

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, September 21, 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 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula (left at 8:15 p.m.), Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Michelina Aguanno, Melanie Manning, Kevin Zheng

Regrets: Trustees Michael Barrett, Christine Winters

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 Donna Edwards indicated that today is International Day of Peace and the moment of silence could be used to reflect on the day in 1981 that the General Assembly, by unanimous vote, adopted September 21 as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. It is important to reflect on what can be done to achieve a non-violent resolution to issues.

4. O Canada

Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

5. Port Perry H.S.

Trustee Carolyn Morton welcomed Hayden Kerry and Julia Romano, Senior Vocal Students, Port Perry H.S. The students played two selections entitled "No Matter Where You Are" and "Sweet Caroline." Trustee Carolyn Morton congratulated the girls, on behalf of the trustees, for their excellent performance.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2015:68

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

The agenda was amended to include Item 11. (e) Heads Up Durham.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

2015:69

MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MAY 19, 2015; AND

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2015.

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2015.

CARRIED

7. Presentations

(a) Wonderful Whitby

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools provided trustees with information about Wonderful Whitby; the culminating event of the work done by the Whitby Equity and Character Education Committee. He introduced Vice Principals Lisa Hill and David Rule, Principal, Karin Schmidlechner, and Safe Schools Officer Ken MacNaughton. A student team from Captain Michael VandenBos. P.S. consisted of: Hailey Collins, Jocelyn Cornett, Amira Hameed, Ever Hughes, Bradley Mai, Jana Zdravkovska and Ally Zigelstein.

Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

(a) Wonderful Whitby (Continued)

The group provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting examples of activities and strategies that schools implemented to support what student leaders and teachers learned about being culturally responsive and being an “Ally” at Wonderful Whitby.

Trustees agreed that the 2015-2016 school year will continue to be recognized as Year of the Ally.

(b) Bruce Mather Award 2015

Director Martyn Beckett 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, Donna Edwards and the Director of Education, Martyn Beckett, reviewed nominations and have selected Adam Reynolds, Teacher, Glen Street P.S., as the recipient for the 2014/2015 school year. Adam Reynolds, as described by his nominator, demonstrates excellence in the classroom, listening attentively and responding to the unique needs of his students in a respectful, caring and supportive manner. He is a deserving recipient of the Bruce Mather Award.

Adam Reynolds, Acting Chair Donna Edwards, and Trustees Linda Stone and Larry Jacula participated in a photo opportunity.

8. Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Larry Jacula 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 and employee relations issues.

9. (a) Public Question Period

(i) John Higo, Whitby asked what the specific plans are for closures and/or restructuring to address the next three rounds of HNA funding cuts.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education advised that each year the Board will look at student needs and determine where the reallocations need to go ie. whether more classes are needed for identified students, classes are no longer needed, or if there is a change in location. The process will begin earlier this year

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

with plans in place for Christmas to allow for transition. New identifications are completed throughout the school year and the timeline is more aggressive than last year.

John Higo stated that the impact of these funds will affect students' lives. He noted that there is a seven-year plan for French immersion and asked when there will be a four or three year plan for special needs.

Acting Chair Donna Edwards advised that the Board has formed a Special Education Adhoc Committee. Boards across the Province are concerned with the rising needs of students. The Province has said there will be no new money. The high needs amount was only an allocation of funds distributed across the Province. Durham lost money, but some Boards gained. The Board is proactive in developing a partnership to continue to provide services for our students.

- (ii) Julie Wormington, Whitby stated that the budget for Special Education is being cut due to changes in the funding formula for high needs students. She asked what specific steps the Board is taking to right the injustice that has been perpetrated on its most vulnerable population, special education students, by the Ministry of Education, how the Board will get the funding back, and who will be consulted for follow-up.

Acting Chair Donna Edwards noted that the Special Education Advisory Committee is always consulted. The process is currently being formulated and the next steps will be determined through the Special Education Adhoc Committee. It is a complex formula and the effects are not known yet. The Durham District School Board facilitated an educational forum during the last election for candidates to talk about special education. Special education funding has increased across the Province along with the needs of students. There needs to be a public campaign and consultation with parents to get the word out.

Julie Wormington asked what the timeline is for the initiative to move forward.

Acting Chair Donna Edwards confirmed that the timeline will be discussed at the next Special Education Adhoc Committee meeting.

