

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
March 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, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield (virtual), Shailene Panylo, Student Trustee Ben Cameron, Lauren Edwards, Gwen Kuyt

Regrets: Trustees Linda Stone, Stephen Linton

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, Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur

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

The agenda was amended to add item 8.(e) Student Trustee Elections.

2023:SC05

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE AMENDED AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Durham Continuing Education (DCE)

Superintendent Stephen Nevills provided trustees with information on the programming offered by Durham Continuing Education (DCE). Principals Sarah MacDonald, Christopher Barrowclough and Vice Principal, Joslynn Dicks shared a PowerPoint and provided an overview with trustees on the programs offered during the 2021-2022 school year.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

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

Director Camille Williams-Taylor shared that she continues to visit schools across the District, and that she is inspired by the incredible work of staff and community partners, such as those who support our Return Ticket restorative alternative education program in Oshawa where they work to provide academic, behavioural, social, emotional, and treatment supports to students to help them transition back to regular day school or future opportunities.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC): On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m., the Parent Involvement Committee is holding a Parent Engagement event with Dr. Pam Palmater, a Mi'kmaw lawyer, who will discuss myths vs. facts about Indigenous rights and what it means when we say that Indigenous rights are distinct. You can find out more and register by visiting the DDSB website at [ddsb.ca](https://ddsb.ca).

DELFL Exam: Students enrolled in DDSB Grade 12 French have until March 8, 2023, to register for the DELFL exam that will be taking place in April.

International Women's Day: March 8, 2023, is International Women's Day. The theme for 2023 is *Every Woman Counts*. It's a reminder that all women, from all ages and walks of life, have a place in every aspect of our society.

Director's Williams-Taylor wished Students, Parents/Guardians and Staff an enjoyable and restful March Break.

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

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

Student trustees have been preparing for the upcoming student trustee elections for the 2023-2024 term. The election process will be virtual, Stage 1 of the elections will take place on March 7 and 8. Stage 2 of the elections will take place in April to determine the student trustees for the upcoming year.

Student trustee Ben Cameron shared that from February 16 to 19, 2023, he attended the OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference in Ottawa. The conference included a presentation from the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), and the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO).

Trustee Cameron shared that he has been visiting schools in Pickering and Ajax, including J. Clarke Richardson, Ajax High School and Pine Ridge Secondary School.

The Student Senate has been focusing on two events: a Mental Health Week for students to learn more about well-being which is taking place during Children's Mental Health Week in May and an elementary leadership conference for intermediate students to learn about leadership. The next senate meeting will take place on Monday, March 20, 2023.

On March 1, 2023, the student trustees met with Director Williams-Taylor to discuss priorities and shared visions for students within the DDSB. They had a productive and thought-provoking meeting that touched on Student Senate, Indigenous education, student voice, and more.

(b) Cyber Incident Report

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an update on the cyber incident that occurred on November 25, 2022.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

Associate Director David Wright Introduced Manager of Facilities Design & Construction Lindsay Wells, who provided trustees with an update on the status of construction and major projects as of February 28, 2023. Updates to this report will be provided to trustees on a quarterly basis (January, March, June and September), and will be posted on the Board's website.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards provided trustees with an update on the OPSBA Public Education Symposium that took place on February 24 and 25, 2023.

(e) Student Trustee Elections

Trustee Carolyn Morton brought forward concerns on the Student Trustee election process.

Trustee questions were answered.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time

10. Adjournment

2023:SC06

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault  
SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:59 p.m.



Chair



Secretary