



DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING

**STANDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION**

Monday, December 2, 2024

Chair: Deb Oldfield

Vice-Chair: Kelly Miller

Director of Education and Secretary to the Board: Camille Williams-Taylor

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

DATE: Monday, December 2, 2024

TIME: 8:00 p.m. (or following adjournment of Regular Board Meeting)

LOCATION: Boardroom

ATTACHMENTS: Agenda

Copies to:
All Trustees
Director of Education
All Superintendents

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Monday, December 2, 2024
8:00 p.m.

		PAGE
1.	<u>Call to Order</u>	Verbal
2.	<u>Land Acknowledgement</u>	Verbal
	<p>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.</p>	
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	Verbal
4.	<u>Motion to Approve Agenda</u>	Verbal
5.	<u>Recommended Actions</u>	
	(a) Approval of the Draft Standing Committee Minutes, November 4, 2024 (Trustee Deb Oldfield)	1-4
6.	<u>Information Items</u>	
	(a) Report: Approved April 2, 2024 Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee Minutes (Trustee Deb Oldfield)	5-6
	(b) Interim Report: Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee (Superintendent Heather Mundy)	7-9
	(c) Student Trustee Report (Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar)	10-11

7. Adjournment

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
November 4, 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 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Deb Oldfield

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustee Christine Thatcher

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, Associate Director David Wright, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Superintendents Michael Bowman, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly

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.

Chair Deb Oldfield shared the following statement:

With profound sadness, we learned today of the passing of the Honourable Murray Sinclair, a visionary leader, advocate, and beacon of justice and reconciliation in Canada.

Senator Sinclair's legacy is one of courage, compassion, love, and dedication to truth. As the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he opened hearts and

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024

minds across our nation and beyond, to the stories of Indigenous survivors, their strength, and the necessity of healing. His wisdom has guided so many of us toward understanding, respect, and unity.

In our work within the Durham District School Board, Senator Sinclair's dedicated work and advocacy remind us of our shared responsibility to foster inclusivity, honour diversity, and support each child's journey toward a brighter future. His legacy will live on in the efforts we make each day to uphold truth, respect, and the dignity of every individual. May we continue to bring forth his vision with a renewed commitment to Indigenous Rights, equity, learning, and reconciliation in our schools.

Please join us as a Board of Trustees in remembering the Honourable Murray Sinclair's extensive contributions and let us collaboratively reflect on how we can continue his work for generations to come.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2024:SC25

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations: Strategic Implementation

(a) Community Connected Experiential Learning Programs

Superintendent Stephen Nevills introduced Monique Muller, System Lead – Student Success and Richard Bishop, Community Connected Experiential Learning Facilitator, who provided an overview of the experiential learning opportunities available to DDSB elementary students.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, October 7, 2024

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the minutes from the October 7, 2024 Standing Committee Meeting.

2024:SC26

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2024 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided an overview of the report, which outlines strategies that promote meaningful learning experiences in mathematics and advance student achievement across all schools in the District. The 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan aims to enhance mathematics education and improve math scores through targeted supports and evidence-based practices.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram and Shampavi Vijayakumar shared an update on their recent participation in a Ministry-provided Student Trustee webinar, and noted that later this month they will be participating in the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting in Toronto.

The 2024-2025 model for Student Senate Regional Groups and meetings has been established, with Senators being encouraged to participate in breakout sessions with peers from other regions to help promote the exchange of ideas and strategies for positive change.

Exploration of effective ways for Student Trustees and Student Senate to enhance student awareness of available resources and support systems inside and outside schools remains ongoing.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) Update

Trustee Michelle Arseneault shared the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Summary along with two videos highlighting some of the many ways IDLF has been providing resources to support DDSB students so far this year. A recent Global television segment highlighting the work of IDLF was also shared.

8. Memos

(a) 2425:52, Status Update: PPM 128 – Current Practices and Next Steps

(b) 2425:54, Food and Nutrition Supports in Schools

(c) 2425:55, 2023-2024 EQAO Results

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024

The memos were shared with trustees for information and questions were answered.

9. Adjournment

2024:SC26

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Chair

Secretary



**APPROVED Minutes – Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 7:45 p.m., Hybrid**

1. Call to Order

Deb Oldfield, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson

Staff Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Directors Jim Markovski and David Wright, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, Superintendents Heather Mundy, Andrea McAuley, Michael Bowman

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Committee Chair Deb Oldfield 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 Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6

5. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 6, 2023 MEETING OF THE VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS AD HOC COMMITTEE BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

(a) Report from the Violence in Schools Working Group

Superintendent Heather Mundy introduced Senior Manager Lisa Coppins. Together, they provided trustees with an overview of the report, which included an update from the Violence in Schools Working Group that has met four times since being established in fall 2023. The Working Group has determined its purpose and engaged in discussion around the issues of violence, contexts and potential areas for action, leading to the emergence of five focus areas as noted in the report, along with information that is known and available, and information that still needs to be gathered in order to be responsive in providing recommendations around the five focus areas. It was noted that the Working Group will report back to the Ad Hoc Committee at a future date.

There were no trustee questions.

7. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT TO: Standing Committee **DATE:** December 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Interim Report from the Violence in Schools **PAGE:** 1 of 3
Ad Hoc Committee

ORIGIN: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
Heather Mundy, Superintendent of People and Culture

The Durham District School Board recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subjected to actions with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.

The Durham District School Board is committed to providing learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive and free from all forms of discrimination, oppression, harassment and harm.

1.0 **Abstract**

This is an interim report of the Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee. In accordance with the discretion afforded to the Committee under its Terms of Reference, the Committee is extending its mandate until December 31, 2025, by which time it will deliver its final report to the Committee of the Whole – Standing. The extension of the mandate is needed as the Committee continues to consider the issues and the recommendations that it may make in its final report. This report is provided for information.

2.0 **Purpose**

This report provides an interim update from the Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee.

3.0 **Background**

At the regular Board meeting of May 15, 2023, the Board of Trustees adopted the following resolution:

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF ALL TRUSTEES AND STUDENT TRUSTEES, WITH INPUT FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SENIOR STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF INFORMATION GATHERING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING ISSUES RELATED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT INCLUDING ANY AND ALL INTERRELATED ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE OR BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLABORATIVELY BUILD POLICY, STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND MEASURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLANS.

At its first meeting on September 12, 2023, the newly established Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the Director work with the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to establish Terms of Reference that outline the purpose, composition, meeting cycle and closure. The Terms were adopted by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2023.

The purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee is:

- to secure an understanding of the issue of violence in schools across the District,
- to secure an understanding of structures in place to address the issue,
- to secure an understanding of practices and undertakings to mitigate violence in schools and the impact that these practices are having in schools.

The Director of Education has established a Working Group to gather and provide information and input to the Committee.

4.0 Analysis

The Ad Hoc Committee has met four times since September 2023 and continues to engage on the issues, including receiving information and input from the Working Group. The work of the Committee continues, and the final report is anticipated prior to December 31, 2025.

In accordance with the discretion afforded to the Committee under its Terms of Reference, the Committee is extending its mandate until December 31, 2025, by which time it will deliver its final report to the Committee of the Whole – Standing. The extension of the mandate is needed as the Committee continues to consider the issues and the recommendations that it may make in its final report. This report is provided for information.

5.0 Strategic Links

The Ad Hoc Committee is committed to supporting meaningful learning and promoting well-being through the creation of positive school climates for all students and staff.

6.0 Communication/Implementation Plan

The Violence in Schools Ad Hoc Committee will continue to engage in fact finding and consideration of issues and will provide a final report to the Board of Trustees prior to the closure of the Ad Hoc Committee on December 31, 2025.

7.0 Conclusion

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

Report reviewed and submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CW Taylor", written over a horizontal line.

Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mundy", written over a horizontal line.

Heather Mundy, Superintendent of People and Culture



Durham District School Board

Student Trustee Report

December 2, 2024 Standing Committee

Ignite Learning

During our recent participation in the Ontario Student Trustees Association's (OSTA) Fall General Meeting, we had the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions that provided valuable insights into key topics shaping the future of education in Ontario. One particularly impactful session focused on the importance of integrating mental health supports and culturally responsive education, as well as the ongoing need for reconciliation with Indigenous communities. Connecting with student leaders from other boards was a rewarding experience, as we shared strategies and best practices for improving student success and ensuring equitable access to resources across our boards. This experience has equipped us with new perspectives and ideas, and we are excited to bring back actionable strategies that can improve the student experience in our own community.

Ignite Connection

On November 26th, we hosted a virtual Student Trustee Information Session for DDSBS secondary students interested in learning about the role of a Student Trustee. During the session, we covered the responsibilities of the position, what a typical day looks like, and the significance of student engagement through initiatives and electives. Students can still register for the next session on December 3rd by using the link in the bio of our Instagram account, @ddsbstudenttrustees2425. The session will also provide details about the upcoming Student Trustee election. Candidate submissions for the election are already being received from each secondary school, with the final deadline on December 9th. In collaboration with our staff advisors and Superintendent Davis, we recently updated the election booklet to reflect changes made last year when we adopted the new Student Trustee and Student Senate Policy, which revised our election process. We are excited about the progress made so far and look forward to engaging more students in this important process moving forward.

Ignite Well Being

During our recent Student Senate General Assembly meeting on November 7th, we discussed several key issues affecting DDSB students. One significant topic was the ongoing School Climate Survey and Student Census, with a focus on gathering more diverse feedback to better reflect the needs of the entire community. We are actively encouraging Senators to view the surveys and provide feedback on how they could be changed or improved. In addition to this, we are working on addressing transportation challenges DDSB schools face and how these barriers can prevent the ability to foster stronger connections between regions. Senate members are engaging in discussion with their school administrators and student councils in order to gain more input on this topic. As we continue to support the student community, we aim to create a more inclusive, engaged, and supportive environment for all DDSB students.