- (iii) Darlene Forbes, Oshawa asked if there is a plan to cut additional small class placements in the 2016-2017 school year.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education stated that currently there is no plan in place relating to classes next year. He noted that there are multiple factors that contribute to class changes citing a possible shift in demographic. It is how the Board reallocates to meet the needs of students. The planning process will begin this fall for the next school year.

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

Darlene Forbes noted that part of the discussion regarding supporting students impacted by the cuts was to collect data ie. success criteria, expulsion/suspension criteria. She asked what type of data is helpful and noted that working with a December time frame does not allow all data to be collected from this school year.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education indicated that information is flowing in and out throughout the year stressing the importance of remaining flexible. Early decisions will make it clear that we must move in a certain direction. Changes are expected throughout the year and the Board will continue to be responsive, but also have the initial models out prior to Christmas.

- (iv) Heidi Stephenson, Ajax advised that in an average class in Durham region there are approximately 30 students in a kindergarten class, 23 in a primary class and 28 in a junior class. She noted that the numbers are normal and differ greatly from the soft caps. These classes are forced to house a wide variety of students with a wide variety of needs. With the reduction of special needs classes, the already stressed classrooms are facing even more pressure. Even the most talented teachers are spread thin. She asked how the Board will ensure, given the sheer number of students and overwhelming needs in each classroom, that every child is getting what they deserve in accordance with the Education Act to be safe and successful in a Durham school.

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Operations/Leadership/Early Years provided an overview of the staffing requirements with respect to the Ministry of Education guidelines that apply to each division. The primary division has a different type of staffing formula whereby the primary class size must comply with Ministry direction. 90% of classrooms must be at 20 students or under and 10% of classrooms can go up to 23 students. She noted there has been an increase of 650 elementary students overall and the numbers continue to be analyzed. New classrooms generate new teachers being allocated this week and last. Some classes will be reorganized to reduce size. A number of strategies are used to meet student needs including the use of Faces on the Data which is a process used in schools to track student progress to see where more can be done to close gaps in the system. Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs also mentioned the successful use of Level Literacy Intervention and Leaps and Bounds. Both are guided practices in the classroom.

Heidi Stephenson asked what is being done to support teachers when working with a variety of needs in the classroom.

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Operations/Leadership/Early Years indicated that support can be found in multiple departments. The Programs Department trains teachers on some of the initiatives highlighted earlier. Richard Kennelly is working

Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

9. (a) Public Question Period (Continued)

on a kindergarten project for speech/language early intervention. The area superintendents have specific areas of focus.

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs indicated that staff also go into schools and there are resources for teachers to add to their tool kit to enhance learning for all students.

- (v) Emily McCoy, Whitby asked how the Board is dealing with the lack of EA's within the schools.

Acting Chair Donna Edwards indicated that finding support for each child is frustrating. She suggested discussing the child's needs with the principal and teacher. She noted that the EA Allocation Committee does meet to review the needs system wide. Some students coming in to the Board don't have the identification or are going through the process. The Special Education Department is also available to assist with concerns.

- (vi) Akilha Haneef-Jabari, Whitby asked how many students are placed in the Behaviour Intervention Classes (BIC) and what the criterion for entry is. She asked where she can access the policy which governs this.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education indicated that there are two elementary classes, with eight places available in each class. Currently, there are 11 students in two classes. He noted that policies do not govern placements. The Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) is governed by Ministry documentation and there is no single pathway for placements.

Akilha Haneef-Jabari asked where she can access the policy that governs the Behaviour Intervention Class (BIC) program.

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education indicated that there is no policy governing the BIC classroom. Operating BIC classrooms is not a Board requirement. Board specific documentation can be found on the Board website under Special Education. A Parent's Guide is also available and speaks to the IPRC process.

(b) Director's News from the System

Director Martyn Beckett thanked everyone for all their hard work over the summer to make schools and programs ready for students. School may have been out, but the work certainly continued.

It was also an incredibly busy summer for Facilities Services. This September saw the Durham District School Board open a brand new elementary school, Michaëlle Jean

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

Public School in Ajax and Durham's newest secondary school, Brooklin High School in Whitby. Work continued through Labour Day weekend to ensure students were in their new school on the first day.

