

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
January 5, 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 (left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.), James Hare (left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.), Aidan Woodcock-Russell (left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

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

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approve Agenda

2015:01
MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

The agenda was amended to include Item 9. (a) Bussing.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) REACT Through the Arts: You Have a Voice Bullying Awareness and Prevention Conference

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools provided trustees with an overview of the REACT Through the Arts: You Have a Voice Bullying Awareness and Prevention Conference. Trustees were provided with a CD entitled "You Have a Voice," music promoting a positive school climate. Ken McNaughton, Administrative Officer, School Effectiveness, Dan Hogan, Substance Abuse Officer, Danielle Hunter, Safe Schools Program Facilitator, and a team from Nottingham P.S. provided trustees with a video highlighting the conference which was designed to engage students through the Arts with the goal to develop awareness, advocacy and action to further promote a positive school climate, and share their experiences at the conference. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Aidan Woodcock-Russeel provided trustees with an overview of the Student Senate meeting held in early December. She noted that a presentation was received from Allison Potts, Mental Health Officer, about mental health awareness and what students can do to break the stigma in schools and the community. There are several volunteer initiatives that Senate would like to do with the community or the greater Toronto area ie. soup kitchens, shelters. The group is considering how to further unite school councils with one another.

Student Trustee James Hare indicated that 35 students were in attendance at the Senate meeting held earlier in the evening. Students discussed the Durham Leadership Camp Council. Karen Kettle, retired teacher, is organizing a leadership camp for 100 students which will include leadership activities and team work development. The Leadership Council is running a two-day session that will bring all groups together to share ideas and create one incredible leadership camp. Progress continues on the Regional Olympics initiative. The initiative has been rebranded, as a four-day event at four high schools is a difficult task, and approval is being sought for a new proposal. The group discussed the Durham Festival of Student Success which was well received by students. Walter Heeney, President, Durham Down Syndrome Association spoke about World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2015. The Student Trustee Election Process was discussed along with the updated constitution. Students shared how councils can do random acts of kindness in their schools, volunteer initiatives, and school activities.

(c) It's Elementary

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools introduced David Selby, Corporate Communications, DRPS and Chris Theriault, Corporate Communications Videographer, DRPS who provided trustees with an overview of It's Elementary. They provided trustees with YouTube videos utilizing Durham District School Board students from West Lynde P.S. asking real questions about policing. A Durham Regional Police Service officer would then answer the question. They also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Colonel Farewell P.S. Boundary

Nicole Zwiers, Tom Moutsatsos, and Rob Paddick, from Whitby, provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation overview of the Colonel Farewell P.S. catchment area and highlighted the reasons supporting redrawing the boundary so that the school is included in the Donald A. Wilson S.S. boundary. They highlighted safety concerns, maximizing the walking population, viability of Henry Street H.S., the availability of accommodation at Donald A. Wilson S.S., traffic volume, and transit costs. They also answered questions of trustees. Trustee Christine Winters requested that the presentation be forwarded to trustees for their information. Nicole Zwiers indicated that she will also forward a petition that has been signed.

(e) Donald A. Wilson SS/Sinclair SS Boundary

Lucas Wielosz, Whitby indicated that his daughter attends Robert Munsch P.S., which feeds into Donald A. Wilson S.S., and he lives 800 m from Sinclair. He noted that half of the Grade 8 class will attend Donald A. Wilson S.S. and the other half will attend Sinclair S.S. He requested that his daughter be permitted to attend Sinclair S.S. He also answered questions of trustees.

Trustees discussed the families in the catchment area, the review of data, and the out-of-area process.

(f) Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools informed trustees that Asa Schoonderbeek, a teacher at Williamsburg P.S. has been honoured as a recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. He is a grade 1 teacher, and has been teaching at the school for 10 years. As part of the award, \$1,000 was awarded to Asa and he used the money to purchase three new mni iPads for the classroom. Asa Schoonderbeek stated that it was an incredible

(f) Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence (Continued)

honour to receive the award and it was wonderful to be nominated. He thanked friends, colleagues, and his nominator, Heather Middleton, a parent on the School Community Council.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Student Attitudinal Survey

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with the trends of the regional findings resulting from the 2014 Student Attitude Survey of all Durham students in Grades 4 to 11. She also answered questions of trustees.

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards indicated that she and Chair Michael Barrett attended the OPSBA Director's meeting on November 28 & 29, 2014. Board members were updated and discussed legislative updates, GSN funding, French as a second language, AODA, copyright, collective bargaining, and transportation. They also reviewed the municipal election results web statistics for the trustee election website created by the trustee association. As for legislative updates, Boards across the province will be looking at the impact of Bill 8 - Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act and implementation of Bill 10, Child Care Modernization Act, 2014. Both these Bills received Royal Assent prior to the legislature recessing for the holidays. EQAO is planning to change the way they do testing and are currently conducting a pilot for online testing. The 2014 municipal election results were reviewed. It was determined that this website was very much appreciated by candidates running for election, as they had great resources at their finger tips. This was evident by the number of candidates running for trustee. The next Board of Director's meeting will be held January 29 – 31, 2015, in conjunction with the Public Education Symposium and Ministry of Education Trustee Orientation Sessions. Keynote speakers at PES are Peter Mansbridge, Canadian journalist, senior business correspondent and anchor of the daily "The Exchange" and Amanda Lang on the CBC News network.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

Trustee Christine Winters advised trustees that she received an email indicating that a bus was an hour late. She asked how information is passed on to parents in the event that they cannot be reached to inform them of transportation delays.

Doug Crichton, Superintendent, Operations/Transportation indicated that Durham Student Transportation Services work with the bus operators in the event of a delay and calls are placed when there is a 15-20 minute delay. DSTS can communicate most efficiently through email. Parents can sign up through the DSTS website. Parents can also use social media ie. Twitter or Facebook. This information is communicated through school newsletters and websites, and the DDSB and DSTS websites. The school determines when to include the information in their newsletter, but it is requested that it be shared at the beginning of the school year. The request to schools can be reiterated in order to outline how to sign up through the DSTS website. It was also suggested that the information could be layered in through the parent teacher interviews or meet the teacher bar-b-que.

10. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were listed for the information of trustees.

11. Adjournment

2015:02
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary