

APPROVED Minutes – Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 25, 2024 6:00 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

Trustee Emma Cunningham, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton (virtual, arrived 6:20 p.m.), Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo (virtual), Student Trustee Nitishan Poopalasundaram (virtual)

Regrets: Trustee Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Staff Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Trustee Emma Cunningham gave the Land Acknowledgement: 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. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula
SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Minutes

(a) Draft minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee meeting of May 29, 2024

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards
SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MAY 29, 2024 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

There were no information items discussed.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Bylaws – Public Question Period

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided an overview of the report, which follows up on the Governance and Policy Committee meeting of April 24, 2024, where a motion to eliminate public question period was deferred. A summary of the ways in which members of the community can engage with the DDSB was provided.

There were no trustee questions.

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT SECTIONS 5.12.13 THROUGH TO 5.12.16 OF THE DDSB BYLAWS BE DELETED IN ORDER TO REMOVE PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE BOARD AGENDA AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

CARRIED

(b) Bylaws – Filling Trustee Vacancies

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided an overview of the report, summarizing the proposed amendments to the sections of the bylaws applicable to filling trustee vacancies, which are intended to streamline the process in future should the need for a vacancy process arise.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT SECTION 6.2 OF THE BYLAWS BE AMENDED AS NOTED IN APPENDIX A OF THIS REPORT AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Further discussion took place and the following motion was moved, which took precedence:

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS – FILLING TRUSTEE VACANCIES BE DEFERRED TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE SO THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN ADDRESS CONCERNS BROUGHT FORWARD AROUND THE VETTING, CANDIDATE POOL AND SELECTION PROCESS.

CARRIED

(c) Electing Members to OPSBA

Trustee Donna Edwards provided an overview of the matter, intended to clarify expectations around the annual election and term of office of DDSB trustees elected to the Ontario Public School Board Association as the term of office is June to June while the typical cycle of elections takes place each year in November.

Trustee questions were answered. Discussion took place and it was confirmed that the OPSBA voting member and alternate voting member will be elected at the annual Organizational Meeting, with a note to indicate the term of office of those who are elected will not begin until elections take place at the next OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

8. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.