

# APPROVED MINUTES

## The Special Meeting of the Board

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

6:30 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Chair Tracy Brown

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton (virtual), Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher (virtual)

Regrets: Trustee Michelle Arseneault, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Tracy Brown gave the Land Acknowledgment: the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is 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 at this time.

4. Adoption of Agenda

2025:SB01  
MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

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SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Recommended Actions

- (a) Request to Delegate on Behalf of DDSB to Whitby Council and Durham Region Council

Chair Tracy Brown introduced the item, noting that Trustee Emma Cunningham is seeking the Board's approval to delegate on its behalf at the upcoming February 3, 2025 Whitby Town Council meeting and the February 12, 2025 Durham Regional Council meeting where they will be considering motions to ban the Nazi swastika and condemn acts of hate.

Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

2025:SB02

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE TRUSTEE EMMA CUNNINGHAM'S REQUEST TO DELEGATE ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD TO WHITBY TOWN COUNCIL AT ITS FEBRUARY 3, 2025 MEETING AND TO DURHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL AT ITS FEBRUARY 12, 2025 MEETING RELATED TO THEIR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS AROUND ANTISEMITISM AND NAZI IMAGERY AND THAT THE PROPOSED SPEAKING NOTES AS PROVIDED BE APPROVED.

Chair Tracy Brown called for a recorded vote.

The motion was defeated on the following recorded vote:

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

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote:

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Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
		Kayla Hoare	
		Nitishan Poopalasundaram	
		Shampavi Vijayakumar	

2025:SB03

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSE THE DRAFTING OF A STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF ACTIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE RISE IN ANTISEMITISM, TO BE SHARED PUBLICLY WITH FAMILIES AND VIA ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 3 AND FEBRUARY 12, 2025 MEETINGS RESPECTIVELY.

Seeing no objection from trustees, the language of the above foregoing motion was amended as follows:

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSE THE DRAFTING OF A STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF ACTIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE RISE IN ANTISEMITISM, TO BE SHARED PUBLICLY WITH FAMILIES AND VIA ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS PRIOR TO THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 WHITBY TOWN COUNCIL AND THE FEBRUARY 12, 2025 DURHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS RESPECTIVELY.

Seeing no objection from trustees, the language of the above foregoing motion was amended as follows:

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSE THE DRAFTING OF A STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF ACTIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE RISE IN ANTISEMITISM, TO BE SHARED PUBLICLY WITH FAMILIES, VIA ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS INCLUDING READING THE STATEMENT AT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025.

Seeing no objection from trustees, the language of the above foregoing motion was amended as follows:

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSE THE DRAFTING OF A STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF ACTIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE RISE IN JEW HATE TO BE SHARED PUBLICLY WITH FAMILIES, VIA ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS, INCLUDING READING THE STATEMENT AT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025. STATEMENT IS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO A LETTER TO THE TOWN OF WHITBY AND THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM.

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Seeing no objection from trustees, the language of the above foregoing motion was amended as follows:

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSE THE DRAFTING OF A STATEMENT IN STRONG SUPPORT OF ACTIONS AND STEPS TOWARDS ADDRESSING THE RISE IN JEW HATE TO BE SHARED PUBLICLY WITH FAMILIES, VIA ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS, INCLUDING READING THE STATEMENT AT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025. STATEMENT IS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO A LETTER TO THE TOWN OF WHITBY AND THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM WITH A COPY TO BE SENT TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN DURHAM PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 3, 2025.

The motion was carried on the following recorded vote:

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

Student Trustee Non-Binding Vote:

Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
		Kayla Hoare	
		Nitishan Poopalasundaram	
		Shampavi Vijayakumar	

6. Adjournment

2025:SB04

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Chair



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Secretary