

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
November 6, 2017

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 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Gordon Baxter, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Linda Lowery, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters (left at 8:30 pm), Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Meghan Hanna, Samar Jeddi, Sharuka Selliah (students arrived at 7:45 pm)

Officials Present: Director Lisa Millar, Superintendent Mark Fisher, Mohamed Hamid, Richard Kennelly, Anne Marie Laginski, John Legere, Jim Markovski, Silvia Peterson, Martine Robinson, Camille Taylor, Associate Director David Visser, Acting Superintendent John Bowyer, Communications Manager Terry Simzer

Recording Secretary: Karen Douglas

Chair Michael Barrett advised that the Durham District School Board acknowledges 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

2017:16
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Durham Alternative Secondary School

Superintendent Richard Kennelly provided trustees with an update on the Durham Alternative Secondary School (DASS) program including a student voice video on the importance of alternative education. He introduced Michelle Monk, Vice Principal, Mary Humphrys, Teacher, Shemar Morris, student, who provided trustees with a PowerPoint overview of the DASS program and highlighted the media studies documentary project that provided the students with an opportunity to speak about the importance of alternative education and the strength of DASS in meeting their needs. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Robotics/Stem Education at Sinclair SS

Superintendent Jim Markovski provided trustees with information on the FIRST Robotics initiative at Sinclair where students are immersed in STEM-based experiences that foster the growth of essential employability skills for the ever-changing technological world that lies ahead. He introduced Vicky Pidgeon, Principal, Sinclair S.S., John MacKinnon, Teacher, Sinclair S.S., Alice McRea, Teacher, Henry Street H.S., Cynthia Domjancic, Parent and Students Max Domjancic, Varun Nagarajan, Owen Peace, Erika Schwab and Carson Smith who provided trustees with an overview and video of the Sinclair Sprockets as they shared their experiences and achievements from their last season. The group finished among the top 25 teams in the world during the 2017 FIRST Robotics World Championships that were held in St. Louis, Missouri. It was suggested that a committee of secondary principals be formed to explore adding this club to other secondary schools in the Board. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Truth and Reconciliation: Activating the Calls to Action Conference & Treaties Recognition Week

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid shared with trustees the highlights of the Truth and Reconciliation: Activating the Calls to Action Conference held on October 30, 2017 and plans for the upcoming 2017 Treaties Recognition week. He noted the conference focused not only on Treaty education but also on the development of a deeper understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to Action and active reconciliation in schools. He introduced Erin Elmhurst, Indigenous Education Officer who provided trustees with a video overview of the conference and highlighted the work with Indigenous communities and the importance of imbedding art education into the experience. Indigenous student leaders attended the Keynote Address, met with Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, engaged in the creation of a collaborative art piece and shared their experiences and thoughts on Indigenous education in schools with participants and began forming a vision for the Indigenous Student Advisory Circle. All schools in attendance received a "We Are All Treaty People" resource kit to support the implementation of Treaty Education.

(d) Leveraging Digital Model Deployment Update

Director Lisa Millar informed the Board of the current state of the deployment of the updated technology model supporting the DDSBs Leveraging Digital vision. She introduced David Rule, Chief Technology Officer and Amanda Paterson, Innovative Education Officer who provided trustees with an overview of the active google classrooms and an update on the deployment of the chrome books. Peter Creer, Principal, and Chris Graham, Teacher, da Vinci P.S. outlined for trustees the change they have seen in their school environment as it relates to teacher practice and empowerment. They commented on the importance of equity and student engagement within the classroom. Thomas Harry, Grade 8 student, R.H. Cornish P.S. shared with trustees, as an identified student, how the use of a chrome book has helped him learn and reduced his stress and anxiety. They also answered questions of trustees.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Megan Hanna provided trustees with an overview of the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the meeting. Students participated in an indigenous blanket exercise and found the exercise to be a truly emotional experience expressed through feelings and passion. The student trustees attended the recent Ontario Student Trustees' Association conference in Toronto and advised that it was a great opportunity to collaborate with students from across Ontario. There were many speakers and activities and if trustees would like additional information student trustees would be happy to respond.

(b) Unnamed North Oshawa PS (Northern Dancer Drive/Bridle Road) Boundary Consultation Process, City of Oshawa

Superintendent John Bowyer introduced Carey Trombino, Senior Planner who provided trustees with information regarding the commencement of the public consultation process in accordance with Regulation #3313 School Boundaries with regards to establishing boundaries for Unnamed North Oshawa PS (Northern Dancer Drive/Bridle Road).

(c) Unnamed Ajax PS (Turnerbury Avenue/Formosa Avenue) Boundary Consultation Process, Town of Ajax

Superintendent Martine Robinson introduced Carey Trombino, Senior Planner who provided trustees with information regarding the commencement of a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation #3313 School Boundaries with regards to establishing boundaries for the Unnamed Ajax PS (Turnerbury Avenue/Formosa Avenue). She also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Ajax HS and J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate (Relocation of Feeder Schools – Lord Elgin PS and Roland Michener PS) Boundary Consultation Process, Town of Ajax

Superintendent Martine Robinson introduced Carey Trombino, Senior Planner who provided trustees with information regarding the commencement of a public consultation process in accordance with Regulation #3313 School Boundaries with regards to adjusting the feeder schools; Lord Elgin PS and Roland Michener PS from J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate to Ajax HS. They also answered questions of trustees.

(e) Incident Reporting

Superintendent Richard Kennelly provided trustees with an update on the DDSB process for reporting incidents associated with workplace violence. He also answered questions of trustees.

Trustee Paul Crawford suggested that a summary report be provided to trustees for their information. Superintendents Richard Kennelly and John Bowyer will look at an annual or quarterly report.

(f) Letter to Government Regarding the Upcoming Legislation on Cannabis Use by 19 Year Olds

Trustee Paul Crawford provided trustees with information regarding the upcoming legislation on cannabis use by 19 year olds. He requested feedback on the letter he provided. He commented on the three main points in the Smoke Free Ontario Act.

Director Lisa Millar advised that a letter came out today from Denise Dwyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division on the proposed legislative changes regarding cannabis. The Director indicated that she will continue to update trustees and superintendents as information is received.

A discussion ensued. A motion will be entertained at the next Board meeting if presented.

(g) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes indicated that there was no OPSBA report at this time.

(h) Afrocentric Family Leadership Project

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with information regarding the Afrocentric Family Partnership in Collaboration with DBEN: Igniting Opportunities for Future Leaders. Trustees received an invitation to the event that is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 23, 2017 at Ajax HS. She asked that the information be shared with those interested. Breakout sessions for students include: Activating Your Pathway to Success: Let's Talk Careers, Skills, Trades and Experiential Learning; Funding your Future: Bursaries, Grants, Internships and More; Communicating Your Leadership: Application Preparation; Stepping Stones: Supporting Holistic Development. The Keynote speaker is Karl Subban.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2017

7. Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports at this time.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

9. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

10. Adjournment

2017:17

MOVED by Trustee Gordon Baxter

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:03 p.m.

Chair

Secretary