

Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
October 2, 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 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michael Barrett, Gordon Baxter, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Linda Lowery, Carolyn Morton, Linda Stone, Christine Winters, Student Trustees Meghan Hanna, Samar Jeddi, Sharuka Selliah (left at 9:06 pm)

Regrets: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Chris Braney, Kimberly Zeppieri

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: Kim Cox

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. Motion to Approved the Agenda

2017:14
MOVED by Trustee Christine Winters

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

(a) 100 Strong Academy Summer Program 2017

Superintendents Mohamed Hamid and Camille Taylor provided trustees with an overview of the pilot 100 Strong Academy Summer Program – Durham, a partnership between 100 Strong and Durham District School Board. They introduced Eleanor McIntosh, Principal, Ajax H.S. who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted the pilot program that ran from July 10-28, 2017. Students were selected from the Ajax H.S. family of schools. The program emphasized an academic literacy component, community engagement and experiential learning opportunities with several guest speakers delivering workshops to the participants. She called upon Marlon Levy, Parent and Raheim Levy, student to provide a testimonial about the program and they both spoke about the positive impact they experienced. They also answered questions of trustees.

(b) Leveraging Digital in the DDSB

Director Lisa Millar provided trustees with information regarding pedagogical practices, digital technologies and innovative learning environments. She introduced Amanda Paterson, Curriculum Officer and David Rule, Interim Chief Information Officer who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation detailing system initiatives with respect to Leveraging Digital in the DDSB to support students in deepening their learning. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Durham Region Health Department Immunization Policy

Jaime Verastegui, Durham Region Health Department provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the various services provided by the Health Department as it relates to the Immunization Program and the assessment of immunization records. He spoke about the strategies the Health Department uses and the services provided to the DDSB including school clinics and the notification of overdue vaccines. He explained the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) and also answered questions of trustees. Trustees requested that a copy of the presentation be forwarded to them including any correspondence.

5. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

6. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student trustee Sharuka Selliah provided trustees with an overview of the Student Senate meeting held earlier in the evening. She noted the successful Student Leadership Symposium that was held on October 22 and that this event is being planned for the next school year. Students discussed the goals for this year's Senate which includes Indigenous staff and student awareness and understanding, mental health advocacy (more education on top of awareness and work towards mental health hubs in schools, and connecting mental health to indigenous awareness), and regional representation. Erin Elmhurst, Education Officer presented to Senate on how the department can help with student goals by bringing Indigenous knowledge and education to schools as there is not a lot of awareness from students on this topic. Students participated in an inclusion activity.

(b) EQAO: Student Achievement in the Consolidation Grades

Superintendents Silvia Peterson and Anne Marie Laginski provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation of the Durham District School Board 2016-2017 results of the Primary (Grades 1-3), Junior (Grades 4-6), Grade 9 Mathematics (Academic and Applied) and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessments. They also answered questions of trustees.

(c) Renewed Math Strategy and The Great Math Discovery Quest

Superintendent Anne Marie Laginski provided trustees with an overview of the WHY or Moral Purpose of the Renewed Math Strategy and Achieving Excellence in Applied Level Courses (AEAC). She introduced Alfonso Garcia, Student Success Facilitator, Carolyn Tsai, Secondary Math Coach, and Alecia Chor, Secondary Math Facilitator who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation and shared the RMS-AEAC student achievement results which show that we have turned the curve. They provided an example of the impact of the RMS-AEAC work through student voice captured at the DDSB's 5th Edition of the Great Math Discovery Quest for students enrolled in Grade 9 Applied Math. The group shared a video of students learning at the Education Centre on September 15. They also answered questions of trustees.

(d) Update School Community Council Handbook

Superintendent Martine Robinson provided trustees with information on the updated Durham District School Board School Community Council Handbook. She introduced Heather Mundy, Special Education Administrative Officer, Phil Matsushita, Principal, Pine Ridge S.S. and Roselyn Sagar Lal, Parent and SCC member who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the handbook and the working team representatives. They also answered questions of trustees.

(e) Parent Involvement Committee 2017-2018 Committee Representatives

Superintendent Martine Robinson presented trustees with the proposed membership for the DDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) 2017-18. She also answered questions of trustees.

(f) School Trips Policy

Trustee Christine Winters requested clarification on the school trips policy as it relates to the safety of students on school trips. She raised this as a result of the recent tragedy in the Toronto District School Board

Director Lisa Millar advised trustees that subsequent to the accident in the TDSB, the safety of students participating in local and international trips was re-examined at Administrative Council in order to review DDSB process. It was determined that the Board is using sound and approved processes. An in-depth review took place regarding activities involving water to determine if there is an area in the policy that needed to be strengthened. A secondary layer has been added to allow for a double check, which includes an attestation process that the Principal will administer through the teacher, including approval by the Superintendent, when swim tests are required. All high-risk trips are reviewed with OSBIE. A new process was developed to validate the educational legitimacy for school trips. She also answered questions of trustees.

Superintendent Mark Fisher advised that all procedures around school trips were reviewed in order to continue to provide students with safe school trip opportunities. A subcommittee reviewed the guidelines and developed a criteria for educational validity. The use of an attestation form will satisfy all requirements. The Board is committed to allow students to have opportunities, but with safety.

(g) OPSBA Report

Trustee Linda Stone provided trustees with an overview of the recent OPSBA meeting discussion items:

The Indigenous Trustee's Council met in August and discussed the following items:

- Alternate routes to certification for fluent speakers of Indigenous languages
- Professional development for teachers who will be delivering the new Truth & Reconciliation Social Studies and History curricula.
- To make sure through legislation or regulation that school board Indigenous Advisory Committees have clear roles and mandates.

Community Hubs

An overview of the Ministry of Infrastructure Surplus Property Transition Initiative was given. This program is allowing community partners to submit proposals to create community hubs at surplus provincial, school board, or hospital properties.

Staff Well-Being

The Ministry has established a staff well-being advisory committee comprising representatives from all school board leadership organizations, federations and unions. A video and guide about staff well-being will be out within the month.

Partnership with OACAS

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies have been reaching out to OPSBA and school boards to continue to deepen partnerships and connections. October is Child Abuse Prevention month and this year's focus is on neglect, which is one of the most common child protection issues. October 24 is Dress Purple Day.

Curriculum Review

The ministry is working on updating the curriculum and student assessment tools making sure to look at equity and well-being, cultural relevance, better access for parents to information about their children, and increased emphasis on transferable skills.

(g) OPSBA Report (Continued)

Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister responsible for Anti-Racism spoke to the Board of Directors about the government's Education Equity Action Plan and Ontario's Children and Youth Services sector. Highlights from his talk are the new Child, Youth and Family Services Act which will raise the age of protection from 16 to 18. The new Ontario Autism Program will see a half billion dollar investment to expand and improve services. A \$47 million Ontario Black Youth Action Plan was introduced. A 3-year anti-racism strategic plan was released in March and, in June, the Anti-Racism Act was passed.

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

2017:15
MOVED by Trustee Gordon Baxter

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:17 p.m.

Chair

Secretary