

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

### The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, June 17, 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 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Regrets: Trustees Stephen Linton, Deb Oldfield, Jill Thompson

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, Stephen Nevills, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

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 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. O Canada

Trustees Donna Edwards and Kelly Miller welcomed and introduced the Cadarackue Public School's Junior Choir. Members of this choir range from Grades 4 to 6 and are led by Alicia Gauvreau and Christos Kaldis. In addition to O Canada, the Choir sang "Lift Me Up" from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

Chair Christine Thatcher welcomed the newly elected and re-elected Student Trustees for the 2024-2025 term.

- Pickering/Ajax, Shampavi Vijayakumar
- Oshawa/Whitby, Nitishan Poopalasundaram
- Brock/Uxbridge/Scugog, Kayla Hoare

4. Swearing in of the Newly Appointed Trustee

Under the guidance of Presiding Officer Camille Williams-Taylor, Mark Jacula made his declaration, both orally and in writing, to fulfill the swearing in process for the Board.

At the conclusion of this process, Director Camille Williams-Taylor welcomed Mark Jacula as a member of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2023:RB50

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Consent Items

As there were no objections, the following proposed consent items were approved and adopted:

(a) Approved meeting minutes:

- i. DRAFT Minutes of the May 21, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- ii. DRAFT Minutes of the May 28, 2024 Special Board Meeting

(b) Adopted Resolutions from the Governance and Policy Committee Meeting of May 29, 2024, which the Committee Recommended to the Board:

- i. Rescission of Facilities Services Policies and Regulations
- ii. Rescission of Equity and Inclusive Education Policy and Regulation
- iii. Revised Criminal Background Checks Policy
- iv. Draft Supervisory Officer Recruitment Policy and Rescission of Hiring of Superintendents Policy and Regulation

- v. Draft Student Trustee Policy and Revised Consolidated Bylaws
- (c) Adopted Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Meeting, June 17, 2024.
- (d) Adopted Resolutions from the Standing Committee Meeting, June 3, 2024.

8. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

Director Camille Williams-Taylor provided trustees with the final update for the 2023-2024 school year alongside Chair Thatcher in recognition of the collaborative work and efforts of staff, the Board of Trustees and Student Trustees:

Director Williams-Taylor shared that as we approach the end of June, a flurry of year-end activity is underway in schools and offices, including completion events for students in Senior Kindergarten, Grades 8 and 12, exams and culminating projects.

On behalf of the senior team, I want to recognize and thank all DDSB staff and students for their hard work through the entire school year; your achievements are a testament to your dedication, creativity and ability to navigate challenges and come together in support of the betterment of our community. We are all sending best wishes to our high school students who are jumping into final exams this week. Pace yourselves, get some sleep and stay hydrated!

This year, in addition to guiding students toward their academic goals and providing multiple pathways and opportunities for them to achieve, we continued to prioritize the well-being of students and staff and remain focused on advancing the essential work of removing barriers to success and upholding our commitments to Indigenous and human rights for those in our community.

In January, Trustees passed the 2024-2028 Multi-Year Strategic Plan, charting a forward course based on community and staff input. This coming fall, implementation of the 2024-2025 Operational Plan, recently presented to the Board and made public, will begin and will guide our actions toward achieving the goals set out in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan of Meaningful Learning, Connected Communities, and Well-Being. The Operational Plan sets a clear path forward for the entire District and includes measures and monitoring strategies so we can be sure we are meeting our goals while making adjustments as needed to improve along the way.

Over the summer I hope everyone finds time to reflect, celebrate achievements, recharge, and look ahead in anticipation of what next year will bring – which for some includes a return to our schools and workplaces, the start of retirement for others, or transition to the workplace, apprenticeship, college or university to continue learning journeys.

Chair Christine Thatcher welcomed the community to the final Board meeting and shared that on behalf of the Board of Trustees, they are appreciative of the strength of the partnership with staff in support of students and families.

The Chair provided the following update:

A number of significant initiatives and events have taken place this year where trustees worked closely with staff in support of our shared commitments to Board policies, meaningful learning, connected communities, well-being and practice in schools and workplaces. This includes recognizing, celebrating, and applauding the work, achievements and unique strengths and needs of students and staff at Student Recognition Night, the Durham Black Education Network (DBEN) Student Success Awards, being part of the Student Art Gallery Selection Committee, being present to affirm the importance of opportunities. To name a few of these opportunities, Cypher Black Male Empowerment, Empower Her, and Student Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Conferences and celebrating the start of new chapters for staff and students at the Retirement Reception and graduations.

Trustees have engaged alongside staff and the community, helping to advance priorities by participating in important discussions as members on DDSB's advisory and statutory committees and being prepared at the Board table to confidently make decisions, including participating in the work of consultation, development and adoption of the 2024-2028 Multi-Year Strategic Plan and supporting staff in the development of a balanced budget.

The DDSB is a learning organization, and like students and staff, trustees have also committed to professional development as we continue to grow in our ability to champion good governance, decision making and human and Indigenous rights.

Together, staff and Board members have jointly continued advocating to the Ministry of Education for new schools across the District to support increasing enrollment and meet the needs of our growing community and we are thrilled with the progress of the year with multiple capital projects underway in varying stages of approval and construction.

I'd also like to specifically mention the recent Take Your MPP to School initiative and to recognize the valuable partnerships between trustees and staff as we engaged local politicians in seeing first-hand the impactful work that is happening in our schools. These events shine a light on our vibrant schools and workplaces and are a welcome opportunity to show to those outside the DDSB the dedication of staff and students within our walls.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, congratulations to all this year's graduates and retirees and best wishes for a positive close to the school year to the entire DDSB community.

9. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding PPM 128. Staff responded to the question.

Trustee Carolyn Morton congratulated Dylan on receiving his Certificate of Achievement and thanked him for his engagement at the Board meetings.

10. Good News from the System

Cameron and Melissa from Sinclair Secondary School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

11. DDSB Presentations

(a) Student Trustee Recognition

Chair Christine Thatcher on behalf of trustees, thanked outgoing Student Trustees, Ben Cameron, Neha Kasoju and re-elected Student Trustee Kayla Hoare for the work they have done this school year advocating for their peers, making a difference and developing leadership skills.

Director Camille Williams-Taylor representing the Senior Team, acknowledged the work of the Student Trustees who have served the students of the Durham District School Board.

(b) Chairperson's Scholarship Award-2024

Chair Christine Thatcher shared that every year since 2003, the Board has recognized a graduating student who exemplifies excellent leadership and citizenship and who has well represented student issues to others by awarding them with the Chairperson's Scholarship. A committee consisting of the Chairperson of the Board, Christine Thatcher, Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Stephen Linton and Carolyn Morton who reviewed the nominations. The Committee decided to award the Chairperson's Scholarship for 2024 to Kayla Escoffery, a student at Pickering H.S.

(c) Abilities Scholarship Award

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Trustees Donna Edwards and Kelly Miller and Rowin Jarvis from the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region who presented the 2024 Abilities Scholarship Award to Kylie McKirdy of Ajax H.S.

(d) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Annual Report

Trustee Michelle Arseneault introduced the PIC Co-Chair Peter Ackie who provided trustees with an overview of the PIC Annual Report on behalf of the Committee.

Trustee questions were answered.

12. Recommended Actions

(a) Consideration of the 2024-2025 Draft Budget

Associate Director David Wright introduced Senior Managers of Finance Melissa Durward and Jennifer Machin who provided the Trustees with an overview of the 2024-2025 draft budget.

Trustee questions were answered.

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2023:RB51

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPT THE RESOLUTION OF EDUCATION FINANCE COMMITTEE OF JUNE 5, 2024, APPROVING THE DRAFT BUDGET SUCH THAT THE 2024-2025 BUDGET AT APPENDIX A, CONTAINING TOTAL REVENUES OF \$1,220,903,513 AND TOTAL EXPENSES OF \$1,220,903,513 IS APPROVED.

Chair Christine Thatcher called for a recorded vote.

The following motion was carried on a recorded vote.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Michelle Arseneault		Stephen Linton	
Tracy Brown		Jill Thompson	
Emma Cunningham		Deb Oldfield	
Donna Edwards			
Mark Jacula			
Kelly Miller			
Carolyn Morton			
Shailene Panylo			
Christine Thatcher			

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
	Ben Cameron		
	Kayla Hoare		
	Neha Kasoju		

(b) Election of Two Trustee Members for the Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations and/or volunteers for the two Trustee Members for the Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee.

2024:RB52

TRUSTEE TRACY BROWN SELF NOMINATED FOR THE ANTI-BLACK RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBER.

2024:RB53

TRUSTEE TRACY BROWN NOMINATED TRUSTEE SHAILENE PANYLO FOR THE ANTI-BLACK RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE SHAILENE PANYLO DECLINED THE NOMINATION.

2024:RB54

TRUSTEE SHAILENE PANYLO NOMINATED TRUSTEE STEPHEN LINTON FOR THE ANTI-BLACK RACISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE. TRUSTEE LINTON WAS NOT IN

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ATTENDANCE AT THE BOARD MEETING, BUT ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION BY PHONE.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee Trustee Member were closed.

Trustee Tracy Brown and Trustee Stephen Linton were acclaimed as the Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee Trustee Members.

(c) Election of Two Trustee Members for the Human Rights Advisory Committee

Chair Christine Thatcher called for nominations and/or volunteers for the two Trustee Members for the Human Rights Advisory Committee.

2024:RB55

TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER NOMINATED TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

2024:RB56

TRUSTEE SHAILENE PANYLO SELF NOMINATED FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBER.

2024:RB57

TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM NOMINATED TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TRUSTEE MEMBER. TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.

Subsequent to three calls for additional nominations by Chair Christine Thatcher, and there being none, nominations for the position of Human Rights Advisory Committee Trustee Member were closed.

Confidential polling took place and Trustee Kelly Miller and Trustee Shailene Panylo were elected as the Human Rights Advisory Committee Trustee Members.

(a) 2024-2025 Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan

Superintendent Andrea McAuley shared with trustees the Inclusive Student Services Special Education Plan and programs for the 2024-2025 school year. The Plan was initially presented to Trustees on June 3, 2024, for information and feedback.

Trustee questions were answered.

2024:RB58

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards  
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE INCLUSIVE STUDENT SERVICES SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) 2024 Official Enrolment Projections

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided information to the Board of Trustees on the October 2024 Official Enrolment Projections, noting that an overall enrolment increase of 4,299 is projected for the coming school year.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Approved Governance and Policy Committee Report, April 24, 2024

Trustee Emma Cunningham shared the minutes of the April 24, 2024, Governance and Policy Committee Meeting.

(c) Approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Minutes, April 18, 2024

Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Donna Edwards and Kelly Miller presented the SEAC meeting minutes to trustees for information.

14. Days of Significance

The dates of significance were shared with trustees for information.

15. Memos

(a) 2324:42, 2024 DDSB Summer Learning Opportunities

(b) 2324:44, PPM 128 – DDSB Current Practices and Next Steps

The memos were shared with trustees for their information.

16. Adjournment

2023:RB59

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:57 p.m.



Regular Meeting of the Board Minutes  
June 17, 2024

  
Chair

  
Secretary