

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
February 6, 2023**

A 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 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Christine Thatcher

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault (virtual), Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield (virtual), Shailene Panylo, Student Trustee Lauren Edwards, Gwen Kuyt

Regrets: Trustee Linda Stone, Student Trustee Ben Cameron

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Kandis Thompson, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Donna Edwards gave the Land Acknowledgment: 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

2023:SC03

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Towards Excellence in Black Student Achievement in the DDSB

Trustee Kelly Miller welcomed and introduced Dr. Roberta Bondar and Rosemary Brown Public School students, Principal Tanya Hawthorne, Equity Facilitator Camille Alli, Literacy and Numeracy Facilitator Michele Liverpool, and System Lead Sean McCormack.

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus provided an overview of the report, and the presenters shared a PowerPoint presentation which provided trustees with an overview of the work and the impact of strategies and programs intended to identify, prevent, and dismantle anti-Black racism and other forms of discrimination at the school level.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

Director Camille Williams-Taylor provided trustees with the following update:

Director Williams-Taylor thanked Superintendent Margaret Lazarus, Principal Tanya Hawthorne, students from Dr. Roberta Bondar and Rosemary Brown Public Schools, Facilitator Michelle Liverpool and System Lead Sean McCormack for their presentation on the District's work towards excellence in Black student achievement.

February is Black History Month and the DDSB is committed to recognizing the rich contributions of people of African Descent throughout the school year. Staff must continue to use education as a tool for social change and encourage staff, students and families from across the District to attend Black History Month events taking place at schools and in the community.

Babatunde Tihamiyu, a DDSB educator from A. G. Bell Public School was featured this month on CBC's segment on Black educators making a difference in the GTA.

Later this week Director Williams-Taylor will be attending the SOAR: Sistahs Overcoming, Achieving, Rising panel discussion that will include six Black women

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who were nominated as part of the “100 most influential Canadian Black Women” in 2022. The SOAR panel discussion is coordinated and led by student leaders who are part of the Graduation Coach for Black Student Program. Students from Pine Ridge, GL Roberts and Sinclair SS who are on their Black Student Unions or part of the Black Youth Peer Leader Group will attend. These are some of the schools that currently have a Graduation Coach for Black Students.

Director Williams-Taylor will continue to visit schools across the District and last week, was pleased to visit Meadowcrest Public School to join students in Grades 4, 5, and 6 as they showed their support for the athletes competing in this year’s Ontario Parasport Games. She also had the opportunity to visit Uxbridge Secondary School, Joseph Gould PS and Clara Hughes PS where she learned about the unique experiences of staff and students and got to see how our schools of different sizes were going about teaching and learning in creative and progressive ways.

Kindergarten registration has been underway across the DDSB since the start of January and the second semester at the secondary level began this past Friday. Course selection for secondary schools is now taking place.

DDSB was once again named as one of Forbes Canada’s top employers for 2022. Director Williams-Taylor visited schools and workplaces and has seen first-hand the dedication of staff in supporting students and their colleagues, so this recognition does not come as a surprise and is an accomplishment of every one of the over 10,000 staff at the DDSB. Director Williams-Taylor expressed sincere thanks to all DDSB staff for the important work they are doing day in and day out.

It was noted that Monday, February 20, 2023, is Family Day, and the Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday February 21, 2023

### 7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

### 8. Information Items

#### (a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Gwen Kuyt and Lauren Edwards provided the following update:

Congratulations to all high school students who made it through the first exam season in three years.

On January 16th, 2023, the first Student Senate meeting of 2023 took place. During the meeting a discussion took place on the upcoming Student Trustee elections and the proposed changes to the election process in 2024.

Student Trustees have begun planning for the Student Senate’s Mental Health Symposium with Mental Health Lead Pelleboer and the Student Senators. The

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event will bring awareness to mental health and illness and allow students to discuss mental health without stigma.

The Student Trustee election process has begun for the 2023-2024 Term. The first election will be held on March 7, 2023. The elections will be completed by the middle of April.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron will be attending OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference in a couple of weeks in Ottawa. He's very excited to meet with Student Trustees from across the province to discuss issues relevant to students.

(b) Redesignation of Growth Update

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an update on the redesignation of growth from future developments to schools and sites that have capacity to accommodate growth.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Emma Cunningham provided trustees with an update on the OPSBA Public Education Symposium that took place January 26-28, 2023.

9. Correspondence

(a) The Ministry of Education

The above correspondence was shared with trustees for their information.

10. Memos

There were no memos at this time.

10. Adjournment

2023:SC04

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.



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Chair



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Secretary