



Board Meeting Agenda

December 4, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.



Michelle Arseneault
Trustee
Town of Whitby

Tracy Brown
Trustee
Town of Whitby

Emma Cunningham
Trustee
City of Pickering

Donna Edwards
Trustee
Town of Ajax

Stephen Linton
Trustee
City of Pickering

Kelly Miller
Trustee
Town of Ajax

Carolyn Morton
Trustee
Townships of Brock, Scugog &
Uxbridge

Deb Oldfield
Vice Chair of the Board
Trustee
City of Oshawa

Shailene Panylo
Trustee
City of Oshawa

Linda Stone
Trustee
City of Oshawa

Christine Thatcher
Chair of the Board
Trustee
Town of Whitby

Jill Thompson
Trustee
(First Nations Representative)

Ben Cameron
Student Trustee

Kayla Hoare
Student Trustee

Neha Kasoju
Student Trustee

Durham District School Board
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DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 4, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

	PAGE
1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Land Acknowledgement</u>	Verbal
<p>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.</p>	
3. <u>O Canada</u> (Dunbarton High School)	
<u>Musical Performance</u> (Robert Munsch Public School)	
4. <u>Declarations of Interest</u>	Verbal
5. <u>Adoption of Agenda</u>	Verbal
6. <u>Minutes</u>	
(a) APPROVED Minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular Board Meeting	1-10
(b) DRAFT Minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting	11-19
(c) DRAFT Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 6, 2023	20-24
(d) DRAFT Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 20, 2023	25-27
(e) DRAFT Minutes of the November 20, 2023 Organizational Board Meeting	28-36
7. <u>Ministry Memorandums-Information Update</u> (Director Camille Williams-Taylor)	Verbal

8.	<u>Public Question Period</u>	Verbal
9.	<u>Report from the Committee of the Whole in Camera</u> (Trustee Deb Oldfield)	Verbal
10.	<u>Good News from the System</u> (Director Camille Williams-Taylor)	Verbal
11.	<u>Recommended Actions</u>	
	(a) Report and Adoption of Any Resolutions: Standing Committee Meeting, November 6, 2023 (Trustee Deb Oldfield)	37-42
	(b) Election of Ignite Durham Learning Foundation, Trustee Representative (Chair Christine Thatcher)	Verbal
12.	<u>Information Items</u>	
	(a) Capital Priorities Program, 2023-2024 Submission (Associate Director David Wright)	43-51
	(b) Unnamed North Oshawa PS - Boundary Review (Associate Director David Wright)	52-65
	(c) Vincent Massey PS - Boundary Review (Associate Director David Wright)	66-82
	(d) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report, June 22, 2023, October 19, 2023 (Trustees Donna Edwards, Kelly Miller, Deb Oldfield)	83-96
	(e) OPSBA Report (Trustee Donna Edwards)	Verbal
13.	<u>Memos</u>	
	(a) 2324: 06, Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Process	97-99
	(b) 2324: 07, Request for DDSB Support of Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement	100-113
	(c) 2324: 08, Parent Involvement Committee 2023-2024 Committee Representatives	114-115
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	(a) Ombudsman Letter to DDSB	116-123

15. Days of Significance

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16. Adjournment

Verbal

Code of Conduct for Public Meetings 2023-2024



The Durham District School Board is committed to public participation at board and committee meetings, and to ensuring a safe and respectful environment for students, parents/guardians, trustees, staff, and community members in attendance.

All meetings of the Board of Trustees follow formal parliamentary procedures in accordance with DDSB by-laws, policies, procedures, and protocols that must be adhered to by all participants.

All participants attending public meetings must be courteous and respectful at all times.

Disruptions of the meeting will not be tolerated and may result in a request to leave the meeting.

Abusive, discourteous, and/or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Threats, intimidating language and/or behaviour and any attempt to assault any person is prohibited and may result in criminal charges.

Possessing any form of a weapon while in attendance at a public meeting is prohibited. Security personnel are authorized to exercise discretion to request the inspection of any bag, briefcase, backpack, purse or any other item brought onto DDSB property to ensure a safe and respectful environment.

All individuals attending in-person will be asked to sign-in and show photo identification for the purposes of verifying their identity. Individuals that do not wish to sign in may choose to participate in the meeting virtually through the livestream.

Meetings are recorded by the DDSB for the purposes of the livestream and for security purposes. Those in attendance at meetings are prohibited from using their own recording devices.

Violations of this Code of Conduct will not be tolerated under any circumstances and may result in a person being directed to leave, restricting/prohibiting attendance at future meetings and/or all DDSB properties, or being subject to criminal charges depending on the nature of the conduct.

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://www.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 Vandebos 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 2nd 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

Regular Meeting of the Board Minutes
September 18, 2023

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 21st. 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

DRAFT

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, October 16, 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 7:07 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham (virtual), Stephen Linton (virtual, left meeting at 7:55 p.m.), Kelly Miller (virtual), Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo (virtual), Christine Thatcher, Linda Stone (virtual, left meeting at 8:12 p.m.), Jill Thompson (virtual), Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director David Wright (virtual), 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, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur, Legal Counsel Phanny Im

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

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:RB100

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2023:RB101

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

(a) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2023

(b) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2023.

(c) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2023.

AND THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

(d) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

CARRIED

7. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

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

I'd like to begin this update by acknowledging the devastation in the Middle East. When geopolitical conflicts and situations of violence occur, the impact is often traumatic for students, families, educators and communities, both globally and locally.

Communications and resources have been shared with schools, staff and families on how to support students and staff who may be directly or indirectly connected to the Middle East and Israeli, Palestinian, Jewish, and Muslim communities who are coping with distress arising from these incidents. As the situation continues to evolve, so too will our models of support for those in the DDSB community.

Tomorrow is Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Worker Appreciation Day. We recognize and appreciate the valuable contributions of Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators across our schools in classrooms and child care centres and the impact they have on children, families, and communities. Thank you to the Early Learning and Child Care heroes that make a difference in the DDSB each day.

Today is the beginning of Local Government Week. In partnership with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, school boards across the province will participate in events and classroom-based learning that aims to raise civic awareness among students, emphasizing the vital role that government plays in our community, including through elected officials like school board trustees.

Later this week the DDSB will host its first Black Student Alliance Conference here at the Education Centre for student leaders who are interested in networking with other Black Student Alliance's across the district. This conference aims to create an empowering space for Black student leaders where they can gain skills to amplify their voice, vision, and agency within their local school communities. Students will have opportunities for district-wide peer networking, school related action planning, reflecting on their own wellness and accessing wellness supports through an identity-based lens.

On October 24, DDSB's annual Volunteer of Distinction ceremony will take place. 2023 marks the return to an in-person event and we are proud to recognize the contributions of 116 individuals to their local school communities. Each year all schools are encouraged to nominate one volunteer member of their community who has demonstrated a commitment to the school through their active involvement in programs and initiatives toward the betterment of the school for students, staff and families. We are grateful for the work of volunteers across the district and for their efforts to ensure schools are welcoming places for all students, staff and families.

Across Ontario, Dress Purple Day is taking place on October 27. As part of the campaign led by Ontario's Children's Aid Societies, we encourage everyone in the DDSB community to wear purple to help raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families.

Take Our Kids to Work Day is coming up on November 1. Grade 9 students will have an opportunity to spend a day in the life of a working professional. Students will be hosted by parents, relatives or friends in a variety of workplaces, including here at the Education Centre, where staff will spend time with students sharing career pathway stories to assist them in exploring career-related activities and ideas for their futures. Grade 9 students and families interested in participating or finding out more information about Take Our Kids to Work Day are encouraged to contact their school office or guidance staff.

Lastly, fall administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (the OSSLT) for students in Grade 10 is coming up in November at all DDSB secondary schools. All students must work toward the literacy graduation requirement by participating in the OSSLT or by completing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course. Schools will communicate detailed information about literacy test dates and supports available in the coming weeks.

8. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding enrollment at secondary schools in Pickering. Staff responded to the question.

Tim Morgan submitted a question regarding DDSB's Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy and Procedures, that was read into the record by staff. Staff responded to the question.

Susan Fan submitted a question regarding DDSB's Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy and Procedures, 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 October 16, 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 and the acquisition or disposal of a school site.

2023:RB102

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACTIONS AND ADOPT ANY RESOLUTIONS OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2023, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION MEETING.

CARRIED

10. Good News from the System

Khalid and Justin from Romeo Dallaire Public School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

11. DDSB Presentations

(a) Educational Services Staff Award

Chair Donna Edwards shared that the annual Educational Services Staff Award recognizes a DDSB staff member/team affiliated with CUPE, consisting of office-clerical-technical staff, custodial and maintenance staff, and Educational Assistants. In addition to the recognition of winning the annual Educational Services Staff Award, recipients receive \$500 toward a project or initiative of their choice.

Karen Pender, Educational Assistant at Lakewoods PS is the award recipient for the 2022-2023 school year. Director Camille Williams-Taylor, representing the Senior Team, acknowledged the compassion and community spirit of Karen as well as her service to the students, families and staff of Lakewoods Public School. Karen has selected the Lakewoods Public School Breakfast Program to receive the \$500 program support.

(b) Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) Achievement Award

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the Achievement Award on behalf of OPSBA to lead custodian Frank Lew who is being recognized for his exemplary commitment and dedication to the Greenbank Public School community.

12. Recommended Actions

(a) Report and Adoption of Any Resolutions: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2023

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared with trustees the minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on October 2, 2023.

2023:RB103

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CLOSED SESSION MEETING.

CARRIED

(b) Recommendations from the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, September 27, 2023

Trustee Tracy Brown brought forward the following recommendations from the Governance and Policy Committee.

i. Timing of Organizational Meeting and Clarification of Other Meeting Dates (Revised Consolidated Bylaws)

General Counsel Patrick Cotter reviewed proposed amendments to the Bylaws and the meeting schedule. Trustee questions were answered.

2023:RB104

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown
SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDER AND ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 3.1.1, 3.2.1, 4.2.4 AND 5.5.1 OF THE CONSOLIDATED BYLAWS AS SET OUT IN THE REPORT.

CARRIED

2023:RB105

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONSIDER AND ADOPT A REVISED MEETING SCHEDULE, SUCH THAT THE MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2023 AND DECEMBER 4, 2023 FLIP AND THAT NOVEMBER 20 BECOMES THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND DECEMBER 4 BECOMES THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

CARRIED

ii. July 10, 2023 Resolution: COVID-19 Update

2023:RB106

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESCIND THE JANUARY 5, 2022 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD WHICH PROVIDED AS FOLLOWS:

- A) THAT THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, AND/OR HER DESIGNATES, TAKE ALL REASONABLE STEPS TO PUBLICLY REPORT DATA, TO THE EXTENT IT IS AVAILABLE, ON CONFIRMED AND PRESUMED CASES IN DDSB SCHOOLS;
- B) THAT THE DDSB ENSURE FAMILIES AND STAFF HAVE A MECHANISM FOR SELF-REPORTING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ACCESS TO TESTS;
- C) THAT THE BOARD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SCHOOL AND CLASS CLOSURES AND UNUSUAL RATES OF ABSENTEEISM IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES;
- D) AND SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT ALTER ITS DIRECTION ON THE COLLECTION OF THIS DATA, THE BOARD WILL REVISIT ITS POSITION.

CARRIED

iii. Revised Privacy Policy and Rescission of Regulation

2023:RB107

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESCIND THE PRIVACY POLICY AND REGULATION AND ADOPT THE NEW PRIVACY POLICY AS NOTED IN THE REPORT.

CARRIED

iv. Revised Trustee Criminal Reference Checks Policy and Rescission of Regulation

2023:RB108

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESCIND THE TRUSTEE CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS POLICY AND REGULATION AND ADOPT THE NEW TRUSTEE CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS POLICY AS NOTED IN THE REPORT.

CARRIED

(c) Consideration of Integrity Commissioner Findings

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided trustees with information and context as to the process to be followed by the Board of Trustees in considering a report from the Integrity Commissioner.

2023:RB109
MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT TRUSTEE STONE HAS BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.8, 6.11, AND 6.44 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT, WHEN SHE POSTED THE TWEETS AND RETWEETS SET OUT IN THIS REPORT.

Trustee Deb Oldfield called for a recorded vote.

The above motion (2023:RB109) was carried on the following recorded vote.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Tracy Brown		Stephen Linton	Michelle Arseneault
Emma Cunningham			
Kelly Miller			
Carolyn Morton			
Deb Oldfield			
Shailene Panylo			
Christine Thatcher			
Jill Thompson			
Donna Edwards			

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Ben Cameron			
Kayla Hoare			
Neha Kasoju			

2023:RB110
MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- a) CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE;
- b) BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM ATTENDING ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2023, AND;
- c) BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD FOR THE PERIOD STARTING APRIL 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Trustee Emma Cunningham called for a recorded vote.

The above motion (2023:RB110) was carried on the following recorded vote.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Tracy Brown		Stephen Linton	Michelle Arseneault
Emma Cunningham			
Kelly Miller			
Carolyn Morton			
Deb Oldfield			
Shailene Panylo			
Christine Thatcher			
Jill Thompson			
Donna Edwards			

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Ben Cameron			
Kayla Hoare			
Neha Kasoju			

13. Information Items

(a) Governance and Policy Committee Report, May 24, 2023

Trustee Tracy Brown provided trustees with the May 24, 2023, Governance and Policy Committee meeting report.

(b) Audit Committee Meeting Summary

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with the summary from the September 20, 2023 Audit Committee meeting public session.

(c) Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an update on the Durham District School Board's Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees, for the year ended August 31, 2023.

(d) Annual Audit Committee Report to the Ministry of Education

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an update on the Durham District School Board's Annual Audit Committee Report to the Board of Trustees, for the year ended August 31, 2023, to be provided to the Ministry of Education.

(e) OPSBA Report

Trustee Emma Cunningham shared with trustees that in November OPSBA is hosting an advocacy day at Queen's Park where school board trustees will have an opportunity to discuss challenges and successes with local MPPs.

14. Days of Significance

The dates of significance were shared with trustees for information.

15. Adjournment

2023:RB111
MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:27 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

20 DRAFT

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Board

Monday, November 6, 2023

8:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Chair Donna Edwards

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:06 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustees Jill Thompson, Linda Stone

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

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. 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 territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is 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.

4. Adoption of Agenda

2022:SB41

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Recommended Action

(a) Consideration of Submissions re: Code of Conduct

On October 16, 2023, the Board found that Trustee Stone breached the Code of Conduct.

As required under the Education Act, the Board provided Trustee Stone with written notice of the findings of the breach and of the sanctions and an opportunity to make written submissions to the Board.

Written submissions were received on October 30, 2023.

The Education Act requires that the Board consider the written submissions and to either confirm or revoke the determination as to the breach and, if the determination of breach is confirmed, to then confirm, vary or revoke the sanctions.

At the Board meeting held on October 16, 2023, the Board considered the report of the Integrity Commissioner dated October 5, 2023, and the Board determined as follows:

That Trustee Stone has breached the Code of Conduct, specifically sections 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.8, 6.11, and 6.44 of the Code of Conduct, when she posted the tweets and retweets set out in the report. In addition, the Board determined to impose the following sanctions:

1. That the Board of Trustees censure Trustee Stone;
2. That Trustee Stone be barred from all of the Board Meeting of December 4, 2023;
3. That the Board of Trustees bar Trustee Stone from sitting on all Committees of the Board, for the period of April 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

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2023:SB42
MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD UPHOLD THE FINDING OF BREACHES MADE IN OCTOBER 2023.

THAT TRUSTEE STONE HAS BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.8, 6.11, AND 6.44 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT, WHEN SHE POSTED THE TWEETS AND RETWEETS SET OUT IN THE REPORT.

Trustee Deb Oldfield called for a recorded vote.

The above motion (2023:SB115) was carried on the following recorded vote.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Tracy Brown	Michelle Arseneault	Jill Thompson	
Emma Cunningham			
Stephen Linton			
Kelly Miller			
Carolyn Morton			
Deb Oldfield			
Shailene Panylo			
Christine Thatcher			
Donna Edwards			

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Ben Cameron			
Kayla Hoare			
Neha Kasoju			

2023:SB43
MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD UPHOLD THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON TRUSTEE STONE ON OCTOBER 16, 2023 WHICH INCLUDE:

1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE;
2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2023;

Special Meeting of the Board Minutes
November 6, 2023

- 3. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024.

That the forgoing motion (2023:SB116) be amended to change the date from December 31, 2024 to June 30, 2024.

2023:SB44

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

- 3. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR THE PERIOD OF April 1, 2024 to JUNE 30, 2024.

After a discussion took place with trustees, Trustee Kelly Miller withdrew the foregoing motion.

2023:SB45

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD UPHOLD THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON TRUSTEE STONE ON OCTOBER 16, 2023 WHICH INCLUDE:

- 1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE;
- 2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2023;
- 3. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Trustee Deb Oldfield called for a recorded vote.

The above motion (2023:SB118) was carried on the following recorded vote.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Tracy Brown	Michelle Arseneault	Jill Thompson	
Emma Cunningham			
Stephen Linton			
Kelly Miller			
Carolyn Morton			
Deb Oldfield			
Shailene Panylo			
Christine Thatcher			
Donna Edwards			

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Ben Cameron			
Kayla Hoare			
Neha Kasoju			

(b) Special Advisory Committee (SEAC) Alternate Membership Recommendation Re: Autism Ontario

Trustee Deb Oldfield shared that the following motion was carried, and the resolutions were adopted at the SEAC meeting on October 19, 2023;

That Board of Trustees approve the SEAC recommendation that Maritza Basaran be approved as the Alternate Representative for Autism Ontario.

2022:RB46
MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THESE RESOLUTIONS OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2023 SEAC COMMITTEE.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment

2022:SB47
MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham
Seconded by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

25 DRAFT

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Board

Monday, November 20, 2023

7:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Chair Donna Edwards

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustees Jill Thompson, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, 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, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

3. 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 territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is 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.

4. Adoption of Agenda

2022:SB47

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Recommended Action

(a) Financial Process and the 2022-2023 Financial Statements

Associate Director David Wright introduced Senior Manager of Finance Melissa Durward who provided trustees with an overview of the 2022-2023 Financial Statements.

2022:SB48

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton
SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2022-2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, INCLUDING TRANSFERS TO AND FROM INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

(a) Audit Committee Meeting Summary

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with the summary from the November 9, 2023, Audit Committee meeting public session.

(b) Audit Committee External Members-Terms of Appointment

Associate Director David Wright provided trustee with information regarding the Audit Committees, External Members' term of appointment.

Trustee questions were answered.

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November 20, 2023

7. Adjournment

2022:SB49
MOVED by Trustee
Seconded by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 715 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

DRAFT

MINUTES

**Organizational Meeting of the Board
Monday, November 20, 2023**

The Inaugural Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date, in the Boardroom.

1. Call to Order:

The Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Linda Stone (left at 8:21 p.m.), Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Ben Cameron

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Georgette Davis, 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

Director Camille Williams-Taylor advised that 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

Glen Dhu Public School Choir

Trustees Tracy Brown and Michelle Arseneault introduced, welcomed and thanked the Glen Dhu Public School Junior/Intermediate Choir who performed O Canada. The choir is led by Emily Parliament and assisted by Melissa Arkell. The choir also performed the song, "Nothing's Gonna Stop Me".

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2022:RB112

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Election of Chair of the Board of Trustees

Director Camille Williams-Taylor informed trustees of the process for the election of the Board's Chair under the Board's By-Laws. Nominations were called for the position of Chair of the Durham District School Board.

2022:RB113

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER NOMINATED TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD. TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

2022:RB114

TRUSTEE TRACY BROWN NOMINATED CHRISTINE THATCHER FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD. TRUSTEE CHRISTINE THATCHER ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Director Camille Williams-Taylor, and there being none, nominations for the position of Chair were closed.

Trustee Christine Thatcher was elected to the position of Chair of the Board of Trustees. Following a brief recess, Trustee Christine Thatcher, the newly elected Chair assumed the Chair and conducted the remainder of the meeting.

Chair Thatcher thanked Trustees for electing her to the position of Chair of the Board of Trustees.

7. Election of Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.

2022:115

TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

2022:116

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER NOMINATED TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

2022:117

TRUSTEE TRACY BROWN NOMINATED TRUSTEE DEB OLDFIELD FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. TRUSTEE DEB OLDFIELD ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher and there being none, nominations for the position of Vice Chair were closed.

Trustee Deb Oldfield was elected to the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.

8. Election of Committee of the Whole, Standing Committee Vice Chair

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations to the position of Committee of the Whole, Standing Committee Vice Chair.

2022:118

TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

2022:119

TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

2022:120

TRUSTEE TRACY BROWN SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Standing Committee were closed.

Trustee Tracy Brown was elected Vice Chair of the Standing Committee.

9. Election of Education Finance Chair

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations to the position of Chair of the Education Finance Committee.

2022:121

TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Chair of Education Finance Committee were closed.

Trustee Carolyn Morton was acclaimed Chair of Education Finance Committee.

10. Election of Education Finance Vice Chair

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations to the position of Vice Chair of the Education Finance Committee.

2022:122

TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Education Finance Committee were closed.

Trustee Donna Edwards was acclaimed Vice Chair of Education Finance Committee.

11. Election of Governance and Policy Committee Chair

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations to the position of Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee.

2022:123

TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM SELF- NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER NOMINATED TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE. TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS DECLINED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Chair of Governance and Policy Committee were closed.

Trustee Emma Cunningham was acclaimed Chair of Governance and Policy Committee.

12. Election of Governance and Policy Committee Vice Chair

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations to the position of Vice Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee.

2022:124

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Governance and Policy Committee were closed.

Trustee Kelly Miller was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee.

13. Statutory/Other Committee Elections

Audit Committee

The following trustees will continue as the Audit Committee trustees members for 2024.

- Trustee Michelle Arseneault
- Trustee Stephen Linton
- Trustee Shailene Panylo

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations and/or volunteers for the following committees:

(a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Trustee Members

2022:RB125

TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF SEAC TRUSTEE MEMBER.

2022:RB126

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF SEAC TRUSTEE MEMBER.

2022:RB127

TRUSTEE DEB OLDFIELD SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF SEAC TRUSTEE MEMBER.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of SEAC Trustee Member were closed.

Trustees Donna Edwards, Kelly Miller and Deb Oldfield were acclaimed to the position of SEAC Trustee Members.

(b) Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Trustee Members

2022:RB128

TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON NOMINATED TRUSTEE MICHELLE ARSENEAULT FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE MICHELLE ARSENEAULT ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

2022:RB129

TRUSTEE MICHELLE ARSENEAULT NOMINATED TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Supervised Alternative Learning Trustee Member were closed.

Trustees Michelle Arseneault and Carolyn Morton were acclaimed to the position of

Supervised Alternative Learning Trustee Member.

2022:RB130

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF ALTERNATE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING TRUSTEE MEMBER.

2022:RB131

TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF ALTERNATE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING TRUSTEE MEMBER.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of alternate Supervised Alternative Learning Trustee Member were closed.

Trustees Donna Edwards and Kelly Miller were acclaimed to the position of alternate Supervised Alternative Learning Trustee Member.

(c) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

2022:RB132

TRUSTEE TRACY BROWN NOMINATED TRUSTEE MICHELLE ARSENEAULT FOR THE POSITION OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE MICHELLE ARSENEAULT ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

2022:RB133

TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM NOMINATED TRUSTEE STEPHEN LINTON FOR THE POSITION OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE STEPHEN LINTON DECLINED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Parent Involvement Committee Trustee Member were closed.

Trustee Michelle Arseneault was acclaimed to the position of Parent Involvement Committee Trustee Member.

2022:RB134

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF ALTERNATE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBERS.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of alternate Parent Involvement Committee Trustee Member were closed.

Trustee Kelly Miller was acclaimed as alternate Parent Involvement Committee Trustee Member.

- (d) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Trustee Voting Member

2022:RB135

TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON NOMINATED TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS FOR THE POSITION OF OPSBA VOTING TRUSTEE. TRUSTEE DONNA EDWARDS ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Vice Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of the OPSBA Trustee Voting Member were closed.

Trustee Donna Edwards was acclaimed as the OPSBA Trustee Voting Member. Trustee Donna Edwards will exercise the Board's voting right.

2022:RB136

TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON NOMINATED TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER FOR THE POSITION OF OPSBA TRUSTEE ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER. TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of the OPSBA Trustee Alternate-Voting Member were closed.

Trustee Kelly Miller was elected as the non-voting OPSBA Trustee Member.

2022:RB137

TRUSTEE MICHELL ARSENEAULT SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF ALTERNATE OPSBA TRUSTEE.

TRUSTEE CAROLYN MORTON SELF-NOMINATED FOR THE POSITION OF ALTERNATE OPSBA TRUSTEE.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of alternate OPSBA Trustee Member were closed.

Trustees Michelle Arseneault and Carolyn Morton were acclaimed as alternate OPSBA Trustees.

14. Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates 2023

Chair Christine Thatcher presented the Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates for 2024. There being no objections to the meeting dates, it was approved as presented.

2022:RB138
MOVED by Chair Christine Thatcher

CARRIED

17. Adjournment

2022:RB139
MOVED by Chair Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:34 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

Report of the Durham District School Board Standing Committee Public Session November 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 7:09 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Christine Thatcher

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson

Not In Attendance: Trustee Linda Stone

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

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Christine Thatcher shared that Ontario designated the first week of November as Treaties Recognition Week and as we acknowledge the land we are situated on this evening, it is important to take this opportunity to promote education and awareness about Treaties and Treaty relationships across our province and country.

DDSB's Indigenous Education Policy speaks to the history and role of Treaties and to the importance of our collective responsibility to learn about and uphold the rights of all First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples in Canada.

The Durham District School Board recognizes that it is situated on the ancestral and treaty land of Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and the Chippewas of Georgina Island, two Anishinaabek Ojibwe Nations.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2023

We acknowledge that many Indigenous Nations have long-standing 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 Mississauaga 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.

These Nations hold legal and specific rights in their respective territories. This area has been and continues to be home for Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2023:SC31

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Mental Health Action Plan and Policy/Program memorandum (PPM) 169

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Steffanie Pelleboer, Mental Health Lead and Dr. Sandra Newton, Psychological Services who provided trustees with information and a presentation on the requirements of PPM 169-Student Mental Health and its alignment with the Durham District School Board’s Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director’s Update

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

As mentioned by Trustee Thatcher, November 5 to 11 is Treaties Recognition Week and in accordance with DDSB’s Indigenous Education Policy, staff and students will be taking part in learning to better understand what Treaties are, their place in Turtle Island’s history, their purpose and the obligations they set out. As members of the DDSB community, we are all enriched by learning about the histories, contributions and truths of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Canada.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023

This Wednesday is National Indigenous Veterans Day; a day of commemoration of the contributions of Indigenous veterans in the First and Second World Wars as well as the Korean War.

On Remembrance Day, November 11, we honour those who have and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace. Exploring remembrance in schools is an opportunity to build critical consciousness in ourselves and with students. As we participate in Remembrance Day recognition events in our schools and in the community, it is important that we recognize the direct and indirect impact and trauma of war on individuals as well as communities.

November is recognized as Hindu Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich cultural history of Hindu Canadians. Diwali, or the festival of lights, is a very significant holiday in the Hindu community. We wish Happy Diwali to everyone in the DDSB community who will be celebrating the festival on November 12.

Transgender Awareness Week takes place November 13 to 19 and it is an opportunity for us to raise awareness about the issues that transgender people continue to face, to support and affirm their identities and on Transgender Day of Remembrance, to honour the memory of all those who lost their lives simply for being who they are.

On November 15th we recognize Classroom Support Staff Appreciation Day. We are grateful for the hard work, patience and kindness of all those in professional roles in DDSB classrooms who work alongside teachers to support the well-being and learning of all students. Thank you for all that you do.

Next Friday, November 17 is a PA day in all DDSB schools. Elementary educators will be participating in student progress interviews and classroom support staff will be participating in professional learning.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Education announced the launch of the Math Action Achievement Plan, a strategy developed to boost competence in math in classrooms across the province. Later tonight staff will be presenting a report including an update on development and implementation of DDSB's 2023-2024 Math Action Achievement Plan. The report also introduces DDSB's Mathematics Grades 1-12 Companion Document to the Ontario Curriculum, outlining the strategies in place and in developments towards increasing understanding of the Ontario Math Curriculum in all classrooms.

On Tuesday, November 28 the Student Success department will be hosting the 2023 Technological Education Symposium for Technology educators and students. This symposium will provide students a chance to test drive various career opportunities in skilled trades in a hands-on environment and teachers will have access to valuable resources to help enrich their students' experience. Interested students and families are encouraged to speak with their child's tech education teacher or guidance counsellor.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Addressing Anti-Black Racism

Director Camille Williams-Taylor provided trustees with an update on update on the strategic directions and internal structures established to name, face and dismantle Anti-Black Racism within the Durham District School Board in order to improve the school experiences of Black students and advance performance, achievement, excellence and success of Black students in our classrooms and schools.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:SC32

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THE CREATION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AN ANTI-BLACK RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE. UNDER THE DDSB BYLAWS, AN ADDITIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CAN BE INITIATED BY A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ADVISORY COMMITTEES PROVIDE PUBLIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD ON MATTERS OF POLICY AND CAN INCLUDE TRUSTEE AND/OR STAFF AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION/ STUDENT VOICE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE. SUCH A COMMITTEE MAY INVOLVE A SIGNIFICANT TIME COMMITMENT OF ANY DESIGNATED TRUSTEE(S).

CARRIED

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees provided the following update:

Student Trustee Kayla Hoare shared that the Inaugural Senate meeting, held on October 5, was a success. Senators had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with one another and discuss plans and initiatives for the year. Expanding Senate's outreach is a focus for student trustees this year.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron has been organizing OSTA-AECO's Fall General Meeting. Student Trustees from across the province had the chance to come together, network, join breakout groups and hear from guest speakers including Minister Stephen Lecce.

Student Trustee Cameron shared that WRDSB had a PD Day on November 13, accommodating students who celebrate Diwali.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes November 6, 2023

Student Trustee Neha Kasoju shared that during November and December student trustees will be visiting secondary schools and will be speaking with students to get to know them better and to further amplify their voices. As Student Trustees, we understand that we have a responsibility to represent a large number of students and the best way to advocate for a group is to get to know them. During these school tours, students are presented with the opportunity to get to know us, learn about what we are working on, and inform us of any concerns or ideas they may have.

(b) 2023-2024 DDSB Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided trustees with an overview of the development of the 2023-2024 DDSB Math Achievement Action Plan.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Update: Multi-Year Strategic Planning Process

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec provided trustees with an update on activities related to the Multi-Year Strategic Planning process since the last update on June 19, 2023 and to outline next steps.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Trustee Professional Development Report Back: Face It, Fight It Conference

Trustee Emma Cunningham provided trustees with an overview of the Antisemitism conference that was attended October 16-17, 2023, in Ottawa.

(e) OPSBA Report

Chair Donna Edwards provided trustees with an update on the Central East OPBSA members meeting that took place on November 4, 2023 at the TDSB Centre for Black Excellence.

9. Memos

The following memos were shared with trustees for information.

- (a) 2324:05, Student Excursions and Activities
- (b) 2324:06, Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Process
- (c) 2324:07, Request for DDSB Support of Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement

Trustee questions were answered.

10. Adjournment

2023:SC33

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT TO: Durham District School Board **DATE:** December 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Capital Priorities Program – 2023-2024 Submission **PAGE:** 1 of 6

ORIGIN: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
 David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer of the Board
 Lisa Bianca, Head of Facilities Services
 Melissa Durward, Senior Manager of Finance
 Lindsay Wells, Senior Manager, Facilities Services
 Lygia Dallip, Manager of Property and Planning

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board of Trustees on the project submissions for the Ministry of Education's 2023-2024 request for capital projects, including child care, submitted to the Ministry on October 20, 2023.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

- Align resources to where they are most needed to support equitable outcomes for all students.
- Provide safe, inclusive and respectful learning environments which support positive academic, mental and physical growth.

3.0 Background

The Capital Priorities Program (CPP) provides school boards with an opportunity to identify and address their most urgent pupil accommodation needs. For the 2023-2024 CPP, school boards were asked to:

- Submit detailed project proposals to address current accommodation needs related to:
 - Accommodation Pressures,
 - School Consolidation,
 - Facility Condition, and
 - Access to French Language schools.
- Provide high level summary information on future, longer term growth needs related to the Housing Supply Action Plan municipal growth plans.
- Provide a priority ranking for the proposals.
- School boards had an opportunity to request Child Care Capital Funding for child care projects associated with a larger Capital Priorities project.

The detailed project submissions for capital needs had to include fully completed business cases that identified school utilization equal to or greater than 100% (including the area's existing schools) by the 5th year after the proposed school opening date, provide a positive investment return (Net Present Value greater than \$0), or identify students that do not have access to a French Language school. Projects were also expected to include a completion date with a clear and detailed schedule for milestones and deliverables.

3.1 Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

New this year, the Capital Priorities Program for 2023-2024 has been enhanced to reflect key government commitments to deliver new schools faster to support the needs of growing communities and better utilize school capacity. Eligibility and evaluation criteria for Ministry assessment of submitted projects have been clearly defined and shared with applicants.

As with previous years, project submissions were required to demonstrate a critical and urgent pupil accommodation need in order to be considered for funding approval. These pupil accommodation needs may include accommodation pressures, replacement schools and French language access. In addition to addressing pupil accommodation needs, projects may also include the creation of new licensed child care spaces.

1. Project Readiness Assessment

Starting this year, school boards were asked to complete a project readiness assessment and provide a summary of key project milestones. In this new assessment section, the Ministry requested detailed information regarding site identification, design plans, project timelines and cost estimates. Priority will be given to projects that are best positioned to be completed in a timely manner or considered "shovel-ready". Submissions required details on site purchases planned or acquired, design plans with cost estimates, and a clear schedule with project milestones indicating a path to project completion.

2. Design Standardization

In June 2023, the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act* amended the *Education Act* to provide authority for the Minister to require school boards to use particular functional specifications, designs or plans when constructing, renovating or making additions to school buildings or premises.

With the input of various school boards, including DDSB, the Ministry developed an EDU Design Catalogue of new school builds that have been completed or are currently in progress. The catalogue includes schematic designs of elementary and secondary schools from 8 school boards, selected based on the following criteria:

- All designs are aligned within current Ministry space benchmark requirement.
- All designs have been approved/tendered since 2021 to reflect current costs.
- Project costs are aligned and consistent with current market conditions in the average range of \$360-\$400/sq. ft. excluding unique site costs.
- Designs represent a variety of pupil place sizes to provide scalability.
- School boards have received permission from the Architects for inclusion.

3. Board Performance Assessment

As part of the Capital Priorities evaluation process, school boards will be assessed on their performance history delivering capital projects, including the following:

- Adherence to project timelines,
- Time to completion,
- Cost overages,
- Existing inventory of active projects,
- Adherence to space benchmarks,
- Capital Accountability Framework compliance.

4. Enhanced Accountability Framework

As a result of the Ministry's review of its Capital Accountability Framework, the accountability framework for major capital construction projects has been redesigned, removing the requirement to submit at multiple stages for approval during project development, with the intention of decreasing the development timeline. Approval will be granted for the initial submission and unless there are significant changes to cost or timeline, no further approvals will be required.

Successful projects will result in a Project Commitment which will include a clear schedule, budget and scope of the project as submitted by the school board and agreed upon by the Ministry. The Project Commitment will establish Ministry expectations for successful project delivery.

School boards will be responsible and accountable for implementing appropriate measures to ensure that projects are completed within the schedule, budget and scope established in the Project Commitment.

As with its current practice, the Ministry will meet with school boards to review project progress reports on a regularly scheduled basis to monitor the progress of approved projects.

- Projects that are progressing within the parameters of the Project Commitment will not be required to obtain any further approval from the Ministry and will be able to proceed through key project milestones to project completion including design, tender, and construction stages.
- During a project's development, however, school boards that encounter issues that put the project at risk of not adhering to the Project Commitment, may require Ministry approval to revise the Project Commitment. This could involve schedule delays, increased costs or changes in project scope. In extreme cases, the project may be subject to cancellation.

3.2 Child Care in Schools

With support from the local Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), boards can request capital funding for the creation of capital projects in schools where there is a need for new child care construction and/or renovations to existing child care spaces for children 0 to 3.8 years of age. Early Years staff have met with the Region of Durham to discuss child care needs within the District. Eligible child care projects are reflected in the current submission.

4.0 Analysis

4.1 DDSB Capital Priorities Submissions 2023-2024

Using the eligibility criteria of the Capital Priorities Program (CPP) guidelines, staff identified areas of project need across the District. Long term enrolment data was analysed in order to develop and prove a sound business case for need. With the Ministry's stated goal of "shovel-readiness" in the forefront of CPP submission planning for this year, projects with owned sites or those in the final stages of purchase were prioritized. CPP submissions were developed for the following projects:

- Unnamed West Whitby – Maskell Crescent and Coronation Road PS
 - Initial submission 2023-2024
 - New 634 pupil place elementary school with 3 room, 49 space child care
 - Building design from EDU Catalogue
 - DDSB has an existing option agreement to acquire the site
 - Site purchase in process
 - Zoning and site services in place
 - Proposed opening September 2026
- Unnamed West Whitby PS - Cisco Drive and Limoges Street PS
 - Repeat submission (3) – previously submitted in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
 - New 634 pupil place elementary school without child care
 - Building design from EDU catalogue (DDSB project – North Oshawa PS)
 - DDSB has an existing option agreement to acquire the site
 - Site purchase in process
 - Zoning and site services in place
 - Proposed opening September 2026
- Unnamed North Oshawa Public School - Symington Avenue and Steeplechase Street PS
 - Repeat submission (3) – previously submitted in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
 - New 634 pupil place elementary school without child care
 - Building design from EDU catalogue
 - DDSB owned site
 - Zoning and site services in place
 - Proposed opening September 2026
- Unnamed West Whitby Secondary School
 - Initial submission 2023-2024
 - New 1,384 pupil place secondary school without child care
 - Building design is a proposed repeat of Unnamed North Oshawa Secondary School, currently in development and a repeat of South-West Milton Secondary School from Halton District School Board (HDSB)
 - DDSB has an existing option agreement to acquire the site
 - Zoning and site services in place
 - Proposed opening September 2027

These projects have been submitted to the Ministry in the following order of priority:

1. Unnamed West Whitby – Maskell & Coronation PS
2. Unnamed West Whitby – Cisco & Limoges PS
3. Unnamed North Oshawa – Symington & Steeplechase PS
4. Unnamed West Whitby Secondary School

4.2 DDSB Long Term Growth Needs

New to the 2023-2024 submission process was the opportunity for boards to provide details of their longer-term growth needs for accommodating projected enrolment due to new development in the school board district. Based on municipal growth plans and Ontario initiatives, such as the Housing Supply Action Plan, details were requested for future needs and locations.

DDSB identified future needs in Pickering, Oshawa and Whitby based on residential development growth over the short term and to 2035 and beyond.

4.2.1 Pickering

The need for schools in strategic areas of the Seaton community supports the expectation that the City of Pickering will have 13,000 new homes constructed by 2031. There are 13 elementary school sites identified throughout the Seaton Planning area. Within the Seaton Planning Area, DDSB has identified its next elementary school at the site located north of the 5th Concession and east of Brock Road. With the increased development in the area, DDSB anticipates enrolment pressures at existing and future holding schools will continue to increase. It is expected that DDSB will submit a business case for the Seaton area in the next round of Capital Priorities, 2024-2025, for a new school opening in 2027-2028.

