

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
February 5, 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 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Deb Oldfield

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham (virtual), 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 Michael Bowman, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Stephen Nevills, Martine Robinson, 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:SC06

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO MOVE INFORMATION ITEM (e) VINCENT MASSEY PS, GORDON B. ATTERSLEY PS, PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUDEAU PS BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATION TO INFORMATION ITEM (a) AND THAT THE AMENDED AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

(a) Vincent Massey Public School Boundary Review

Chair Deb Oldfield welcomed the delegate and provided an overview of the community presentation process. Trustees heard from one delegate regarding the Vincent Massey Public School Boundary Review.

DDSB Presentations

(b) Implementation of the 2023-2024 DDSB Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid introduced System Lead Denise Nickerson, Facilitator Michele Liverpool, Glen Street PS Principal Melanie Ford, Glen Street Vice Principal Ashleigh Hamilton and Destreaming Coach Michael Hastie who shared a presentation outlining implementation of DDSB's 2023-2024 Math Achievement Action Plan, and progress that has taken place at Glen Street Public School.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

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

Earlier today at the Education Centre, the DDSB and the Durham Black Educators Network (DBEN) kicked off Black History Month with a ceremony that involved staff, community partners and most importantly our students. The arrangement and singing of the Black National Anthem, by students and sisters Brooklyn and Imani from J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate and the step performance from Rosemary Brown Public School students were incredible and moved the entire audience to standing ovations. As part of Black History Month celebrations, DBEN is hosting a family-focused event with student visual art, performances and entertainment, a silent auction, and a vendors' alley on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Ajax High School.

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On January 23, the Ministry of Education announced that changes will be coming to the Kindergarten curriculum, including new mandatory learning focused on literacy and math skills. The revised curriculum will be in place starting in September 2025 and is intended to ensure all students have foundational skills in literacy and math as they enter Grade 1. New learning expectations will also be introduced as part of the curriculum changes. More information to support students, families and staff in the understanding and implementation of the new curriculum will be shared as it becomes available.

Coming up on February 7 at 7 p.m., we continue our Parent Engagement Speaker Series with the 'Parenting in the Age of Social Media' presentation. The presentation addresses a variety of new considerations for parents and caregivers while offering suggestions for keeping kids safe, responsible and ethical as they navigate online spaces. Parents and caregivers interested in registering to attend can check with their local school Principal or SCC Chair to find out if the school is hosting an in-person watch event or if you can register to participate virtually from home.

7. Information Items

(a) Vincent Massey PS, Gordon B. Attersley PS, Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS – Boundary Recommendation

Associate Director David Wright and Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca provided trustees with an overview of the consultative process that took place recently leading to the recommendation to establish a revised enrolment boundary for Oshawa schools Vincent Massey PS, Gordon B. Attersley PS and Pierre Elliott Trudeau PS. It was noted that the recommendation being put forward through this report is responsive to feedback gathered through community consultation and is different than the original recommendation that was initially presented for feedback. The boundary recommendation will be presented for approval at the February 20, 2024 Board meeting.

Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca provided background information on the enrolment pressures and growth that have impacted the Vincent Massey Public School community, leading to the need for a boundary review process which has included examination of several possible scenarios.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Ben Cameron provided the following update:

This past month, Student Trustee Cameron attended OPSBA's Public Education Symposium, learning about education law, bargaining, emotional intelligence, and more. Later this month, Student Trustees Cameron and Hoare will be attending the OSTA conference in Ottawa.

The Municipal Student Trustee elections happened from January 15-19. 718 students voted from across Ajax, Whitby, and Oshawa to nominate Shiloh, Nitishan and Shampavi for the board-wide election which will be held this month from February 20-26. An overview of the summary of election results was provided.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Community Use of Schools Update

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an overview and update on the Community Use of Schools (CUS) program, a Ministry of Education initiative that supports access to school space, outside of school hours, for community members to come together, volunteer, build skills, access community programs, become physically active and build strong and healthy community schools. Updates to the CUS application and renewal processes have been made in an effort to increase equitable access to spaces in DDSB schools for community groups and individuals.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Redesignation of Growth Update

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an overview and update on redesignation of growth in DDSB communities through assignment of growth boundaries and partner schools, from future residential developments in north Pickering, north Ajax, west Whitby and north Oshawa to schools that have capacity to accommodate growth.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) Unnamed North Oshawa PS – Boundary Recommendation

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an overview of the consultative process that took place recently, leading to establishment of an enrolment boundary for the new Unnamed North Oshawa PS, scheduled to open in September 2024. The boundary recommendation will be presented for approval at the February 20, 2024 Board meeting.

Trustee questions were answered.

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(f) OPSBA Report

Trustee Kelly Miller shared that last week OPSBA hosted the Public Education Symposium, which provided an engaging opportunity for over 250 public school board trustees and leadership staff as well as an overview of upcoming OPSBA events and information around the launch of OPSBA's refreshed brand, which will include a new website coming this spring.

8. Memos

The following memos were shared with trustees for information:

(a) 2324:16, DDSB Human Rights Advisory Committee and Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

(b) 2324:17, DDSB@Home Transitional Pilot

Trustee questions were answered.


9. Correspondence

The following memos were shared with trustees for information:

(a) Letter from Ajax Ward 2 Councillor, Education Needs in Northeast Ajax

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 p.m.

  
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Chair

  
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Secretary