The Director commented that we have been so fortunate each year since Captain Michael VandenBos Public School opened to have a fly past by Canada's Snowbirds on the first day of school. The Director described this exciting event during which nine planes roar overhead in incredible synchronized formations – and louder yet is the roar of the students on the ground. The school was named after a former Snowbirds pilot, Captain Michael VandenBos, who grew up in Whitby and was killed in a routine training mission near Moose Jaw in 1998. Director Beckett thanked the Snowbirds team and the entire VandenBos school community. It was an amazing event and you can see a great photo taken by one of the pilots during the flyover on the agenda cover tonight. You can also read more about it or view a video on our website.

In keeping with our focus on positive mental health and student well-being, the DDSB has partnered with Durham's Children and Youth Planning Network. On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the group recognized World Suicide Prevention Day to raise awareness for staff, students and parents of the launch of 'Be Safe,' a suicide prevention app. The Director explained that program 'Be Safe' is a smart phone specific app linking users and those who may be contemplating suicide to community specific mental health and addiction resources available locally. The promotion of this app is one of many DDSB initiatives which support the goals of the DDSB Mental Health and Addictions Strategy which identifies the links of influence for positive mental health. You can find more information on '[Be Safe](http://www.ddsbc.ca)' at [www.ddsbc.ca](http://www.ddsbc.ca) or [www.mindyourmind.ca](http://www.mindyourmind.ca).

Director Martyn Beckett congratulated the students and staff of Highbush Public School's Eco Club on recently celebrating a Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program win. The Eco Club at Highbush has been working with the City of Pickering for the past six months on a community enhancement project valued up to \$10,000 as part of their winning efforts in last year's program. The project included an educational water-efficient, native butterfly garden containing over 700 plants from 28 different native species, planting new trees, a dynamic art feature made from recycled materials, a bench also made from recycled materials and the release of Monarch butterflies at the project launch. The Director also thanked teacher and Eco Club lead Michael Ringrose on his work with some fabulous students engaging them in meaningful environmental action.

A number of upcoming events were noted:

- This week we are celebrating 'Safety Week,' September 21-24. This year, 'Safety Week' events include activities focused on educating both elementary and secondary students as well as school staff. Safety events are planned at Cartwright Central Public School in Blackstock and Norman G. Powers Public School in Oshawa and Pickering High School in Ajax. The week also includes an open house featuring community partners in local fire services, police, public

Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

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

health and youth services among others to provide education and awareness on safety practices and procedures.

- Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> the DDSB will be hosting 'Rising Above the Challenge of Poverty' Symposium which is open to all members of the education community. The Symposium will take place at the Education Centre and feature national speakers addressing teaching, students in poverty and strategies to erase the gaps in opportunities due to poverty. More information can be found on the DDSB's website.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting of September 8, 2015

Trustee Donna Edwards presented the Report of the Standing Committee Meeting of September 8, 2015.

2015:70

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton  
SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(b) Report: SEAC Meeting of May 21, 2015

Trustee Patrice Barnes presented the Report of the SEAC Meeting of May 21, 2015.

2015:71

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes  
SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE REPORT OF THE SEAC MEETING OF MAY 21, 2015 BE  
RECEIVED.

CARRIED

(c) PIC Membership for 2015-2016

Camille Taylor, Superintendent, Ajax/PIC/Parent Engagement presented the proposed membership for the DDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) 2015-2016.

(c) PIC Membership for 2015-2016 (Continued)

2015:72

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri  
SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE FOLLOWING PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP  
BE APPROVED:

CO-CHAIR(S)  
KATHLEEN ABE-GOKOOL  
(SECOND CO-CHAIR TO BE CHOSEN IN THE FIRST PIC MEETING)

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:  
PICKERING: KIM MADORE AND DEVI PERSAUD  
AJAX: SASHI ARAVINTH AND FIZAL KHAN  
WHITBY: FLETCHER LU AND ANA DUFF  
NORTH: CHRISTA BONCHEFF AND SHERRI DOBLE  
OSHAWA: DANA MOXAM AND PHILIP SWITZER

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:  
AJAX: NATASHA DUAH  
WHITBY: MAYLINE BROWN  
NORTH: NANCY MANN

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE (NON VOTING):  
CAMILLE TAYLOR, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION  
ELEANOR MCINTOSH, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
JIM MARKOVSKI, STAFF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (ELEMENTARY  
PRINCIPAL)

TANYA SALMON, ELEMENTARY TEACHER  
CHERYL ROCK, SECONDARY VICE PRINCIPAL  
RACHEL HARLAND, ELEMENTARY VICE PRINCIPAL

CARRIED

(d) Revised Regulation 1330: Partnerships, Facility Partnerships, Sponsorships and Donations

David Visser, Associate Director, introduced Carey Trombino, Senior Planner, who provided trustees with information regarding the revised Regulation #1330: Partnerships, Facility Partnerships, Sponsorships and Donations.

Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

- (d) Revised Regulation 1330: Partnerships, Facility Partnerships, Sponsorships and Donations (Continued)

2015:73

MOVED by Trustee Chris Braney

SECONDED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REVISED REGULATION 1330:  
PARTNERSHIPS, FACILITY PARTNERSHIPS, SPONSORSHIPS AND  
DONATIONS.

CARRIED

- (e) Public Concerns – Policy and Regulation

Director Martyn Beckett provided trustees with information with respect to a new policy and regulation relating to a formalized process to address public concerns.

2015:74

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE DRAFT  
POLICY AND REGULATION RELATING TO PUBLIC CONCERNS.

CARRIED

- (f) Operational Goals

Director Martyn Beckett presented trustees with the draft annual operating plan goals for the Durham District School Board for 2015/2016.

2015:75

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE DRAFT OPERATING PLAN GOALS FOR THE DURHAM DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD FOR 2015/2016 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

11. Information Items

(a) Amendments to Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Ed Hodgins, Superintendent, Business & Financial Services provided trustees with an update on the recent changes to Ontario Regulation 361/10 Audit Committees.

(b) Accommodation Planning 2015-2019 Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities Update

David Visser, Associate Director, introduced Christine Nancekivell, Manager, Planning who provided trustees with information regarding short and long term accommodation, enrolment trends and school utilization information.

(c) Bell Time Procedure

David Visser, Associate Director, provided trustees with information regarding a new procedure for establishing new school bell times and adjusting existing school bell times to ensure maximum transportation efficiency, to reduce transportation costs while maximizing overall educational services to students. He also answered questions of trustees.

2015:76

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri  
SECONDED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES THE BELL TIME PROCEDURE, TO BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

CARRIED

(d) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

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

(e) Heads Up Durham

Trustee Carolyn Morton provided trustees with information regarding “Heads Up” Durham. On Thursday, September 17, Trustees Patrice Barnes and Carolyn Morton attended the very informative launch of “Heads Up Durham”, a brain injury awareness and prevention community mobilization initiative. This meeting was extremely well attended by many leaders in our community representing fields of health care, law enforcement, fire protection, education and government. One of the engineers behind this initiative is Linda Lowery, a former employee of the Durham District School Board. The guest speaker was Dr. Gabriela Ilie, a resident of Whitby, who is a researcher at St. Michael’s Hospital and

(f) Heads Up Durham (Continued)

the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. She has also taught classes in the Departments of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of Toronto for the last 10 years. Doctor Ilie talked at length about TBI, Traumatic Brain Injury. We learned about epidemiology of TBI, causes and consequences, and neuropsychological aspects of this type of injury. Of key significance to those of us in the field of education, was Dr. Ilie's discussion of how Traumatic Brain Injury, concussion, is linked to mental health, substance use, violence, behaviours, and learning. Durham Health provided statistics about our elementary and secondary students who have experienced a TBI. The numbers are staggering. 19% of our elementary and 30% of our secondary students have suffered from a TBI. It has become a "silent epidemic". There are definite links between those injuries and how our students learn, achieve, and conduct themselves in our classrooms. Those burdens are related to cognitive, emotional, and social functioning. We must also keep in mind that Brain Injuries have been sustained not only by our students, but our staff as well. Recovery time cannot be forecast or predicted. In some cases, it could take weeks, in other cases months and years. Traumatic Brain Injuries are preventable. Trustee Carolyn Morton is optimistic that we will keep our heads up, our eyes wide open, and our minds aware and alert so that we can raise awareness and teach preventative measures so that our staff and students realize improved achievement and wellbeing. We have a responsibility to our communities to ensure that our students, staff, and parents are educated and informed.

Acting Chair Donna Edwards advised trustees that the Board has a Concussion Policy.

12. Correspondence

(a) Action Requested:

There was no correspondence at this time

(b) Other

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

13. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

Regular Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2015

14. Adjournment

2015:77

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary