

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

### The Special Meeting of the Board

Monday, March 4, 2024

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 Christine Thatcher

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo (virtual, left at 8:42 p.m.), Linda Stone (left at 9:08 p.m.), Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Neha Kasoju

Regrets: Trustees Stephen Linton, Jill Thompson, Student Trustee Kayla Hoare

Officials Present: Associate Director David Wright, Associate Director Jim Markovski, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Christine Thatcher 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

2024:SB05

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Recommended Action

(a) Consideration of Integrity Commissioner Reports

Chair Christine Thatcher shared that five reports were received from the Integrity Commissioner. The reports set out findings that some trustees have breached the Board's Code of Conduct in several separate instances. Having received these reports from the Integrity Commissioner, the Board of Trustees must make its own assessment of whether a breach or breaches of the Code of Conduct have occurred, and if so, determine the appropriate sanction or sanctions.

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

Each report was dealt with separately.

**Report 1 - dated January 26, 2024 concerning conduct of Trustee Oldfield**

Chair Thatcher provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that in reviewing the complaint and the alleged conduct of Trustee Oldfield, the Integrity Commissioner (IC) found that Trustee Oldfield breached the Code of Conduct in making certain social media posts referenced by the IC as posts 1, 2, 4 and 9 reviewed at pages 15-25 of the report.

2024:SB06

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE OLDFIELD HAS CONTRAVENED THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS LISTED AS 1, 2, 4 AND 9 IN THE REPORT.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron suggested that the above foregoing motion be amended to reference specific sections of the Code of Conduct that were breached.

2024:SB07

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

March 4, 2024

THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE SECTIONS 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.8, 6.11 AND 6.49.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ben Cameron suggested a further amendment to the original motion (2024:SB06) to remove reference to social media posts 1 and 4.

2024:SB08

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT 1 AND 4 BE STRUCK FROM THE MOTION.

DEFEATED

2024:SB09

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE OLDFIELD HAS CONTRAVENED THE CODE OF CONDUCT, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.8, 6.11, 6.49 IN MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS LISTED AS 1, 2, 4 AND 9 IN THE REPORT.

CARRIED

2024:SB10

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE OLDFIELD.

CARRIED

**Report 2 - dated January 1, 2024, concerning conduct of Trustee Cunningham**

Chair Thatcher provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that in reviewing the complaint and the alleged conduct of Trustee Cunningham, the IC found that Trustee Cunningham breached the Code of Conduct in making certain social media posts referenced by the IC as posts 1 and 3 (also referenced as the May 17 and June 9 posts) which are reviewed at pages 14-16 and 17-19 of the report.

2024:SB11

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE CUNNINGHAM HAS CONTRAVENED THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AS OUTLINED IN THE IC REPORT.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron suggested that the above foregoing motion (2024:SB11) be amended to reference specific sections of the Code of Conduct that were breached as well as to include reference specifically to social media posts numbered 1 and 3 in the IC report.

The Chair called a recess at 8:42 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:58 p.m. The Chair called the meeting to order.

2024:SB12

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE CUNNINGHAM HAS CONTRAVENED THE CODE OF CONDUCT, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.8, AND 6.49 IN MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AS OUTLINED IN THE REPORT.

CARRIED

A discussion took place with trustees regarding the amended original motion.

2024:SB13

MOVED by Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE CUNNINGHAM HAS CONTRAVENED THE CODE OF CONDUCT, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.8, AND 6.49 IN MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AS OUTLINED IN THE IC REPORT.

CARRIED

2024:SB14

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE BOARD IMPOSE A SANCTION OF CENSURE ON TRUSTEE CUNNINGHAM.

CARRIED

### **Report 3 - dated January 19, 2024, concerning conduct of Trustee Stone**

Chair Thatcher provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that in reviewing the complaint and the alleged conduct of Trustee Stone, the IC found that Trustee Stone breached the Code of Conduct in making certain social media posts referenced by the IC as posts 3, 4 and 5 which are reviewed at pages 6-8 of the report.

2024:SB15

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE STONE VIOLATED SECTIONS 6.3 AND 6.8 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron suggested an amendment to the above foregoing motion (2024SB:15) to include reference to the specific posts as outlined in the IC report.

2024:SB16

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE POSTS 3, 4 AND 5.

CARRIED

2024:SB17

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE STONE VIOLATED SECTIONS 6.3 AND 6.8 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY MAKING SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS 3, 4 AND 5.

CARRIED

2024:SB18

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS ON TRUSTEE STONE:

1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE; AND,
2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2024.

CARRIED

#### **Report 4 - dated January 31, 2024, concerning conduct of Trustee Stone**

Chair Thatcher provided trustees with an overview of the report, noting that reviewing the complaint and the alleged conduct of Trustee Stone, the IC found that Trustee Stone breached the Code of Conduct in making certain social media posts referenced by the IC on pages 2 and 3 of the report and further breached the Code of Conduct by publicizing the complaint against her.

The Chair called a recess at 9:21 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m. The Chair called the meeting to order.

2024:SB19

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT TRUSTEE STONE HAS CONTRAVENED SECTIONS 6.49 AND 6.52 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY MAKING THE SOCIAL MEDIA POST SET OUT IN THE IC REPORT AND ALSO BY PUBLICIZING THE COMPLAINT AGAINST HER ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 27, 2023.

CARRIED

2024:SB20

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS ON TRUSTEE STONE:

1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE; AND,
2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2024.

Student Trustee Cameron suggested that the above foregoing motion (2024:SB20) be amended to also include that the Board of Trustees bar Trustee Stone from sitting on all Committees of the Board for the period of January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025.

2024:SB21

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS.

CARRIED

2024:SB22

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS ON TRUSTEE STONE:

1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE;
2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2024; AND,
3. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE MONTHS.

CARRIED

### **Report 5 - dated February 2, 2024, concerning conduct of Trustee Stone**

In reviewing the complaint and the alleged conduct of Trustee Stone, the IC found that Trustee Stone breached the Code of Conduct in making a social media post referenced by the IC as Figure 1 on page 2 of the report.

2024:SB23

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT TRUSTEE STONE HAS BREACHED SECTIONS 6.49 AND 6.51 OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY FAILING TO MEET THE STANDARD OF RESPECTFULNESS AND IN BREACHING THE TERMS OF THE DDSB'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Ben Cameron proposed the following motion:

THAT THE BOARD IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS ON TRUSTEE STONE:

1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE;
2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF MAY 21, 2024;
3. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

2024:SB24

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD IMPOSE THE FOLLOWING SANCTIONS ON TRUSTEE STONE:

1. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES CENSURE TRUSTEE STONE;
2. THAT TRUSTEE STONE BE BARRED FROM ALL OF THE BOARD MEETING OF MAY 21, 2024;
3. THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BAR TRUSTEE STONE FROM SITTING ON ALL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD, FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

CARRIED

6. Adjournment

2024:SB25

MOVED by Chair Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary