

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
June 6, 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 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michael Barrett, Patrice Barnes, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustee Kevin Zheng

Regrets: Trustee Larry Jacula and Student Trustee Melanie Manning

Officials Present: Interim Director Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent Janet Edwards, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, John Legere, Jim Markovski, Lisa Millar, Silvia Peterson, Camille Taylor, David Visser, Communications Manager Andrea Pidwerbecki

Regrets:

Recording Secretary: Karen Douglas

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2016:12
MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

The agenda was amended to include item 5. (d) Transportation

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) 2016 Speakers Idol Competition

Anne Marie Laginski, Superintendent of Education/Durham Continuing Education/School Support Initiative introduced Elizabeth Kagazchi, Principal, Cartwright Central P.S., Audra Lalonde, Teacher Librarian, and Kristy Lee Morrow, Grade 7/8 Teacher who provided trustees with information relating to a visit by intermediate students of Cartwright Central P.S. to the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and a resulting assignment for students. A Cartwright Central P.S. grade 7 student, Ryan, won the 2016 Speakers Idol contest held by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre and Ryan read his winning entry. Staff responded to questions and comments from Trustees. Congratulations and thanks were extended to Ryan, his family and the teachers who facilitated this learning experience for the intermediate students of Cartwright Central P.S.

(b) Durham Region Diversity Champions Award

Anne Marie Laginski, Superintendent of Education/Durham Continuing Education/School Support Initiative introduced Audrey Andrews, Manager for Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, Region of Durham. Audrey Andrews, on behalf of the Local Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council, Durham Region presented a Diversity Champions Award to Paul Brown, Principal, and Dikosava Gajic, Teacher of Durham Continuing Education. She stated that the Local Diversity and Immigration Partnership Council strives to promote understanding of immigration issues in Durham Region and the award celebrates institutions, such as Durham Continuing Education, who champion the leadership work on inclusion, best practices, and the success of continuing education in assisting new immigrants.

Chair Carolyn Morton thanked the Region of Durham and the staff of Durham Continuing Education for their efforts.

(c) Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Darryl Gray, Director of Education with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) thanked the Board for its ongoing partnership with the TRCA. The TRCA is one of 36 conservation authorities across the province. He highlighted the geographic area covered in Durham by the TRCA and their key principles. The TRCA Board approved a new vision for their education centres and are looking at new ways to engage the community. He highlighted the TRCA's flood warning system and advised that they remain open to working with the Board on both new and existing schoolyard designs with a mind to storm water management. Darryl Gray responded to questions from trustees.

Chair Carolyn Morton thanked Darryl Gray for his presentation.

4. Presentations (Continued)

(d) Vision Screening

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Larry Doble, Vision Screening Chairman for Lions and Lioness Clubs in Durham/York Region updated trustees with respect to the free vision and hearing screenings provided to over 4000 elementary school students using the latest digital screening units called "Plusoptix". Larry Doble explained the vision and hearing tests administered to students. There are several vision screening programs currently used in the Durham District School Board and the program serves Senior Kindergarten and Grade One students. Due to fundraising efforts by the Lion's Club, the units for vision screening were doubled to be of greater service to the community at a cost of \$28,000. The program will be expanded in September 2016 and will be identifying gaps in the system.

Larry Doble responded to questions from trustees relating to fundraising, numbers of students who are referred for additional testing, and assistance to students in need. He was thanked and commended for his efforts to the benefit of Durham students.

(e) PIC Report

Camille Taylor, Superintendent of Education/Parent Involvement and Engagement introduced the Co-Chairs of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), Mary Hindle and Kathleen Abe-Gokool and thanked Jim Markovski, Superintendent of Education for his efforts over the past year. Mary Hindle and Kathleen Abe-Gokool presented a year-end report on the activities of the Durham District School Board's PIC for the school year 2016-2017 including its areas of focus and composition of members. They reviewed some of the highlights of the past year including Regional School Community Council meetings, Parents as Partners Symposium, attendance at the Ministry of Education annual PIC symposium, and Volunteer of Distinction event. There was a focus on safe schools, and self-regulation at the events. Parent feedback is sought through "exit tickets" to ensure that events are of interest and benefit to the community.

Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

Chair Carolyn Morton thanked Camille Taylor and Mary Hindle and Kathleen Abe-Gokool for their leadership serving parents, students and all stakeholders of the Durham District School Board.

5. Recommended Actions

(a) Transportation – Walk Distances

Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri reported that she has received numerous calls from parents relating to the secondary walking distance of 4.0 kilometres. The Board has made concessions for students in the north, creating inequity for students in other municipalities and financial hardship. Although changes are planned for 2017, she stated that she does not feel that is soon enough and would like to see special consideration for equality across the Board.

2016:12

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

SECONDED by Trustee Chris Braney

THAT THE WALK DISTANCE FOR ALL DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SECONDARY STUDENTS BE CHANGED TO 3.2 KILOMETRES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2016.

2016:13

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

THAT THE DISCUSSION RELATING TO SECONDARY WALK DISTANCES FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BE DEFERRED TO THE JUNE 20, 2016 BOARD MEETING AT WHICH TIME THE COSTS OF A PROPOSED CHANGE FROM 4.0 KMS TO 3.2 COULD BE PRESENTED.

There was a consensus that the matter would not be deferred to the June 20, 2016 Board meeting.

The vote was called on motion 2016:12.

DEFEATED.

(b) Self Regulation

John Bowyer, Superintendent of Education/Safe Schools introduced Ken MacNaughton, Administrative Officer, Safe Schools, Allison Potts, Mental Health Leader, and Grayson Hefford, Principal, Jack Miner P.S. Trustees were updated on the Self Regulation initiative that is occurring across the Durham District School Board in support of a positive school climate, growth mindsets and student well-being. It links to other key Durham District School Board and Ministry of Education initiatives. Thirteen schools have served as pilots within the DDSB. Initiatives include ongoing professional development and training for school teams, development of a web page to allow teachers and parents

(c) Self Regulation (Continued)

access to current information, creation of a digital tool kit of resources, and an internal research project linking self-regulation strategies on student learning skills. The Durham District School Board has been a provincial leader in Self-Regulation and has been invited by several organizations including the Peel District School Board and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association to make presentations. Work is also ongoing to foster local community partnerships. Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

(d) Former Cartwright H.S. Regulation 444/98

David Visser, Associate Director, advised Trustees that the former Cartwright H.S. has been declared surplus to the Board's needs, and staff will proceed with the disposition, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.

(e) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Michelina Aguanno and Kevin Zheng reported on the final Student Senate meeting of the school year. Successes from the 2015/2016 school year and suggestions for improvement for next year will be shared with the incoming Student Senate. Kofi Richter, incoming Student Trustee for Brock/Scugog/Uxbridge was acknowledged in the gallery. Karla Torrente, Administrative Officer, Leadership and Karen Kettle, Teacher were thanked for their support. It was noted that Student Trustee Kevin Zheng has been elected Vice President of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association.

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Linda Stone reported that the OPSBA Annual General Meeting begins this Thursday, June 9th. School boards have been asked to petition local Members of Parliament relating to Bill C-241.

2016:13

MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF BILL C-241, AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXCISE TAX ACT (SCHOOL AUTHORITIES) BE SENT TO LOCAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. THIS PROPOSED BILL WOULD AMEND THE EXCISE TAX ACT SO AS TO INCREASE THE GOODS AND SERVICES TAX REBATE RATE FOR SCHOOL AUTHORITIES FROM 68 PERCENT TO 100 PERCENT.

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8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

10. Adjournment

2016:13
MOVED by Trustee Patrice Barnes

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary