

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, October 21, 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, Deb Oldfield, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustees Stephen Linton, Shailene Panylo

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 (virtual), General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly, Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca

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

Trustees Deb Oldfield and Mark Jacula welcomed and thanked Waverly Public School's Junior Choir and staff lead 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:RB64

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

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 September 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

(b) Adoption of Any Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 21, 2024.

7. Public Question Period

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

Staff read and responded to a question submitted by Ken Sandiford regarding DDSB's 911 Emergency Resource.

Staff read and responded to a question submitted by Linda Stone regarding reading support resources.

8. Ministry Memorandums/Information Update

Director Camille Williams-Taylor shared the following Multi-Year Strategic Plan progress update:

On June 3rd, we shared the 2024 – 2025 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Operational Plan. This outlined our guiding principles and is the foundation of our work: upholding Indigenous rights, affirming and upholding human rights and caring about and striving to know each other. We agreed that to support our 3 priorities of meaningful learning, connected community and well-being, we need to assess our impact continuously. This update will focus on Meaningful Learning.

Acadience reading K-6 is an evidence-based early reading screening tool that identifies students who may have future difficulties in reading. The assessments include letter naming fluency, word fluency, oral reading fluency. Training began last year and

continues into the fall. As of September 2024, 1,071 of our K-2 educators have completed the training and have been using the strategies to understand the needs of our youngest learners.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an approach that recognizes that all learners are unique. In our commitment to building on the potential of each student, we are learning to develop environments that engage each student in a meaningful way. That is UDL. All staff engaged in a kick-off to the school year with learning about Universal Design for Learning hosted virtually by Mirko Chardin of Novak education. This week, key educational leaders from each school will re-engage in-person with Mirko to better understand how to support the practice of UDL in schools. Further learning for all educators has been taking place at staff meetings each month focused on the core principles of UDL and staff are being encouraged to continue their professional learning through a monthly UDL newsletter.

Speaking of individualization, we are committed to improving the experience of our students who have individual education plans (IEPs). Schools have engaged in the process of collaborating on over 12,400 Individual Education Plans supporting student learning for 2024-2025. To support schools in the process, reflective questions for meaningful, responsive and individualized IEP development have been shared with SERTs and with school administrators. Coaching around the importance of recency and relevancy of assessments driving programming decisions. Resources have also been shared such as the revised and updated Parent/Guardian Guide, amplifying the importance of family input into planning for student learning.

One of our key MYSP principles is upholding Indigenous Rights. On October 7, 2024, the DDSB hosted the first session in a series of speaker workshops organized by the Indigenous Education Department. The inaugural speaker was Chief Kelly LaRocca of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation (MSIFN), who is highly respected in her community. Chief LaRocca's discussion highlighted the importance of Land-Based Learning, emphasizing the profound connection between Indigenous culture and the land, which is seen not just as a physical space but as a living entity with cultural, spiritual, and educational significance. Chief LaRocca explained how Land-Based Learning helps deepen understanding of Indigenous history and perspectives, while also promoting environmental stewardship and reconciliation. This approach weaves traditional Indigenous knowledge and teachings into educational practices, encouraging students and educators to develop a respectful, reciprocal relationship with the land. It was a well-attended and very engaging learning opportunity. The second session in the speaker series will take place on November 18. Dr. Chad Cowie, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto, will lead a discussion focused on the history and governance of the Michi Saagig people.

Additionally, as all our staff are Human Rights Duty Bearers, over the course of five Wednesdays this summer, Facilities Services partnered with People and Culture, Human Rights, and Indigenous Education staff teams to engage in custodial and maintenance team professional learning on anti-oppression and related policies. Each session hosted between 60-115 employees. This was the first time these teams have been brought together for this kind of professional learning. Leveraging a discussion-based session structure, our facilitation team benefitted from learning about the experiences and needs of this employee group. We will continue to build on this experience for future sessions.

These are a few examples of the work we are undertaking to deliver on the promise of meaningful learning for students and staff. In the months ahead, we will be collecting impact data in the form of stories, experiences and outcomes that we will include in these monthly updates.

9. Good News from the System

Danielle and Sebastian from Ajax High School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

10. DDSB Presentation

(a) OPSBA Achievement Award

Trustee Donna Edwards welcomed and congratulated Michele Gordon, Educational Assistant at Beaver River Public School, who is the recipient of the OPSBA Achievement Award. Each year, OPSBA's Achievement Awards are presented to members of school communities across the province for their outstanding, exemplary and unique contributions to the overall well-being of the school or community through in-school, board-wide, extra-curricular and/or volunteer activity.

Michele was nominated for this award by a former student, whose nomination summarized all the ways Michele has made a difference. Her words of advice or encouragement on a tough day, support given when approaching a challenging assignment, or sometimes just with a smile that could be exactly what was needed in that moment on that day. Her actions in the classroom and within the school community contribute to the well-being of all students.

(b) 2023-2024 Educational Services Staff Award

Chair Christine Thatcher and Director of Education Camille Williams Taylor welcomed and congratulated Robert Field, Lead Custodian and Southwood Park Public School, who is the recipient of the 2023-2024 Education Services Staff Award.

Since 2013 this annual award recognizes a staff member/team affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), consisting of office-clerical-technical staff, custodial and maintenance staff, and Educational Assistants. These staff support the safe operation of schools, keep schools clean and systems operating, and provide program support to teachers and students.

Robert was nominated by his colleagues at Southwood Park who describe Robert as diligent and professional in his work, quick to respond to any requests related to maintenance and an initiative taker who often completes tasks before a request is made. He is described by staff as having a pleasant and friendly demeanor, which is evident each day as students and staff are greeted with a cheerful and friendly smile and a willingness to chat.

11. Recommended Actions

(a) Items Removed from the List of Consent Items:

- i. Adoption of the following Resolution from the September 25, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee meeting, which the Committee Recommended to the Board: That the Board Adopt the Revised Bylaws – Public Question Period

Trustee Emma Cunningham introduced the recommendation of the Governance and Policy Committee coming forward from its September 25, 2024 meeting:

2024:RB65

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

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.

The motion was not seconded and did not proceed to a vote. Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

2024:RB66

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE MATTER BE REFERRED TO THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND THAT THE DIRECTOR DELIVER A REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF A DEFINED RIGHT TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

CARRIED

12. Information Items

(a) Audit Committee Meeting Summary

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the September 17, 2024 meeting of the Audit Committee.

There were no trustee questions.

(b) Audit Committee Annual Report to the Board of Trustees

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the annual report of the Audit Committee which provides a summary of member attendance and activity for the prior fiscal year.

There were no trustee questions.

(c) Audit Committee Annual Report to the Ministry of Education

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the annual report of the Audit Committee provided to the Ministry of Education which provides a summary of actions performed by the Regional Internal Audit Team for the prior fiscal year.

There were no trustee questions.

(d) Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS Boundary Review

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided an overview of public consultation process that will be undertaken in accordance with DDSB's School Boundaries Regulation between October 22, 2024 and January 10, 2025 to establish the attendance boundary for the Unnamed Pickering Seaton Public School, anticipated to open in September 2025.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) Unnamed Ajax Coughlan PS Boundary Review

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided an overview of public consultation process that will be undertaken in accordance with DDSB's School Boundaries Regulation between October 22, 2024 and January 10, 2025 to establish the attendance boundary for the Unnamed Coughlan Public School, anticipated to open in September 2025.

There were no trustee questions.

(f) Elementary and Secondary Student Enrolment and Teacher Staffing Update

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided an overview of DDSB's current elementary and secondary student enrolment compared to spring 2024 enrolment projections as well as allocation of teaching staff in accordance with Ministry of Education requirements.

Trustee questions were answered.

(g) Report: Approved May 29, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Emma Cunningham shared the minutes and provided an overview of discussion that took place at the May 29, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

There were no trustee questions.

(h) Report: Approved September 5, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Kelly Miller shared the minutes provided an overview of discussion that took place at the September 5, 2024 SEAC meeting.

There were no trustee questions.

(i) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards shared that the next OPSBA Board of Director's meeting is coming up in November and noted that October 21 – 25, 2024 is Local Government

Week, an initiative that aims to increase youth and public civic awareness about the important role of local government (including school board trustees) in our communities. A video highlighting Local Government Week was shared.

13. Days of Significance

The dates of significance were shared for information.

14. Adjournment

2024:RB67
MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01 p.m.



Chair



Secretary