chair Michael Barrett advised that the moment of silence can be used to be mindful of student safety concerns with longer daylight hours before, during and after school.

4. O Canada

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5. Anderson C.V.I.

Trustee Christine Winters welcomed the Anderson Senior Jazz Ensemble. The group, directed by Curtis Hunter, played two selections, "Aguilas", and "Work Song". Trustee Christine Winters congratulated the groups, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2016:57

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri
SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2016:58

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2016; AND

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2016;

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2016.

CARRIED

7. Presentation

(a) Pine Ridge S.S. Presentation Reading Tutorials: Literacy Interventions at the Secondary School Level

John Legere, Superintendent, Pickering introduced Anne Arthur, English Facilitator, Grades 7-12, Tara MacKay, Teacher, Maureen Verhoog, Teacher, Miriam Loney-Bolsoneloo, Teacher-Librarian, and Susan Jones, Principal, Pine Ridge S.S. who provided trustees with a PowerPoint overview of a pilot project being implemented at Pine Ridge S.S. This teacher-initiated project has been designed to address the literacy skill development needs of Grade 9 students. A rationale for the reading intervention project, a detailed description of the implementation process as well as project highlights, updates and next steps were also addressed. They also answered questions of trustees.

8. Report from the Committee of the Whole n Camera

Trustee Carolyn Morton reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with resignations, retirements, appointments, leaves of absence, administrative transfers and placements, personnel issues, and property matters.

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Operations/Leadership/Early Years advised that the approved transfers and promotions will be posted on the Board website.

9. (a) Public Question Period

- (i) Shirley Spicer, Oshawa, advised that her daughter is an Educational Assistant employed by the Durham District School Board and was injured in an incident recently in a classroom. She asked what are the Board's plans to increase funding for additional Educational Assistants in the coming years?

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education stated that her daughter's experience was unfortunate. Efforts are made through programming including the work of classroom teachers and educational assistants to reduce incidents of aggression. Increased numbers of educational assistants are not always the answer. The needs of the system are examined in planning for the budget, and adjustments in staffing are made appropriately. The number of educational assistants has not decreased.

Shirley Spicer asked why her daughter is wearing PPE (personal protection equipment)?

Richard Kennelly advised that not all educational assistants wear PPE. Educational Assistants are assigned to schools and school staff determine their placement within the school.

Chair Michael Barrett advised that the Durham District School Board recently launched a "One in Four" campaign, identifying the gap in special education funding and to pressure the provincial government and local members of provincial parliament for additional special education funding. One in four students (15,000) at the DDSB have been identified as students with special needs. Special education funding has decreased while needs continue to increase and this gap is likely to grow. He concurred with Ms. Spicer's concerns and stated that he was sympathetic to what her daughter had experienced..

Ms. Spicer thanked the Board for taking the time to listen to her concerns and for their efforts on behalf of students.

(b) Director's News from the System

Interim Director Luigia Ayotte shared that on Friday, May 13th, the DDSB showed its Pride at the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) Conference which had a theme of Durham Shows Pride. It was a highly successful event. The Board partnered with PFLAG Durham Region for the event for students from across the DDSB, including both elementary and secondary schools for the first time. More than one hundred and ten students attended. The keynote speaker was Teddy Syrette an Ojibway, queer, indigenous, gender fluid person from Bathewana First Nation. Syrette shared how they overcame different aspects of racism and homophobia and realized the challenges of being gay and First Nation. The day was also marked by raising of the PRIDE flag to commemorate International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. This is the second year all DDSB schools raised the Pride flag at their schools. The Interim Director thanked everyone who attended and the outstanding presenters from EGALÉ, UOIT, Durham Writing Rainbow and the Metis Nation of Ontario. She noted a special thanks to the organizers who provided an excellent conference and learning opportunity for our students and staff.

Interim Director Ayotte offered her congratulations to the recent honourees at the Durham Black Educators' Awards night. The awards seek to recognize students in Durham's Black diaspora, who demonstrate leadership while maintaining strong academic performance. The Activating Student Success Awards is a time for student celebration and encouragement. DBEN members take the time to empower youth to strive for their dreams. This year's keynote speaker, Vidal Chavannes, shared a motivating message telling youth to "Wrap themselves in the knowledge of their history." More information on the awards, the winners and the event can be found in a video now featured on our website at www.ddsb.ca.

The DDSB is pleased to announce that it has received Ministry of Education approval to proceed with the construction of major renovations to Eastdale CVI and R.S. McLaughlin CVI in Oshawa. Ministry approval was received on May 5, 2016.

Interim Director Ayotte shared that Eastdale CVI will receive a four classroom addition, a new cafeteria, a new kitchen and a new youth hub. Plans also include renovating the school's existing cafeteria and kitchen into two new special education rooms, one culinary arts room and one cosmetology room.

R.S. McLaughlin CVI will receive an addition of two new classrooms, two new special education rooms and a youth hub. A four-room child care centre will also be built as part of the expansion. Youth hubs are a new concept to DDSB schools and will provide students with onsite access to programs and supports provided by community partners.

Further details regarding construction will be shared with the school communities in the coming months.

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

The Durham District School Board invites the community to help name the new yet to be named French Immersion Public School in Oshawa. Submission names for the new school should be in keeping with the guidelines, which are posted on our website. The Unnamed French Immersion Public School in north Oshawa will be located at 950 Coldstream Drive. Submissions will be accepted up to Friday, May 27, 2016 and should include a detailed background/history of the suggested name along with individual's name, address, e-mail address and telephone number.

Interim Director Ayotte also announced that nominations are now open for Definitely Durham, the Durham District School Board's Hall of fame to celebrate and showcase the successes of former DDSB students. Nominations are open until July 7, 2016. The selection criteria and the nomination form can be found on the Board's website at www.ddsb.ca and individuals are encouraged to have a look and consider making a nomination. Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee and the induction ceremony will take place in November. All inductees will be honoured at the ceremony and a plaque will be installed at the Education Centre.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting of May 2, 2016

Trustee Carolyn Morton presented the report of the Standing Committee meeting of May 2, 2016.

2016:59

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 2, 2016 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of March 10, 2016

Trustee Patrice Barnes presented the report of the SEAC meeting of March 10, 2016. She also answered questions of trustees.

In response to a question from Trustee Donna Edwards, Richard Kennelly, Superintendent of Special Education advised that he will send a complete list of classroom adjustments to Trustees for their information.

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(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of March 10, 2016 (Continued)

2016:60
MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula
SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE REPORT OF THE SEAC MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2016 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(c) Campbell Trust Fund

David Visser, Associate Director provided trustees with information surrounding the Campbell Trust Fund. He also answered questions of trustees. Trustees Christine Winters and Kimberly Zeppieri will be advised of the distribution of funds in Whitby in December of 2016.

2016:61
MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters
SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

(A) THAT THE BOARD RESCIND THE FOLLOWING MOTION, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

'THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD THAT TWO-FIFTHS OF THE INCOME OF THE CAMPBELL ESTATE TRUST FUND BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE SALVATION ARMY FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN WHITBY DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS'

(B) THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF CHRISTMAS FUNDS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES THROUGH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF WHITBY, FOLLOWING THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF THE ATHLETICS DISBURSEMENTS.

CARRIED

11. Information Items

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Linda Stone reported on the proceedings of the OPSBA Executive Council and Board of Directors meeting of April 29th and 30th, 2016. Educational issues discussed included labour relations with respect to the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act consultation, principal/vice principal provincial discussions and the Putting Students First Act court decision.

(a) OPSBA Report (Continued)

An Early Years update was provided relating to the Ministry's release of the Kindergarten Addendum to Growing Success which includes report card templates to be implemented in September 2016. OPSBA has requested that this be a "soft launch" in order that principals, teachers and early childhood educators are consistent in their reporting and to adjust any discrepancies, and to receive parental feedback.

A discussion took place with respect to proposed changes to Child Care and Early Years such as licensing standards including age grouping, ratios and maximum group sizes in child care centres which has since been reversed by the government. The government has also since eliminated wait lists and associated fees.

Before and after school programs, extended day and third party programs for children six to twelve years will not be implemented before 2017. OPSBA has concerns related to this.

In the legislative update, the Director of Policy provided an update on activities at Queen's Park including the announcement of Paul Dube's appointment to the office of the Ombudsman of Ontario, the proposed changes to municipal elections, and recent news on Quebec's Bill 86.

Following the release of the Community Hubs Strategic Framework and Action Plan in August of 2015, OPSBA has monitored and participated in the implementation of the Action Plan wherever possible. Several OPSBA concerns were highlighted in the GSN overview including a need for clearer direction and purpose, compensation to school boards for extra costs, and that building and hub management not fall to principals. Parent and student safety must be paramount.

The Director of Communications delivered proposed new OPSBA priorities for the 2016-2017 school year. This list was shared with Trustees.

The Finance Director gave a status report on the Technical Working Group of Benefits. The School Energy Coalition status report was noted, as was student transportation requests for proposal, 2016-2017 GSNs and the Ontario Retirement Pension Plans potential impact on school boards.

12. Other Business

Chair Michael Barrett stated that during the past six months, the Durham District School Board has witnessed much change amongst senior administration including the departure of Director of Education Martyn Beckett to a secondment with the Ministry of Education, the retirement of Ed Hodgins, Superintendent of Business, and the recent announcement of Janet Edwards', Superintendent of Employee Relations, secondment to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

Chair Michael Barrett stated that he was pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Millar, Superintendent of Education/Operations/Leadership and Early Years and Childcare to the role of Director of Education for the Durham District School Board.

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12. Other Business (Continued)

Lisa has extensive experience at the Board including Superintendent of Education/Pickering Schools and Early Years; Principal of Williamsburg PS; Principal of Meadowcrest PS, and Administrative Officer for Uxbridge/Pickering/Outdoor Education/Supervised Alternative Learning and English Language Learners.

Most recently, Lisa has lead the development of the *Ignite Leadership – the DDSB’s Strategic Leadership Plan*, developed a *Blue Print to Address Poverty in Ontario School Boards*, worked with Trustees, community partners and staff to develop a poverty initiative, *Make a Difference*.

Chair Michael Barrett thanked Interim Director of Education Luigia Ayotte for her leadership and willingness to step in and for “providing a very steady hand on the rudder”.

Chair Michael Barrett noted that the Board of Trustees is confident Lisa’s dedication to the students of the DDSB combined with her extensive experience and proven track record for change management will lead the DDSB to continued success and looks forward to her engaging the leadership team.

The appointment is effective June 30, 2016.

14. Adjournment

2016:62
MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula
SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Chair

Secretary