

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
January 6, 2025**

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 7:00 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:

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, Associate Director David Wright (virtual), General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Superintendents Michael Bowman, Lauren Bliss, 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.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2025:SC01

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

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THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE OFFICE SHIFTS.

Trustee Christine Thatcher called for a recorded vote.

The motion was defeated on the following recorded vote:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Christine Thatcher	Michelle Arseneault		
	Tracy Brown		
	Emma Cunningham		
	Donna Edwards		
	Mark Jacula		
	Stephen Linton		
	Kelly Miller		
	Carolyn Morton		
	Deb Oldfield		
	Shailene Panylo		

2025:SC02

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

(a) OSSTF/FEESO District 13 Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit

Julia McCrea, President, OSSTF/FEESO District 13 Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit, shared a presentation.

There were no trustee questions.

(b) Common Sense Classrooms Inc.

Patricia Poku-Christian, President, Common Sense Classrooms Inc., shared a presentation.

There were no trustee questions.

6. DDSB Presentations: Strategic Implementation

(a) Early Reading Screener Results: Building Meaningful Learning

Superintendent Erin Elmhurst introduced System Lead Lanya Lewis and Facilitator Rachel Cosford, who shared a presentation on Early Reading Screeners; summarizing

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fall 2024 Screener results for DDSB students in Year 2 Kindergarten through Grade 2 and the ways in which staff are supporting meaningful learning and engagement in literacy.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, December 2, 2024

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the minutes from the December 2, 2024 Standing Committee Meeting.

2025:SC03

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2024 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram and Shampavi Vijayakumar shared the following:

Student Senate has recently taken part in discussions and collecting feedback from students around levelling assessment in mathematics in secondary schools and the use of Mentimeter to hear from students about what they feel are the biggest barriers/issues in DDSB schools.

Under the leadership of the Student Senate Vice President, a charity drive was organized prior to the winter break and \$930 was raised to provide gift cards to students in need.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards shared a reminder about the upcoming Public Education Symposium and provided an overview of the conference program and workshops that will be available to attendees.

There were no trustee questions.

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(c) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) Update

Trustee Michelle Arseneault shared a video highlighting recent fundraising campaigns and initiatives that have been undertaken, including Toonie Tuesday, Holiday Helper and Chew Chew Train in support of DDSB families in need. Appreciation to all donors, volunteers and IDLF was extended.

Trustee questions were answered.

9. Memos

- (a) 2425:61, School Year Calendar Consultation Process
- (b) 2425:62, Secondary Enrolment and Staffing Update
- (c) 2425:63, Director of Education Performance Appraisal Mid-Year Review Process

The memos were shared for information and Trustee questions were answered.

10. Adjournment

2025:SC04

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:22 p.m.



Chair



Secretary