4.2.2 Whitby

The need for schools in strategic areas of Whitby supports the expectation that the Town of Whitby will have 18,000 new homes constructed by 2031. In the Official Plan, DDSB has identified 19 sites in growth areas. There are option agreements for 5 sites and DDSB owns 1 site in Brooklin. All these sites identified are in the West Whitby growth area and in the Brooklin expansion area. The area north of Taunton Road and south of Winchester Road is projected to be a mixture of growth recognizing the expansion of the Brooklin community as well as the West Whitby area. With the approval of our 2023-2024 Capital Priorities #1 and #2 submissions for West Whitby, an additional new elementary school for this area would be required for 2028-2029. A business case will be submitted in the next round of Capital Priorities in 2024-2025.

4.2.3 Oshawa

The need for schools in strategic areas of Oshawa supports the expectation that the City of Oshawa will have 23,000 new homes constructed by 2031. DDSB has 9 elementary school sites within the Kedron Planning Area that are either identified in an Official Plan Amendment or Draft Plan or under an existing option agreement. Additionally, under the Columbus Planning Area II, DDSB has identified the need for 5 elementary school sites and 1 secondary school site. With the approval of our 2023-2024 Capital Priorities #3 submission, a new elementary school for the Kedron area, to alleviate ongoing and increasing enrolment pressures, will be required for 2027-2028. A business case will be submitted in the next round of Capital Priorities in 2024-2025.

5.0 Financial Implications

The Ministry of Education reviews funding during their Capital Priorities approvals process.

6.0 Evidence of Impact

N/A

7.0 Communication Plan

N/A

8.0 Conclusion

Projects submitted for Capital Priorities consideration reflect the highest and most urgent needs in the District. Significant accommodation pressures already exist in both the Whitby and Oshawa elementary panels and are growing in the Whitby secondary panel. Enrolment needs have exceeded building capacities and the ability to add temporary accommodation is limited as school sites are unable to accommodate additional portables.

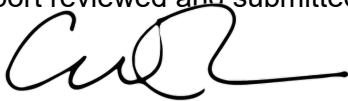
Without Ministry of Education approvals in the near future, Durham District School Board will be unable to meet the needs of the District.

This report is provided to Trustees for information.

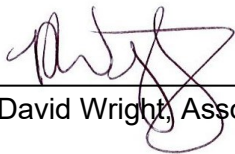
9.0 Appendices

Appendix A - Memo: No. 2324-06 – Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Process, November 2, 2023

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board



David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer of the Board



MEMORANDUM

To: Trustees

Memo: No. 2324:06

From: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
David Wright, Associate Director, Corporate Services
Robert Cerjanec, Executive Lead, Strategic Initiatives and External Relations

Date: November 2, 2023

RE: Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Process

Background

Through the Ministry of Education Capital Priorities process, school boards can submit requests for funding to construct new schools or complete major projects such as school additions or school replacements. Annual project requests are ranked by priority/need as identified by staff based on a number of factors including enrolment trends, accommodation pressures, available capacity, facility condition and more. Capital Priorities submissions are accompanied by staff prepared business cases that provide detailed rationale outlining the need for the project.

Once a capital project has received initial approval from the Ministry of Education, it can take approximately three to four years for completion. The timing of school construction does not always align with the speed of residential growth as the approval, funding and construction period can be lengthy.

The previous Ministry of Education approvals process (which applies to all six DDSB schools in development at present) required four stages of Ministry approval:

1. Announcement of funding;
2. Approval of facility space template and permission to appoint an architect;
3. Approval to proceed to tender based on a cost consultant report; and
4. Post tender approval if the tender exceeds the approved funding amount.

The approval process and timeline can be impacted by other factors including steadily increasing construction costs in between approval stages or the purchase of land, which sometimes takes place at the same time as the approvals process.

The Ministry of Education has recently made changes to the capital priorities process, and we are hopeful that the changes will better streamline approvals, provide more cost certainty and help us build schools faster.

DDSB Capital Projects in Progress

To help accommodate the growth in Durham Region, the DDSB has received Ministry of Education approval for five new school builds and one major addition:

Beaver River PS – Scheduled to open in September 2024

Construction is underway and the new school will replace and consolidate Beaverton PS and Thorah Central PS on the Beaverton PS site (270 King St, Beaverton). Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in February 2018. However, the length of delay is primarily due to the Ministry approvals process and that the DDSB re-submitted the project to request a larger building that would better accommodate previously unregistered growth in Beaverton. After receiving Ministry approval to build a larger school, we experienced further Ministry delays in receiving final approval. This situation was an anomaly but contributed to the lengthy development timeline.

Unnamed North Oshawa PS – Scheduled to open in September 2024

Construction is underway and the school will be located at Windfields Farm Drive West and Wintergrace Avenue in Oshawa. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in October 2020.

Mary Street PS – Building addition is scheduled to open in September 2024

Construction is underway at the current Mary Street PS (110 Mary St N, Oshawa) to replace the existing portapac structure. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in July 2020.

Unnamed Pickering Creekwood PS – Scheduled to open in September 2025

The DDSB is in the process of acquiring the site located at Tillings Road and Dersan Street from the City of Pickering after they complete environmental remediation of the site. Project development and municipal approvals have continued in tandem while site remediation was undertaken. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in July 2020.

Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS – Scheduled to open in September 2026

Planning and development is underway for this new elementary school to be located at Burkholder Drive and Azalea Avenue in Pickering. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in May 2022.

Unnamed North Oshawa SS – Scheduled to open in September 2026

Planning and development is underway for this new secondary school to be located at Windfields Farm Drive East and Bridle Road South in Oshawa. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in May 2022.

New Capital Priorities Process

In August of 2023, the Ministry of Education announced the 2023-2024 Capital Priorities Program, including changes intended to assist school boards in building new and modern schools faster.

In addition to components previously required for all Capital Priorities submissions, school boards will also have their projects evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Project readiness assessment
- Design standardization
- Board performance assessment
- Enhanced accountability framework

We are hopeful that these changes will better streamline approvals, provide more cost certainty and help us build schools faster. However, this remains to be seen as the fall 2023 Capital Priorities submission from the DDSB is the first under the new program requirements.

Role of Municipalities

Municipalities have an important role in the creation of new schools. Through municipal planning processes, population growth and accommodation needs can be projected based on zoning and site plan applications and approvals and land use planning decisions.

The DDSB works closely with Durham Region and the municipalities of Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock in order to remain at the forefront of upcoming new development or re-development projects that may lead to accommodation pressures in existing schools and the possible need for new schools.

When undertaking the planning and development process for a Ministry-approved new school build, the DDSB must apply to the municipality for site plan approval and in some cases, rezoning or minor variance applications prior to seeking a building permit. The site plan approval process takes approximately one year to go through depending on the municipality.

Staff Recommendations

While it is anticipated that the new Capital Priorities process will streamline approvals and speed up construction of new schools, staff have identified additional opportunities that could further improve the process:

1. School board access to an expedited or automatic Capital Priorities approval process provided that a submission meets all of the criteria identified in the updated Capital Priorities Program outline.
2. Consideration of a streamlined municipal Site Plan Approval process or exemption from this process for district school boards.

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT TO: Durham District School Board **DATE:** December 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Unnamed North Oshawa PS – Boundary Review **PAGE:** 1 of 8

ORIGIN: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
 David Wright, Associate Director Corporate Services & Treasurer to the Board
 Lisa Bianca, Head of Facilities Services
 Lindsay Wells, Senior Manager, Development & Inclusive Design
 Lygia Dallip, Manager of Property and Planning

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with information on the public consultation process to establish boundaries for Unnamed North Oshawa Public School (PS), located at Windfields Farm Drive West and Wintergrace Avenue. The boundary review is scheduled to commence December 2023 and is in accordance with the Durham District School Board's (DDSB) School Boundaries Regulation. The Unnamed North Oshawa PS is currently under construction and is scheduled to open for the 2024–2025 school year.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

3.0 Background

Unnamed North Oshawa PS received Ministry of Education Capital Priorities funding in October 2020. The school is currently under construction and is scheduled to open for the 2024-2025 school year.

The new school will provide pupil accommodation for students residing in the new North Oshawa development neighbourhood, specifically located in the block west of Simcoe Street, north of Conlin Road, south of Winchester Road West and east of Thornton Road. As outlined in Appendix A, there have been four holding schools designated as enrolment in the area continued to increase.

3.1 Overview

Unnamed North Oshawa PS

Unnamed North Oshawa PS has a Ministry Rated Capacity (MRC) of 536 pupils, will accommodate students from JK to Grade 8, and includes a Child Care Centre. The school site is 7.94 acres in size.

Unnamed North Oshawa PS is part of a greenfield development area that also attracts new families in more affordable rental units. Four holding schools, Stephen Saywell PS, Sunset Heights PS, Dr. SJ Phillips PS and Elsie MacGill PS, have been accommodating growth until the Unnamed North Oshawa PS opens in the 2024-2025 school year.

The enrolment data, provided in section 3.2 of the report, supports the proposed Unnamed North Oshawa PS boundary, provided as Appendix B. The proposed boundary encompasses the west side of Simcoe Street North, the north side of Conlin Road, the south side of Winchester Road West and the east side of Thornton Road. The proposed Unnamed North Oshawa PS boundary aligns with the current holding school boundary in place since development in the area began.

Holding Schools

Holding schools are determined based on factors including space to accommodate students (in school, utilizing portables and site size), transportation (distance to school and space to accommodate buses), adequate parking and washrooms to accommodate the projected number of students and staff.

Once the holding school is identified, students and their siblings attend their designated holding school. If a family moves within the identified holding area the current holding school will be assigned to the students and their siblings. The holding school designation will be in place until such time as the new school is scheduled to open and a boundary is approved.

In the North Oshawa holding area, four schools have been utilized to accommodate students for the Unnamed North Oshawa PS. The holding school locations as well as the holding area are outlined in Appendix A.

When development commenced in the North Oshawa area, Stephen Saywell PS was identified as the holding school to accommodate growth, as it was in a mature neighbourhood, had declining enrolment and space to accommodate students. This school was utilized as an active holding school from the 2015-16 school year to June 2018. Concerns with loading/unloading transported students on and off site resulted in the identification of a new holding school for any new students from the Unnamed North Oshawa PS development area.

Sunset Height PS was identified as the second holding school and accommodated new students from the Unnamed North Oshawa PS development area until June 2021. The school, located in a mature neighbourhood, had declining enrolment with space to accommodate students.

Dr. SJ Phillips PS was identified as the third holding school to accommodate new students from the Unnamed North Oshawa PS development area. Like Stephen Saywell PS and Sunset Heights PS, Dr. SJ Phillips PS was in a mature neighbourhood and could accommodate additional students. Dr. SJ Phillips PS remained the holding school for the Unnamed North Oshawa PS development area until June 2023.

Currently, Elsie MacGill PS is the holding school for the Unnamed North Oshawa PS development area. Given current enrolment trends, there is limited space across the system to accommodate holding students.

With the approval of a boundary for the Unnamed North Oshawa PS any available space in the current holding schools will be utilized to address growth-related enrolment pressures, as required.

The City of Oshawa has two large, new residential development areas in the north end of the municipality, with approximately 8,000 new homes proposed for construction in the earliest proposed development – Kedron Planning Area II, while another one of similar size, over 8,700 units, Columbus Planning Area II, is proposed within the next 10 to 15 years just north of Kedron. The Kedron Planning Area II has development already underway with homes closing and enrolment pressures continuing at north Oshawa schools.

3.2 Staff Recommended Boundary Review for Community Consultation

Establish a boundary for Unnamed North Oshawa PS, scheduled to open for the 2024-2025 school year, utilizing the current holding school boundary (see Appendix B for proposed realigned boundary).

Enrolment

Based upon the boundary, as outlined in Appendix B, Table 1 identifies the 5-year enrolment projections for Unnamed North Oshawa PS. This proposal includes students in current JK to Grade 7, and incoming JK's, as of September 2024. These students are currently located at the four holding schools outlined in section 3.1. Current Grade 7 students would be given the choice to stay at their current designated holding school or transition to Unnamed North Oshawa PS for Grade 8.

Based upon previous new DDSB school openings, a new facility attracts students from other sources including other publicly funded schools, private schools and DDSB families within the proposed boundary that decided to remain at their previous home school (rather than the DDSB-assigned home school). The proposed Unnamed North Oshawa PS community has no existing schools and therefore staff, based upon past school openings, expect Unnamed North Oshawa PS will attract approximately 50 new students per year as new homes continue to be occupied.

The enrolment projections for Unnamed North Oshawa PS upon opening, based upon current holding and growth is as follows:

Table 1:

Unnamed N. Oshawa PS

City of Oshawa

MRC: 536

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2024	613	114%	2
October 2025	645	120%	4
October 2026	660	123%	4
October 2027	685	128%	5

Table 2 through Table 5 provides a summary of the impact of the opening of the Unnamed North Oshawa PS on the four holding schools as of 2024-25.

Table 2:**Stephen Saywell PS**

City of Oshawa

MRC: 389		Impact on Enrolment with the opening of Unnamed N. Oshawa PS				
	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2022	424	109%	0			
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	422	108%	0			
October 2024	407	105%	0	380	98%	0
October 2025	399	103%	0	379	97%	0
October 2026	377	97%	0	360	93%	0
October 2027	355	91%	0	337	87%	0

Table 3:**Sunset Heights PS**

City of Oshawa

MRC: 380		Impact on Enrolment with the opening of Unnamed N. Oshawa PS				
	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2022	581	153%	9			
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	585	154%	8			
October 2023	574	151%	8			
October 2024	556	146%	7	421	111%	1
October 2025	561	148%	7	428	113%	1
October 2026	542	143%	7	414	109%	1
October 2027	535	141%	6	412	108%	1

Table 4:

Dr. SJ Phillips PS
City of Oshawa

MRC: 452

**Impact on Enrolment with the opening
 of Unnamed N. Oshawa PS**

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2022	688	152%	8			
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	673	149%	9			
October 2024	695	154%	9	440	97%	0
October 2025	667	148%	8	438	97%	0
October 2026	654	145%	7	427	94%	0
October 2027	648	143%	6	418	92%	0

Table 5:

Elsie MacGill PS
City of Oshawa

MRC: 519

**Impact on Enrolment with the opening
 of Unnamed N. Oshawa PS**

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed	Total Enrolment**	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2022	525	101%	0			
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	706	136%	6*			
October 2024	610	118%	6	570	110%	2
October 2025	605	117%	6	533	103%	1
October 2026	593	114%	6	498	96%	0
October 2027	568	109%	6	455	88%	0

* Projected 2024 to 2027 portables held constant for current projections given 2023 preliminary actual to projected data is higher, by 22%

**2024 to 2027 Elise MacGill PS with Unnamed North Oshawa PS data has been updated to reflect the increased percentage of preliminary actual enrolment

As previously stated, this data does not impact the current Grade 7 students, who are preparing to enter secondary school and may want to graduate with their current cohort of peers. If Grade 7 students decide to transition to Unnamed North Oshawa PS, the updated enrolment data will be reflected in the spring for staffing purposes. Additionally, given the 22% increase in Elsie MacGill PS 2023 (preliminary) enrolment versus the projected data, Elsie MacGill PS baseline data, with Unnamed North Oshawa PS open has been adjusted to accommodate the increase in enrolment at the school.

The opening of Unnamed North Oshawa PS for the 2024-2025 school year will result in minimal portables to the four schools currently holding the growth. These schools will be provided some relief; however, they may be required in future years to accommodate the current and planned growth in Oshawa.

For the current school year, the four holding schools have a combined total of 23 portables on site to accommodate enrolment pressures. With the opening of the new North Oshawa PS, there is a potential to redirect 18 portables to address other accommodation pressures and ensure that fewer students are in alternative learning spaces.

4.0 Analysis

1.1. Boundary Review Process

The DDSB School Boundaries Regulation outlines the parameters used for creating new and revising current school boundaries. The Regulation includes a consultation process to gather feedback from the community (see Appendix C).

1.2. Proposed Timing

The consultation period would begin on December 5, 2023, and end on January 12, 2024. Following consultation, a final recommendation report will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and for a decision regarding the new permanent attendance boundary for the new school at the February 20, 2024, Board Meeting.

5.0 Financial Implications

Potential for small reduction in transportation costs as a reduced number of buses would be required with the new permanent boundary.

6.0 Evidence of Impact

The establishment of boundaries to accommodate students in their neighbourhood school will result in reduced transportation and portable needs at schools currently holding students.

7.0 Communication Plan

The school boundaries process is a community consultation process that includes a variety of communications including board reports, PowerPoint presentations available on DDSB's website, communications to affected schools and DDSB websites, as well as other forms of school notifications, i.e., voice broadcasts over the phone to families.

The process includes opportunities for community input through email, voicemail, survey as well as a webinar and School Community Council executive meetings with affected schools. A dedicated email address and phone line will be established to gather community input.

All information resulting from the consultation process will be summarized and provided to the Board of Trustees in a recommendation report.

Key dates for consultation as noted above are as follows:

November 2023:

- Development of Boundary Review Information Report
 - Internal staff discussions
 - Meeting with Oshawa area Trustees to understand community needs
 - Meeting with Principals of individual schools included in the Boundary Review

December 2023:

- December 4
 - The Boundary Review Information Report is presented at the Board Meeting to begin the community consultation process.

Community Consultation – December 5, 2023, to 5:00 pm, January 12, 2024.

- December 5
 - The Boundary Review Information Report and a PowerPoint presentation, that provides an overview of the boundary review and communication timelines, including community consultation details, is available on the DDSB website (Location TBD)
 - Communications messaging is provided to individual schools included in the Boundary Review.
 - Survey @ <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/WtJ2Dp> is open until 5:00 p.m. January 12, 2024
- December 2023 or January 2024 (date and time TBD)
 - SCC Executive Meetings for schools included in the Boundary Review will be scheduled, to accommodate the SCC Executive calendars. An overview of the Report and the community consultation will be provided with a focus on feedback from the SCC Executive. The SCC Executive will also be asked to share the details of the process, consultation opportunities and timelines to ensure feedback is gathered through the process.
 - December 18, 2023

A webinar will be held to gather community feedback. There will be a formal presentation; however, the focus will be on community feedback. Participants will be required to sign up prior to the event and details will be advertised through the schools' and the DDSB's website and social media.

- January 2024
 - Consultation ends January 12, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. DDSB staff to review all input received.

Throughout the community consultation period of December 5, 2023, to 5:00 pm, January 12, 2024, community feedback, which will be shared with local area Trustees, may be provided through:

Email: NOPSBoundaryReview@ddsb.ca
 Phone: 905-666-6308

All input received via the webinar, email, phone, and survey will be summarized and included in the Final Boundary Review Recommendation Report to Trustees for their consideration and decision. Any community recommended alternative options to address the accommodation pressures will be analyzed by staff and the alternative option and analysis will be included in the Final Boundary Review Recommendation Report to Trustees for their consideration and decision.

- February 2024
 - Final Report to Board of Trustees for Consideration – Standing Committee
 - Final decision by Board of Trustees – Board Meeting

8. Conclusion

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

With the Unnamed North Oshawa PS scheduled to open for the 2024-2025 school year, school boundaries need to be established and a community consultation process needs to commence.

The community consultation will occur from December 5, 2023, to January 12, 2024, with a final decision by the Trustees scheduled to be made at February 2024 Board meeting. This will provide sufficient time for parents/guardians and students to prepare for the boundary changes and timing for staffing allocations effective September 2024.

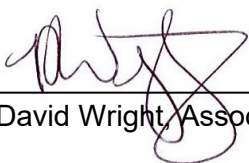
Appendices:

Appendix A: Unnamed N. Oshawa PS Holding Schools and Holding Area Map
 Appendix B: Unnamed N. Oshawa PS - Proposed Boundary Map
 Appendix C: Regulation: School Boundaries

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board



David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services & Treasurer to the Board

61 Unnamed North Oshawa P.S. Proposed Boundary Map

APPENDIX B

The Winfields Planning Area:
Students Holding at
Elsie MacGill in 2023-24


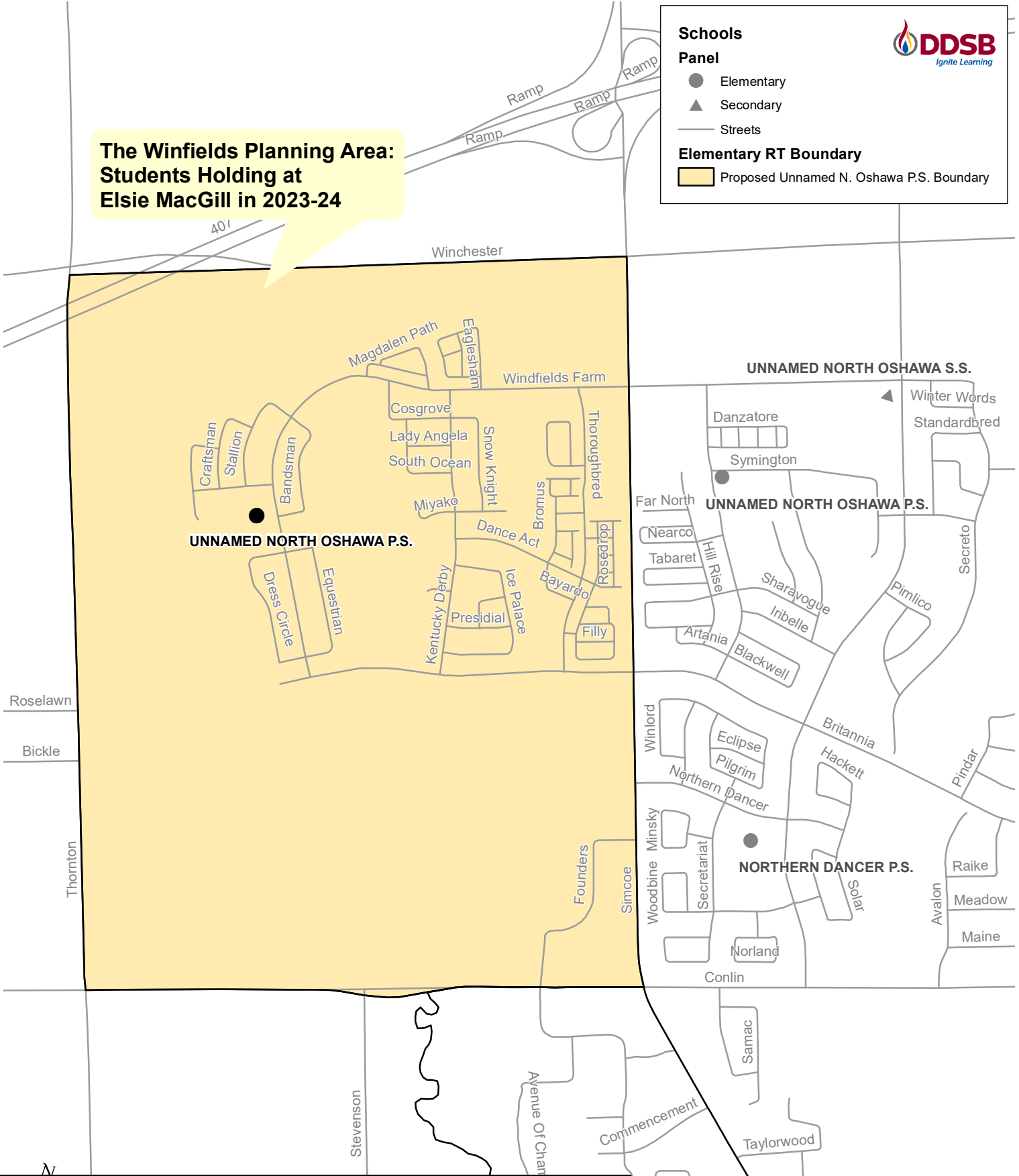
Schools

Panel

- Elementary
- ▲ Secondary
- Streets

Elementary RT Boundary

- Proposed Unnamed N. Oshawa P.S. Boundary

This map has been produced from a variety of sources and contains public sector information made available under The Regional Municipality of Durham's Open Data Licence. The Durham District School Board has produced this map for reference purposes only. Source: © Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2010. All rights reserved. Regional Municipality of Durham SLRN 2023; Data provided by Durham Region Planning Division. Produced by Planning Department, Durham District School Board E&OE.



School Boundaries

To provide a uniform procedure for establishing and adjusting school boundaries.

1.0 Criteria:

1.1 New School Boundaries

New school boundaries are established for newly constructed or planned schools. The locations of school sites are primarily determined at the Municipal Secondary Plan stage by Planning Staff. New school boundaries are designed to reflect the neighbourhood or community which the school is intended to serve. In a period of enrolment growth, it is expected that these boundaries will be altered to address growth related issues such as, accommodation, instruction, transportation.

Where possible, new school boundaries will be based on the following criteria:

- (a) municipal, community or neighbourhood boundaries as defined within Official, Secondary or Community plans;
- (b) local restricting parameters;
 - major roads, highways,
 - rivers,
 - rail lines,
 - hydro corridors,
 - incompatible land uses;
- (c) maximizing the walking population to the school;
- (d) accommodating both a peak population and a mature population adequately on site.

1.2 Adjustments to Existing School Boundaries

- (a) Interim Boundary Adjustments:
 - (i) **Causes:** Interim boundary adjustments are considered for a neighbourhood, school or family of schools in response to a number of problems that can arise:
 - areas where no school boundary exists;
 - in response to enrollment pressures;
 - in response to facility problems due to site constraints, temporary closure, timing of construction, damage due to fire or other catastrophes, etc.
 - (ii) **Time:** Interim boundary adjustments are temporary and should not be considered for periods exceeding three years.

(iii) **Criteria:**Preferred Alternative - Adjacent School

Where possible, interim school boundaries will take into consideration the nearest adjacent school that meets the following criteria:

- has available capacity or room for portable classrooms to accommodate students who are to be displaced;
- provides a similar program for students;
- is located within the same community or municipality;
- has a walking population component.

Other Alternatives:

Should the nearest adjacent school not meet the above criteria, the two other alternatives are:

Alternative A: a school within the same municipality which is accessible by public or Durham District School Board transportation which meets criteria 1. and 2. in section (iii).

Alternative B: a school within The Durham District School Board which meets criteria 1. and 2. in section (iii).

(b) Permanent Boundary Adjustments:

(i) **Causes:** Permanent boundary adjustments are primarily caused by:**Program Adjustments**

- French Immersion or Gifted program relocation or creation;
- JK-6 to JK-8, or 7 & 8 to JK-8 school conversion;
- location of new or unique programs within the Board, etc.

School Closure and Consolidation of School Facilities**Relocation of Student Population**

- where no community school will be built;
- when interim measures are extended beyond 3 years;
- in conjunction with previous two examples;
- to accommodate changes in facilities that alter school capacity, etc.

(ii) **Time:** Permanent boundary adjustments are considered for a neighbourhood, school or family of schools when an area is to be affected for a period greater than three years. Permanent boundary adjustments are major projects requiring extensive research and consultation and can have a lengthy period of implementation.

(iii) **Criteria:** Where possible, permanent boundary adjustments will be based on the following criteria:

- maintaining the educational viability of the program in question;
- school facilities must be adaptable to meet program needs and the anticipated student population;
- same criteria as listed in Section 1.1 "New School Boundaries" Sections (a) to (d).

2.0 Consultative Process:

2.1 Decisions regarding school boundaries ultimately rest with the Board. The consultative process is as follows:

- As part of the annual meeting between Planning staff and the Area Superintendents, discussions on the need for a boundary review will occur.
- The Planning Department and the appropriate Superintendent will develop a proposal in consultation with Durham Student Transportation Services. (Financial implications will be included).
- The Superintendent(s) of Education/Area, Transportation Department and the Planning Department will meet with the trustee(s) to discuss the consultative process, review the analysis and plan the public consultation process.
- An Open Session report to Trustees will be presented as information, regarding the commencement of a boundary review.
- The Superintendent(s) of Education/Area will consult with the Principal(s) and School Community Council chair(s) or Executive(s).
- The Superintendent(s) of Education/Area and the appropriate trustee(s) will initiate a public consultation process, involving a minimum of one Open House, with parents/guardians of students to be affected and involve the appropriate Principal(s), the School Community Council chair(s) or executive(s), the Planning Department and Durham Student Transportation Services. Information on the proposal will be outlined at the Open House and input from parents/guardians will be received.
- Based on staff expertise and past practice, it may be determined that a subsequent Open House is required within the process to provide additional information (ie boundary revision based on community feedback, survey results) or to create a community consultation process regarding possible transition plans.
- A dedicated email address and phone line will be set up to gather input, from the time the community are informed of the consultation process, to when an approval has occurred.
- An administrative report will be prepared by the Superintendent(s) of Education/Area in consultation with the Planning Department and Durham Student Transportation Services and presented to Administrative Council. This report will go to the Board for final approval.
- Details of the new or revised school boundaries and implementation will be communicated in writing by the Superintendent(s) of Education/Area to the school community.

2.3 Where possible, finalized details of new or adjusted boundaries will be determined and announced no later than the release of the Official Enrollment Projections preceding the school year in which the boundaries are to be enforced or phased in. This time frame allows for sufficient advance notice to parents, students, trustees, school and administrative staff.

Appendix:

None

Effective Date

98-06-26

Amended/Reviewed

2006-08-02

2012-05-22

2012-10-01

2014-12-04

2019-11-08

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT TO: Durham District School Board **DATE:** December 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Vincent Massey PS - Boundary Review **PAGE:** 1 of 10

ORIGIN: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
 David Wright, Associate Director, Corporate Services and Treasurer to the Board
 Lisa Bianca, Head of Facilities Services
 Lindsay Wells, Senior Manager, Development & Inclusive Design
 Lygia Dallip, Manager of Property and Planning

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with information on the public consultation and boundary review process for Vincent Massey Public School (PS) in accordance with the Durham District School Board's (DDSB) School Boundaries Regulation. A boundary revision at Vincent Massey PS is required due to ongoing accommodation pressures at the school.

The boundary review process is scheduled to begin December 5, 2023. The new Vincent Massey PS boundary would be effective for the 2024-2025 school year pending approval by the Board of Trustees at the conclusion of the boundary review process.

2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

Well-being – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

3.0 Background

Vincent Massey PS has a Ministry Rated Capacity (MRC) of 441, offering a Junior Kindergarten - Grade 8 regular program and before and after school childcare. The school has been experiencing enrolment pressures over the last few years. For the 2022-2023 school year, Vincent Massey PS had 8 portables on site to accommodate its enrolment. In the current school year, 4 additional portables were added to the site, as well as the use of the library for regular classroom instruction. There has also been an increase in traffic and safety concerns given the larger school enrolment.

3.1 Overview

Vincent Massey PS, located at 211 Harmony Road North in Oshawa is in a campus setting located directly south of Eastdale CVI. The boundary for Vincent Massey PS is provided in Appendix A. The school is located on a 6.98-acre site that is long and narrow with one frontage onto Harmony Road North.

The school, until recently, served a mature neighbourhood with stable enrolment. Over the past few years, Vincent Massey PS has experienced and continues to experience a regeneration of the neighbourhood, with new families moving into the area. At the same time, there are pockets of new residential development, in the north and south end of the Vincent Massey PS boundary, adding to the school's enrolment pressures.

Nearby schools are also experiencing increased enrolment. Section 3.6 provides an analysis of nearby schools:

Table 1a:

Vincent Massey PS & Nearby Elementary Schools					
School	October 2023 Enrolment	Ministry Rated Capacity	Portables - 2023-2024	Utilization	Avg. 5-Yr. Utilization - 2023 to 2027
Vincent Massey PS	787	441	12	178%	163%
Coronation PS	454	377	2	120%	106%
Gordon B. Attersley PS	482	481	0	100%	98%
Harmony Heights PS	343	317	0	108%	103%
Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS	726	495	8	147%	136%

3.2 Enrolment Pressures

Enrolment growth within Vincent Massey PS boundary is from migration into the area (people moving into existing homes) and new residential development, as identified in Appendix A. Enrolment resulting from development is factored into the Board's enrolment projections based upon information provided from registered plans of subdivision.

Table 1b: Vincent Massey PS 2023 Official Enrolment Projection (OEP) 5-year projections:

City of Oshawa

MRC:**441**

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed *
October 2022	658	149%	8
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	787	178%	12
October 2024	703	159%	16
October 2025	703	159%	16
October 2026	706	160%	16
October 2027	705	160%	16

* 2024 - 2027 Portable needs based upon actual increased enrolment - increase of approx. 100 students requiring an additional 4 portables

To accommodate the increased number of classes required due to the enrolment of 787 students, the school has 12 portables on site. Given the limited number of portables available in the 2023-24 school year, the school is also using an alternative instructional space – the learning commons. The site can currently accommodate up to 16 portables. Projected enrolment, based upon actual increased data, suggests the need for 16 portables on site for the 2024-2025 school year. However, with the limited number of portables available, it may not be possible to increase the number of portables for the coming school year. Additionally, the school was designed to accommodate 441 students.

The current size of the student population is not projected to decrease noticeably over the coming years and will continue to present accommodation and safety challenges.

3.4 Traffic Congestion and Safety Concerns

The increased enrolment has added to the traffic congestion on the Vincent Massey PS site, along with the adjacent school, Eastdale CVI. The schools are in a campus setting that allows for some flexibility in shared driveways and parking. Concerns regarding the increased traffic, and a recent traffic review, have identified congestion from Vincent Massey PS families utilizing the Eastdale CVI site resulting in a bottleneck of traffic onto Adelaide Avenue. The traffic review confirmed that congestion leads to a 35 minutes exit time from the Eastdale CVI site, blocking access points to the secondary school.

Other concerns witnessed, during the recent traffic review, included parents/children from Vincent Massey PS dodging through traffic to access their cars on the Eastdale CVI site.

3.5 Staff Recommended Boundary Review for Community Consultation

Staff recommend a boundary review be undertaken for Vincent Massey PS as of December 5, 2023. The review will include consulting with the community to realign the boundaries between Vincent Massey PS and Gordon B. Attersley PS (see Appendix B for proposed realignment boundaries). Pending consultation and approval, the new boundaries for the two schools would be effective for the 2024-2025 school year.

Scenario for Community Consultation

For September 2024, it is proposed that all JK to Grade 7 students residing west of Autumnwood Trail; south and east of Harmony Conservation Area, north of the middle of Margate Drive, would attend Gordon B. Attersley PS. The proposed boundary area is set out in Appendix B.

It is contemplated that Grade 8 students be given the choice to remain at Vincent Massey PS or attend Gordon B. Attersley PS for their graduating year. These students are the current (2023-2024) Grade 7 students.

Based on the proposed scenario, over the 4-year projection period beginning the 2024-2025 school year, the number of portables required at Vincent Massey PS is projected to decrease to approximately 8 portables for the 2024-2025 school year and remain stable through to the 2027-2028 school year.

Gordon B. Attersley PS is a 481-pupil place school on a 5.03-acre site and currently has no portables on site. The existing boundary is outlined in Appendix A.

Under this proposed scenario, the boundary realignment would result in approximately 6 portables required at Gordon B. Attersley for the 2024-2025 school year with 6 projected through to the 2027-2028 school year.

Table 2a - Anticipated Impact of the Boundary Realignment at Vincent Massey PS

Vincent Massey PS

City of Oshawa

MRC: 441

				Impact on Enrolment with Boundary Adjustment		
	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed *	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed**
October 2022	658	149%	8			
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	787	178%	12			
October 2024	703	159%	16	629	143%	8
October 2025	703	159%	16	618	140%	8
October 2026	706	160%	16	616	140%	8
October 2027	705	160%	16	616	140%	8

* 2024 - 2027 Portable needs based upon actual increased enrolment -

increase of approx. 100 students requiring an additional 4 portables

**Portable needs assumes that with portable shortage library will be utilized for classroom space.

Vincent Massey PS experienced a 14% increase in 2023 enrolment compared to projected data. Vincent Massey PS baseline data, from 2024 to 2027, have been adjusted to recognize the increase in enrolment at the school.

The projected portable need for the school assumes, given the limited availability of portables across the system, that Vincent Massey PS will continue to utilize their library for classroom space. If additional portables become available it would result in 1 additional portable, based on projected enrolment each year, for Vincent Massey PS.

Table 2b - Anticipated Impact of the Boundary Realignment at Gordon B. Attersley PS

Gordon B Attersley PS

City of Oshawa

MRC: 481

				Impact on Enrolment with Boundary Adjustment		
	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2022	476	99%	0			
<i>October 2023 (actuals)</i>	482	100%	0			
October 2024	474	99%	0	625	130%	6
October 2025	475	99%	0	636	132%	7
October 2026	464	96%	0	630	131%	6
October 2027	468	97%	0	633	132%	7

As previously stated, this data does not impact the current Grade 7 students, who would be in Grade 8 and preparing to enter secondary school and who may choose to graduate with their current cohort of peers. If Grade 7 students decide to transition to Gordon B. Attersley PS, the updated enrolment data will be reflected in the spring.

3.6 Other Boundary Scenarios Examined:

Staff examined other potential boundary solutions to address the enrolment pressures at Vincent Massey PS. Neighbouring schools were examined to determine if they were an option to accommodate additional enrolment currently located at Vincent Massey PS. The following is an overview of the analysis of the neighbouring schools identified in Table 1 above:

Realign the enrolment boundaries between Vincent Massey PS and Coronation PS:

- Coronation PS is a 377-pupil place dual track school offering JK to Grade 8 Regular program and Grade 4 to Grade 8 Gifted program. It is located on a 6.8-acre site.
- The October 2023 preliminary actual enrolment at the school, including Inclusive Student Services (ISS) students, is 454 students.
- Coronation PS is the overflow school for Northern Dancer PS, which is unable to accommodate additional students as it has reached its portable maximum. Northern Dancer PS is not projected to have enrolment relief and therefore there will be continued enrolment pressures for Coronation PS as an identified overflow school.
- The library at Coronation PS is currently being utilized for classroom space. Renovations are scheduled to the library and have been delayed for the past two years to accommodate the use of the library for classroom space. The library renovations are now scheduled to occur during the 2024-2025 school year.

Realign the enrolment boundaries between Vincent Massey PS and Harmony Heights PS:

- Harmony Heights PS is a 317-pupil place school located on a 5.0. acre site.
- The bus loop is small, and expansion would interfere with the existing cross walk and is limited by the location of the main hydro service at the street. There is no option to create a secondary drop off on the north side of the school due to the steep grade drop off.
- The parking lot structure is maximized as far as width goes and the site does not lend itself to creating a turn-around space for cars.

Realign the enrolment boundaries between Vincent Massey PS and Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS:

- Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS is a 495-pupil places school with an October 2023 preliminary enrolment of 726.
- For the 2023-2024 school year there are 8 portables on site to accommodate the school's in-boundary enrolment.

- As outlined in section 3.8 of the report, a small block south of Taunton Road, being held at Gordon B. Attersley PS is proposed by staff to be part of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS home school boundary for future students.
- Given the current and projected enrolment for Pierre Elliott PS there is insufficient space to accommodate additional enrolment pressures.

Table 3: 2023-24 OEP and 4-year projections for other schools considered:

Harmony Heights P.S.		
City of Oshawa		
MRC:	317	
Portables:	0	
	Total Enrolment	Utilization
October 2022	324	102%
October 2023	343	108%
October 2024	326	103%
October 2025	317	100%
October 2026	316	100%
October 2027	326	103%

Coronation P.S.		
City of Oshawa		
MRC:	377	
Portables:	2	
	Total Enrolment	Utilization
October 2022	363	96%
October 2023	454	120%
October 2024	385	102%
October 2025	385	102%
October 2026	388	103%
October 2027	391	104%

Pierre Elliott Trudeau P.S.		
City of Oshawa		
MRC:	495	
Portables:	8	
	Total Enrolment	Utilization
October 2022	713	144%
October 2023	726	147%
October 2024	705	142%
October 2025	671	136%
October 2026	644	130%
October 2027	622	126%

3.7 School Community Concerns

With the increased enrolment at Vincent Massey PS there has been concern with increased traffic and congestion from Vincent Massey PS parents/guardians driving students to school. Facilities Services staff have been out to the site to review traffic and have retained an independent consultant to conduct a review and look at alternative solutions to address the traffic both on Harmony Road North, entering onto the Eastdale site (used by Vincent Massey PS) and leaving the Eastdale property bottlenecked while waiting to make a left onto Adelaide Avenue East.

3.8 Gordon B. Attersley PS Holding

An area located south of Taunton Road, including the streets MacInally Court, Glenbourne Drive and Benson Street (as identified in Appendix C), has been holding at Gordon B. Attersley PS since the area was developed. This block is within Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS boundary; however, at the time of development, Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS was unable to accommodate families living there due to enrolment pressures.

The block is transported to Gordon B. Attersley PS and is within walking distance to Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS. There are currently approximately 12 students attending Gordon B. Attersley PS from this area.

It is proposed that the block, identified in Appendix C, be added to the Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS boundary area as of the 2024-2025 school year. Students and their siblings currently residing within this area and attending Gordon B. Attersley PS, will be given the option to remain at Gordon B. Attersley PS and be provided transportation or attend Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS as of September 2024. Any new families registering, pending Board of Trustee approval, will attend Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS.

This boundary revision allows families to attend school within their home school boundary. From a transportation perspective and continued bus driver shortage, this frees up bus space to allow for the scheduling and transporting of other DDSB students.

4. **Analysis**

4.1 Boundary Review Process

The DDSB School Boundaries Regulation (Appendix D) outlines the parameters used for creating new and revising current school boundaries. The Regulation includes a consultation process to gather feedback from the community.

4.2 Proposed Timing

A consultation period would begin on December 5, 2023, and end on January 12, 2024. Following consultation, a final recommendation report will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees for their consideration of the recommended solution and for a decision at the February 20, 2024, Board Meeting.

5. **Financial Implications**

N/A

6. Evidence of Impact

Should the boundary revisions, resulting from consultation, occur at Vincent Massey PS, there will be a noticeable reduction in enrolment pressures at the school, a reduction in the number of portables on site, and it is expected that there will also be a reduction of traffic congestion and safety concerns.

7. Communication Plan

The School Boundaries process is a community consultation process that includes a variety of communications including board reports, PowerPoint presentations available on DDSB's website, communications utilizing the affected schools' and DDSB's websites, as well as other forms of school notifications, i.e., SchoolMessenger email and telephone notices.

In preparing for this consultation, DDSB staff have engaged with trustees for the consultation area to discuss the need for a solution to best support student learning.

The consultation process includes opportunities for community input through email, voicemail, a survey as well as a webinar and School Community Council executive meetings with affected schools. A dedicated email address and phone line will be established to gather community input.

All information resulting from the consultation process will be summarized and provided to the Board of Trustees in a final report with a recommendation for consideration.

Key dates for consultation as noted above are as follows:

November 2023:

- Development of Boundary Review Information Report
 - Internal staff discussions
 - Meeting with Oshawa area Trustees to understand community needs
 - Meeting with Principals of individual schools included in the Boundary Review

December 2023:

- December 4
 - The Boundary Review Information Report is presented at the Board Meeting to begin the community consultation process.

Community Consultation – December 5, 2023, to 5:00 pm, January 12, 2024.

- December 5
 - The Boundary Review Information Report and a PowerPoint presentation, that provides an overview of the boundary review and communication timelines, including community consultation details, is available on the DDSB website (Location TBD)
 - Communications messaging is provided to individual schools included in the Boundary Review.
 - Survey @ <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/CncU8t> is open until 5:00 p.m. January 12, 2024.

- December 2023 or January 2024 (date and time TBD)
 - SCC Executive Meetings for schools included in the Boundary Review will be scheduled to accommodate the SCC Executive calendars. An overview of the Report and the community consultation will be provided with a focus on feedback from the SCC Executive. The SCC Executive will also be asked to share the details of the process, consultation opportunities and timelines to ensure feedback is gathered through the process.
- December 12, 2023 Webinar will be held to gather community feedback. There will be a formal presentation; however, the focus will be on community feedback. Participants will be required to sign up prior to the event and details will be advertised through the schools' and the DDSB's website and social media.
- January 2024
 - Consultation ends January 12, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. DDSB staff to review all input received.
- Throughout the community consultation period of December 5, 2023, to 5:00 pm, January 12, 2024, community feedback, which will be shared with local area Trustees, may be provided through:

Email: VMPSBoundaryReview@ddsb.ca
 Phone: 905-666-6473

All input received via the Webinar, email, phone, and survey will be summarized and included in the Final Boundary Review Recommendation Report to Trustees for their consideration and decision. Any community recommended alternative options to address the accommodation pressures will be analyzed by staff and the alternative option and analysis will be included in the Final Boundary Review Recommendation Report to Trustees for their consideration and decision.

February 2024

- Final Report to Board of Trustees for Consideration – Standing Committee
- Final decision by Board of Trustees – Board Meeting

8. **Conclusion**

Over the past few years, Vincent Massey PS has been experiencing enrolment pressures which are projected to continue. The increased enrolment has led to traffic congestion and safety concerns.

A boundary review and adjustment pending trustee approval of Vincent Massey PS and Gordon B. Attersley PS will allow for enrolment relief at Vincent Massey PS for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond.

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

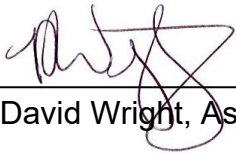
Appendices:

- Appendix A: Vincent Massey PS and Gordon B. Attersley PS - Existing Boundary Map
- Appendix B: Vincent Massey PS and Gordon B. Attersley PS - Proposed Boundary Map
- Appendix C: Gordon B. Attersley PS holding boundary for Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS
- Appendix D: Regulation: School Boundaries

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board

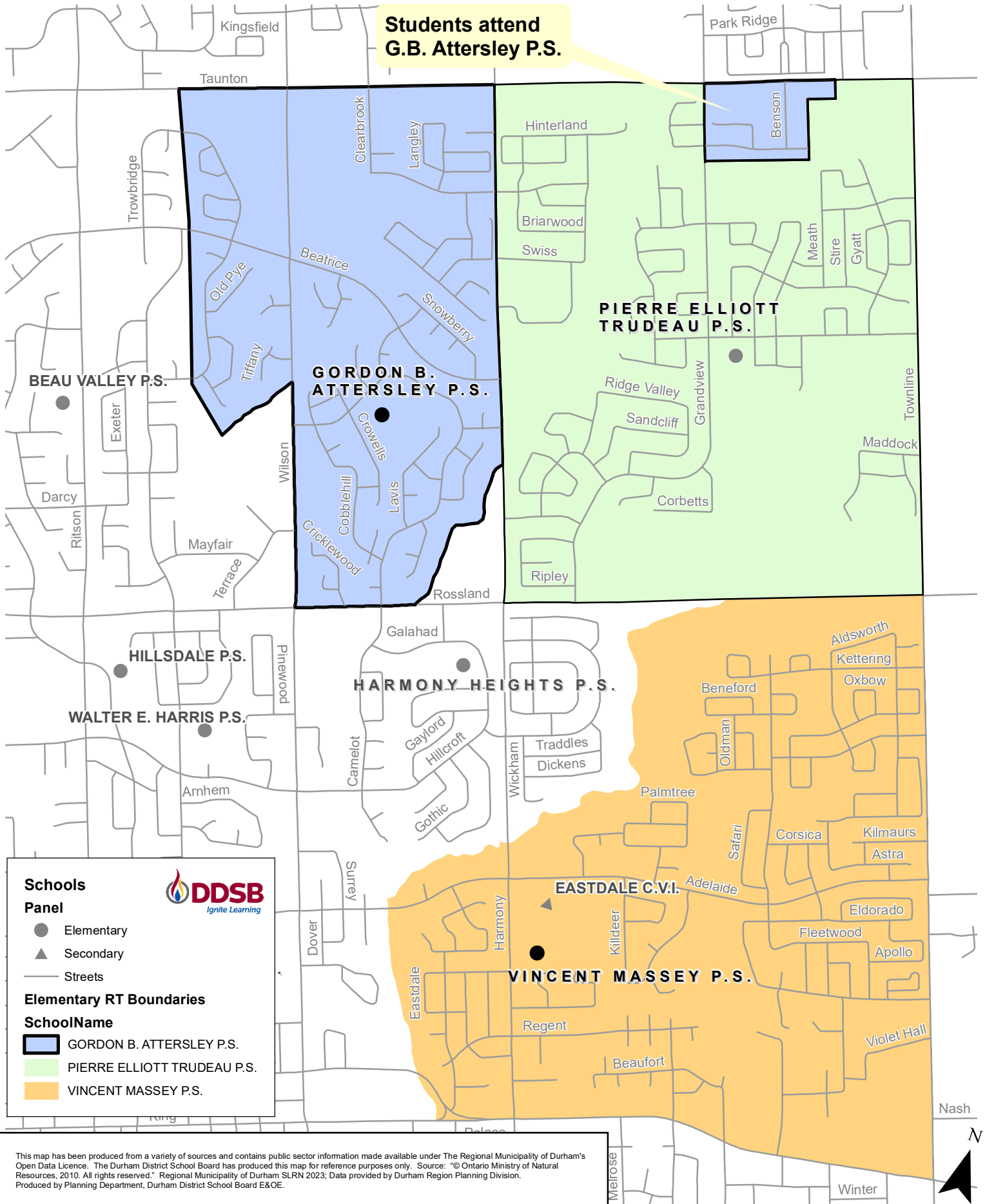


David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer of the Board

Existing Vincent Massey and G.B. Attersley Boundaries

APPENDIX A

Students attend
G.B. Attersley P.S.



Schools

Panel

- Elementary
- ▲ Secondary
- Streets

Elementary RT Boundaries

SchoolName

- GORDON B. ATTERSLEY P.S.
- PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU P.S.
- VINCENT MASSEY P.S.

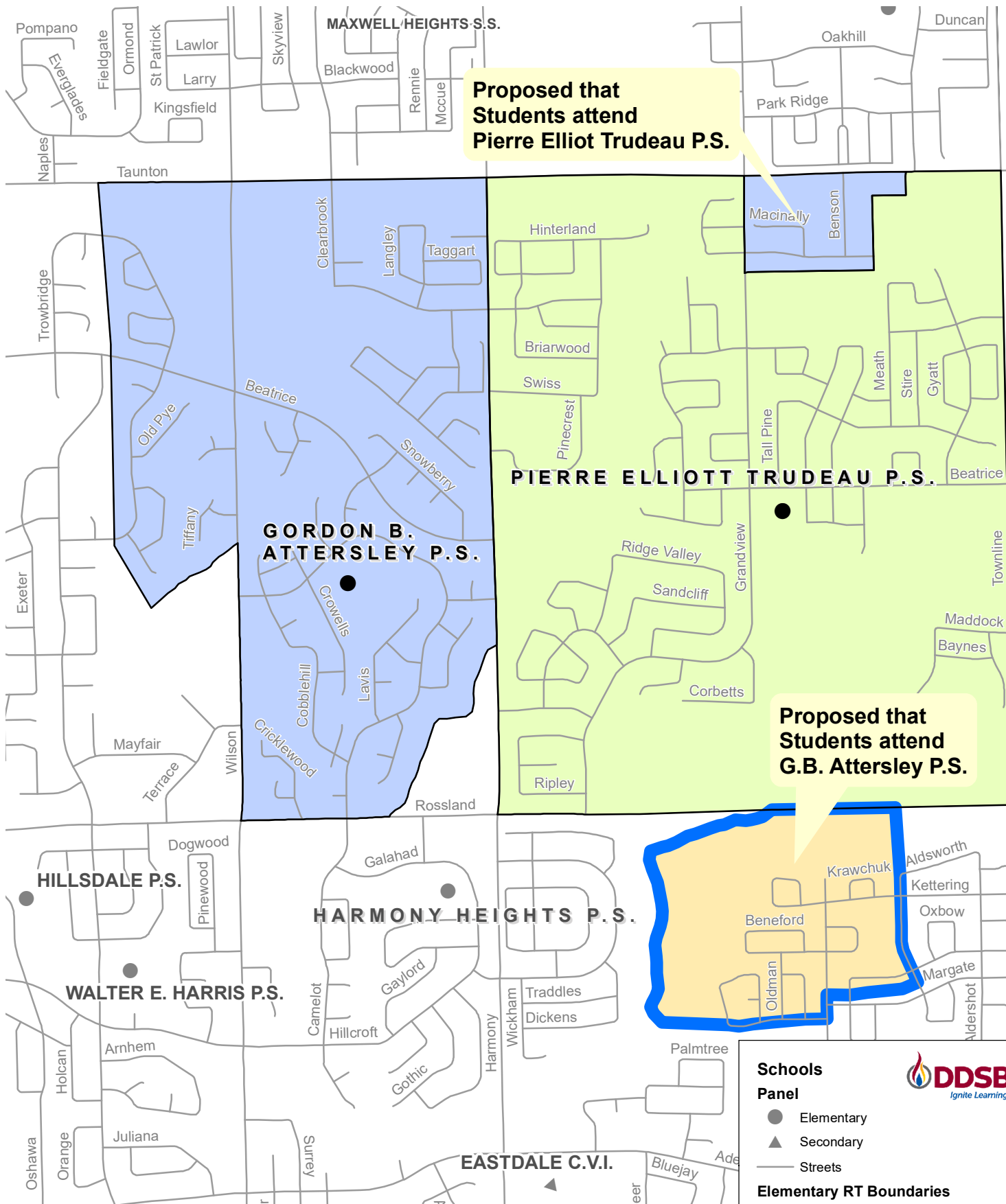


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78 G.B. Attersley PS. Holding Area for Pierre Elliot Trudeau P.S.

APPENDIX C



This map has been produced from a variety of sources and contains public sector information made available under The Regional Municipality of Durham's Open Data Licence. The Durham District School Board has produced this map for reference purposes only. Source: "© Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2010. All rights reserved." Regional Municipality of Durham SLRN 2023; Data provided by Durham Region Planning Division. Produced by Planning Department, Durham District School Board E&OE.

Schools


Panel

- Elementary
- ▲ Secondary
- Streets

Elementary RT Boundaries

SchoolName

- GORDON B. ATTERSLEY P.S.
- PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU P.S.





School Boundaries

To provide a uniform procedure for establishing and adjusting school boundaries.

1.0 Criteria:

1.1 New School Boundaries

New school boundaries are established for newly constructed or planned schools. The locations of school sites are primarily determined at the Municipal Secondary Plan stage by Planning Staff. New school boundaries are designed to reflect the neighbourhood or community which the school is intended to serve. In a period of enrolment growth, it is expected that these boundaries will be altered to address growth related issues such as, accommodation, instruction, transportation.

Where possible, new school boundaries will be based on the following criteria:

- (a) municipal, community or neighbourhood boundaries as defined within Official, Secondary or Community plans;
- (b) local restricting parameters;
 - major roads, highways,
 - rivers,
 - rail lines,
 - hydro corridors,
 - incompatible land uses;
- (c) maximizing the walking population to the school;
- (d) accommodating both a peak population and a mature population adequately on site.

1.2 Adjustments to Existing School Boundaries

- (a) Interim Boundary Adjustments:
 - (i) **Causes:** Interim boundary adjustments are considered for a neighbourhood, school or family of schools in response to a number of problems that can arise:
 - areas where no school boundary exists;
 - in response to enrollment pressures;
 - in response to facility problems due to site constraints, temporary closure, timing of construction, damage due to fire or other catastrophes, etc.
 - (ii) **Time:** Interim boundary adjustments are temporary and should not be considered for periods exceeding three years.

(iii) **Criteria:**Preferred Alternative - Adjacent School

Where possible, interim school boundaries will take into consideration the nearest adjacent school that meets the following criteria:

- has available capacity or room for portable classrooms to accommodate students who are to be displaced;
- provides a similar program for students;
- is located within the same community or municipality;
- has a walking population component.

Other Alternatives:

Should the nearest adjacent school not meet the above criteria, the two other alternatives are:

Alternative A: a school within the same municipality which is accessible by public or Durham District School Board transportation which meets criteria 1. and 2. in section (iii).

Alternative B: a school within The Durham District School Board which meets criteria 1. and 2. in section (iii).

(b) Permanent Boundary Adjustments:

(i) **Causes:** Permanent boundary adjustments are primarily caused by:**Program Adjustments**

- French Immersion or Gifted program relocation or creation;
- JK-6 to JK-8, or 7 & 8 to JK-8 school conversion;
- location of new or unique programs within the Board, etc.

School Closure and Consolidation of School Facilities**Relocation of Student Population**

- where no community school will be built;
- when interim measures are extended beyond 3 years;
- in conjunction with previous two examples;
- to accommodate changes in facilities that alter school capacity, etc.

(ii) **Time:** Permanent boundary adjustments are considered for a neighbourhood, school or family of schools when an area is to be affected for a period greater than three years. Permanent boundary adjustments are major projects requiring extensive research and consultation and can have a lengthy period of implementation.

(iii) **Criteria:** Where possible, permanent boundary adjustments will be based on the following criteria:

- maintaining the educational viability of the program in question;
- school facilities must be adaptable to meet program needs and the anticipated student population;
- same criteria as listed in Section 1.1 "New School Boundaries" Sections (a) to (d).

2.0 Consultative Process:

2.1 Decisions regarding school boundaries ultimately rest with the Board. The consultative process is as follows:

- As part of the annual meeting between Planning staff and the Area Superintendents, discussions on the need for a boundary review will occur.
- The Planning Department and the appropriate Superintendent will develop a proposal in consultation with Durham Student Transportation Services. (Financial implications will be included).
- The Superintendent(s) of Education/Area, Transportation Department and the Planning Department will meet with the trustee(s) to discuss the consultative process, review the analysis and plan the public consultation process.
- An Open Session report to Trustees will be presented as information, regarding the commencement of a boundary review.
- The Superintendent(s) of Education/Area will consult with the Principal(s) and School Community Council chair(s) or Executive(s).
- The Superintendent(s) of Education/Area and the appropriate trustee(s) will initiate a public consultation process, involving a minimum of one Open House, with parents/guardians of students to be affected and involve the appropriate Principal(s), the School Community Council chair(s) or executive(s), the Planning Department and Durham Student Transportation Services. Information on the proposal will be outlined at the Open House and input from parents/guardians will be received.
- Based on staff expertise and past practice, it may be determined that a subsequent Open House is required within the process to provide additional information (ie boundary revision based on community feedback, survey results) or to create a community consultation process regarding possible transition plans.
- A dedicated email address and phone line will be set up to gather input, from the time the community are informed of the consultation process, to when an approval has occurred.
- An administrative report will be prepared by the Superintendent(s) of Education/Area in consultation with the Planning Department and Durham Student Transportation Services and presented to Administrative Council. This report will go to the Board for final approval.
- Details of the new or revised school boundaries and implementation will be communicated in writing by the Superintendent(s) of Education/Area to the school community.

2.3 Where possible, finalized details of new or adjusted boundaries will be determined and announced no later than the release of the Official Enrollment Projections preceding the school year in which the boundaries are to be enforced or phased in. This time frame allows for sufficient advance notice to parents, students, trustees, school and administrative staff.

Appendix:

None

Effective Date

98-06-26

Amended/Reviewed

2006-08-02

2012-05-22

2012-10-01

2014-12-04

2019-11-08

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday June 22, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) SEAC Chair
 Charmain Brown, OPVIC Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children
 sensaRAneb Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
 Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
 Hanah Nguyen, Easter Seals Ontario
 Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
 Elizabeth Daniel, Member at Large
 Morgann Cameron, Member at Large
 Jennifer McLaughlin, Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support
 Kathy Kedey, VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Trustees: Kelly Miller Debora Oldfield

Staff: Superintendent, Andrea McAuley
 System Lead, Michelle Crawford-Eade

Recording Secretary: Lisa Wry

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides advised that 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. DDSB Human Rights & Equity Statement

The Durham District School Board recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subject to action with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.

The Durham District School Board is committed to learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive, and free from discrimination.

4. Welcome Guests: Josh Fullan and Katie Konstantopoulos of Maximum City, Dawn White – Principal G.L. Roberts

min june 22 2023.docx
 ek:lw

Regrets: Hanah Nguyen, Elizabeth Daniel, Morgann Cameron,

Absent: sensaRAneb Burrell, Kathy Kedey

5. Approval of Agenda:

That the agenda for June 22, 2023, be approved:

MOVED BY: Tara Cully SECONDED BY: Kelly Miller

CARRIED

6. Approval of the Minutes from May 25, 2023:

That the minutes from May 25, 2023, be approved:

MOVED BY: Tara Culley SECONDED BY: Jenn McLaughlin

CARRIED

7. Open Discussion/Consult Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Maximum City

Josh and Katie from Maximum City joined the SEAC meeting to facilitate the building of the Durham District School Boards Multi-Year Strategic Plan. (MYSP)

- Current plan is expiring at the end of the calendar year
- Looking for input from the community/families and employees
- Adjustments will be made, and in the fall, new draft directions will be created and shared with the community for further feedback.
- What is working well, where adjustments need to be made.

Members broke into small groups and worked through the following questions to provide input:

1. a) What is working well for you as a staff member/ parent or caregiver/community partner in the DDSB?
 - Communication
 - Sharing of values
 - Various forms
 - Engaging
 - SEAC members voices are valued
 - Program and piloting ideas – DDSB commitment to constant evolution of services
 - Follow through and updates of pilot programs provided to SEAC
 - Ability is to collaborate
 - Have receptive educators
 - SEAC is a great committee for parents/caregivers to learn from
 - Having more than one person to reach out to.

b) What could be improved for you as a staff member/parent or caregiver/ community partner in the DDSB?

- Messaging through the different levels Admin, Principal, Teacher
- Updates to Individual Education Plans (IEP) more frequently
- Are new programs or pilots shared equitably throughout the district?
- Inclusion should be a forethought not an after thought.
- SEAC members help parents navigate the school system and promote advocacy
- More data is needed to drive policy change
- More awareness of intersectionality.
- Data needs to be interpreted correctly - humans have emotions which also play into decisions
- Parents can get lost in the process
- Create more easily accessed information-difficulty in finding information on the district website

2. How can the DDSB support positive, inclusive, and equitable school communities?

- Recognize intersectionality of students' lived experiences
- Check/change ableist thinking
- Engaging student groups and how they can be utilized to include others within the school environment
- Accessibility needs to be at the forefront of all planning (excursions, within the school, lighting, cross walks, stairwells, stage access)
- Accessibility needs to be looked at through culturally relevant lens each student needs to be known.
- Think about design and access
- Individual Placement Review Committee (IPRC) needs to be culturally relevant
- Putting accessibility at the forefront will support all students.

3. How can the DDSB strengthen relationships with community organizations or committees like yours to best serve students and families?

- Have an open house to show services and supports available
- Small presentation for each association to provide more information about what they do and how they can support
- Teaching may need to be able to direct families toward associations for support when they first recognize that a child may need additional learning supports
- Website Information can be difficult to find if you do not have key words, perhaps consider making it easier for those seeking information.
- Compendium allowed for collaboration on many levels and strengthening of relationships – more events such as this would be beneficial
- Peer to peer leadership and support, practicing inclusion
- Love to see schools to make requests and have SEAC committee members to come into the schools and speak about what their association has to offer.
- Invite SEAC to have tables at open houses and school community events
- Have an actual person to speak with not just a general mailbox
- How can we engage students in representing themselves
- Many students within the district are influencers

Maximum City are consultants, they provide recommendations and suggestions, ultimately the final decisions are up to the Board.

- What we asked
- What we heard
- What we recommend

8. **SEAC Parent Guardian Survey – Initial Results**

- Timeline extended to June 23, 2023- Direct email to parents/caregivers with current IPRCs or IPRCs for next school year to encourage participation.
- Preliminary results as of June 15, 2023 shared
- 28.4 % were grades 4-6 students; seems to be the largest bubble
- 60.2 % have students in regular class placements-a bit disproportional, but not unexpected
- SEAC simplified this process this year, to streamline and keep the survey short and effective
- Lovely comments shared about relationships that have had impact for students
- Families looking for early contact/connection when challenges first occur
- Inclusive communication reflective of all students
- Communication from other teachers the student is connected with is sought by families; not just the primary/homeroom teacher.

9. **Staff Reports**

Trustee Kelly Miller shared with SEAC members that Board of Trustees are looking forward to the new school year, as a team we have had a lot of challenges. Looking forward to working toward the strategic plan and making positive improvements.

Superintendent Andrea McAuley-Thanked the Board for the passing the budget for the 2023-2024 school year, as well as passing the Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan. The Ministry released the new language curriculum this week; teams are reviewing it to action for the fall. There has been a complete revamp of the strands. With the passing of the budget, we have been approved for five additional clinical positions. In addition, one time Ministry funding has allowed the hiring of eight one-year Speech Pathologists so that we can move some of our current team members into a reading focused position for the year. Abilities Track meet was the largest event we have ever had in Durham, and it was a day of joy and fun for athletes, staff, and families.

10. **DDSB Community Networking Fair - August 21, 2023**

- System Leadership Day- bring together all of our Principals, Vice-Principals and System Managers across all departments.
- Part of that day is an invitation to a Community Networking Fair
- SEAC will be represented at the Community Networking Fair

11. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- Deputation to Education Finance was submitted to the Board of Trustees on May 30, 2023
- Considerations to write a letter to the Ministry – concerns around the new curriculum and apprenticeship program.
 - Students leaving in grade 11 to apprenticeship program, will need to apply as a mature student to receive their high school diploma.
 - What is the support plan around when a student does not find the apprenticeship program option to be a successful avenue for themselves.
 - Limiting of options very early
 - Should be trying to encourage kids to graduate from grade 12.

12. Association Reports & Committee Reports:

- Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (LDADR) and DDSB partner annually to provide the Abilities Scholarship. This scholarship was awarded to a student graduating from Eastdale CVI.

13. Correspondence:

None

14. Community Concerns:

None

15. Celebrations and Success:

- Tara Culley shared that her son Adam was at the Abilities Meet
- Celebrate all the graduates and the teams that helped get them there
- 300 retirees last week
- Appreciation to the SEAC members

16. Next S.E.A.C meeting – September 21, 2023:

17. Adjournment:

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

MOVED BY: Rowin Jarvis SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Table 1- Action Plan

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Update initial SEAC Survey information	A. McAuley/ L. Wry	ASAP
Share ISS/Special Education Plan	L. Wry	ASAP
New Curriculum Share parent information	A. McAuley/L.Wry	ASAP
Share photos from Abilities Meet	A. McAuley/L. Wry	ASAP

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday October 19, 2023, 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Eva Kyriakides, Association for Bright Children (ABC) SEAC Chair
 sensaRAneb Burrell, Autism Ontario – Durham Chapter
 Tara Culley, Durham Down Syndrome Association
 Rowin Jarvis, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region
 Elizabeth Daniel, Member at Large
 Morgann Cameron, Member at Large
 Charmain Brown, OPVIC Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children
 Jennifer McLaughlin, Sawubona Africentric Circle of Support

Trustees: Kelly Miller Debora Oldfield

Staff: Superintendent, Andrea McAuley
 System Lead, Michelle Crawford-Eade
 System Lead Conor Jinkinson

Recording Secretary: Lisa Wry

1. Call to Order:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement:

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides advised that 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. DDSB Human Rights & Equity Statement

The Durham District School Board recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subject to action with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.

The Durham District School Board is committed to learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive, and free from discrimination.

4. **Welcome Guests:** Chris Conley and Leslie Parsons, Josh Fullan and Katie Konstantopoulos-Maximum City, Lisa Wray, Vice-Principal R.S. McLaughlin CVI, Rema Saati, Vice-Principal-Southwood Park P.S., Lisa Coppins Senior Manager- People and Culture.

Regrets: Rowin Jarvis

SEAC received correspondence on October 18, 2023 from Kathy Kedey stating that she will be stepping down from SEAC, and that at this time VOICE does not have a member to fill the SEAC role. We would like to thank Kathy for her time and valued voice at the SEAC table.

Absent: none

5. **Approval of Agenda:**

That the agenda for October 19, 2023, be approved:

MOVED BY: sensaRAneb Burrell SECONDED BY: Tara Culley

CARRIED

6. **Approval of the Minutes from June 22, 2023:**

That the minutes from June 22, 2023, be approved:

MOVED BY: Tara Culley SECONDED BY: Morgann Cameron

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports:**

Administration Report:

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided the Administrative Report: Thank you to Administrators and school teams for a great start up. Our schools are experiencing quite an enrolment growth. There is information on our website [Enrolment Growth and Building New Schools](#) on how students are being accommodated as well as Trustee advocacy with the Ministry for new school builds. Full enrolment numbers will be brought to SEAC after the Ministry reporting date of October 31, 2023. We will also at that time share the number of students accessing through Individual Education Plans (IEP).

We have passed the 30th day of school in the regular calendar, all the IEPs went out using the new software program. Thank you to school teams and families for all their co-operation and collaboration over the past few weeks/months that has led to the design and implementation of the new software system, and related document templates, across the system.

Policy Procedure Memorandum (PPM) 169 Student Mental Health includes 11 specific action items. Our Mental Health team and Positive School Climate team have taken a comparative of PPM 169 and our Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan which are very much aligned. A report will go to Trustees in November, prior to the implementation requirement of January 1, 2024. Links to the report within the Trustee agenda and presentation video will be shared with SEAC.

Department Report:

System Lead Michelle Crawford-Eade shared that as a Board we are committed to dismantling ableism and as such we are engaged in a proposed name change for two of our service groups, looking to align with more positive language.

1. Hearing Resources, name change proposed: Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
2. Vision Resources, name change proposed: Teachers of the Blind and Low Vision.

System Lead Conor Jinkinson shared as a district we are looking at actions into impact and how actions impact our students, families and staff. We have established the Inclusive Student Services (ISS) monthly Impact Update shared in the attached links. These updates have a variety of information with a monthly focus; specialized equipment was highlighted in volume one and classroom support staff in volume two.

[ISS - Impact Update 2023-2024 Vol. 1](#)

[ISS - Impact Update 2023-2024 Vol. 2](#)

Board:

Trustee Deb Oldfield shared with SEAC members that the Board of Trustees is coming up on a year since its formation. Trustees also received presentations and information about the Boards upcoming organizational meeting on November 20, 2023. In June, the Board created a violence in schools ad hoc committee at the first meeting on September 11, 2023 the committee adopted a term of reference. Further sanctions were placed on Trustee Stone after reviewing the report from the integrity commissioner. Trustees will be attending the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) advocacy day November 27, 2023-please send any information you would like shared with MPPs in one document through SEAC chair Eva Kyriakides to Trustee Oldfield by Friday November 17, 2023.

8. Presentation:

Leslie Parsons, Research Associate – Student Achievement Support, presented the results of the 2022-2023 SEAC Parent/Guardian Survey

Members were encouraged to use the templates provided to write down any thinking, wonders and action ideas.

- Survey was facilitated in May/June 2023
- Mainly focused on communication
- Response from all regions, and grades represented- Oshawa and Whitby being the highest response rates
- Overall, a high degree of satisfaction
- Slight decrease in satisfaction in the higher grade's comparative to younger grades.

Thematic analysis of qualitative data was applied to the comments provided by the participants taking like-minded comments and grouping them together under themes.

Positive: Attitude/Characteristics/Praise

- Supportive
- Helpful
- Amazing
- Understanding
- Caring

Improvements: Ways to improve the communication experience

- Positive - desire to hear about successes
- In-person
- Consistency

- More time
- Availability

Key findings were that most respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied.

Some families are experiencing gaps mostly around interpersonal and bonding with the teams.

Many were not familiar with the Parent/Guardian Guide to Special Education Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC).

Communication

Areas working well communication:

- Emails
- Outreach updates – informal communication
- Apps/Tools

Areas that could use improvement:

- Progress Updates/Outreach
- Connecting with Support Team
- IEP – Awareness, Implementation, Adherence.

9. Open Discussion

SEAC Planning – Parent/Caregiver Engagement

Members discussed the results of the survey:

- Respondents for students in the higher grades were the least satisfied with communication.
- Impromptu conversation tends to be directly with students in the higher grades.
- Intention is to increase independence.
- Parents are always included in formal meetings.
- May want to consider surveying students in the higher grades as well.
- Traditional surveys may not be the best avenue to reach our students in the 18–21-year-old population.
- Working and focusing this year on transitions with our Transition Co-ordinators have actively been in schools helping set up these transitions.
- Operational pieces are working well, spaces that need improvement are connections, personal connection.
- Need for empathy and understanding.
- Consideration of culturally responsive engagement.
- Consistency, and follow through meeting was good but the outcomes were less satisfying.

Members broke into small groups and suggested the following action items from the general themes:

- Encourage positive connections.
- Interpersonal relationships with the team
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) & IPRC process – share at each meeting the Parent/Guardian Guide to Special Education Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC)
- Encourage grade 11 and 12 students to seek transition options.

- Consistency – class to class grade to grade teacher to teacher, school to school
- Trust – real parent involvement
- Communication – how are parents actively involved.
- Who to contact-an advocate outside of the school they can connect with and ask questions.
- Communication/timely – on a regular basis communicate when things are positive and as well as areas of improvement.
- Ask parents how they prefer communication.
- Consideration of a welcome package.

SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides proposed sharing information from the SEAC survey with Special Education Resources Teachers (SERT)

- These are the things that are going well,
- Here are some areas that could be addressed.
- How can we as SEAC support?
- Opportunity to share the feedback we have and make an action plan.
- ISS Learning Community. is planned for December 12, SERTs will be in attendance would be a great opportunity to share.
- Possible video to be created, and shared.

MOTION TO WRITE A LETTER OR CREATE A PRESENTATION TO BE SHARED WITH SERTs ABOUT THE SEAC SURVEY RESULTS.

MOVE BY TARA CULLEY SECOND BY sensaRAneb

CARRIED

SEAC Letter will be in the form of the ISS Impact Update in December, and quotes from the survey will be embedded.

10. **SEAC Consultation: DDSB Accessibility Procedure**

Lisa Coppins joined to bring information forward about the DRAFT DDSB Accessibility Procedure

During an audit by the Ministry, one of the recommendations was to build a document around Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). An additional recommendation is that it become a procedure under the Human Rights, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy, Representing students, employees and families.

- Feedback was requested from members, via Lisa Wry no later than the morning of Wednesday October 25, 2023.

11. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

11.1 SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides distributed a DRAFT letter to the Ministry with members and requested feedback about concerns around the promotion of skilled trades before completion of a secondary diploma.

11.2 September 2023 meeting reschedule- SEAC is legislated for 10 meetings and therefore, the cancelled September 21, 2023 meeting will need to be rescheduled. Date options were explored, and the following suggestions were made:

- A meeting in July – which may again have quorum concerns.
- Consideration around timing with budget planning.
- A parent/caregiver engagement night - could have a meeting for an hour before the event, before then moving to the engagement night.

12. SEAC Gallery Considerations

Under legislation we must have an in-person public gallery. There will continue to be live streaming for accessibility which means room 1A will continue to be the SEAC meeting room for the purpose of maintaining live streaming and will be able to accommodate a small gallery.

- Galleries in that past were a great way to build connections with families.
- Attendees will need to pre-register; size limitation of gallery will be embedded in the communications regarding pre-registration.

13. Association Reports & Committee Reports

VOICE Conference Information shared.

SEAC representative on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

sensaRAneb Burrell would like to offer an opportunity to other members to represent SEAC on PIC. No other committee volunteers came forward. sensaRAneb will continue to represent SEAC for the 2023-2024 school year but will look to step down for the 2024-2025 school year.

14. Correspondence

- Autism Ontario Nomination of Alternate Representative.
A letter was submitted by Autism Ontario sharing a new member as alternate representative to SEAC.

MOTION: SEAC to make recommendation to the Board of Trustees to approve request from Autism Ontario that Maritza Basaran be the Alternate Representative at SEAC.

MOVE BY: sensaRAneb Burrell SECONDED BY: Tara Burrell

CARRIED

Additional Correspondence:

- Simcoe County DSB - Special Education Funding
- Thames Valley DSB – Special Incident Portion (SIP) Funding
- Waterloo Region DSB – Special Incident Portion (SIP) Funding

15. Community Concerns:

A few members have received an email from a parent advocating for their child with a vision impairment.

DDSB supports students who have Blind/Low vision needs through wrap around supports.

- Classroom Teacher
- Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)

- Instructional Facilitator
- Transcribers
- Classroom Support Staff
- Teachers of the Blind/Low Vision
- Students are met through a variety of supports including indirect support, building capacity with school-based staff and the Provincial School W. Ross MacDonald through teaching and learning.
- Direct support typically means withdrawal support with a teacher of the Blind/low vision to teach pre braille or proficient braille users for accessibility to curriculum.
- This year we have shifted staffing to include five Teachers of the Blind/low vision and two Special Education Teachers – taking Brille 1 & 2 additional qualification courses.
- The blind/low vision course has not been offered since 2016 but will be offered in 2024.
- Recommendation to the parent to reach out to Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children.
- Support is based on assessments and recommendations, currently we have 3 staff members proficient in braille working directly with students.

Rowin Jarvis shared a community concern question in advance of the meeting. Is *Empower* being used anywhere within the DDSB?

Superintendent Andrea McAuley responded to the inquiry:

- Our school teams have the new language curriculum which leans heavily into the Right to Read.
- *Empower* is a program we have looked at a few times. It comes from the Hospital for Sick Children. The model is really directive with a lot of fidelity constraints on the flexibility within a school.
 - Teacher time within very structured small groups
 - No allowances for student additions to small groups during the school year
 - All teachers must be trained at Sick Kids and therefore no training within the school.
 - If a teacher is trained and leaves a school the *Empower* program goes with the teacher
- We have been engaged in piloting a software program called *Lexia* aimed specifically for students with learning disabilities.
- Our focus as a district is on the whole instruction in classroom practice – strategies in class that align with the ministry directions in terms of phonetic awareness and the literacy curriculum.
- With literacy having grounding in good language practices team coaching requires both an educator and a speech language pathologist; implementation support teams in DDSB are comprised of collaboration between teachers and speech language pathologists.
- Nine additional speech language pathologists for this school year partnered with curriculum coaches working together in schools on the foundations of literacy.

- One of the teams is also focusing on intermediate grades (Grades 7,8,9, and 10) as we know we have students moving from elementary to secondary who are not yet proficient readers.
- Research and project grant to move students who are Deaf, deaf or hard of hearing in literacy and the Right to Read.
- Literacy and Math plan will be going before the Board; once shared with Trustees plans will be shared with SEAC.

16. Celebrations & Successes

Charmain Brown shared that her children have a degenerative eye disease called retinitis pigmentosa and they were the first to receive gene therapy in Ontario, they are both having remarkable success.

17. Next S.E.A.C Meeting-

November 9, 2023

18. Adjournment

That the meeting does now adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

Adjournment called by SEAC Chair Eva Kyriakides

MOVED BY: Tara Culley SECONDED BY: sensaRAneb Burrell

CARRIED

Report respectfully submitted by:

Eva Kyriakides, SEAC Chair

Table 1- Action Plan

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Send copy of the Word Cloud	Lisa Wry	November 2, 2023
Add to next agenda advocacy night	Lisa Wry	November 2, 2023
Share link MH & PPM 169	Lisa Wry	November 9, 2023



MEMORANDUM

To: Trustees

Memo: No. 2324:6

From: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
David Wright, Associate Director, Corporate Services
Robert Cerjanec, Executive Lead, Strategic Initiatives and External Relations

Date: November 2, 2023

RE: Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Process

Background

Through the Ministry of Education Capital Priorities process, school boards can submit requests for funding to construct new schools or complete major projects such as school additions or school replacements. Annual project requests are ranked by priority/need as identified by staff based on a number of factors including enrolment trends, accommodation pressures, available capacity, facility condition and more. Capital Priorities submissions are accompanied by staff prepared business cases that provide detailed rationale outlining the need for the project.

Once a capital project has received initial approval from the Ministry of Education, it can take approximately three to four years for completion. The timing of school construction does not always align with the speed of residential growth as the approval, funding and construction period can be lengthy.

The previous Ministry of Education approvals process (which applies to all six DDSB schools in development at present) required four stages of Ministry approval:

1. Announcement of funding;
2. Approval of facility space template and permission to appoint an architect;
3. Approval to proceed to tender based on a cost consultant report; and
4. Post tender approval if the tender exceeds the approved funding amount.

The approval process and timeline can be impacted by other factors including steadily increasing construction costs in between approval stages or the purchase of land, which sometimes takes place at the same time as the approvals process.

The Ministry of Education has recently made changes to the capital priorities process, and we are hopeful that the changes will better streamline approvals, provide more cost certainty and help us build schools faster.

DDSB Capital Projects in Progress

To help accommodate the growth in Durham Region, the DDSB has received Ministry of Education approval for five new school builds and one major addition:

Beaver River PS – Scheduled to open in September 2024

Construction is underway and the new school will replace and consolidate Beaverton PS and Thorah Central PS on the Beaverton PS site (270 King St, Beaverton). Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in February 2018. However, the length of delay is primarily due to the Ministry approvals process and that the DDSB re-submitted the project to request a larger building that would better accommodate previously unregistered growth in Beaverton. After receiving Ministry approval to build a larger school, we experienced further Ministry delays in receiving final approval. This situation was an anomaly but contributed to the lengthy development timeline.

Unnamed North Oshawa PS – Scheduled to open in September 2024

Construction is underway and the school will be located at Windfields Farm Drive West and Wintergrace Avenue in Oshawa. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in October 2020.

Mary Street PS – Building addition is scheduled to open in September 2024

Construction is underway at the current Mary Street PS (110 Mary St N, Oshawa) to replace the existing portapac structure. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in July 2020.

Unnamed Pickering Creekwood PS – Scheduled to open in September 2025

The DDSB is in the process of acquiring the site located at Tillings Road and Dersan Street from the City of Pickering after they complete environmental remediation of the site. Project development and municipal approvals have continued in tandem while site remediation was undertaken. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in July 2020.

Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS – Scheduled to open in September 2026

Planning and development is underway for this new elementary school to be located at Burkholder Drive and Azalea Avenue in Pickering. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in May 2022.

Unnamed North Oshawa SS – Scheduled to open in September 2026

Planning and development is underway for this new secondary school to be located at Windfields Farm Drive East and Bridle Road South in Oshawa. Ministry of Education approval was initially granted in May 2022.

New Capital Priorities Process

In August of 2023, the Ministry of Education announced the 2023-2024 Capital Priorities Program, including changes intended to assist school boards in building new and modern schools faster.

In addition to components previously required for all Capital Priorities submissions, school boards will also have their projects evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Project readiness assessment
- Design standardization
- Board performance assessment
- Enhanced accountability framework

We are hopeful that these changes will better streamline approvals, provide more cost certainty and help us build schools faster. However, this remains to be seen as the fall 2023 Capital Priorities submission from the DDSB is the first under the new program requirements.

Role of Municipalities

Municipalities have an important role in the creation of new schools. Through municipal planning processes, population growth and accommodation needs can be projected based on zoning and site plan applications and approvals and land use planning decisions.

The DDSB works closely with Durham Region and the municipalities of Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock in order to remain at the forefront of upcoming new development or re-development projects that may lead to accommodation pressures in existing schools and the possible need for new schools.

When undertaking the planning and development process for a Ministry-approved new school build, the DDSB must apply to the municipality for site plan approval and in some cases, rezoning or minor variance applications prior to seeking a building permit. The site plan approval process takes approximately one year to go through depending on the municipality.

Staff Recommendations

While it is anticipated that the new Capital Priorities process will streamline approvals and speed up construction of new schools, staff have identified additional opportunities that could further improve the process:

1. School board access to an expedited or automatic Capital Priorities approval process provided that a submission meets all of the criteria identified in the updated Capital Priorities Program outline.
2. Consideration of a streamlined municipal Site Plan Approval process or exemption from this process for district school boards.



MEMORANDUM

To: Trustees

Memo: No. 2324:7

From: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
Robert Cerjanec, Executive Lead, Strategic Initiatives and External Relations

Date: November 2, 2023

RE: Request for DDSB Support of Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement

Purpose

The Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC), the City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body, has requested the Durham District School Board (DDSB) endorse their statement to the Minister of Education recommending the implementation of a Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch Program in all Ontario schools (see attached request).

The TYC has also called for the implementation of expanded mental health supports for students including mandatory mental health literacy in school curriculum, mental health days, additional mental health staff, culturally appropriate mental health screening, and expanded collection and reporting of data relating to mental health supports and services in schools.

The TYC has written and advocated on previous topics in the past. Staff have consulted with Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) staff who indicated they were not involved in this request by the TYC. The DDSB is a member of OPSBA who advocates to the Government of Ontario on matters involving Ontario's publicly funded school boards.

This memo outlines staff comments on both requests and recommends that the Board of Trustees endorse the request on school breakfast and lunch programs, but not the request around expanded mental health supports due to staff concerns and lack of a coordinated advocacy strategy with OPSBA.

DDSB School Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The DDSB recognizes that food insecurity and inflation is at an all-time high resulting in significant increases in students attending school breakfast programs. The DDSB currently has 91 breakfast programs in schools across the District. The Ignite Durham Learning

Foundation (IDLF) has provided \$50,000 towards supporting food insecurity in schools and in student homes.

The IDLF has also reported that many schools have exhausted resources for their programs resulting in an emergency campaign for school breakfast and snack programs that delivered 2,431 items to 46 schools. IDLF has already distributed 572 kg of food since the beginning of the school year (September 2023).

On October 5, 2023, the Government of Ontario approved an additional \$5 million for the Student Nutrition Program and the First Nations Student Nutrition Program, bringing the total provincial funding this year to \$38 million. This funding helps to deliver approximately 90 million meals and snacks to over 600,000 school-aged children and youth in Ontario.

To support the government investment, the province has partnered with the Arrell [Family Foundation](#), the [Breakfast Club of Canada](#), the [Schad Foundation](#), the Grocery [Foundation](#), and [Student Nutrition Ontario](#) to launch the [Healthy Students Brighter Ontario](#) campaign to work with local groups and businesses to encourage community involvement and to fundraise a combined goal of \$10 million.

Cathy Abraham, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) President, commented on this program, "The funding announced today is a great step towards addressing this challenge and ensuring that all of our students have stigma-free access to nutritious foods."

Expanded Mental Health Supports

The DDSB is committed to creating safe, welcoming, inclusive, and respectful learning and working spaces that promote well-being for all students and staff. The DDSB implements the [Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan](#) to support the everyday mental health and well-being of students and staff and to connect them to from, and through the pathways for those supports. The TYC recommendations on expanded mental health supports are listed below along with staff responses to the recommendations, including strategies already in place at the DDSB:

Mandatory Mental Health Literacy in School Curriculum

The DDSB is implementing mandatory modules in mental health for students in grades 7 and 8 which include three modules aligned with the current health curriculum. The Early Years Kindergarten program also introduces students to language around well-being and self-regulation. It is important to recognize that mental health literacy is best implemented when there is a whole school approach to mental health promotion.

Mental Health Days for Students

New for the 2023-2024 school year, the DDSB modified the 'illness' attendance code for the reporting of student absences. The code now reads as "(AI) Illness: Health and Well-Being."

Originating from discussions at the Student Success Working Group of DDSB's Student Senate, the addition of 'Well-Being' to the illness code for student absence is a way to

honour the importance of self-care and restorative personal practices. With a focus on the presence of illness alone as a reason for student absence, we miss the opportunity to acknowledge the many ways in which a focus on personal wellness can promote a healthy and resilient lifestyle. We recognize that student attendance and engagement with school is important for student success; however, we also need to recognize that for many students, a well-placed day off to nurture oneself can actually enhance school engagement and success. This new coding addition allows us to support student and family choice to address their own health needs in a way that is both important and recuperative to them.

Additional Mental Health Staff

While teams providing mental health supports to students have increased somewhat through expanded funding, this does not keep pace with increased demand and enrollment numbers. A preferred best practice would be the adoption of a dedicated funding model for a minimum mental health staff to student ratio that reflects the [current “1 in 5” mental health need amongst young people](#).

Collection and Reporting of Data on Mental Health Supports and Services in Schools

The DDSB already reports this suggested data collection to the Ministry, including number of regulated mental health staff (social work and psychological services staff), staff caseloads, waitlist times for services, reasons for services, and number of referrals made to community resources.

It is important to note this data does not speak to historical and systemic structures that have led to and continue to contribute to mental health inequities. Any changes to the collection of data in this area must be considered alongside existing data collection processes and careful consideration should be given to how the collection and interpretation of data has historically been used against marginalized and oppressed groups. A focus on volume and numbers alone in data collection and reporting shifts focus away from the opportunities for mental health promotion and prevention in learning environments.

In addition, the Ministry is preparing to roll out a data collection and reporting process through the existing software used to house Inclusive Student Services student data. The Right to Read initiative will also add a layer of data collection, analysis and reporting, and DDSB staff will be embarking on developing a monitoring strategy for the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan that will include data collection, analysis and reporting components.

School-Based Culturally Appropriate Mental Health Screening for all Grades:

We are committed to supporting staff to connect with students and families, to learn about their unique perspectives, while centering identity, and honouring student voice as they access mental health supports and services. Collaborative approaches help lead to an improved sense of safety and belonging for students while respecting their lived experiences and identities. The DDSB also created and facilitates programs such as BeMe (Black Excellence Made Evident) and Project AFFIRM as part of culturally relevant support programs.

DDSB staff have identified some concerns around the notion of screening. Mental health screening and the use of screening tools may occur when mental health practitioners are working with a student, where there is informed consent, and where an intervention is being sought. There are a variety of screeners that can be used depending on the particular need/circumstance. However, the perception of requiring a universal screener can socialize students to a deficit approach and shift focus away from the importance of mental health promotion and literacy. The emphasis should always be on building capacity amongst staff to create mentally healthy environments and caring relationships with students. Additionally, the importance of empowering youth to be able to recognize and talk about mental health and wellness leads to greater self-advocacy.

Staff Recommendations:

After consultations with mental health staff, concerns and comments regarding the TYC statement have been collected and summarized above. Due to the lack of consultations with the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) and the concerns brought forward by DDSB staff it is recommended that the Board does not endorse the TYC statement on mental health.

Board staff facilitating school lunch and breakfast programs welcome the TYC statement on food insecurity and endorse calls to further develop school lunch and breakfast programs in the province.

Appendix A: Email request from Toronto Youth Cabinet to DDSB

Appendix B: Joint Statement on Addressing the Rising Mental Health Crisis Facing Children and Youth in Ontario

Appendix C: Joint Statement on Addressing the Rising Food Insecurity Facing Children and Youth in Ontario

From: [GILLIAN VENNING](#)
To: [GILLIAN VENNING](#)
Subject: Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement - DDSB Endorsement
Date: November 2, 2023 9:19:39 AM

From: Stephen Mensah <stephen@thetyc.ca>
To: DOROTHY LEAVER <dorothy.leaver@ddsb.ca>
Cc: Vanessa Erhirhie <vanessa@thetyc.ca>
Subject: Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement - DDSB Endorsement

Caution: This is an **external email** - Do not click **links** or open **attachments** unless you recognize the sender. If this a suspicious email, please report as "**Phish**" in Outlook.

Hello Director Williams - Taylor,

I hope all is well. My name is Stephen Mensah, Executive Director of the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC), City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body. We were established in 1998 by Toronto City Council with the mandate of advocating on behalf of Toronto's over 623,000 youth.

I am emailing in regards to a current initiative we have been working on to address the rising youth mental health crisis facing students in Ontario. As I am sure you may have heard, the government has headed our various recommendations for mandatory mental health literacy in the curriculum, mandatory mental health training for all school staff and so much more! However, there is still lots more work to do in this area to ensure we take all the steps to improve our students' health and well-being.

TYC, also launched our calls for a universal free school breakfast and lunch program across Ontario schools to ensure no child goes hungry.

<https://www.chch.com/advocates-teacher-unions-call-for-free-school-breakfast-lunch-for-ontario-students/>

Ultimately our request is for your school board to join the other boards across the Province in endorsing TYC's statement and calling on the Minister of Education to implement our recommendations more specifically Mental Health Days for Students etc etc. as well as our statement calling for a universal school food program in Ontario. Both statements are attached. We are requesting either yourself or the Board to send 2 separate letters to the relevant Minister(s) and for both letters to be sent to your local MPP's.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you soon. I am cc'ing my assistant Vanessa who will be able to respond to any inquiries on my behalf that I may miss.

Best,

Stephen Mensah (pronouns: He/Him)

Executive Director

Toronto Youth Cabinet

Toronto City Hall
15th Floor, East Tower
[100 Queen Street West](#)
<http://thetyc.ca>

The Toronto Youth Cabinet acknowledges that we are situated on the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee, and most recently the territory of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation. Tkaranto is built on sacred land that is part of an agreement between Indigenous peoples and then extended to allied nations to peacefully and respectfully care for it. By making this acknowledgment, we are taking part in an act of reconciliation, honouring the land and Indigenous heritage, which dates back over 10,000 years.

This email communication is intended as a private communication for the sole use of the primary addressee and those individuals listed for copies in the original message. The information contained in this email is private and confidential and if you are not an intended recipient you are hereby notified that copying, forwarding or other dissemination or distribution of this communication by any means is prohibited. If you are not specifically authorized to receive this email and if you believe that you received it in error please notify the original sender immediately.

April 24th, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

RE: JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE RISING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FACING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO

Dear Minister Lecce,

We hope this letter finds you well. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected society in many ways, especially the most vulnerable in our communities. Children and youth have been greatly affected by school closures, isolation from peers and other supports, disconnection from community and by the on-going changes to the way in which they attended school. As a result, we continue to witness the devastating impact that COVID-19 has placed on the health and well-being of children and youth.

According to the Children's Mental Health Association, approximately 70 percent of mental illnesses can be diagnosed before the age of 25. This makes adolescence a critical time for mental health promotion and prevention, including early identification, and effective treatment of mental disorders. Mental illness is increasingly threatening the lives of our children; with Canada's youth suicide rate being the third highest in the industrialized world. According to data from Statistics Canada, suicide remains a leading cause of death among children and adolescents aged 10-14, and the second leading cause of death for youth aged 15 to 24. We know that for Black and Indigenous youth these numbers are far greater.

According to data from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), one in seven Ontario students in grades 7 to 12 say they harmed themselves on purpose in the past year, with one in six having serious thoughts of suicide. Research conducted continues to sound the alarm on the growing mental health crisis that Ontario youth are facing. The time to take vigorous and urgent action on this front is long overdue.

We acknowledge that the Government of Ontario has made some investments to address youth mental health, however we must redouble our efforts to deal with this urgent crisis. Therefore, we are asking you Minister Lecce, to build upon what has been done, and go further by supporting students' mental health in Ontario by implementing the following immediately:

1. **Mandatory Mental Health Literacy in the Curriculum**

It is critical to ensure that all students receive the necessary education around mental health and school boards must prioritize mental health literacy to ensure that all students are successful. Mental health literacy will help children and youth identify signs and symptoms to better understand their own mental health and identify when help is needed. In addition, normalising these topics and conversations can address the stigma around mental health that still exists among young people. There must be mandatory age appropriate mental health literacy from K-12 in our curriculum and we must ensure that educators have access to extensive mental health resources and on-going professional development to support the cultural shift that we are seeking.

2. **Mental Health Days for students.**

The Government of Ontario must make changes to the Education Act to allow students to be absent from school for mental or behavioural health reasons; under an excused absence as outlined in the Education Act. The government must also ensure that students who do choose to take *Mental Health Days* are not required to provide their school with a doctor's note. Currently there are seven legally excused absences a student can take from school, and while mental health may be included under the "sickness excused absence" another category will not only emphasize the importance of self-care and prioritizing mental health but will also aid in destigmatizing mental health and allow for more open conversations amongst students, parents and teachers.

3. **Additional mental health clinicians, and student support staff, such as; mental health professionals, school psychologists, child & youth workers, social workers, nurses, guidance counsellors, and mental health crisis intervention workers.**

The current ratio of social worker/child and youth worker to student, school psychologist to student, guidance counsellor to student and mental health worker to student exceeds the recommended average of 1:250, 1:700 and 1:375 respectively. Not only is there a need for additional staff, but we are calling on the province to ensure that these staff are representative of the school populations. Access to culturally appropriate mental health supports, will ensure that all students are able to receive the best support possible from individuals who share their lived experiences. There is also a need to boost up community support, to ensure that a wrap-around of services are available for students to access to the broader system of mental health care.

4. **Collection and reporting of data on mental health supports and services in schools.**

Currently, there is a lack of publicly available data, therefore, we are asking for a province-wide reporting system to track mental health supports and services to ensure that students in need receive support in a timely manner. Examples of data that should

be included in the report are: the ratio of mental health clinician to the number of students, how often they are available to see those students, how long student wait times are from request of support to receiving support, how many students are accessing support, and what students are accessing support. There must also be data to measure the overall mental health status of students. This data should be made available to the public and should be collected in a disaggregated way to expose hidden trends and enable the identification of which students are more vulnerable and may require more support.

5. **School-based culturally appropriate mental health screening for all grades.**

Culturally appropriate social-emotional screening should be utilised in schools and done throughout a students' education. Screening students in their early years will help in early identification and intervention as well as serve as a preventive measure, with a focus on maintaining wellness.

The recommendations highlighted above have been researched, tested and proven to improve students' mental health. We have seen other jurisdictions take these steps and we must ensure here in Ontario we act on them all expeditiously. These recommendations are inter-connected, and so acting on one without taking action on the other will be detrimental in our quest to improve student mental health in Ontario. We must also ensure that any implementation of these recommendations be done in consultation with students, teacher and education unions, children's mental health stakeholders and other relevant partners.

On January 26th the Toronto Youth Cabinet released their student mental health survey informed by the participation of 1,042 students from across Ontario between the ages of 12 to 19 on the state of their mental health. The data collected provided insights into how best the provincial government and school boards can better address the rising youth mental health crisis.

The results of our survey are as follows:

- 94.9% of students said they would be supportive of mandatory mental health literacy in the Ontario curriculum.
- 98.2% of students said they would be supportive of mandatory mental health training for teachers and all student-facing staff.
- 43.7% of students said their school does not have a mental health professional.
- 79% of students said they struggled to access mental health support in schools.
- 67.7% of students said access to BIPOC mental health workers is important to them.

The full details of the survey can be found on the Toronto Youth Cabinet website.

We acknowledge that the government recently took steps to commit to mandatory mental health training for educators and we thank them for listening to students' voices. An overwhelming majority of students surveyed indicated they support this initiative. It is essential that all staff are

able to not only recognize when a student needs mental health support, but is able to appropriately respond in urgent situations. The province must guarantee that schools are provided with the sufficient resources and funding to ensure that staff are trained and are able to support students' mental health concerns.

Young people made it clear that a prerequisite to their academic success is good mental health. Together with the underlying signatories, stand in solidarity and demand action on the recommendations highlighted. Thank you Minister Lecce for your attention on this matter. We hope for immediate action on this.

CC: Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael A. Tibollo
Minister of Health Sylvia Jones
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Patrice Barnes
Leader, Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma
Mental Health and Addictions Critic, Lisa Gretzky
Health Care Critic, France G elinas

Sincerely,

1. Toronto Youth Cabinet
2. Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO)
3. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
4. Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)
5. Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
6. People For Education
7. Wellesley Institute
8. Jack.org
9. Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario

NOTE: Toronto Board of Health during their April 17, 2023 meeting endorsed this statement.



Public education. Public good.



May 24th, 2023

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

**RE: JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE RISING FOOD INSECURITY FACING
CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO**

Dear Minister Parsa and Minister Lecce,

We hope this letter finds you well. Ontario and all parts of Canada and North America are seeing a cost of living crisis, with rising inflation and unaffordability of basic necessities. In Canada, food inflation is at 10.6% as of February 2023, more than double the rate of overall inflation.

According to a 2022 report by Feed Ontario, 30 percent of food bank clients are children and youth under the age of 18. A study by the University of Toronto on food insecurity found that 1 in 5 children are food insecure in Canada. In Toronto according to the Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest Food Bank, 1 in 4 of their users were children in March. The first time in 25 years.

Ontario is facing a calamitous hunger crisis that calls on the government to act, and act urgently to address it. In Ontario the base funding of \$28 million for student nutrition programs has remained consistent since 2014, despite the cost of food having increased dramatically over the last decade.

Across the province student nutrition programs are at a breaking point, with many having to reduce meals given to students or close down operations despite increased demand by schools. No young person should go hungry, but the simple truth is that far too many children are. The ramifications of food insecurity are far-reaching and have a profound impact not only on the health and well-being of individuals, but also the quality of education they receive. Simply, we can not expect a hungry student to do good in math, be focused and attentive, happy and ready to learn.

We acknowledge that the government took steps last year to mandate food literacy and nutrition across all grades and into the science curriculum to ensure students are taught and more knowledgeable of the benefits of locally grown food, different approaches to agriculture and so much more. However, it is indefensible to solely learn about food and its benefits, while being deprived of accessing it yourself.

That is why the Toronto Youth Cabinet and all underlying signatories are calling on the Province of Ontario to provide a universal free school breakfast and lunch program to all Ontario students. The province must also guarantee that schools are provided with the sufficient infrastructure, resources and funding to hire and train staff who will be responsible for preparing these nutritious meals.

In a province as wealthy and abundant as Ontario, it is unacceptable to have children be deprived of their right to food and adequate nutrition in supporting them to reach their full potential. Although I recognize that with rampant inflation, the government will be wary of increased spending, a universal school food program has the huge potential to support families in a meaningful way who are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The benefits of such a program are far-reaching, not only is it a cost-effective way to drive economic growth by investing in local Ontario farmers and producers and creating a healthier society, it has proven to contribute to increased student achievement, reduced absenteeism and increased health promotion.

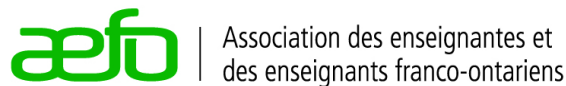
Thank you Minister Parsa and Minister Lecce for your attention on this matter. We hope for immediate action on this. Let us continue to work towards making Ontario's publicly funded education system much stronger, more equitable and the best in the world!

CC: Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Logan Kanapathi
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Patrice Barnes
Leader, Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Children, Community and Social Services Critic, Monique Taylor
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma

Sincerely,

1. Toronto Youth Cabinet
2. Food Banks Canada
3. Breakfast Club of Canada
4. Feed Ontario
5. Daily Bread Food Bank
6. North York Harvest Food Bank

7. Food Share Toronto
8. Food Secure Canada
9. Second Harvest Food Rescue
10. Coalition for Healthy School Food
11. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
12. Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)
13. Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
14. Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)





MEMORANDUM

To: Trustees

Memo: No. 2324:08

From: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
Kandis Thompson, Superintendent of Equitable Education, Family and Community Engagement

Date: November 21, 2023

RE: Parent Involvement Committee 2023-2024 Committee Representatives

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to the Board of Trustees on the membership of the Durham District School Board's (DDSB) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) 2023-2024 as per the [Ministry Regulation O. Reg. 612/00](#).

Background

The Ministry of Education requires every school board in the province to establish a PIC by November 15 or before the first committee meeting of each school year. (O. Reg.612/00.)

Parents are vital partners in education, and the purpose of a PIC is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well-being. (O. Reg. 612/00.)

The Parent Involvement Committee will meet a minimum of four times virtually this year to plan several parent engagement speaker series activities with keynote speakers, and host the DDSB Regional SCC meeting. It is anticipated that the PIC will advise and support other parent or community engagement opportunities as they occur. The DDSB Parent Involvement Committee Procedure can be found [here](#).

Analysis

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, vacancies were available for parent/guardian representatives in Whitby, Oshawa and the North (representing Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge). There was also a vacancy for a PIC Co-Chair. As per Regulation 612/00, these vacancies were advertised to the community using the Board website, school websites, newsletters, and social media. Staff received responses for participation on the committee from all areas. Once the PIC Co-Chair vacancy was filled via member vote at the first PIC meeting, it opened a new vacancy for Pickering. Staff have been working with PIC members, School Community Councils, and administrators to seek support in filling the Pickering vacancy. Staff will continue to seek additional representatives from Pickering by connecting with administrators and Trustees.

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The candidates were considered based on eligibility as per the vacancies, by-laws, and previous engagement with their school and school community. Consideration was also given to the diversity of representation of the Durham Region and DDSB communities.

The Parent Involvement Committee membership for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

Parents/Guardians	
Co-Chair - Huma Choudary	Ajax
Co-Chair – Peter Ackie	Pickering
Arun Rai	Ajax
Nigel Hunter	Ajax
Barry Bedford	Whitby
Tarun Chaudhary	Whitby
Arshi Ali	Oshawa
Gurleen Saggu	Oshawa
Waseem Ali	Pickering
<i>Vacant</i>	Pickering
Lori Dunn	North
Shirley Ostertag	North
Community Representative	
Trecia Facey	
Rupal Patel	
SEAC Representative	
SensaRAneb Burrell	
DDSB Staff (Non-Voting)	
Kandis Thompson	Superintendent Designate
Tara Bryan	Secondary Administrator
Nadia Nembhard-Hunt	Elementary Administrator
Nadia Baby	Secondary Teacher
Mitzi Hussett	Elementary Teacher
Patrick Symister	Educational Assistant
Trustee Representative	
Michelle Arsenault	Trustee

Should you have any questions, please contact Kandis Thompson, Superintendent of Equitable Education, Family and Community Engagement, at kandis.thompson@ddsb.ca.

November 29, 2023

Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education and Secretary
Durham District School Board
400 Taunton Road East
Whitby, ON L1R 2K6 Canada

Sent by email: camille.williamstaylor@ddsb.ca

Dear Director Williams-Taylor,

Re: Open meeting complaint

My Office received a complaint which raised concerns that the Durham District School Board (the “School Board”) has required members of the public to provide their contact information and show identification in order to physically attend meetings of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”). The complaint also raised concerns that members of the public were temporarily prohibited from attending Board meetings in person. Finally, the complainant complained that they were denied physical entry to the Standing Committee’s June 5, 2023 meeting.

I am writing to share the outcome of my review of this complaint.

Ombudsman's role and authority

The Ombudsman is an independent and impartial Officer of the Ontario Legislature. Our Office has the authority to address complaints about public sector bodies, as well as services provided by children’s aid societies and residential licensees, and the provision of French language services under the *French Language Services Act*.

Since September 1, 2015, the Ontario Ombudsman has the authority to carry out impartial and independent reviews and investigations of complaints concerning the administrative conduct of school boards, including complaints concerning meetings held by a board of trustees or a committee of a board.

483 Bay Street, 10th Floor, South Tower / 483, rue Bay, 10^e étage, Tour sud
Toronto, ON M5G 2C9

Tel./Tél. : 416-586-3300 Facsimile/Télécopieur : 416-586-3485 TTY/ATS : 1-866-411-4211

www.ombudsman.on.ca

Facebook : facebook.com/OntarioOmbudsman Twitter : twitter.com/Ont_Ombudsman YouTube : youtube.com/OntarioOmbudsman



In addition, my Office is the closed meeting investigator for more than half of Ontario's 444 municipalities. As the province's default closed meeting investigator, my Office is responsible for determining whether a municipality has complied with the open meeting requirements outlined in the *Municipal Act, 2001*.¹

My Office has reviewed hundreds of closed meetings since 2008. To assist municipal councils, staff, and the public, we have developed an online digest of closed meeting cases. This searchable repository was created to provide easy access to the Ombudsman's decisions on, and interpretations of, the municipal open meeting rules. While the open meeting requirements in the *Municipal Act* differ from those in the *Education Act*, school boards can consult the digest to inform their discussions and decisions on whether certain matters can or should be discussed in closed session, as well as issues related to open meeting procedures. Summaries of the Ombudsman's previous decisions can be found in the digest: www.ombudsman.on.ca/digest.

Ombudsman review

My Office reviewed the Durham District School Board's Consolidated By-Laws, its Code of Conduct for Public Meetings, relevant correspondence, meeting minutes and meeting recordings, and its website. We also spoke with the School Board's Director of Education and Secretary, the Associate Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer, and the Chair of the Board of Trustees at the time.

Sign-in procedures

The complaint raised concerns that the School Board has required members of the public to show identification and provide contact information to attend Board meetings in person.

The School Board told my Office that beginning in or around early 2023, increasingly concerning behaviours, including swearing, derogatory comments, and death threats, have been directed at its staff members and Board trustees. In response, the School Board has progressively increased its safety and security protocols.

¹ SO 2001, c 25.



Since May 1, 2023, in order to attend meetings in person, members of the public have been required to provide their name, telephone number or email address, and show photo identification. Individuals also have the option of observing meetings live on YouTube without the need to provide identifying information. The School Board's website was updated when this protocol was first implemented to state that all individuals attending meetings in person would be required to sign in and show photo identification, and that anyone who did not want to provide this information could observe meetings online.² We were told that this information was also posted on the doors outside of the meeting room.

Analysis

Under the *Education Act*³, all meetings of a board of trustees and a committee of the board must be open to the public, subject to prescribed exceptions.⁴ The Ontario Court of Appeal has affirmed that a school board has the authority to regulate its meetings to ensure "... decorous conduct by all attending the meeting" and to prevent behaviour that would "...detract from the effectiveness of the meeting and have an adverse effect on ... free and uninhibited discussion."⁵

Although decided in a different context, I have previously noted that municipalities must be careful about placing conditions on the public's ability to freely access and observe open meetings, since the intent of the open meeting provisions of the *Municipal Act* is to permit people to observe the political process.⁶ However, my Office has also found that the open meeting requirements in the *Municipal Act* do not preclude a municipal council from taking appropriate measures to preserve security and maintain the order of council meetings.⁷ Further, as I noted in my May 2017 report, *Counter Encounter: Investigation into a complaint about the Township of Red Rock*, an employer is justified in seeking to

² The School Board has since published a Code of Conduct for Public Meetings on its website, which includes this information: "Board Meetings", *Durham District School Board*, online: <<https://www.ddsb.ca/en/about-ddsb/board-meetings.aspx>>.

³ RSO 1990, c E.2.

⁴ s 207(1-2.1).

⁵ *Radio Chum 1050 Ltd et al v Board of Education for City of Toronto*, 1964 CanLII 609 (ON CA) at 1, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/gwf61>>.

⁶ *Aberton (Township of) (Re)*, 2023 ONOMBUD 11 at para 27, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jz4gd>>.

⁷ *Ibid* at para 28; *London (City of) (Re)*, 2016 ONOMBUD 4 at para 51, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/gt8dh>>.



protect its staff from harassment from members of the public, consistent with its obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.⁸

The School Board told us that due to escalating concerns about harassment and violence, it has taken measures to preserve security and maintain order, such as implementing a policy that requires members of the public to sign in and show identification in order to attend meetings in person.

School boards have the authority to regulate their meetings to preserve safety and security and to maintain order, but must be careful about placing overly restrictive conditions on the public's ability to freely access and observe open meetings. In this case, members of the public can freely access and observe Board and committee meetings online without the need to provide any identifying information. I am satisfied that the School Board's security measures for in-person attendance at meetings are reasonable in the circumstances, given the safety concerns of the School Board.

Method of attendance

The complaint also raised concerns that the School Board temporarily prohibited members of the public from attending Board meetings in person.

As noted above, the School Board has progressively made more stringent its safety and security protocols due to increasingly concerning behaviours directed at staff members and Board trustees. At a regular Board of Trustees' meeting on May 15, 2023, the Board recessed the meeting twice and the public gallery was evacuated by security and police due to disruptive behaviour. The School Board has publicly stated that staff, students, and members of the public felt unsafe due to this disruptive behaviour.⁹

⁸ Ontario Ombudsman, *Counter Encounter: Investigation into a complaint about the Township of Red Rock* (May 2017) at para 59, online: <<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/resources/reports,-cases-and-submissions/reports-on-investigations/2017/counter-encounter>>.

⁹ Camille Williams-Taylor, "May 2023 Director's Update from the Durham District School Board", *Durham District School Board* (19 May 2023), online: <<https://www.ddsb.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?newsId=bbb6fa3f-8729-4b1d-a6d4-9f5cfc52ad57&feedId=9af71d9c-32c0-44a2-b019-e3a0eb84ffd2,23903367-d258-477e-b1e0-66c8a9299356>>.



Following this meeting, the School Board announced that members of the public could not attend meetings in person until it reviewed its safety protocols and implemented additional security measures. The School Board's website was updated to explain that members of the public could not attend meetings in person until it could complete this review, and stated that members of the public could instead observe meetings live online.

The Board and two of its committees held several meetings between May and August 2023 with no option for the public to observe them in person, although they could watch them live online. Prior to the start of the current school year, the School Board completed a review of its safety protocols and implemented additional security measures. Since September 5, 2023, the public has been able to attend Board meetings in person.

The School Board told my Office that it temporarily limited in-person attendance at meetings to ensure the safety and security of staff members, trustees, and members of the public, citing its legal obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.¹⁰

Analysis

Section 6(1) of *O Reg 463/97, Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance* (the "Regulation"), under the *Education Act* states,

The meeting room of the board or of a committee of the board, as the case may be, shall be open to permit physical attendance by members of the public at every meeting of the board or of the committee of the board.

In March 2020, the *Regulation* was amended to create exceptions to this in-person requirement, none of which apply to the May to August 2023 meetings.¹¹

¹⁰ RSO 1990, c O.1.

¹¹ The *Regulation* states that these in-person requirements do not apply in circumstances where all of a school board's schools are closed pursuant to particular orders made by the Minister of Education, a medical officer of health, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, or the Lieutenant Governor in Council: ss 6.1(2) and 7.



My Office was told that despite increasing its safety and security protocols at in-person meetings in early 2023, disruptive behaviours continued to threaten the security and order of Board meetings. The School Board made the decision to temporarily limit in-person attendance at meetings until it could review its safety protocols and implement additional security measures.

My Office confirmed that members of the public were able to observe all affected meetings of the Board and its committees live online. My Office did not receive any complaints raising concerns that members of the public were not able to access these meetings online.

Following a review of its safety protocols and the implementation of additional security measures, the Board resumed in-person attendance at its meetings on September 5, 2023. I commend the steps that the School Board has taken to resume in-person public attendance at meetings, pursuant to the Regulation's in-person meeting requirements.

Notice of June 5, 2023 meeting

Further, the complainant raised concerns that they were denied entry to the meeting room for a meeting of the Standing Committee on June 5, 2023, even though the School Board's website stated that members of the public could attend in person.

The School Board's website contains a historic meeting calendar that states members of the public were able to watch this meeting live on YouTube or attend it in person.¹² However, the School Board confirmed that members of the public were not actually able to attend this meeting in person. We were told that due to an oversight, the School Board's online meeting calendar was not updated to reflect this, but that other pages on its website accurately reflected that members of the public were not able to attend any meetings in person between mid-May and August 2023. The School Board told my Office that members of the public were able to observe this meeting live online, and that the link to the meeting livestream was posted on the School Board's website and its Twitter/X account. My Office did not receive any complaints raising concerns that members of the public were not able to access this meeting online.

¹² "Standing Committee Meeting - This event has already occurred", *Durham District School Board*, online: <<https://calendar.ddsb.ca/meetings/Detail/2023-06-05-1900-Standing-Committee-Meeting>>.



Analysis

As I noted in my July 2019 report, *Lessons Not Learned*, a school board should provide public notice of its meetings, and this practice should be made explicit in its by-laws.¹³ In the municipal context, I have stated that municipalities should ensure that all meeting notices include accurate and up-to-date information about the time and location of the meeting.¹⁴ If this information changes, previously published notices should be amended.¹⁵

The School Board's Consolidated By-Laws state that the Director of Education or designate shall provide trustees with notice of certain meetings, but does not state that notice must be provided to the public.¹⁶ However, the School Board does provide public notice of Board and committee meetings on its online meeting calendar.¹⁷ In the interests of increasing the accountability and transparency of its meeting practices, the School Board should state in its by-laws how it provides public notice of meetings and to ensure that all meeting notices include accurate and up-to-date information.

Conclusion

The School Board has resumed in-person attendance at its meetings, and its website accurately explains that in order to attend meetings in person, individuals are required to sign in and show photo identification. I encourage the School Board to continue to review its meeting practices, and to ensure that it places as few conditions on the public's ability to freely access and observe open meetings as is safely possible.

¹³ Ontario Ombudsman, *Lessons Not Learned: Transparency of Near North District School Board's decision to close Widdifield Secondary School after the 2016-2017 Pupil Accommodation Review process* (July 2019) at paras 150, 151, and 153, online: <<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/resources/reports.-cases-and-submissions/reports-on-investigations/2019/lessons-not-learned>>.

¹⁴ *Calvin (Municipality of) (Re)*, 2023 ONOMBUD 9 at para 29, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jxg32>>; *McKellar (Township of) (Re)*, 2023 ONOMBUD 3 at para 63, online: <<https://canlii.ca/t/jv6ck>>.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ ss 5.5.6 and 5.5.10.

¹⁷ "Board Meetings", *Durham District School Board*, online: <<https://calendar.ddsb.ca/meetings>>.



I would like to thank the School Board for its co-operation during my review. You have confirmed that this letter will be included as correspondence at an upcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

Sincerely,



Paul Dubé
Ombudsman of Ontario

Cc: Christine Thatcher, Chair of the Board of Trustees,
via email: christine.thatcher@ddsb.ca

December 2023

December 1:	World Aids Day
December 2:	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 3:	International Day for Disabled Persons
December 3:	First Day of Advent
December 5:	International Volunteer Day
December 6:	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
December 8:	Bodhi Day
December 7 – 15:	Hanukkah
December 10:	Human Rights Day
December 13:	Aga Khan's Birthday
December 16:	Los Posadas
December 18:	International Migrants Day
December 20:	International Human Solidarity Day
December 21:	Yalda
December 22:	Winter Solstice
December 22:	Yule
December 22:	Tohji-Tasai Shinto
December 25:	Christmas Day
December 26–January 1:	Kwanzaa
December 26:	Boxing Day

January 2024

Tamil Heritage Month	
January 1:	New Years Day
January 5:	Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)
January 5:	Epiphany
January 6:	Orthodox Christmas
January 14:	Orthodox New Year
January 15-18:	Thai Pongal
January 15:	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19:	Epiphany (Orthodox)
January 22:	Lincoln Alexander Day
January 24:	International Day of Education
January 24:	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust
January 25:	Tu B'Shevat (Arbor Day) (Judaism)
January 27:	Family Literacy Day