

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
December 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held this date in Room 1017, Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby:

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustee Carolyn Morton, Chair

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Linda Stone, Christine Winters (attended at 6:25 p.m.), Student Trustees Michelina Aguanno, Melanie Manning, Kevin Zheng

Regrets: Trustees Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Kimberly Zeppieri

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, Communications Manager Andrea Pidwerbecki

Regrets: Superintendents John Bowyer and David Visser

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approve Agenda

2015:18
MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett,

The agenda was amended by combining Items 4.(d) and (e) and removing Item 4. (j) as the presenter has withdrawn.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation

Deb Flintoff and Melanie Rockbrune, Teachers, R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I., and Allison and Rachel Finer, Students, R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I. provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and spoke in support of the programs and opportunities available to students at R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I. They highlighted the Technology, Social Science, Health and Physical Education Departments, Specialist High Skills Major and Cooperative Education opportunities, Drama and Music programs, and the various clubs, committees and community events students are involved in.

(b) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Steve Edmunds, Teacher, Oshawa Central CI provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and spoke in support of the students and opportunities available at Oshawa Central CI. He provided trustees with an overview of the decisions made with respect to the scenarios presented at the ARC meetings. He highlighted the information provided by the City of Oshawa regarding growth in downtown Oshawa and noted that the City does not support the scenarios that support the closing of Central. He expressed concern with respect to transportation issues and the barriers created for students that will need to take the bus noting the availability of a breakfast club and extra help before and after school. A missed bus equals missed school and higher absenteeism. He commented on the course offerings and stated that Central offers the same number of courses. He commented on the most vulnerable students dealing with the added stress and change as a result of being asked to attend a new school and take the bus. He highlighted the Region of Durham funded Health Neighbourhoods program map depicting the Oshawa Central downtown area as lowest income households and the most vulnerable area. He stated that Scenario 8 creates an inequity among neighbourhoods. He quoted information from correspondence from Jennifer French, MPP, Oshawa to the Minister of Education wherein she indicates that closing Central CI is short sighted and irresponsible. He also indicated that downtown Oshawa has been identified as one of 25 urban growth centres in the golden horseshoe area adding that vibrant communities include learning. He highlighted Bylaw #12 and commented on the number of school closures in recent years. If Central is closed the achievement gap will increase and student achievement decrease.

(c) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Sarah Rule and Kevin Thomson, Teachers, Oshawa Central CI provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the culinary and baking programs at Central CI. They described the daily made food available for the entire staff and student population and special events. They highlighted the value of the programs to the students and the funds that were provided to reinvigorate the kitchen. The Education Assistant and lab assistant allow adult interaction to coach students. The programs serve the school community giving students satisfaction, self pride and connection to the community. Students also receive a free lunch. The students who struggle to sit in a classroom find comfort in the kitchen and get better marks because they love what they do. Special event catering provides an opportunity for students to obtain their volunteer hours.

Emma McCarten, Student, Oshawa Central CI shared a video with trustees showcasing the food school and what students are doing in the culinary arts program. Central is the only school that offers a bake shop on its own. The video highlighted all of the equipment used. Trustees received treats prepared by the food school and were invited to tour the facility.

(d) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Kevin Thomson spoke as part of the previous presentation.

(e) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Tracy Prakken, parent, advised that Central CI is her son's home school and he has been successful in the academic courses offered there. She spoke in support of keeping Central CI open. She highlighted the ministry rated capacity for Central, McLaughlin and Eastdale indicating that no future development is planned for the McLaughlin area. It is development in the center area that would increase the population at Central. She noted that Eastdale was slated for an addition when Donevan closed and students transitioned to Eastdale but it did not happen. She asked how Eastdale would house the new students from Central and what the future plans are for the current Central site. She requested that the school boundaries be realligned to keep enrollment at Central. She highlighted housing prices, course availability, staffing at other schools, class sizes, and the area demographic. She expressed concern regarding the removal of several resources and assets that would improve the community's well being in general.

(e) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Zachary Prakken, Grade 10 student, Central CI spoke in support of keeping Central CI open. He noted the growing feeder school population, increased real estate opportunities, course opportunities and the possible reopening of the swimming pool. He expressed concern with students moving to an over populated school and not being able to register in the classes they choose due to the number of students.

(f) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Linda Burkholder, Teacher, Oshawa Central CI provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the extra curricular activities available at Central and how they are related to student achievement and well being. If the school closes, these teams/clubs would be lost resulting in diminished opportunities for students currently enrolled in the three schools. If Central was provided with three additional feeder schools, the numbers would increase. She noted the importance of character development and the values of teamwork, individual and group responsibility, and post secondary success. She spoke to the goals outlined on the DDSB Ignite Learning webpage and the advantages of a small school setting. Many students do not participate in extra curricular activities outside of school due to the socio economic area. She advised that the only option is to keep Central CI open.

Zachary Prakken, Student noted that the extra curricular activities are a good self confidence boost. He participated in volleyball and basketball and made really good friends that he continues to communicate with. He advised that he is not in the best shape and would not have an opportunity to participate in sports at a larger school.

(g) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Erik Brokelman, Teacher, Oshawa Central CI advised that closing Central will not benefit students at risk. More academic options will not matter if students are not going to school. He noted that the Make a Difference Initiative includes two feeder schools College Hill and Village Union. Students will not be provided with a city bus pass and if they miss the bus they must provide their own transportation. He advised that 19% of Central families do not have a car and questioned if this is an education barrier, and 22% of students walk siblings to school some or all of the time and they will need to pay before and after school child care costs. Students may have to skip school to pick up a younger sibling. Students face these challenges on a day to day basis. He emphasized

(g) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI (Continued)

engagement as being the key to success. He described the benefit of electives and that some students may not be able to pass auditions. The elective/workshop fees are also an issue for Central students. The school does not have a two tiered system with haves and have nots. There is only one fee of \$30 for the Grade 10 food school elective and students receive free hot lunches for the semester. For some students it is their only meal for the day. He highlighted the fees associated with sports teams, activity cards, dances, and year books at other schools and questioned if students at risk will ask for financial help. He asked that the feeder schools be given back to Central to allow for more electives and student engagement.

(h) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation

Deb McMcPhadden and Nicole Watt, Teachers, Eastdale C.V.I. and Lucas Granger and Tamara Donnelly, Students, Eastdale C.V.I. spoke in support of Eastdale C.V.I. They provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting what Eastdale does to serve the needs of the student population. They highlighted the recent renovations, the courses available for a variety of pathways, Co-Op, OYAP and SHSM programs, extra curricular activities including athletics and the arts. They noted the student supports available and advised there is no deniability based on finance for sports, trips, and bus passes. There is a vast student success program and tracking of students who are in risk of not graduating. The school meets the needs of a changing and diverse community and has accommodated and adopted a transition plan for students and staff as a result of the closing of Donevan and the opening of Maxwell. A letter, from a former graduating student, supporting the programs at Eastdale C.V.I., was shared with trustees. They also answered questions of trustees.

(i) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Sarah Murray and Angelina LaMorea, Oshawa, spoke in support of keeping Central CI open. They advised that students use a plethora of resilience on a day to day basis due to emotionally exhausting issues and the teachers meet their needs. The school has made great strides in literacy over the years due to the subject clinics that are available. An additional feeder school would be helpful to offer more programs and support for students. A letter was read from a previous graduate noting that Central was his second home and the teachers were supportive. They commented on the tight knit community and the supportive student/teacher relationships.

(j) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

This presentation was cancelled.

(k) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation – Oshawa Central CI

Lisa Irwin, Teacher, Oshawa Central CI spoke in support of Central CI remaining open. She highlighted the strong focus on students and the community, the opportunity for students to walk to school to participate in extra curricular activities and extra help and that Central is a second home for many students. These opportunities will not be available when a long bus ride is added. Partnerships in the community will stop if Central is closed, as students come to Central for SHSM programs not available in other schools. She shared a video highlighting the opportunities for students to be engaged and successful. Students are a part of the community, integrated and welcomed into mainstream classes and sports teams. This can be easily lost in a school near, or over capacity.

Chair Carolyn Morton thanked all of the presenters and advised that deliberations will begin in the new year and all of the information received this evening will be taken into consideration.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no Recommended Actions at this time.

6. Information Items

There were no Information Items at this time.

7. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports at this time.

8. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

There was no Other Business at this time.

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10. Adjournment

2015:19

MOVED by Trustee Elinor Hansen

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary