

Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
February 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held this date in Room 2007, Education Centre, 400 Taunton Road East, Whitby:

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustee Donna Edwards, Chair

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Naleesha Giga, James Hare, Aidan Woodcock-Russell

Officials Present: Director Martyn Beckett, Superintendents Luigia Ayotte, John Bowyer, Doug Crichton, Ed Hodgins, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, Lisa Millar, Silvia Peterson, Camille Taylor, David Visser

Regrets: Superintendent Janet Edwards

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approve Agenda

2015:03  
MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Anderson C.V.I.'s Animation and New Media Program

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools provided trustees with an overview of Anderson C.V.I.'s Animation and New Media program. He introduced Doug Craven, Teacher, Anderson C.V.I and students Mason Guy, Sam Huard, and Eiji Lin. The group provided trustees with a video presentation highlighting the broad range of new technologies and techniques used by students in class. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Premier's Safe Schools Award 2013-2014

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years & Child Care informed the Board of the 2013/2014 Premier's Safe Schools Award winner. She noted that a committee consisting of members chosen by The Ministry of Education reviewed nominations from schools across Ontario, and this year Valley View P.S. was chosen to be a recipient of the Premier's Safe Schools Award. Valley View focused on building an inclusive and equitable school that celebrates the cultural richness of the school and on improving student mental health, resiliency and resolving conflicts between students as their core priorities of focus. Gary Lew, Principal, Valley View P.S. and the Safe and Accepting School Team received a plaque and individual certificates in recognition of the award. They also participated in a photo opportunity.

(c) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Aidan Woodcock-Russell advised trustees that the Student Senate meeting scheduled to be held earlier in the evening was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next report will be provided at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on February 17, 2015.

(d) Horse Education Alternative Learning (HEAL) Program

Jane Saundercook introduced Tracy Gray, Charmaine Millard and Laura Saarinen from Horses Help Canada. Jane Saundercook and Tracy Gray advised trustees that Horses Help Canada is an inclusive place where youth over the age of 13, with all abilities, are welcome to work alongside horses. The horsemanship-on-the-ground workshops are a calming and fun activity that helps kids deal with feelings of anger, anxiety and fear. They provided trustees with a video presentation highlighting health, safety and boundary issues and it included testimonials of students participating in the program. Alicia Stevens, youth,

(d) Horse Education Alternative Learning (HEAL) Program (Continued)

advised trustees that the program changed her life as she was once shy and afraid. She now has been a volunteer for three years. They provided trustees with handout information and also answered questions of trustees.

(e) Sickle Cell Disease

Lanre Tunji-Ajayi, President & Executive Director, Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada introduced Ben Bere, Outreach and Awareness Director for the Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario and provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting a plan to support students living with Sickle Cell Disease in Durham and to recognize the United Nations World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2015 in Ontario schools. She asked that the Board raise awareness around the disease by partnering with the SCDAC-SCAGO by encouraging all staff to watch one or more education videos on sickle cell disease and by sending a notice home on June 19<sup>th</sup> of every year in recognition of the United Nations declaration of World Sickle Cell day. She provided trustees with handout information and also answered questions of trustees. Director Martyn Beckett will review the material for further action.

(f) French Immersion/Kindergarten

This presentation was rescheduled to the Standing Committee meeting scheduled to be held on March 2, 2015.

(g) Joseph Gould Public School's Journey to Improving Student Achievement

This presentation was rescheduled to the Standing Committee meeting scheduled to be held on March 2, 2015.

(h) Cafeteria Connects Project

Ed Hodgins, Superintendent, Business & Financial Services introduced Jennifer Milne, Manager of Purchasing, Andrea Pidwerbecki, Communications Manager and Carolyn Bailey, Ecosource Canada. Carolyn Bailey provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation overview of the Cafeteria Connects Project including background, relevant research, current successes and future planning. She shared the vision statement about school food to guide the project and also answered questions of trustees. Both Ecosource and Chartwells provided the Board with a number of tasty samples.

(i) French Immersion Program

Trustee Christine Winters advised trustees that she receives numerous calls from FI parents from both the elementary and secondary panels concerned about the use of an English supply teacher in the event of a FI teacher absence.

Director Martyn Beckett advised that staff will want to explore the concerns regarding supply coverage and report back to the Board. Chair Michael Barrett asked that the concern be expanded to include a review of where there is a shortage of teacher requirements ie. ECE's on the supply list/difficulty filling positions.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Mental Health – Suicide Prevention & Intervention Protocol

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education introduced Allison Potts, Mental Health Leader and they provided trustees with information regarding the DDSB Suicide Prevention and Intervention Protocol and related communication plan. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Property Report – Former Grandview P.S. Demolition – Update

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services provided trustees with information regarding the former Grandview P.S. Demolition. He also answered questions of trustees.

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that the Public Education Symposium was held from Thursday evening on January 29th - January 31<sup>st</sup> and eight trustees attended the symposium. The Ministry of Education held a Trustee Orientation session on the Thursday. Many new trustees from across the Province attended the Public Education Symposium and the Ministry of Education Trustee

(a) OPSBA Report (Continued)

orientation session to learn about the role of the trustee. Trustee Donna Edwards asked trustees that attended to give her ten 10 words or phrases that reflected what they learned during the three days. Although not everyone's list was the same, many had similar or related words that reflected what they learned.

**Governance**

As a Board of Trustees, we were reminded of our role as a policy maker and setting strategic direction and operational issues are the responsibility of the Director of Education. Our priorities, budgets, bylaws and policies must be harmonized to a strategic plan with measureable outcomes to ensure transparency and focus on student achievement and well being.

**Leadership**

Trustees learned that to be an effective leader you must have both personal and private leadership. We have to consider in the day of internet, twitter, facebook, instagram, etc. we have to be cognisant that what ever we say, post, tweet or do can and most likely will be in public. We must cultivate leadership and acknowledge that everyone is a leader. We must value and respect our peers, community, staff and students for what they can contribute, whether we see a leader leading from in front, behind or in a group.

**Innovation/Creativity**

We all know that a 2 year old asks the question why or why not a hundred times. We must release our inner 2 year old and become creative in how we do things. We must be creative and use our imagination to come up with different ways to do things in the economic times of cuts.

**Collaboration and Teamwork**

A musician only has 12 notes to make a song. However, musicians have made billions of songs from these 12 notes. As we are responsible for child care and the education of students from 0 - 21, we must work together with our partners in education, with other levels of government, agencies and associations, to help deliver the services to our students to improve their educational experience.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

(a) By-law Changes

Trustee Paul Crawford advised trustees that Section 2 of the Charter of Rights says that we have the right to speak. He noted that there is a weakness in our current by-law that could take that right away. He asked that trustees and the Director review the by-law in order to make sure that every member gets the opportunity to speak and no one is curved by the words in our by-laws.

Director Martyn Beckett indicated that the by-laws are trustee rules for the operation of meetings. Staff are involved in a reference capacity only. Chair Michael Barrett indicated that he will meet with Trustee Paul Crawford to determine common ground for changes and/or gaps in the by-law and report back to the Board. Trustees agreed with this course of action.

10. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were listed for the information of trustees.

11. Adjournment

2015:04  
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary