

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
February 3, 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 (virtual), Tracy Brown, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustee Emma Cunningham

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, Associate Director David Wright, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Superintendents Michael Bowman, Lauren Bliss, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy (virtual), 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:SC04

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations: Strategic Implementation

(a) Inclusive Pathways – Integrated Transition Planning

Superintendent Andrea McAuley introduced Inclusive Student Services System Lead Michelle Crawford-Eade and Transition and Work Experience Coordinators Sade Gbalajobi, Ashley Romano and Braden Sherwood who provided an overview of the report and shared a presentation on DDSB's Integrated Transition Planning and the introduction of a new Transition Planning – Getting Started resource, an all-in-one guide for parents, caregivers and guardians of students receiving support through DDSB's Inclusive Student Services department.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, January 6, 2025

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the minutes from the January 6, 2025 Standing Committee meeting.

2025:SC05

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2025 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

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

The Student Trustee election process for the 2025-2026 school year remains ongoing, with the All-Candidate Forum taking place virtually on February 4, 2025. The elected candidates will be announced on February 10, 2025.

Feedback collected from DDSB students indicates challenges with access to transit through Durham Region Transit, with four key areas being identified by students: improved accessibility, lowered fares and expanded routes, enhanced accessibility for students with disabilities and education opportunities related to public transit use.

## Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2025

Discussions have been taking place among Student Senate members around the condition and atmosphere of school bathrooms and efforts to advocate for improvement.

Trustee questions were answered.

### (b) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards provided an overview and summary of the OPSBA public Education Symposium that took place on January 24-25, 2025.

There were no trustee questions.

### (c) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) Update

Trustee Michelle Arseneault highlighted the upcoming Make Tomorrow Brighter Auction, taking place from February 26 to March 5, 2025. A call-out and campaign seeking donations to support the auction is ongoing until February 21, 2025.

Trustee questions were answered.

## 8. Memos

(a) 2425:66, Office Relocation in the Education Centre

(b) 2425:67, High School Assessment Practices – Use of Levelled Questions

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

## 9. Correspondence

(a) DDSB Statement of Support for Combatting Jew Hate

Vice Chair Deb Oldfield read DDSB's statement of support for combatting Jew hate, which was recently sent on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the Regional Chair and Council of Durham and to the Mayor and Council of Whitby. Both councils will be considering motions this month that seek to ban the Nazi swastika and condemn acts of hate. The statement is as follows:

*We have been made aware of two motions being brought forward for consideration at Whitby Council on February 3, 2025, and Durham Regional Council on February 12, 2025, in response to the rise of Jew hate in the region and around the world.*

*The DDSB Board of Trustees would like to express its strong support for any actions and steps taken to address the rise of Jew hate and antisemitism. We stand united as allies in our commitment to fostering a region free from hate and discrimination.*

*Thank you for your attention to this important issue.*

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2025

*Sincerely,*

*DDSB Board of Trustees*

10. Adjournment

2025:SC06

MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:47 p.m.



Chair



Secretary