

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
January 8, 2024**

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair, Deb Oldfield called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Deb Oldfield

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards (virtual), Stephen Linton (virtual), Kelly Miller (virtual), Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo (virtual), Student Trustees Ben Cameron (virtual), Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju (virtual, arrived 7:09 p.m., left 7:57 p.m.)

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 Michael Bowman, 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: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Deb Oldfield gave the Land Acknowledgment: The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, learn and live.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2024:SC01

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee

THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE PICKERING CREEKWOOD SCHOOL AS ITEM 8(b) UNDER RECOMMENDED ACTIONS.

CARRIED

2024:SC02

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AMENDED AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Effective Literacy Instruction

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst introduced Lanya Lewis, Teaching and Learning System Lead, Lisa Virtua, Speech and Language Pathologist, Lyanne Hussey, Literacy Coach, and Jason Himsl, English Facilitator, who provided trustees with a presentation and overview of effective literacy instruction in the DDSB related to the implementation of the updated language curriculum.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

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

Good evening and welcome to our first meeting of 2024. I hope everyone in our community found an opportunity over the past few weeks to re-energize for what I hope will be a great rest of the school year.

Last month before the winter break, the Ministry of Education announced curriculum updates that will be implemented in September of 2024. New and updated course curriculum includes de-streamed Grade 9 Geography, Grade 9 and 10 Business Studies, Grade 9 and 10 Technological Education and Grade 10 Career Studies courses. More information to assist schools, students and families with the 2024-25 course selection process and implementation planning will be shared as it becomes available from the Ministry of Education in the coming months.

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This evening staff will share the final draft of the content for the new Ignite Learning Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The proposed new multi-year strategic plan is a culmination of more than a year of work. Trustees charted a course for this work in partnership with staff and our community. The extensive consultation process engaged and collaborated with many individuals and groups connected to the DDSB and what we learned has informed this proposed path for the next 5 years.

Kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year officially begins tomorrow, January 9. Kindergarten at the DDSB is a child-centred, play-based educational program that provides children with a strong start in school and in life. Families can register their little ones online by visiting the DDSB website.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation, Charity of Choice

Trustee Donna Edwards introduced the item, noting that the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) is the only charitable organization whose sole purpose is to support DDSB students, and the intent of this proposal is not to limit individual schools or the school board from supporting other charities.

Trustee questions were answered.

2024:SC03

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE DDSB BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOGNIZE IGNITE DURHAM LEARNING FOUNDATION (IDLF) AS THE CHARITY OF CHOICE FOR DDSB. THE DDSB WILL PROMOTE THE IDLF AS THE CHARITY OF CHOICE TO STAFF, STUDENTS AND ITS COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

CARRIED

(b) Pickering Creekwood School

Trustee Emma Cunningham shared that some residents of Pickering have expressed concern about the recent DDSB decision to relocate the site of a future school at Tillings Rd to a nearby location in Ajax. Staff noted that as part of the next quarterly construction update report to the Board on January 22, 2024, information on the Creekwood project will be included.

Trustee questions were answered.

2024:SC04

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ASK STAFF TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC MEMO ABOUT THE CREEKWOOD SCHOOL RELOCATION TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- WHAT CONCERNS DID THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT RAISE ON THE MOST RECENT REPORT?
- WHY CAN'T WE WAIT FOR THE NEXT SET OF RESULTS BEFORE COMMITTING TO THE RELOCATION?
- HOW THIS WILL REDUCE CROWDING AT NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS?
- PROJECTED TIMELINES

CARRIED

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees provided the following update:

In December, the Senate tackled pivotal topics, including OSSLT timing, the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and access to high school opportunities. As secondary school students prepare for exams and wrap up semester one this month, we emphasize mental well-being and encourage students to reach out to school staff for support. We are enthusiastic about the opportunities 2024 holds.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Ignite Learning Multi-Year Strategic Plan (Final Draft)

Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor introduced Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec and external consultants Josh and Katie who have helped to guide trustees and staff over the past year on the path to development of the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan that included an extensive consultation process with all members of the DDSB community. Together they provided a presentation sharing information on the process through which the DDSB's new MYSP has been developed, culminating in the final draft report being presented. The final MYSP will be presented to the Board of Trustees on January 22, 2024 for approval with design, branding, communication and implementation to follow.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Student Census 2023

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced Sean McCormack, Anti-Oppression System Lead and Chris Conley, Manager of Research and Strategic Analytics, who provided a presentation summarizing the administration of the 2023 Student Census, including the purpose of conducting the census, survey questions, response rates, areas of success and opportunities for future improvements, response data and ways the data will be used.

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Trustee questions were answered.

(d) School Year Calendar Planning 2024-2025

Associate Director Jim Markovski shared information with trustees on the planning and consultation process underway towards development of the 2024-2025 school year calendars, including an expanded community consultation process and development of. Consultation process results along with draft calendars for consideration will be presented to the Board of Trustees on February 20, 2024.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) OPSBA Report

On behalf of Trustee Donna Edwards, Vice Chair Deb Oldfield shared that there is no update at this time and reminded trustees that the OPSBA Public Education Symposium is taking place later this month.

9. Adjournment

2024:SC05

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.



Chair



Secretary