

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, September 18, 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 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Gordon Baxter, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Linda Lowery, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri (left at 7:45 p.m.), Student Trustees Meghan Hanna, Samar Jeddi, Sharuka Selliah

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

Regrets: Superintendent John Legere

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Moment of Silence

Chair Michael Barrett advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

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4. O Canada

5. Maxwell Heights S.S.

Trustee Linda Stone welcomed the O'Neill C.V.I. Chamber Choir. The group performed two selections entitled "Kwela Kwela", and "All Too Soon". She also introduced Maxwell Heights S.S. Dance Ensemble #Twinning. Jayton and Jordan McKenzie entertained trustees with a dance selection. Trustee Linda Stone congratulated the groups, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2017:84

MOVED by Trustee Kimberley Zeppieri

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Lowery

The agenda was amended by adding Item 11. (g) Trustee Discretionary Expenses.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

Chair Michael Barrett introduced the three new student trustees and welcomed them to the Board table

2017:85

MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 15, 2017; AND

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2017.

CARRIED

7. Presentations

(a) Bruce Mather Award 2016-2017

Director Lisa Millar advised that Bruce Mather served as Director of Education during the period 1984 to 1989. When he retired, the Durham Board of Education established the "Bruce Mather Award" to recognize his service to education.

The prize is awarded annually to a staff member (or staff team) having made an exceptional contribution to the growth of others. The gift of money accompanying the award can be used to enhance the project or area being recognized.

A Committee consisting of the Chair of the Board, Michael Barrett, Vice-Chairperson, Chris Braney, and the Director of Education, Lisa Millar, reviewed nominations and have selected Jennifer Post, Teacher, G.L. Roberts C.V.I. as the recipient for the 2016/2017 school year.

Jennifer is a teacher who has been described as someone willing to go above and beyond in her role and serves as a role model to both staff and students. Throughout her twelve years at G.L. Roberts C.V.I., Jennifer has been committed to student achievement and well-being. Outside of the classroom, Jennifer co-led camp counsellor training for the annual Grade 9 Camp. She also helped to facilitate and execute "A Night Out at G.L. Roberts" which assists in providing financial aid to students who may not be able to attend camp.

Jennifer has been the lead teacher for Prom for many years. She ensures that students have a memorable evening and puts in many hours of her own time for meetings and preparation. She coached the Junior Girls' volleyball for several years and is an excellent role model for girls at the school. She is also committed to professional growth through BCI. Her students respect and value her as a classroom teacher. She has become an advocate for indigenous students. She brings passion and excitement to all that she does.

During the summer, Jennifer took time to collect clothing from across Durham Region so that the school would have a collection of clothes for the annual clothing drive. She is the lead teacher for "Black History Month", preparing culturally rich foods for students through the Breakfast Club. She is proud of the success of graduates, and is interested in each student's educational and life journey.

As an individual whose commitment to teaching and the well-being of her students is outstanding, Jennifer Post is a deserving recipient of the Bruce Mather Award.

Chair Michael Barrett, Vice Chair Chris Braney, Trustees Linda Lowery and Linda Stone and Director Lisa Millar presented the award to Jennifer Post.

(b) Collaborative Learning and Leadership in Mathematics

Superintendent Silvia Peterson provided trustees with an overview of the collaborative, professional learning focused on mathematics content and pedagogy implemented in the Eastdale CVI, O'Neill CVI, R.S. McLaughlin CVI, and G.L. Roberts CVI Families of Schools during the 2016 to 2017 school year. She introduced Linda Ford Decunha, Education Officer K-6 and Jane Irvine, Vice Principal, Walter E Harris P.S. who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting examples of how the learning sessions were structured and implemented by the leadership Team in order to support deepening of learning for administrators, teachers, and students. They also answered questions of trustees.

11. Information Items

(b) Indigenous Education-Focused Summer Learning Program

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid shared with the Board highlights of the 2017 Indigenous Education-Focused Summer Learning Program. This 3-week literacy and numeracy program focused on closing achievement gaps while embedding Indigenous content and culturally relevant learning opportunities for students who identify as First Nation, Metis and Inuit and/or students who could benefit from the extended summer learning. He introduced Erin Elmhurst, Indigenous Officer, who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and video highlighting the summer learning program at Lakewoods P.S. The morning portion of the program consisted of 45 hours of high quality and engaging literacy and numeracy instruction with embedded Indigenous content, resources and Robotics programming. The afternoon portion of the program focused on a variety of Indigenous recreation activities with Indigenous community members. Kayin-Oluwa Olaoye Grade 2 student, Eniola Olaoye Grade 4 student, from Julie Payette P.S., Alyssa Olaoye, Grade 9 student from Donald A. Wilson S.S. and Laura Olaoye, mother of students, highlighted their experiences with the program. They also answered questions of trustees.

7. Presentations (Continued)

(c) DDSB Equity and Diversity Strategy Framework

Superintendents Camille Taylor and Mohamed Hamid provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and information regarding the release of the DDSB Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework. They noted the Ministry four renewed, interconnected goals, various practices including programs and training, poverty, mental health, Indigenous education, a diversity data analysis in Durham, and community perspectives. They also answered questions of trustees.

7. Presentations (Continued)

2017:86

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE BOARD ENDORSE THE DDSB EQUITY AND DIVERSITY STRATEGY FRAMEWORK.

CARRIED

(d) We Are DDSB

Trustees watched a video highlighting the We Are DDSB Stronger Together initiative which included student perspectives.

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 resignation, retirements, leaves of absence, property matters, and personnel and employee relations issues.

Trustees Donna Edwards and Gordon Baxter made declarations of interest during the Committee of the Whole In Camera session.

9. (a) Public Question Period

(i) Amy England, Oshawa asked what the official Board policy is as it relates to WoW butter and why the Board continues to communicate that it is Health Department policy when it is not their policy.

Superintendent Mark Fisher advised that the Board continues its efforts to protect students as it relates to anaphylaxis, which is a serious allergic reaction and may cause death. The purpose of policy #5135 is to reduce the risk of food, peanuts and other tree nuts. WoW butter is a product made of soy that looks, smells, and tastes like peanut butter. It is difficult, if not impossible, for administration to distinguish these products from a real peanut butter, and, as a result, it makes it difficult to control a peanut safe environment. Schools are allergy aware and allergy safe in order to reduce the risk to protect students. The Board met with the Health Department and as a result recommends that parents refrain from allowing soy bean butter and other similar peanut-free spreads into schools for lunch or snacks. If more information becomes available, the Board will revise its position, but currently, peanut-free products limit the capacity to keep students safe. Superintendent Mark Fisher confirmed that Board procedure is silent on WoW butter and consultation has taken place with the Health Department.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Amy England asked if the Board would be willing to create a task force to consider better alternatives like training, handwashing and understanding what anaphylaxis is, in order to make students champions of this. Considerations could include a better education policy, as it relates to students, Sabrina's law, and working with Food Allergy Canada to have better strategies to deal with this situation.

Chair Michael Barrett requested clarification as it relates to the purpose of the request for a task force and asked if it is to develop procedures to allow products into schools.

Amy England indicated that the task force could look at educating students and giving them certificates for training that encourages them to recognize and understand issues, and that it is not about banning products but empowering students to be buddies and part of the solution.

Superintendent Mark Fisher confirmed that, as part of the current procedure, all schools are required to have training in supervision and handwashing. The Board partners with Anaphylaxis Canada and the Health Department, and it always open to more information.

Chair Michael Barrett indicated that trustees will take the suggestion under advisement. Further discussion will be required in order to relax the guidelines and review the education process.

- (ii) Dale Whitney, Oshawa asked why trees were planted behind his home blocking the view he has enjoyed for 30 years. Other locations are available with mature trees and instant shade. Where these trees are planted offer no shade during the school day and a hangout after dark. He has asked that the trees be moved to another location and was advised that they cannot be moved. He is asking for assistance in order to move the trees from their current location, as other trees are available for the outdoor classroom.

