

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
November 7, 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 7:06 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Elinor Hansen, Larry Jacula, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Kimberly Zeppieri, Student Trustees Avery Jackman, Kofi Richter, Kevin Zheng (left at 7:45 p.m.)

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

Recording Secretary: Kim Cox

Trustee Carolyn Morton acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation which is under the Williams Treaty.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2016:16
MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

The agenda was amended by adding Item 9 (a) Business of the Day.

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) Settlement, Integration and Language Learning: Synergies

Anne Marie Laginski, Superintendent, Family of Schools/SSI introduced Danielle Hunter, Safe Schools Facilitator and Paul Brown, Principal, DCE, who provided trustees with a PowerPoint overview of the work undertaken, in partnership with the Regional Municipality of Durham, OISE, University of Toronto and Durham Continuing Education to increase the settlement and integration of newcomers in Durham Region through Task-Based Learning. Student Maria Acuna provided trustees with an overview of her experience in the program. A video was also played for the information of trustees highlighting the experiences of learners participating in the beginner English class.

(b) ARC – Township of Scugog

Matt Ottenhof, Parent, Epsom P.S. spoke to trustees in opposition to the Township of Scugog ARC recommendations. He noted that he has been a resident of Epsom for 9 years and has lived in the area for 30 years. He played an audio clip highlighting the views of Steve Clark, MPP supporting the preservation of rural schools and requesting that ARC reviews be suspended in order to work with parents and the government to develop a fair process. Matt Ottenhof noted that school closures are a reflection of what is happening in Ontario. He indicated that there is long standing evidence that smaller classrooms and community based organizations yield better students. Epsom is the longest operating school house in Durham region. The school should not be closed due to declining numbers. He indicated that boundary and bussing options should be taken into consideration and the Board should engage in a public campaign allowing students to attend the school if they wish. If numbers do not increase, at least a valiant effort will have been made to save a heritage school.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Kevin Zheng provided trustees with an overview of the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the evening. Based on the October planning discussion meeting, the senate expressed an interest in focusing on mental

(a) Student Trustee Report (Continued)

health. As a team the group felt that beginning with a common understanding and definition of positive mental health would be an important place to start. With that in mind, the group invited Allison Potts, Mental Health Lead, to come in and work with the team to provide fundamental information that will form the basis of the work for the year. From the DDSB mental health strategic plan, and the Ministry's Well-Being strategy that Allison shared with the group, there are five links to positive mental health, in four key domains. The work this year on student senate will be to bring coherence to activities and events going on in school, specifically linking them to those key five areas and the four key domains in the Well-Being strategy.

(b) Renewed Math Strategy K-12

Luigia Ayotte, Superintendent, Programs provided trustees with an overview of the Durham District School Board's Kindergarten to Grade 12 Renewed Math Strategy for the 2016-17 school year. She also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Elementary Staffing – Primary Class Size Report and Kindergarten Enrolment, 2016-2017

Mark Fisher, Superintendent, Operations/Leadership introduced Mike St. John, Operations Officer who provided trustees with an overview of current elementary staffing and an update on Primary Class Size (PCS) and Kindergarten Enrolment that was submitted to the Ministry of Education website on September 30, 2016.

(d) Overview of Brooklin Growth Capacities

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer introduced Christine Nancekivell, Manager of Property and Planning Services who provided trustees with information regarding enrolments and capacity within Brooklin schools, to address questions that arose after the presentation of the draft Accommodation Plan at the September 19, 2016 Board meeting. She also answered questions of trustees.

(e) Community Hubs Capital Funding

David Visser, Associate Director and Treasurer introduced Christine Nancekivell, Manager of Property and Planning Services who provided trustees with information regarding funding that was recently received from the Ministry of Education regarding community hubs. She also answered questions of trustees.

(f) Code of Conduct

Trustee Paul Crawford advised trustees that the code of conduct would not stand if it was challenged in court. He asked staff to obtain a legal opinion on whether the code of conduct penalty portion would conform to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

2016:17

MOVED by Trustee Paul Crawford

SECONDED by Trustee Linda Stone

THAT THE BOARD REVIEW OUR CODE OF CONDUCT, AND RELATED ITEMS FROM THE EDUCATION ACT, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE PENALTY PORTION(S); AND

THAT THE BOARD SEEK LEGAL OPINIONS ON WHETHER, OR NOT, THE PENALTY ITEMS CONFORM TO THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, ESPECIALLY SECTION 2.

MOTION DEFEATED ON THE
FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

Paul Crawford

No

Patrice Barnes
Chris Braney
Donna Edwards
Elinor Hansen
Larry Jacula
Carolyn Morton
Linda Stone
Christine Winters
Kimberly Zeppieri
Michael Barrett

7. Committee Reports

(a) OPSBA Report

Trustee Linda Stone advised trustees that the Central East Regional meeting was held this past Saturday at Eastern Commerce C.I.

(b) OPSBA Report (Continued)

Trustees were treated to a tour of the TDSB's fine art and archive collection dating back to the late 1800's.

Discussed at the meeting were labour relations finance and the well-being strategy consultation.

The Ministry of Education will begin their consultation process with school boards and education partners regarding their well-being strategy for students and staff. OPSBA will monitor some concerns around the time line, the definition of well-being and the measurement of it, and the inclusion of staff.

The Ministry released its 2017-2018 Education Funding Engagement Guide. Key areas of focus are: renewed math strategy; highly skilled workforce; enabling digital education; special education grant; indigenous education; children & youth in care; next steps in community hubs.

A Provincial education event will be held on November 9 and 10. Key topics will include well-being, collaborative professionalism, early years & child care transformation and education funding consultation. OPSBA President Laurie French and senior OPSBA staff will be attending.

Ombudsman Paul Dubé released his first annual report. The top five case topics pertaining to education were: staff and trustee conduct; special education; transportation, enrollment/boundary issues; employment issues and student issues.

8. Correspondence

The correspondence was listed for the information of trustees.

9. Other Business

(a) Treaties Recognition Week

Trustee Michael Barrett advised trustees that David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation was joined Monday, November 7th at David Bouchard Public School by Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education, Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee – Grand Council Chief of Anishinabek Nation, James Marsden, Southeast Region Grand Chief of Anishinabek Nation and Chief of Alderville First Nation and Kelly Larocca – Chief of the Mississaugas of Scugog

(a) Treaties Recognition Week (Continued)

First Nation to launch new learning resources and to kick-off Ontario's first Treaties Recognition Week. Students read traditional readings and played music. A map utilized at the event showed how the Province of Ontario is governed by various treaties. There are at least 633 distinct First Nations communities from coast to coast across Canada. He noted the diversity reflected in the communities. Treaties Recognition Week is an Ontario wide initiative and David Bouchard P.S. represents the Aboriginal, Metis, and English communities.

10. Adjournment

2016:18

MOVED by Trustee Kimberly Zeppieri

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Chair

Secretary