

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
March 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 (left at 9:05 p.m.), Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula (left at 8:35 p.m.), Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri (left at 9:08 p.m.), Student Trustees Naleesha Giga (left at 8:00 p.m.), James Hare (left at 8:15 p.m.), Aidan Woodcock-Russell (left at 8:00 p.m.)

Regrets: Trustee Paul Crawford

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

2015:05
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

The agenda was amended to include Item 6 (e) Health and Physical Education Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8 and Item 9 (a) Julie Payette P.S. Concerns.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Use Your Voice – Be an Ally – Student Voice Conference Promoting a Positive School Climate

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools provided trustees with information regarding the Use Your Voice – Be an Ally Student Voice Conference: Promoting a Positive School Climate. He introduced Dan Hogan, Safe Schools, Danielle Hunter, Safe Schools, Krista Telford, Teacher, Forest View P.S., Mary Jane Corradetti, Acting Vice Principal, Duffin's Bay P.S., Jean Ferrier, Teacher Valley View P.S., and Merrin Vickers, Student Senate, Port Perry H.S. The group provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the background, goals, and foundations for a healthy school. Approximately 150 student leaders participated in the conference which was a joint venture that included Safe Schools, Equity, Leadership, Mental Health and Student Senate. Student trustee Naleesha Giga was recognized for her participation in the conference.

(b) Ignite Learning Song

Director Martyn Beckett provided trustees with an overview of the Ignite Learning song writing contest. The entry from Vincent Massey P.S. SASS club was chosen as the winner of the contest and the students performed the winning song for trustees. Chair Michael Barrett, Vice Chair Donna Edwards, Trustees Chris Braney and Elinor Hansen, Superintendents Luigia Ayotte and Lisa Millar, Artemis Chartier, Teacher and Dale Russell all participated in a photo opportunity.

(c) Outdoor Education

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with information about the Outdoor Education and the Aboriginal Education connections being made at the Environmental/Outdoor Education Centres. She introduced Garrett Metcalf and Bonnie Peebles, Teachers, DASS, Students Amelia Morgan and Mitch McKendrick, DASS, Cathy Galberg, Teacher, Outdoor Education and Carolyn Porter, Aboriginal Education Officer. The group provided trustees with information about how students increase their knowledge of First Nation, Métis and Inuit culture, history and perspectives through their experiences at the Outdoor Education Centres. They also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Aidan Woodcock-Russell advised trustees that the Student Senate meeting was held earlier in the evening. Students participated in an ice breaker and recapped the volunteer experience at St. Vincents Kitchen last Monday. The group brainstormed for volunteer suggestions such as volunteering at a seniors residence or other types of community involvement. They discussed the Regional Olympics event and an athletic community event such as a fundraiser with a cause, and Senate as a whole could be involved in. The Mental Health Symposium was discussed and students participated in break out sessions, by region, to review what is happening in school student councils and to share what is happening with schools.

(e) French Immersion/Kindergarten

Stephen Manson, Oshawa asked if it is reasonable for a parent, of children aged 3 and 7, to expect that their children go to the same school considering their appropriate programs, French Immersion and Kindergarten, are offered in the same school. He stated that it is important to keep siblings together as routines and structures are valuable when raising children. He stressed the importance of the emotional support that siblings provide, and the opportunity to foster the relationship. He noted that the single track FI school in north Oshawa will offer FDK to families, but FDK students cannot ride the bus with siblings. He requested that the same service be provided to families who choose to keep their children in the English program and suggested that more portables be added to move students out of the school in order to open up additional FDK classes. He requested that the Board change the policy on school boundaries to keep families united. Chair Michael Barrett requested a copy of the presentation.

(f) Registration at Unnamed Imagination P.S.

Tej Parmar advised trustees that she has a three year old child that will be attending school in September and registration for the JK/SK program occurred on January 13, 2015. She indicated that the current boundary for the JK/SK program is identical to the FI boundary and she questioned why when the JK/SK classes are not FI based. She noted that registration was difficult, for the two blended JK/SK classes available, due to the use of the FI boundary. Her child will have to go to another school for JK/SK and move for grade 1. She requested that future registration processes be more equitable with one boundary for JK/SK classes and an FI boundary for grade 1 and on.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Supporting Kindergarten Educator Teams

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with an overview of the next steps in evolving the Early Years and Kindergarten programs in DDSB schools.

(b) Valley View P.S. Community Concerns/Creekwood Development

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with information regarding the Creekwood development community. David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services provided trustees with an overview of the analysis of the Valley View P.S./Creekwood development community concerns. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Financial Literacy

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with information as it relates to the Durham District School Board's direction and implementation of practices that support financial literacy education. She also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Durham District School Board Experiential Learning

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with information as it relates to the experiential learning opportunities available to Durham District School Board Secondary Students.

(e) Health and Physical Education Curriculum

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with information as it relates to the Human Development and Sexual Health Component of the Health and Physical Education (HPE) Ontario Curriculum Grades 1-8. Trustees agreed that this item will be presented at the Board meeting scheduled to be held on March 23, 2015. Director Martyn Beckett indicated that Provincial training will roll out in April/May, 2015.

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards advised that she attended the OPSBA Board of Directors's meeting on February 20th and 21st along with Trustees Barnes and Barrett. Board members were updated and discussed legislative updates, GSN funding, AODA, collective bargaining, transportation and reviewed feedback on the Public Education Symposium. Trustees who attended PES found sessions to be informative, especially to newly elected trustees. There were over 1500 tweets. The main complaint was that the room was too small for the number of people in attendance. The new Pupil Accommodation Review Guide which was out for consultation at the end of the year, is being released soon with little change. As for the many issues around Transportation, the Ministry of Education has formed, yet again, an expert panel to review the process of transportation procurement. As for Legislative Updates, Bill 10 (Child Care Modernization Act, 2015) did receive Royal Assent on Dec. 4, 2015. However, it has not been proclaimed. OPSBA continues to monitor when each of the 6 schedules within the act will come into force. Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act received Royal Assent on Dec. 11, 2014. Each schedule will have to be proclaimed. The Ministry has begun consultation around Schedule 1 - Broader Public Sector Executive Compensation Act, 2014. OPSBA continues to monitor other Bills such as the Learning Through Workplace Experience Act, Making Healthier Choices Act, Highway Traffic Amendment Act, etc. All of which will have an impact on Boards, their budget or delivery of programs and services.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005

School Boards are required to file an online compliance report every two years. 2015 is a compliance reporting year. Effective January 2015, all Boards must be able to provide, or arrange for provision of accessible formats and communications for persons with disabilities in a timely matter that takes into account the person's accessibility needs. Also, libraries must procure or acquire an accessible or conversion ready format of print resources for people with disabilities upon request.

The Ministry-sponsored conference for Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) is scheduled for May 2, 2015 and the Education Labour Relations & Human Resources Symposium, March 26—28, 2015

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8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

(a) Julie Payette P.S. Concerns

Trustee Chrisine Winters raised concerns with respect to Julie Payette P.S. as they relate to French immersion, traffic, programming, safety, kindergarten enrollment, and grounds. She asked if staff could bring forward a report on when/how to relieve the pressures of the school. Trustees agreed that this matter will be considered during budget discussions.

10. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were listed for the information of trustees.

11. Adjournment

2015:06
MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary