

APPROVED Minutes – Governance and Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 6:00 p.m., Hybrid

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham (virtual), Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton (virtual, arrived 6:14 p.m.), Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustee Deb Oldfield

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

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgment

Trustee Kelly Miller 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

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Minutes

(a) Draft minutes of the Governance and Policy Committee meeting of October 30, 2024

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2024 GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Revised Board Member Code of Conduct – Complaints Protocol

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided an overview of the report, which proposes amendments to the Complaints Protocol of the Board Member Code of Conduct to ensure alignment with legislative changes regarding use of Integrity Commissioners' that will come into effect on January 1, 2025. The General Counsel summarized the proposed amendments.

Discussion took place and Trustee questions were answered. It was confirmed that to support understanding of the revised complaints protocol, staff will present a revised draft flowchart at the next meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee for discussion.

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE RESVISION TO THE COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL AS NOTED IN APPENDIX A TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE NEW LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK WHICH TAKES EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2025, AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

A motion was moved, which took precedence:

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT SECTION 4.0 OF THE REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT BE FURTHER AMENDED TO:

THIS COMPLAINT PROTOCOL DESCRIBES THE PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING BREACHES OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT. THE COMPLAINT PROTOCOL IS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESOLVE COMPLAINTS AS FAIRLY, EXPEDITIOUSLY AND MEANINGFULLY AS POSSIBLE.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT SECTION 4.1.1 OF THE REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT BE FURTHER AMENDED TO:

A PERSON RESIDING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MAY BRING FORWARD AN ALLEGED BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY SUBMITTING TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER A PROPERLY COMPLETED COPY OF AN INQUIRY REQUEST FORM LOCATED ON THE DDSB WEBSITE.

The above foregoing motion was amended:

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT SECTION 4.1.1 OF THE REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT BE FURTHER AMENDED TO:

ANY PERSON RESIDING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND ANY DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD STAFF MEMBER MAY BRING FORWARD AN ALLEGED BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY SUBMITTING TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER A PROPERLY COMPLETED COPY OF AN INQUIRY REQUEST FORM LOCATED ON THE DDSB WEBSITE.

The above foregoing motion was further amended:

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT SECTION 4.1.1 OF THE REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT BE FURTHER AMENDED TO:

ANY PERSON AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE RESIDING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OR WHO IS A PUPIL, OR PARENT/GUARDIAN OF A PUPIL OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD, OR ANY DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD STAFF MEMBER MAY BRING FORWARD AN ALLEGED BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT BY SUBMITTING TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER A PROPERLY COMPLETED COPY OF AN INQUIRY REQUEST FORM LOCATED ON THE DDSB WEBSITE.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL AS NOTED IN APPENDIX A AND AS FURTHER AMENDED IN THIS MEETING TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE NEW LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK WHICH TAKES

EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 2025, AND THAT THE MATTER PROCEED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

CARRIED

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT STAFF RETURN TO THE COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING WITH A REVISED DRAFT FLOWCHART THAT WILL BE POSTED WITH THE COMPLAINTS PROTOCOL TO SUPPORT EASE OF USE AND TRANSPARENCY.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) Bylaws – Public Question Period

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided an overview of the report, which outlines the legislative and policy requirements related to public participation at the DDSB in response to an October 21, 2024 Board resolution seeking information around defined rights to public participation. The resolution was adopted in response to proposed revisions to the sections of the Bylaws applicable to Public Question Period. It was noted that DDSB's Public Concerns and Engagement Procedure will be amended to align with requirements as outlined in Policy/Program Memorandum 170.

Trustees expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of facilitating townhall-style public meetings. Discussion took place around considerations that would need to be addressed in order to facilitate such meetings and it was noted that reviewing related practices in other boards would be an ideal starting point.

(b) Board Motions: November 20, 2023 to November 4, 2024

Senior Manager of Public Affairs Dervla Kelly provided an overview of the annual report, which summarizes all motions of a material nature moved by the Board of Trustees in public during the second of its four-year term, covering the period of November 20, 2023 to November 4, 2024.

There were no trustee questions.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Trustee

THAT THE MEETING ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.