

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
September 6, 2022**

The hybrid regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair, Christine Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Kate Bird, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Linda Lowery, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Scott Templeton, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Lauren Edwards and Gwen Kuyt

Officials Present: Director Norah Marsh, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Jack Nigro, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Land Acknowledgement

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. 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2022:SC26

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

The agenda was amended to add 9.(a) Student Trustee Report.

THAT THE AMENDED AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) DDSB Mental Health and Well-Being 2022-2025 Action Plan

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Steffanie Pelleboer, Mental Health Lead who provided trustees an overview of the draft Durham District School Board 2022-2025 Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan.

The Action Plan is grounded in the commitment to develop welcoming, safe, inclusive and respectful working and learning spaces for students and staff. The Action Plan identifies that good mental health and well-being are connected to students' success in the classroom and to a thriving school environment.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with the following update for trustees:

Staff began the first meeting of the 2022-2023 school year with a mental health update and Action Plan, understanding the important role healthy mental health plays in learning and engagement.

Director Marsh welcomed students and staff back to school. Staff have been incredibly busy over the summer with the DDSB summer programs and a report on this topic will be shared with trustees at the September 19, 2022, Board meeting. Director Norah March acknowledged and thanked the staff who worked over the summer to prepare for the start of school this year.

In the budget process last year funding was provided for transition time to ensure that students who experience stress with the return to school, will have additional support for the transition, to focus on their belonging and engagement.

A report will be shared on student learning in the fall. The report includes DDSB and EQAO data. EQAO data is usually received in August but has been delayed. The report will be shared with trustees at the end of September or early October.

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided the following update for trustees:

- Staff were busy throughout the summer working to hire staff to the occasional lists. Many administrators assisted with the process during the summer, and staff were able to provide offers to 99 Educational Assistants, 69 Clerical and 62 Early Childhood Educators.

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- Staff reached out to all of the newly retired teachers. There are 60 returning retirees to supply list.
- Staff hired 24 new permanent French teachers in March who have all been placed into positions.
- There are over 400 uncertified teachers that will continue to be available to provide supply teaching support in schools, when positions are not picked up by a certified teacher.
- Staff will be adding to the occasional teacher lists once the fall hiring of permanent and LTO teachers is completed.

Through the work of the Workplace Planning Analysts, staff have been able to review updated and live enrolment data from PowerSchool, the new registration process (Info Snap) and from administrator updates.

The following enrolment data was shared:

Elementary:

- Official Enrolment Projection: 52,575
- PowerSchool enrolment: 53,099 students
- InfoSnap: 1,400 new registrations (655: Kindergarten, 357: Primary). There were 25 classrooms and 7 ECE classes added to address the enrolment pressure.

Secondary School:

- There is an increase in enrolment number projections and additional staff have been added to a few schools to support timetable creation for new registrations.
- Staff have been gathering PowerSchool data to support school enrolment.
- Staff continue to make staffing adjustment to meet the Ministry requirements and support students well-being and achievement.

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided the following update for trustees:

Based on Ministry of Education communications that staff received in August, which follow the advice of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, most health and safety requirements will remain unchanged from the previous direction provided at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

The [COVID-19 Advisory](#) section will continue to be posted on the DDSB website and will provide a status update on self-reported confirmed cases involving a staff member or student in a school setting.

The COVID-19 advisory section will also include absenteeism data due to illness, in addition to any notices of a classroom, cohort or school closure.

Schools will continue to notify their communities if there are self-reported positive COVID-19 test results in a class.

Masks will not be a requirement for anyone in schools or on student transportation. Schools will continue to remain a mask-friendly environment. Individuals are welcome and encouraged to wear a mask if they choose to do so.

Last week, staff were provided with an update on the [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#), which included the revisions to the [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) guidance from the Ministry of Health.

Key changes include:

- Removed from the guidance is the minimum isolation period (5 or 10 days) required for individuals with confirmed COVID-19. Vaccination status is no longer a factor for isolation of household members.
- New - Individuals who are feeling sick or have any new or worsening symptoms of illness, including those not listed in the screening tool, should stay home until their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea) and they do not have a fever.
- New - Asymptomatic individuals with a positive test result do not need to isolate unless symptoms develop. If symptoms develop, they should isolate immediately.
- New – As an additional precaution, for a total of 10 days after any self-isolation period (COVID-19 symptoms or positive test result) individuals and their household contacts should continue to wear a mask in all public settings including schools and avoid non-essential activities where mask removal is necessary (e.g., playing a wind instrument, high contact sports where a mask cannot be safely worn).

## 8. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

## 9. Information Items

### (a) Student Trustee Report

The Student Trustees for the 2022-2023 term introduced themselves to trustees:

- Ben Cameron, Pickering/Ajax
- Gwen Kuyt, Representing Oshawa/Whitby
- Lauren Edwards, Representing Brock/Scugog/Uxbridge

(b) Community Use of Schools Start Up

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an update on the Community Use of Schools following the lifting of public health restrictions.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) DDSB Accessibility Plan 2022-2026

Superintendent Heather Mundy introduced Senior Manager, People and Culture Lisa Coppins who provided trustees with an overview of the DDSB Accessibility Plan.

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) has developed the DDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in accordance with the Integrated Accessibility Standard, Ontario Regulation 191/11 under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA). The plan outlines the intentions of the Board to meet its obligations under the AODA and aligns with the Ontario Human Rights Code (the "Code").

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) OPSBA Report

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared with trustees that Jane Klassen Jeninga is the new chair of central east region for OPSBA. Due to the municipal election, there will be no fall meeting. The Public Education Symposium (PES) will take place in January 2023.

Trustee Christine Thatcher asked trustees to share their feedback with Chair Carolyn Morton with regards to the extension of hybrid meetings past November 15, 2022. This information will be submitted to OPSBA from Boards across the province and shared with the Ministry of Education.

10. Committee Reports

There was nothing to report at this time.

11. Correspondence

- i. District School Board of Ontario North East
- ii. Durham Catholic District School Board
- iii. Halton District School Board
- iv. Renfrew County District School Board
- v. Simcoe County District School Board (2 Letters)

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- vi. The Town of Ajax
- vii. The Township of Brock
- viii. Upper Canada District School Board

The above correspondence was shared with trustees for information.

12. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

13. Adjournment

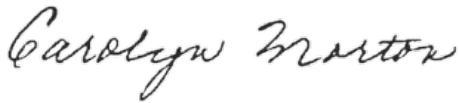
2022:SC27

MOVED by Chair Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.



Chair



Secretary