

Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
May 7, 2018

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 Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Gordon Baxter, Chris Braney (left at 8:00 p.m.), Paul Crawford (left at 7:45 p.m.), Donna Edwards, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters-Feret, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Meghan Hanna, Samar Jeddi, Sharuka Selliah

Regrets: Trustee Linda Lowery

Officials Present: Director Lisa Millar, Superintendent Mark Fisher, Mohamed Hamid, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, Margaret Lazarus, John Legere, Jamila Maliha, Jim Markovski, Silvia Peterson, Martine Robinson, Camille Taylor, Associate Director David Visser

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

(a) Indigenous Family Nights

Students Brianna Taylor and Meadow Coons welcomed the group and acknowledged that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2018:09  
MOVED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Indigenous Family Nights

Superintendents Mohamed Hamid and Camille Taylor shared with trustees the highlights of the Indigenous Education Family Night Events which take place at G.L. Roberts CVI. Indigenous Family Nights provide families an opportunity to engage with Indigenous community members, Elders and Knowledge Keepers and learn more about their history and culture. Indigenous students are engaging in rich learning experiences that strengthen their understanding of their Indigenous culture and see themselves reflected in a culturally relevant and responsive way and further develop a sense of pride in their identity. Over 20 Indigenous community members, parents and students from Indigenous Family Nights participated in a drumming presentation.

4. Community Presentations

(a) Transportation/Bussing

Parents Helen Mitres, Andrea Doney and Lora Smith from the Whitby Shores P.S. community provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting information regarding their current bussing arrangement during the construction of the Henry Street bridge. Effective fall 2018, only some students will meet the bussing eligibility and parents and students are concerned about safe and equitable routes to and from school. They noted specifically the sidewalk, bike lane, barrier railing, Durham Transit bus route and availability, winter weather, and increased traffic. They presented three solutions:

- i) Extend the DSTS bus service to Henry Street H.S.
- ii) Provide a Durham Transit bus from Whitby Shores along Henry Street at no cost to the students
- iii) Update the Henry Street walking route to include sidewalks on both east and west sides of the road that exceed the residential and bridge railing

(b) Transportation/Bussing (Continued)

minimum design requirements to ensure student safety and to include a dedicated bike lane for safe biking.

They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Live Stream Board Meetings

Amy England was called but was not present.

5. DDSB Presentations

(b) Coding and Robotics: Deepening Mathematics Learning and Student Engagement

Superintendent Silvia Peterson introduced Shannon Van Pelt, teacher, Melissa Sparkman, Principal, and Tammy Abramczuk, Vice Principal who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and video highlighting their school's commitment to deepening mathematics learning and student engagement through the purposeful use of coding and robotics in the classroom. Coding and robotics are providing students and educators at Dr. C.F. Cannon P.S. with opportunities to engage with a variety of activities to deepen mathematics learning and student engagement. As students continue to work collaboratively solving problems with coding and robotics, student self-efficacy in mathematics is improving. Grade 3 student Maya Chowbay and Grade 5 student Fabian Chowdhury shared their personal experiences with coding and robotics. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Speakers Idol 2018 Award

Superintendent Jim Markovski advised trustees that the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies is a non-profit organization that encourages freedom, human rights and anti-Semitism and anti-racist action, founded in memory of the holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal. The Speakers Idol award targets students grades 6-12 to write and present speeches on the human rights or social justice topic chosen for that year. He introduced Brenda Young, Principal, Cartwright H.S. who advised that this year's Speakers Idol Award for the elementary category was won by thirteen year-old Grace Patterson, a grade 8 students from Cartwright Central P.S. in Blackstock. She introduced

(c) Speakers Idol 2018 Award (Continued)

Grace Patterson who presented her award-winning speech for trustees. Chair Michael Barrett, Director Lisa Millar and Trustee Carolyn Morton participated in a photo opportunity.

(d) eLearning Program

Superintendent Anne Marie Laginski introduced Candice Thompson, Principal, eLearning who provided trustees with PowerPoint information about eLearning opportunities at the Durham District School Board for 2018-2019 and about DDSB future eLearning opportunities. eLearning offers schools opportunities to support student pathway planning beyond what is available within their own school-based programming. eLearning will support a student's educational plan when courses are not available to them at the home school, when a flexible alternative learning environment is required, or when matching student preferred learning styles to programming needs. She also answered questions of trustees.

5. Ministry Memorandums - Information

- (a) Ontario: A Learning Province – Findings and Recommendations from the Independent Review of Assessment and Reporting
- (b) Education Week 2018 – May 7 – 11
- (c) Election Time Frames
- (d) OPSBA
  - i. Education Day, May 23, 2018
  - ii. Summary of Business Memoranda
  - iii. Discussion Paper: EQAO and Large Scale Testing in Ontario

Director Lisa Millar provided trustees with information regarding the Ministry memorandums.

6. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

7. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Meghan Hanna advised that a Student Senate meeting was held earlier in the evening. The group celebrated their last Student Senate meeting for this school year and the success of their three goals which were acknowledging and understanding Indigenous staff and students, mental health and well-being advocacy, and regional representation through small group discussion and collaboration. The group also collected student input towards a regional project that they are working diligently to implement by the end of June. They look forward to sharing what they have accomplished as a senate and as student trustees in detail at Standing Committee meeting in June.

(b) Appointment of External Auditor

Associate Director David Visser provided trustees with information regarding the appointment of external auditors.

(c) Relocation of Grove School to Second Floor DASS Simcoe Consultation Process, City of Oshawa

Associate Director David Visser provided trustees with information regarding the consultation process to relocate Grove school, currently located in the Glenholme building at 1356 Simcoe Street South in Oshawa, to Durham alternative Secondary School (second floor) 240 Simcoe Street South in Oshawa, for September 2018. He also answered questions of trustees.

2018:10

MOVED by Trustee Michael Barrett

THAT GROVE SCHOOL, CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THE GLENHOLME BUILDING AT 1356 SIMCOE STREET SOUTH IN OSHAWA, BE RELOCATED TO DURHAM ALTERNATIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL (SECOND FLOOR) 240 SIMCOE STREET SOUTH IN OSHAWA, FOR SEPTEMBER 2018.

CARRIED

(d) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes advised trustees that the OPSBA AGM is scheduled to be held from May 31 – June 3, 2018. Information was previously sent to trustees regarding education debates for all candidates.

8. Committee Reports

(a) Mental Health & Well-Being Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of April 9, 2018

Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri provided trustees with an overview of the Mental Health and Well-Being Ad Hoc Committee meeting of April 9, 2018. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 28, 2018.

(b) Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of April 18, 2018

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with an overview of the Equity & Diversity Ad Hoc Committee meeting that was held on April 18, 2018. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 24, 2018.

(c) Violence Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of April 26, 2018

Chair Michael Barrett provided trustees with an overview of the Violence Ad Hoc Committee meeting that was held on April 26, 2018. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 14, 2018.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

10. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

11. Adjournment

2018:11  
MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters-Feret

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2018

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:41 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary