

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, November 16, 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 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, Melanie Manning, Kevin Zheng

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

Trustee Michael Barrett indicated that the moment of silence could be used to reflect on the recent events that took place in Paris, France and Lebanon, the power and empathy of our society, and the privilege of living in Canada.

4. O Canada

5. Pickering H.S.

Trustee Patrice Barnes welcomed the Pickering H.S. Senior Jazz Ensemble, directed by David Kosurko, played two selections entitled "The Pink Panther" and "Cold Duck Time." Trustee Patrice Barnes congratulated the group, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

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6. Definitely Durham

Chair Michael Barrett and Director Martyn Beckett welcomed the nominees and guests to the Definitely Durham celebration. They introduced Trustees Patrice Barnes, Larry Jacula and Linda Stone as the Emcees and Trustee Members of the Definitely Durham Committee. Candice Hollingshead, Chief Kelly LaRocca, and Anne Ottenbrite-Muylaert were inducted into the Durham District School Board's Hall of Fame. The Emcees provided an overview of the reasons for their nomination and the nominees expressed gratitude for the honour of being nominated. The Inductees were presented with an award of recognition and individual plaques will be placed in the Durham District School Board Hall of Fame.

7. Adoption of Agenda

2015:86

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2015:87

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2015; AND

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2015.

CARRIED

8. Presentation

(a) Make a Difference Initiative – Great Beginnings Start at the Durham District School Board

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Operations/Leadership/Early Years provided trustees with an update on Make A Difference – An Initiative to Address Poverty. Stacey Lepine Fisher, Manager, Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the next steps with the initiative and the Great Beginnings Start resource kit. They also answered questions of trustees.

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9. 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, personnel issues, property matters, employee relations issues, and the audit committee

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

10. (a) Public Question Period

- (i) Sandra Forsyth, Ajax, asked who is responsible for transcribing the questions from the public question period.

Chair Michael Barrett indicated that Kim Cox, Recording Secretary is responsible for transcribing the minutes.

Sandra Forsyth indicated that her questions and answers are always missing important pieces of information. For example, the question and answer was missing important information concerning the Awards Ceremony. She asked how she can correct this.

Chair Michael Barrett indicated that the Board approves the minutes to the best of their recollection and responses are not watered down.

Sandra Forsyth indicated that her questions should be verbatim and she will forward a list of her questions to the Chair.

- (ii) Muhammad Arif, Whitby, indicated that he has requested transportation to/from Sinclair SS. He noted that the Transportation Department indicated that a student must live 4 km away from the school to be eligible for the bus. He indicated that he lives 4.1 km away and he has checked many maps including GPS, google maps and MapQuest and they all indicate the distance is over 4 km. The Transportation department advised that the distance is 3.6 km.

David Visser, Associate Director indicated that Durham Student Transportation Services uses software called Bus Planner. The difference with this software is that it takes into account any walkway when walking to/from school. MapQuest will not recognize walkways. David Visser will contact DSTS tomorrow to obtain turn by turn directions for this route and advise Muhammad Arif.

Muhammad Arif advised that a bus does come to the end of the street, but he is not allowed to be picked up.

10. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

David Visser, Associate Director advised that the policy and procedure recognizes each individual house, to/from school, using Bus Planner. One house on the street is at 4 km and the house beside is not bussed.

Muhammad Arif provided David Visser with the information he obtained, including maps, for his investigation.

- (iii) Natalie Dawood, Whitby, asked how parents can get their children back on a school bus when it has been deemed that they live closer than 4 km. She also asked when the distance was changed and how parents can purchase bus passes if they are struggling financially.

David Visser, Associate Director indicated that all school boards are funded by the Ministry for transportation costs. Prior to the transport zone of 4 km, there was no transportation in urban boundaries. In 2013, the policy was changed to include urban boundaries and the Transportation Department initiated the Bus Planner software. There were some glitches in the program initially, but as the program rolled out, houses close to the 4 km zone that had construction impeding the route or the route was unsafe in some way, were given transportation. In the questioner's case, the residence went from a transporting distance to a non-transporting distance. Notification would have been received in April/May of last year. Bus passes and their cost are controlled by Durham Region Transit Services. The Board has endeavoured to provide transportation, with the limited funding provided, to urban boundaries.

Natalie Dawood indicated that she has a child with asthma that cannot be in the cold and must now walk 45 minutes to/from school. She asked what she can do to get her six children to school on time. As a single mother, she cannot afford to pay \$182/month for bus passes. She asked if consideration can be given on compassionate grounds.

Chair Michael Barrett advised that trustees have raised concerns expressed by their constituents across the region about the change to the bussing piece in 2013. There were some glitches in the system originally and notices were forwarded to families regarding that. There has been some examination of the costs of going back to 3.2 km, but every dollar that goes into transportation comes out of the classroom. There have been positive changes as well. Urban students are receiving transportation that did not receive it before. Trustees are reviewing the issue, the cost of changes, and the impact on the system. The Board spends every dollar it receives on transportation. The Board also lobbied Durham Region Transportation Services regarding the eradication of the student pass and the cost that jumped from \$51 to \$86 to \$91. This is not a fair fee for students. There is no ability within the policy to accommodate a specific request when others want the same accommodation.