Associate Director David Visser advised that the homeowner had an opportunity to speak with the landscape architect, Principal and Maintenance Supervisor. In addition, the Maintenance Supervisor also attended the individual's home in order to understand the homeowner's perspective. As in every project, there are many things taken into consideration for the placement of this classroom. Three Ash trees were removed due to EAB infestation and the new classroom is just a short distance away from the previous location of the ash trees (so as not to compete with the pre-existing root structure). The gentle elevation of the slope provides an ideal "amphitheatre" design for this classroom. It is a spot that provides space for learning and socializing at recess and has a view of the active play area (but is a distance removed from the active play area so that students are not running around an area with rock seating). The outdoor classroom location is accessible (also a consideration now that the new accessibility regs are in place). The willow tree in

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9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

question is near the soccer field and too near the active play area. Also, in the past, outdoor classrooms located under a willow tree have had a significant amount of debris on the ground after a wind or rain storm. Accessibility is also a concern at this location.

Chair Michael Barrett asked that the issue raised by Dale Whitney be reviewed.

- (iii) Gloria Small was called, but was not present.
- (iv) Diane Calder was called, but was not present.
- (v) Sandra Forsyth, Whitby stated that CBC reporter Michelle Cheong reported on July 13th that the DDSB stated that the CBC's reporting on allegations (racist comment by teachers at Donald A. Wilson SS) compromised the investigation. She asked how the investigation's integrity was compromised by a member of this community exercising her democratic right. She also stated that the Board admitted to the parent that it waited too long to start the investigation. She questioned why.

Superintendent Camille Taylor advised that she does not have the July 13th report from Michelle Cheong. She noted that when an impartial investigation is underway, the Board will try to refrain from making conclusive remarks. She noted that the timeline of the investigation was not ideal. Time was taken to advise and support staff regarding the allegations. Protocol is being finalized and is expected to be in place by the beginning of October.

Sandra Forsyth reiterated that the Board waited too long to start the investigation.

Superintendent Camille Taylor advised that the protocol being worked on is one that is based on this investigation. She noted that the investigation was too slow and the Board has received third party input to improve upon it. The investigation was not stopped in any way. A third party was consulted for the purpose of objectivity and a conclusion was reached. The parents involved in the matter were involved in a meeting. The Board took action and moved forward to support students at school. The Board did due diligence, took the matter seriously, and investigated in a thorough manner.

Sandra Forsyth asked if accountability is tied into the protocol with a checklist so that it doesn't happen again

Superintendent Camille Taylor confirmed that accountability is included in the protocol and it will be shared with administrators as it pertains to students, schools, staff and employees. Breaches of the Human Rights Code will be captured separately and is being vetted currently. Individuals will receive training in it this October.

(b) Director's News from the System

Director of Education Lisa Millar, presented the following good news from the system:

- This summer the DDSB had twenty black students from the Ajax High School Family of Schools enrol in the 100 Strong summer academy from July 10-28 at Durham College's Whitby campus. The program was open to male students who identify as black and are heading into grades 7, 8 or 9 in the fall. The program ran for four weeks and was a tremendous success in its goals to empower black male students and help them reach their potential
- The successful Indigenous Education-Focused Summer Learning Program was highlighted earlier in the evening.
- The 2017 Summer Learning Institutes offered a wide range of learning experiences for DDSB staff. Participants strengthened their professional efficacy by gaining deep knowledge, refining their professional practices and acquiring new skills. The Summer Learning Institutes consisted of 37 workshops and nearly 400 registrants.
- Ground was officially broken for the New Unnamed North Oshawa PS and New Unnamed Ajax PS on Friday, June 30, with future students, parents and community members in attendance. Both schools are scheduled to open in September 2018.
- Administrators met for a full day of training on August 29th. Chair Michael Barrett began the day welcoming over 300 Principals, Vice Principals, Management, Professional, and Administrative staff. Assistant Deputy Minister of the Equity Secretariat Patrick Case provided direction for our new provincial equity strategy. Director Millar also provided the direction for the four core priorities which include deepening learning, equity and diversity, leveraging digital and mental health and well-being.
- Strategies for 'Teaching Based on Autism Research' took place with educational curriculum using Applied Behaviour Analysis methods to teach students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. 140 participants from elementary and secondary schools participated in the training.
- The annual Snowbirds flypast to honour the memory of Captain Michael VandenBos, a former Snowbird, Whitby resident, and the school's namesake took place again this year on the first day of school. This year marks the 16th anniversary of Canada's Snowbirds taking part in the opening of Captain Michael VandenBos PS.
- The Social Work department is recognizing September as Attendance Awareness Month. Staff are leading the charge to promote the fact that students who regularly attend school tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected and often have better academic outcomes than students who miss school.

