

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
April 2, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order:

The Chair of Standing Committee, Deb Oldfield called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Deb Oldfield

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

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Michael Bowman, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, 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:SC11

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

(a) We Grow Food Edible Garden Project

Carol Vandersanden and Michelle Perry from We Grow Food provided a presentation and overview of the Edible Garden Project program. Glen Street Public School Vice Principal Ashleigh Hamilton and teacher Richard Reid shared information on the positive impact of the Edible Garden Project program in their school community.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

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

With the arrival of spring, DDSB staff have been busy planning for summer learning and I am pleased to share that 2024 summer school course information is now available at DCE.ca. Durham Continuing Education offers a variety of credit and non-credit programs for students in Grades 6 to 12 both in person and online.

Last Thursday at the Education Centre, we recognized International Transgender Day of Visibility with a flag raising event. The flag raising is one small part of the important work we must continue to do, to dismantle all forms of oppression. It served as a reminder to the DDSB community to show support and stand in solidarity with Two Spirit and transgender (including gender non-binary, gender non-confirming and gender diverse) people. It was also an important opportunity to reflect on visibility, rights and allyship as it relates to transgender communities.

Later this week on April 4, 147 teams of DDSB students will compete at the Regional Skills Ontario competition taking place at Oshawa's Tribute Centre. Teams will be showcasing their critical and creative thinking, collaboration, technology and digital literacy and problem solving skills in 13 categories. This includes construction, green energy, tech design, animation and robotics. We wish all students participating the very best of luck as they compete to represent the DDSB at the Provincial Skills Ontario event taking place next month.

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

## Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024

Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Hayla Hoare and Neha Kasoju shared that they met with the Director, to discuss a new draft Student Trustee policy, connections with OSTA-AECO, and the initiatives that they are working on, which include the creation of a database for student opportunities, and a guide to high school.

This past month they met with the incoming 2024-2025 DDSB Student Trustees and acquainted them to their new role and provided insight into what being a Student Trustee means and to prepare them in new positions starting in September.

Since the last Standing Committee meeting, Student Trustees Cameron and Hoare had the opportunity to visit three more DDSB high schools. They started the month off doing a tour of Uxbridge SS and Brock HS. They also got to see the ongoing construction at the Beaver River PS site. Student Trustee Cameron also toured Pine Ridge with help from members of the Student Council.

In the next few months, they will be wrapping up the rest of their school visits.

### (b) DDSB Student Achievement Plan

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst provided trustees with an overview of the 2023-2024 DDSB Student Achievement Plan, developed in response and as a requirement to the 2023 Better Schools and Student Outcomes legislation, which defined new provincial priorities for student achievement and DDSB's qualitative and quantitative reporting requirements as part of the Ministry of Education's Student Achievement Plan framework.

Trustee questions were answered.

### (c) 2023-2024 Interim Financial Report – Operating Expenditures

Associate Director David Wright introduced Senior Manager of Finance Jennifer Machin who provided trustees with an update of DDSB's operating expenditures for the period ending February 29, 2024.

Trustee questions were answered.

### (d) Audit Committee Meeting Summary

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with a summary of the March 20, 2024 Audit Committee meeting.

## 9. Memos

### (a) 2324:22, Overview of Education Perfect for Trustee Information

The memo was shared with trustees for information.

## 10. Correspondence

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2024

The following was shared with trustees for information:

- (a) DDSB Letter Regarding Education Development Charges Cap

11. Adjournment

2024:SC12

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:34 p.m.



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Chair



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Secretary