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10. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

- (iv) John Higo, Whitby, asked what the plan is for the next round of special education cuts resulting from the HNA realignment.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education advised that the impact of the changes to the funding is unknown. There is a need to do full consultation with staff and parents and work through recommendations. Once feedback is received, financial projections can be made through various scenarios resulting in specific changes to the program.

John Higo asked why there is not advance notice to put a long term program in place of the programs that are going to be cut.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education indicated that some projections have been completed and several reports included the special education pupil amount with enrollment. If there is a decrease in enrollment and a decrease in HNA, the result will be decreased cuts. When SEPA is less clear and is going to go down, the HNA is predictable, but combined with an increase in the SEP amount, it can be a mitigating factor. The Board does not want to say that it will be cutting things when there is no need to cut as much. The information will be disseminated in a timely manner, but the Board wants to be careful to maintain as much programming as it can. Projections will be received in the near future and more will be known at that time.

- (v) Akilah Haneef-Jabari, Whitby, asked in light of the identified need to measure change to trouble spots, growth over time, and program implementation, when will the Board be collecting race data.

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools indicated that in response to a request from trustees to prepare a report on the issue of collecting race based data, Superintendents Luigia Ayotte, Camille Taylor and John Bowyer presented a report to the Standing Committee on October 7, 2013. The report was entitled Monitoring the Frequency and Variance of Suspension and Expulsion Data and is available in the minutes.

Akilah Haneef-Jabari asked if the Board is currently collecting race data on program changes over time.

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools reiterated that the Board does not collect race based data and that the explanation of that can be found in the report referred to earlier.

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10. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Akilah Haneef-Jabari asked when the DDSB will begin to collect race data.

Chair Michael Barrett indicated that the report would suggest that there is no intention to collect race data.

(b) Director's News from the System

There was no news from the system at this time.

11. Recommended Actions

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

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

2015:88

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri
SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

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

CARRIED

(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of September 17, 2015

Trustee Patrice Barnes presented the Report of the SEAC Meeting of September 17, 2015.

2015:89

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes
SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE REPORT OF THE SEAC MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 BE
RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(c) Audit Committee Report – Audited Financial Statements

Trustee Larry Jacula presented the Report of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 11, 2015. He also answered questions of trustees.

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(c) Audit Committee Report – Audited Financial Statements (Continued)

2015:90

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015 INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO AND FROM INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED

2015:91

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT OF NOVEMBER 11, 2015 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(d) Review of Board By-Laws

Chair Michael Barrett provided trustees with information regarding the review of Board by-laws. He also answered questions of trustees.

2015:92

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT BY-LAW #RULES BE AMENDED BY DELETING THE WORDS 'AND REGULATIONS' IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH AND SUBSTITUTING THE WORDS 'RULES OF PROCEDURE.'

CARRIED

2015:93

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT BY-LAW #2, 1.0 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY BE AMENDED BY DELETING THE WORDS 'STATUTES, OR REGULATIONS' IN THE FIRST SENTENCE AND BY ADDING THE WORDS 'OR ANY STATUTES OR REGULATIONS' TO THE END OF THE SENTENCE.

CARRIED

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(d) Review of Board By-Laws (Continued)

2015:94

MOVED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE
RECOMMENDED CHANGES AS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE BOARD BY-LAWS.

CARRIED

(e) Accommodation Review Committee Report (ARC) Oshawa Secondary Schools
(OSS) February 3, 2015 – November 5, 2015

(f) Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Report – Oshawa Secondary Schools
(OSS) and Staff Recommendation Report

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with information regarding the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Report Oshawa Secondary Schools (OSS) February 3, 2015 to November 5, 2015 and the 2015 Pupil Accommodation Review – Oshawa Secondary Schools and Staff Recommendation Report.

2015:95

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Larry Jacula

THAT THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT (ARC)
OSHAWA SECONDARY SCHOOLS (OSS) FEBRUARY 3, 2015 – NOVEMBER
5, 2015 REPORT AND THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)
REPORT – OSHAWA SECONDARY SCHOOLS (OSS) AND STAFF
RECOMMENDATION REPORT BE RECEIVED; AND

THAT THE BOARD DEFER THE DECISION UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2016.

CARRIED

12. Information Items

(a) Capital Approvals – November 2015

David Visser, Associate Director provided trustees with information surrounding the November 2015 Capital Approvals received from the Ministry of Education. He also answered questions of trustees.

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(b) Proposed Revisions to Procedure #7113 – Pupil Accommodation Review

David Visser, Associate Director provided trustees with a draft of revised proposed Procedure #7113: Pupil Accommodation Review for information. He noted that a consultation meeting is scheduled to take place on November 18, 2015.

13. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

There was no correspondence at this time

(b) Other

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

14. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

15. Adjournment

2015:96
MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton
SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:17 p.m.

Chair

Secretary