

Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
February 1, 2016

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 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustee Carolyn Morton, Chair

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Michelina Aguanno, Melanie Manning, Kevin Zheng

Regrets: Trustee Donna Edwards

Officials Present: Director Martyn Beckett, Superintendents Luigia Ayotte, John Bowyer, Janet Edwards, Ed Hodgins, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, John Legere, Silvia Peterson, Camille Taylor, David Visser, Communications Manager Andrea Pidwerbecki

Regrets: Superintendent Lisa Millar

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approve Agenda

2016:03  
MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

The agenda was amended to include Item 7. (b) Report from Committee of the Whole In Camera.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Conference

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools introduced Ken MacNaughton, Safe Schools Officer who introduced the team from Henry Street H.S. including Jackie Leacock, Vice Principal, five teacher advisors and the safe school ambassadors. The group provided an overview of the Bullying Prevention Awareness Week Conference held in November and highlighted the key messages from the Ministry of Education resource, “Foundations for a Healthy School.”

(b) ARC OSS Staff Recommendation

John Aker, Councillor, City of Oshawa spoke in support of Oshawa Central CI. He stated that the City of Oshawa is experiencing unprecedented growth and reviewed the numbers of residential permits issued in the past few years and the anticipated number of new residents reflected by the permits. He stated that they anticipate a need for all six secondary schools in Oshawa. The area surrounding Oshawa Central CI is projected to have major growth with construction projects planned near the school. He stated that Oshawa Central CI is an important educational, recreational and social asset which is integral to maintaining a healthy neighbourhood. The area in which Oshawa Central CI is located has been identified as a priority neighbourhood in Durham Region, and he reviewed statistics which support this. Information from members of City Council in support of Oshawa Central CI and a package of information relating to the Health Neighbourhoods from the City of Oshawa was provided to trustees for their information and review.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Michelina Aguanno advised trustees that 15 students attended the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the evening. The group worked on collaborating with Safe Schools to design and facilitate the Student Voice conference in April. Students provided input on topics including: student leadership and involvement; fostering the growth of non—traditional leaders;

(b) Student Trustee Report (Continued)

positive mental health; self regulation and stress management; resiliency; and creating an environment that promotes positive student identity. The students will continue to meet with a sub committee stemming from Student Senate focused on the Student Voice conference.

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Linda Stone advised trustees that the OPSBA Public Education Symposium was held from January 28 – 30, 2016. Minister Liz Sandals spoke about forming a roundtable for Chairs and Vice Chairs to discuss governance. The Minister also discussed a vision for achieving excellence for students. There are four main areas of concentration: excellence in learning; equity in education; well being; and public confidence enhancement especially during collective bargaining. There will also be a focus on a math action plan.

The Ministry has received feed back from students on what they would like to see in the curriculum which is more of a connection between curriculum and their every day world. There is information on this topic on the Ministry website called Community Connected Experiential Learning. The Ministry will continue to consult on this as well as graduation rates, single parents, children's aid and First Nations. Regarding First Nations, the Ministry has introduced more aboriginal culture and residential school history into the social studies curriculum as well as working on developing more resources for teachers and deciding what portion of the curriculum will be mandatory.

The Assistant Deputy Minister Nancy Matthews outlined the Ministry's new legislative and regulatory framework including before and after school programming for children 6-12 years old. When we integrate child care with education there are long term benefits such as social skills, vocabulary, self-regulation, behaviour, less stress on families for transportation. Before and after school programs will continue to be studied and the Ministry hopes to have more of them put into place in 2017.

Penny Mustin and Debra McFadden from OPSBA, spoke about the central bargaining process and requested feedback from trustees regarding the School Board's Collective Bargaining Act and OPSBA processes.

(a) OPSBA Report (Continued)

There were two presentations on poverty, one from Shelly White who works for the United Way, Peel Region. Shelly spoke about ways to reduce the impact of poverty such as community hubs and free after school programs. The second presentation was from Michael Barret, President of OPSBA, Superintendent Sylvia Peterson and Superintendent Lisa Millar, all from the Durham District School Board. That presentation introduced trustees to a strategic poverty blueprint aimed at supporting school districts in effectively implementing poverty reduction strategies to ensure all students and their families are part of a healthy and vibrant learning community.

(b) Report from Committee of the Whole in Camera

Trustee Michael Barrett reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole in Camera. Trustees dealt with appointments, administrative transfers and placements, property matters, and employee relations issues.

Director Martyn Beckett advised that the list of transfers and promotions is available on the Board website.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

10. Adjournment

2016:04  
MOVED by Trustee Larry Jacula

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary