

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board

Monday, March 18, 2024

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

1. Call to Order:

Chair Christine Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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 (virtual)

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 and David Wright, Superintendents Michael Bowman, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson, 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 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

Trustees Kelly Miller and Donna Edwards introduced and thanked students from the Westney Heights Public School choir and concert band, conducted by Melissa Sawyer and accompanied by Samantha Smith and Michael Houston. Recorded performances of O Canada and "This is Me" from the Greatest Showman were played.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2024:RB33

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2024:RB34

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

- (a) THE REVISED REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024

AND THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

- (b) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024
- (c) THE JOINT SPECIAL BOARD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES POLICY REVIEW MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024
- (d) THE JOINT SPECIAL BOARD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES SUCCESSOR BYLAW MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024
- (e) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2024

CARRIED

7. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

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

On May 30, the DDSB will hold its third annual Student Art Gallery - a district-wide art collection housed in the Education Centre, displaying artworks created and curated by students with staff support. From now until April 26, students in Grades 7 to 12 are encouraged to submit their artwork focused on the theme: My Journey, My Joy, My Genius. This theme invites students to delve into the rich tapestry of their experiences, exploring the diverse facets that have shaped them into the individuals they are today. The Ministry of Education recently launched a new parent guide to Ontario's school system. This online resource will help parents, guardians, and caregivers find information to support their child's success and make informed decisions about their education. Topics include public education, specialized resources, and how to get involved.

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More information about this guide can be found on DDSB social media posts or on the [Ministry website](#).

Coming up this April, our Early Years team will launch the Great Beginnings Webinar Series for families with young children and those starting out in Kindergarten. This five-part series will cover a range of topics including what a typical day in Kindergarten looks like, learning through play, child well-being, and self-regulation. DDSB Facilitators, community partners, and experts will share their knowledge and welcome questions.

8. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding DDSB's response to heat warnings. Staff responded to the question.

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec read a question from Teagan Ostrow into the record about the evolution of public education. Staff responded to the question.

9. Report from the Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Deb Oldfield reported that the Committee of the Whole met in closed session on March 18, 2024, and discussed matters involving;

Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board, litigation affecting the board, and administrative transfers and placements.

2024:RB35

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACTIONS AND ADOPT ANY RESOLUTIONS OF THE MARCH 18, 2024, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION MEETING.

CARRIED

10. Good News from the System

Elyssa from Eagle Ridge Public School and Milana from Highbush Public School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

11. Recommended Actions

(a) Report and Adoption of Any Resolutions: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2024

Trustee Deb Oldfield brought forward two motions.

2024:RB36

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

March 18, 2024

I MOVE THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE MARCH 4, 2024 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CLOSED SESSION MEETING.

CARRIED

Trustee Deb Oldfield shared with trustees the minutes of the March 4, 2024 Standing Committee meeting and that the following motions were carried and resolutions adopted at the Standing Committee meeting on March 4, 2024;

THAT STAFF PREPARE AN INFORMATION REPORT ON MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR TRUSTEE CONSIDERATION AT A STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING.

And,

THAT THE CHAIR WRITE AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION SEEKING A CHANGE TO THE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGE CAP WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2019, EMPHASIZING THE GROWTH IN DURHAM AND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE CAP ON OUR FINANCIAL POSITION.

2024:RB37

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

I MOVE THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2024 AND ADOPT THE RESOLUTIONS ABOVE.

CARRIED

(b) Motion: OPSBA Policy Resolution

Trustee Donna Edwards shared with trustees that this item was discussed as a Notice of Motion at the March 4, 2024 Standing Committee meeting in response for OPSBA's annual call from school boards for proposed resolutions or constitutional changes.

2024:RB38

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE DDSB PUT FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION AT OPSBA:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSBA TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADDRESSING ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY:

- ENDORSING IN PRINCIPLE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 4TH LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF THE AODA.
- REVIEWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 4TH LEGISLATIVE REVIEW TO IDENTIFY HOW OPSBA CAN BECOME A LEADER AND ROLE MODEL IN ADDRESSING THE ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.
- BEING ACCOUNTABLE AND ENSURING THAT, WHERE APPLICABLE AND POSSIBLE OPSBA ADDRESSES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION WHEN IT RESPONDS TO

THE GOVERNMENT OR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DURING PUBLIC
CONSULTATION.

Trustee Shailene Panylo proposed an amendment to the above foregoing motion (2024:RB38) to add an additional sentence as the 4th point of the motion.

2024:RB39

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

- BY DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH OPSBA WILL OR CAN HOLD THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT TO ACCOUNT.

DEFEATED

2024:RB38

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE DDSB PUT FORWARD THE FOLLOWING MOTION AT OPSBA:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT OPSBA TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADDRESSING ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY:

- ENDORSING IN PRINCIPLE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 4TH LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF THE AODA.
- REVIEWING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 4TH LEGISLATIVE REVIEW TO IDENTIFY HOW OPSBA CAN BECOME A LEADER AND ROLE MODEL IN ADDRESSING THE ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS AND MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.
- BEING ACCOUNTABLE AND ENSURING THAT, WHERE APPLICABLE AND POSSIBLE OPSBA ADDRESSES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION WHEN IT RESPONDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DURING PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) Update: Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided trustees with an update on the implementation of the 2023-2024 DDSB Math Action Achievement Plan.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress 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 February 29, 2024. Updates to this report are 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.

(c) SEAC Report, January 18, 2024

Trustee Donna Edwards shared with trustees an overview and highlights of the January 18, 2024 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards shared that there was no update at this time.

Trustee questions were answered.

14. Days of Significance

The dates of significance for March and April 2024 were shared with trustees for information.

15. Adjournment

2024:RB39

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12 p.m.



Chair



Secretary