

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
May 4, 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 7:05 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 James Hare, Aidan Woodcock-Russell

Regrets: Student Trustee Naleesha Giga

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

2015:09

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Managing Change – Improving Instructional Strategies

Lisa Millar, Superintendent, Pickering/Early Years and Child Care provided trustees with information regarding how school leaders manage change initiatives related to instructional strategies and practice to improve student achievement. She introduced Susan Jones, Principal, Pine Ridge S.S., David Sasseville, Vice Principal, Pine Ridge S.S. and Brad Savard, Principal, Gandatsetiagon P.S. who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Ontario Leadership Framework. It was noted that the use of performance boards has increased student achievement. At Pine Ridge each teacher has an Improving Student Achievement binder, and teachers and department heads are school leaders. Achievement trends are going up and students are engaged, taking more responsibility in learning. High impact leadership is setting the direction expectations for school leaders. Teachers – precision focus and setting direction. Change theory. Mapping out the next incremental steps. A leadership video was also shown for trustees.

(b) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Aidan Woodcock-Russell advised trustees that the Student Senate meeting was not held earlier in the evening. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday, May 11, 2015.

(c) Learning Strategies Classes

Faelyne Templer provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and handed out a document entitled “Our Shared Beliefs,” adapted from, Education for All, K-6, pp.4-5. She indicated that cutting special education services is the wrong choice. There is a duty to provide meaningful access to education for all children in Ontario. By shutting down programs, existing students are being deprived and new students will not have access. All students cannot be serviced in the same environment. She introduced Simon Maggi who advised that it is not a good decision to close the learning strategies classes. He noted that when he moved to the learning strategies class, his grades improved and he was no longer bullied. Darlene Forbes and Hope Adams described how the learning strategies class has benefitted Hope and her ability to focus. Angela Black noted that her son was unable to speak tonight due to anxiety and that mainstream classes were not an option for him next year.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Self Regulation

John Bowyer, Superintendent, Whitby/Safe Schools provided trustees with information as it relates to the Self-Regulation initiative that is occurring in schools through the Durham District School Board. He introduced Ken MacNaughton, Safe Schools Officer who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting that this is the second year with the initiative. He provided trustees with background information and the main areas of focus for the regional steering committee that has been established to support the on-going implementation plan. The plan provides a renewed vision for education in Ontario and is tied to the Mental Health Strategic Plan. The Safe School Department continues to work with Dr. Stuart Shanker conducting several training sessions for school teams. He described the training and implementation of self regulation at Maxwell Heights S.S. as it was rolled out to the grade 9 applied English classes. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Emerald Ash Borer Update

David Visser, Superintendent, Facilities Services provided trustees with information surrounding the Emerald Ash Borer. He also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Provincial Perspective on Changes to Special Education High Needs Amount Funding

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education provided trustees with information relating to the impact of the changes in special education funding for the DDSB with comparison to a sampling of boards from across the province. He also answered questions of trustees. Trustee Carolyn Morton suggested that an adhoc committee be formed to look at what can be done for special education funding.

(d) Special Education Review of Services 2014 – Executive Summary

Richard Kennelly, Superintendent, Special Education provided a brief summary of the Special Education Review of Services 2014 Executive Summary for the information of trustees. He also answered questions of trustees.

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards provided trustees with a copy of her OPSBA report which included the following:

Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett and Donna Edwards attended the OPSBA Board of Director's meeting on April 24 & 25, 2015. Board members were updated and discussed Legislative Updates, FDK, First Nations Report, GSN Funding, AODA, TDSB Governance Advisory Panel, the revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG), Community Hub Advisory Committee, Communications & Media, Collective Bargaining and Transportation.

A number of suggestions were made to OPSBA's Priorities document through the regional meetings. These suggestions were considered and incorporated into the 2015-2016 OPSBA Priorities document and approved.

The revised Priorities document will be sent to the AGM in June for endorsement.

The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Audited Financial Statement, as well as the 2015-2016 draft OPSBA budget. These documents will also be forwarded to the AGM for endorsement.

First Nation Director Report

The main area of focus for the First Nation Trustees' Council in recent months has been the development of an advocacy paper on including mandatory components on First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories in the Ontario curriculum. Program staff in many of our school boards have contributed substantive content for this paper.

(a) OPSBA Report (Continued)

Labour Relations

OPSBA Staff provided a confidential update on progress of the various provincial negotiating tables where OPSBA is a member. Concerns were shared around the table that the bargaining issues reported by media are central table issues and if that is the case, wondered why Durham DDSB Secondary Teachers are on strike.

Communications and Media Relations

The Communications Report included information on the many media interviews OPSBA's President has recently given in areas such as Labour Relations and the province's new Health and Physical Education curriculum. It was noted OPSBA's Twitter account was recently "verified". This designation by Twitter confirms that OPSBA's tweets are highly sought after and that OPSBA's account is a respected source of information.

Toronto DSB Governance Advisory Panel

It was reported that the Toronto DSB Governance Advisory Panel headed up by former Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall is currently holding community consultations and soliciting public input. As the consultations are raising issues that extend to the general role of trustees and school boards, it has prompted a growing number of school boards in the province to correspond with the panel.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities, 2005 – 10th Anniversary Celebration

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act has been in place for ten years and we are half way along the timeframe to the stated goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025. The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure) is encouraging organizations and communities to organize 10th Anniversary Celebration events to celebrate achievements in accessibility and have made resources available to support these events. They are available from the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities webpage on the OPSBA website.

Legislative Updates

The Director of Policy provided an update on several provincial pieces of legislation including Bill 10, Child Care Modernization Act; Bill 8, Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act; Bill 20, Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) and Bill 45, Making Healthier Choices Act. Also noted were the Construction Lien Act Review and the current TDSB public

(a) OPSBA Report (Continued)

consultations regarding governance. It is important to note that Ryan's Law (Bill 20) passed its third reading on April 30, 2015. Bill 20 sets a province-wide policy to allow kids with asthma to keep their inhalers with them at all times while at school. All school boards in Ontario will have to develop a comprehensive asthma policy.

New OPSBA Membership Model

For six years, OPSBA membership fees were frozen. The membership model was based primarily on enrolment. An ad-hoc Membership Model Committee was formed to review the model to make recommendation around a fairer and equitable membership model for all member boards.

The new membership model uses a formula that is comprised of 0.6% of Board and Administration Governance funding for the 2015-16 school year, plus a 2% inflation adjustment, plus \$10,000 base fee.

OPSBA offers programs and services to School Boards that are highly cost effective. The financial benefits of membership far exceed not only the membership fee itself, but the outcomes that could be achieved if we negotiated on items as individual boards. Examples are savings in copyright fees and energy costs. Savings in these two services alone in the current year cover membership fees many times over. When this is combined with the indirect benefits created by OPSBA's coordination and advocacy, the value of membership speaks for itself.

The result of the application of the new membership model means a slight decrease in OPSBA fees for DDSB. Under the new membership model, the 2015-16 OPSBA membership fee for Durham DSB will be \$114,022. It should be noted that the work carried out by OPSBA under the *School Boards Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA)* is funded by a separate funding/fee structure currently being developed by the Ministry of Education. It is not the Labour Relations fees that are referenced in the 2015-16 GSNs.

OPSBA AGM

The OPSBA AGM is being held in Collingwood from June 11-15, 2015. Trustees should register soon, if they plan to attend. May 14th is the deadline for nominations for OPSBA committees and Executive positions.

(a) OPSBA Report (Continued)

MOE SEAC Workshop

Trustee Donna Edwards attended the Ministry of Education SEAC workshop on Saturday May 2, along with Superintendent Richard Kennelly, and three other SEAC members, Carolynn McLennan, Eva Kyriakides and Melody Vaughan. As previously stated, this was the first workshop held for SEACs by the Ministry; at least during the past 17 years. The Ministry stated that the last time a SEAC workshop was held was 20 years ago. There were over 300 SEAC members from Public, Catholic, French, and French Catholic Boards across Ontario. There were a wide variety of topics covered in sessions including policy, funding, advocacy, the role of SEAC, best practices, etc. Our SEAC members came back with new ideas, which will be discussed at the next SEAC meeting. It was noted that the DDSB has strong representation from a variety of associations and agencies that provide invaluable input to special education budgeting and programming. This is not always the case across the province. DDSB's SEAC members have been strong advocates and continue to keep the DDSB accountable in all areas of special education funding.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

10. Upcoming Events

The upcoming events were listed for the information of trustees.

11. Adjournment

2015:10
MOVED by Trustee Kim Zippieri

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary