

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

### The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, September 18, 2023

**A Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.**

1. Call to Order:

Chair Donna Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare

Regrets: Trustees Emma Cunningham, Jill Thompson, Student Trustee Neha Kasoju

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

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 home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). 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. O Canada

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2023:RB91

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2023:RB92

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

- (a) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2023.
- (b) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2023,  
CONTINUED ON MAY 23, 2023.
- (c) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF June 5, 2023.

CARRIED

2023:RB93

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

- (d) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2023
- (e) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2023.
- (f) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2023.

CARRIED

7. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

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

When listening to the DDSB's land acknowledgement today, I am reminded of the historical and ongoing impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples and their territories. The DDSB Land Acknowledgement aims to:

- Bring Indigenous presence and voice to Canadian society and its institutions (e.g., schools);

- Create an opportunity for Indigenous students and staff to begin their day within their cultural context;
- Create an opportunity for all students and staff to acknowledge the land and waters they benefit from; and
- Foster mutual respect and reconciliation.

As captured in the DDSB Land Acknowledgment Procedure, we regularly make the Land Acknowledgement as a sign of respect, presence, assertion and recognition of Indigenous self-determination.

Further to the spirit of reconciliation, we will be recognizing Orange Shirt Day next Friday, September 29, 2023. Since 2013, Orange Shirt Day has been recognized as a day for schools and communities to commemorate survivors of Residential and Indian Day Schools.

As of June 2021, September 30 has also been recognized by the federal government as the annual National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. It is important to recognize and understand the lasting impacts and current realities that continue to impact Indigenous students and families.

While it is important that we acknowledge this day, the learning and actions to remove systemic barriers must be ongoing and consistent. It is a day to honour survivors, their families and communities.

This week and next, many of our schools are going to be building community spirit through participation in the annual Terry Fox Run. Terry Fox was a Canadian who wanted to make a difference in the world and did so through personal sacrifice and a commitment to raising funds for cancer research.

This past July 28, 2023 Terry Fox would have been 65 years old. It is profoundly impactful that the actions he took 40 years ago continue to resonate with Canadians today.

On another note, as we continue gathering feedback toward development of DDSB's new Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), all members of our community are encouraged to participate in the September 20, 2023 virtual public consultation evening. This phase of consultations has been ongoing since mid-May and we have gathered a significant amount of feedback from students, families, staff and community organizations and individuals to help inform our next steps. For more information about the strategic planning process and to register for the September 20, 2023 virtual public consultation please visit our website at [DDSB.ca](https://ddsb.ca) and click on the MYSP button.

Each spring DDSB staff work to carefully project school enrolment numbers by grade for the upcoming school year. Enrolments then fluctuate in August and early September as students enter and leave the District. In September, enrolment is confirmed through school attendance over the first 2-3 weeks of school with class reorganizations taking place in late-September. This can result in existing classes having a new teacher assigned, or classes being split up in order to accommodate students in order to meet Ministry of Education mandated class size requirements.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the reorganization date is Monday, September 25, 2023. Families whose child(ren) are impacted by any reorganizations will be informed of class placement or educator changes in advance of September 25, 2023. Tonight's report being presented by Associate Director Wright will touch more on the enrollment pressures the DDSB is facing and what we are doing to address it.

A new school year brings a call for new parent, family and guardian volunteers in our school communities. The DDSB Parent Involvement Committee is seeking applications for two parent/guardian representatives from Ajax, Whitby, Pickering, and the North schools, (Brock, Uxbridge, Scugog) as well as one volunteer from Oshawa. Those interested are encouraged to visit DDSB.ca for more information and apply by September 22, 2023.

While the Parent Involvement Committee is a great way to get involved at the District level, families are welcome to get involved in their local school communities by joining their School Community Council.

As September 25, 2023 approaches, I wish Shana Tova to the Jewish community who will be recognizing the High Holiday of Yom Kippur.

DDSB's calendar includes a detailed list of recognized days of celebration and significance and is included in each of our Board meeting agenda packages.

8. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding the Bell Time Review. Staff responded to the question.

Igor Kras joined the meeting in person and asked a question regarding the accommodation pressures at E. B. Phin Elementary School. Staff responded to the question.

Olga Livshin submitted a question regarding school boundaries and DDSB Policy, that was read into the record by staff. Staff responded to the question.

Tim Morgan submitted a question regarding human rights education for Grades K-12 that was read into the record by staff. Staff responded to the question.

9. Report from the Committee of the Whole In Camera

- (a) Trustee Christine Thatcher reported that the Committee of the Whole met in closed session on September 18, 2023 and discussed matters involving;

The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian.

2023:RB94  
MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher  
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACTIONS AND ADOPT ANY RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2023, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION MEETING.

CARRIED

10. Good News from the System

Haniya and Daniel from R.S. McLaughlin CVI share good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

Students from across the District were excited to get back to school for the first day of the new school year. Students met their new teachers, reconnected with old friends, and were introduced to new friends.

Elementary and secondary schools on a modified calendar started school in August while regular calendar students started their school year earlier in September. The Great Beginnings School Success Program supported the learning and development of more than 515 incoming and current Kindergarten students. With the support from Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants, Teachers, and childcare partners, Great Beginnings implemented a play-based, developmentally appropriate program to enhance children's skillset, with a strong emphasis on well-being.

50 years ago, Mike Pantelleresco attended G.L. Roberts CVI. When Mike attended G.L. Roberts CVI, he took a path that was more common then and left school for the world of work and did not graduate. After meeting Mike and hearing his story, staff set him up at Durham Continuing Education to finish his studies to receive his diploma. He graduated this June.

The DDSB congratulates Charlie and Nikki, from Captain Michael Vandenbos Public School, on their triumphant success in the Canadian National Bike Race. Charlie and Nikki represented the Durham Region with their talent, speed, and competitive force. Nikki placed first and will move on to represent Canada at the world championships next year.

This year, the DDSB will proudly cheer on former student Emma Sharpless, a member of the Canadian Motorcycle Association, at the 2023 International Six Days of Enduro competition. There is a GoFundMe page set up for Emma, where she will cycle 1km for every \$5 raised.

For the culmination of the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation's (IDLF) Ready to Learn School Supply Drive, IDLF hosted their inaugural Backpack Stuffing event. Staff, community members and trustees came together to stuff more than 700 brand new backpacks filled with school supplies for DDSB students. With these supplies our

students will be able to start the new school year motivated, excited and ready to succeed.

In a heartwarming display of camaraderie and compassion, a group of students led by Eliana A. and her friends Rishayna S., Madeline S., Aiman S., Ambika J. and Ava D. set up a lemonade stand over the summer to raise funds for fellow students in the DDSB. They not only raised more than \$700 for students in support of the IDLF's 'School Supply Drive' initiative but are also inspiring others to lend a helping hand to their peers.

For eight weeks this summer, students experienced fun, learning, and adventure at Durham Forest Summer Day Camp.

The camp featured outdoor and experiential learning activities designed to inspire, educate, and reconnect children to the world around them. Daily programs included orienteering, art, outdoor games, learning about local wildlife, as well as free time to discover the nature around them, read a book, or build a shelter.

Families in Ajax, Whitby, and Pickering attended the second annual Back to School Family Fun and Movie event. It was sponsored by the DDSB Parent Engagement department and coordinated by community partner Durham Family and Cultural Centre. Parents, guardians, and students attended the event held at Pickering High School, that also provided back-to-school supplies as well as connections with community resources.

More than 50 facilities projects were carried out in schools this summer including:

- Classroom and washroom refresh and renovations;
- Mechanical upgrades for ventilation and boilers;
- Asphalt and window replacements;
- Roof replacement and rehabilitation projects;
- Incoming hydro and watermain replacements;
- And lighting upgrades.

Thank you to our amazing Facilities Services team for your hard work and dedication to keeping our schools safe and up to date.

G.L. Roberts CVI recently hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Taste of the Trades program. 24 students in Grades 7 and 8 spent three days gaining hands-on experience in the school's shops and culinary labs.

Students were introduced to the many pathways they could take to work in trades. Before heading home on the final day, each student received a T-shirt, apron, and a bag with tools.

Special thanks to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and to DDSB educators Mike Melnichuk, Jillian Broadley, and Mark Patterson who planned and executed a safe and successful program and gave the students a taste of the trades.

The outdoor education team celebrated the beginning of summer with the start of the DDSB Wilderness Advanced First Aid program at Nonquon Environmental Education

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Centre. Attendees spent four days learning from the Compressions 4 You team on advanced first aid tactics and improving on their outdoor risk management practices. Eastdale CVI in partnership with Ignite Durham Learning Foundation provided free breakfast for students on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Students were able to start their exam day with a delicious and nutritious breakfast served by our Eastdale and IDLF staff, in order to help Eastdale students get ready for their final exams.

A student at Northern Dancer Public School put a lot of thought into how she could make a difference, and learned how she could get freezies donated and sell them for \$1. The result was an outstanding total of \$627, that was generously donated to The Denise House.

Staff and students at Woodcrest Public School won a \$5,000 grant from TreStelle Cheese. Thank you to TreStelle Cheese for making it possible for the school community to purchase their first 3D printers.

Congratulations to students on their academic success during the 2022-2023 school year. Dunbarton High School's graduate Serewaya Latif, recipient of a Schulich Leader Scholarship in Engineering, and Anderson CVI graduate Danielle Burnett, recipient of the DDSB Chairperson's Scholarship.

Dates of Significance:

Sept. 17	Terry Fox National Run Day
Sept. 21	International Day of Peace
Sept. 21	SEAC Meeting
Sept. 23	Autumn Equinox
Sept. 25	Yom Kippur
Sept. 25	Franco-Ontarian Day
Sept. 27	Governance and Policy Committee Mtg
Sept. 27	Rowan's Law Day
Sept. 27	Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi
Sept 29-Oct 6	Sukkot
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
Sept. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October	Islamic Heritage Month
	Latin American Heritage Month
	Women's History Month
	Dyslexia Awareness Month
	2SLGBTQI+ History Month
	Autism Awareness Month
	Learning Disabilities Awareness Month
	National Principal's Month
	Neurodivergent Acceptance Month
	Disabilities Awareness Month
	Cyber Security Awareness Month

Oct. 2	National Custodial Workers' Day
Oct. 2	Standing Committee Meeting
Oct. 2	International Day of Non-Violence

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Oct. 4	International Walk to School Day
Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 6	P.A. Day - all schools
Oct. 6	Shemini Atzeret begins
Oct. 7	Simchat Torah begins
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 11	National Coming Out Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl
Oct. 12	Bandi Chor Divas
Oct. 15	Navratri
Oct. 15-21	National Teen Driver Safety Week

11. DDSB Presentations

(a) DDSB Summer Learning Program Report

Senior Team shared a video and provided an overview of the report that was a follow up from the June 19, 2023 Board report. The report provided trustees with information on the impact of the Summer Learning Programs 2023.

The programs were offered during the summer month and supported student well-being, engagement, mental health, and achievement with a focus on the removal of systemic barriers.

Trustee questions were answered.

12. Recommended Actions

(a) Report and Adoption of Any Resolutions: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared with trustees the minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on September, 5 2023.

2023:RB95

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AND ADOPT ANY RESOLUTIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CLOSED SESSION MEETING.

CARRIED

(b) Short-Term Borrowing Resolution

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with information on the resolution for short-term borrowing for the 2023-2024 school year, for the Board of Trustees' consideration.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:RB96

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE BORROWING RESOLUTION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

CARRIED

(c) Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee Terms of Reference

Trustee Deb Oldfield provided trustees with a review of the proposed Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Committee for their consideration.

2023:RB97

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

I MOVE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS AD HOC COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD DATED MAY 15, 2023, BE AMENDED BY REPLACING THE EXISTING TERMS OF REFERENCE IN THEIR ENTIRETY WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOUND AT PAGE 167 OF THE AGENDA PACKAGE.

CARRIED

(d) Appointment of Voting Delegate for the OPSBA Board of Directors/ Labour Council

2023:RB98

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE BOARD APPOINT CHAIR DONNA EDWARDS AS THE VOTING MEMBER FOR THE OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS/LABOUR COUNCIL.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an update on the status of construction and major projects as of August 31, 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.

(b) Pupil Accommodation Plan: Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities  
2023-2027

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided information to the trustees on the annual Pupil Accommodation Plan: Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities for 2023-2027.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:RB99

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE CHAIR AND THE DIRECTOR COMPOSE A LETTER TO BE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO ALLEVIATE THE ACCOMMODATION PRESSURES IN WEST WHITBY.

CARRIED

(c) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report, May 25, 2023

Trustees Kelly Miller presented the SEAC meeting minutes to trustees for information.

(d) OPSBA Report

There was nothing to report at this time.

14. Days of Significance

The dates of significance were shared with trustees for information.

15. Adjournment

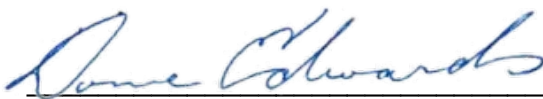
2023:RB99

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 p.m.



Chair



Secretary