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

- The DDSB is leveraging digital with the new Student Verification online. This school year the IT Services Department implemented Student Verification online replacing paper forms sent home at the beginning of each school year. At the end of the first week of school, approximately 12,500 electronic forms were submitted.
- This summer students entering grade 9 were prepared to start their new school year through the Getting Ready for High School program. This school year we offered 44 classes in our high schools accommodating 1,200 incoming grade 9 students.

Welcome Back BBQ

- The first annual 'Welcome Back to Learning' BBQ took place on August 30th with more than 4,600 students and family members attending. The unique event at the Education Centre in Whitby saw children receive free items including 7,000 donated books and 2,700 backpacks that prompted many smiling faces. Forty-six hundred burgers were cooked and served to excited children and their families.

Those attending enjoyed free food, entertainment, games and a special children's area featuring accessibility and inclusion and interactive activities. Each family received a DDSB water bottle after completing a 3-question survey on their experiences with our school board to help us with our new Ignite Learning plan.

The BBQ included booth displays presented by 24 community partners who also helped to fill our students' backpacks.

The following upcoming events will be taking place in September and October:

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| ○ Dates of Significance | |
| ○ Navaratri, | September 20 |
| ○ Rosh Hoshanah, | September 20 |
| ○ International Day of Peace, | September 21 |
| ○ Al-Hijra/Muharram New Year, | September 21 |
| ○ SEAC Meeting, | September 21 |
| ○ Franco-Ontarian Day, | September 25 |
| ○ DDSB Ally Week, | September 25-29 |
| ○ DDSB Safety Week, | September 25-29 |
| ○ Yom Kippur, | September 29-30 |
| ○ Dasara/Dussehra Ashura, | September 30 |
| ○ Standing Committee Meeting, | October 2 |
| ○ Sukkot, | October 4-11 |
| ○ World Teachers' Day, | October 5 |
| ○ PA Day, (All Schools) | October 6 |
| ○ Thanksgiving, | October 9 |
| ○ Parent Involvement Committee | October 10 |
| ○ Simchat Torah, | October 12-13 |

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10. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

11. Information Items

(e) Educating for Youth Provincial Collaborative Update

Superintendent Jim Markovski provided trustees with an overview of the Educating for Youth collaborative. This provincial collaborative was formed as an extension of the youth strategy research partnership with Brock University and will be integral to the development of the DDSB's. He extended an invitation to trustees to attend the upcoming summit.

(f) Capital Priorities Project Funding Submission

David Visser, Associate Director/Treasurer introduced Christine Nancekivell, Senior Manager who provided trustees with information surrounding the Capital Priorities Project Funding submission to the Ministry of Education.

(g) Early Years Capital Priorities Project Funding Submission

David Visser, Associate Director/Treasurer introduced Christine Nancekivell, Senior Manager who provided trustees with information surrounding the Early Years Capital Program Funding submission to the Ministry of Education.

(e) Draft Accommodation Plan: Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities 2017-2021

David Visser, Associate Director/Treasurer introduced Christine Nancekivell, Senior manager who provided trustees with information regarding short and long term accommodation, enrolment trends and school utilization information. He also answered questions of trustees.

(f) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

David Visser, Associate Director/Treasurer provided trustees with the Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report.

(g) Trustee Discretionary Expenses

Trustee Carolyn Morton provided trustees with a handout report and overview of the Mental Health Academy conference she attended on July 20/21, 2017.

12. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested

There was no correspondence at this time.

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(b) Other

- (i) Rainy River DSB
- (ii) Waterloo Region DSB
- (iii) Peel DSB
- (iv) Halton DSB

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

14. Adjournment

2017:87

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Gordon Baxter

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary