

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, September 16, 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, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets:

Officials Present: Director of Education 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, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly

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 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

Trustee Donna Edwards thanked Cadarackque Public School's Junior Choir and staff leads for their recorded performance of O Canada.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2024:RB60

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Consent Items

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

(a) Approval of meeting minutes:

- i. DRAFT Minutes of the June 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- ii. DRAFT Minutes of the June 24, 2024 Special Board Meeting
- iii. DRAFT Minutes of the September 3, 2024 Special Board Meeting

(b) Adoption of Any Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 16, 2024.

7. Public Question Period

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

Staff read and responded to a question submitted by Noah Edwards regarding safety in school washrooms.

8. Ministry Memorandums/Information Update

Director Camille Williams-Taylor shared the following update:

We have been off to a successful start so far, and as students enter their third week of classes, we are grateful for the efforts of school-based, centrally assigned, clerical and custodial/maintenance staff who have worked hard over the summer months to ensure our schools are open and ready each day. I'd also like to recognize the August return for students and staff in modified calendar schools, who have been settled into the rhythm of the new year since last month.

DDSB is pleased to have opened the doors to two new schools this September, Beaver River Public School in Beaverton and Maamawi iyaawag Public School in Oshawa. Both schools include onsite childcare centres. A significant renovation at Mary Street Public School in Oshawa has also been completed. More information about how DDSB is planning for continued enrolment growth and future school needs is included in the agenda this evening in the Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Update and the annual Pupil Accommodation Plan reports.

With students back in classrooms, schools are planning a number of ways to engage families this fall and throughout the entire year. Information about Curriculum Nights, Meet the Educator and Family events, and School Community Council meetings will be shared locally through school websites, newsletters and emails in the coming weeks and months. At a system level, the Parent Involvement Committee is seeking volunteers to represent the interests of students and families across DDSB. Please visit the DDSB website and social media to find out more about how to become involved and stay informed this year.

We are grateful for Trustee Michelle Arseneault's recent coordination of personal care item donations for students at Durham Alternative Secondary School through IDLF. We saw in pictures and words how grateful students were to be invited to choose items that were most useful for them, including an expression of one student saying they "feel seen." Thank you, Trustee Arseneault.

9. Good News from the System

Kiyra and Cory from GL Roberts CVI shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Short-Term Borrowing Resolution

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the report which outlines the requirement for DDSB to have the ability to borrow funds to cover potential timing differences (cash flow) between grant payments or revenue collection and necessary expenditures related to operating or capital.

Trustee questions were answered.

2024:RB61

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE BORROWING RESOLUTION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR, AS NOTED IN APPENDIX A.

CARRIED

2024:RB62

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, WRITE TO AND CONNECT WITH MPPs ACROSS THE REGION OF DURHAM OVER THE COMING TWO MONTHS TO DISCUSS THE PRESSURES, CHALLENGES, LIMITATIONS AND IMPACTS THE DDSB AND ALL THE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WITHIN IT WILL AND ARE FACING BECAUSE OF THE ARBITRARY MONETARY CAP THAT THE PROVINCE HAS PLACED ON EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (EDCs) SINCE 2019.

CARRIED

- (b) Items removed from the list of consent items

11. Information Items

- (a) Quarterly Construction Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who shared a presentation and provided an overview of current information on capital and major projects being undertaken by staff, including progress on anticipated opening of new schools and additions and how Ministry of Education funding for school repairs and renovations is being used.

Trustee questions were answered.

- (b) Accommodation Plan: Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities 2024-2028

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided an overview of the 2024-2028 Pupil Accommodation Plan: Trends, Issues and Future Opportunities, which provides information on current and emerging enrolment needs, work to be undertaken and anticipated plans for the next five years District-wide and by municipality.

Trustee questions were answered.

- (c) Report: Approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Minutes, May 23 and June 20, 2024

Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Donna Edwards and Kelly Miller provided an overview of discussion that took place at the May 23 and June 20, 2024 SEAC meetings.

12. Days of Significance

The dates of significance were shared for information.

13. Adjournment

2024:RB63

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham


THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:23 p.m.

Regular Meeting of the Board Minutes
September 16, 2024


Chair


Secretary