

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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

1. Call to Order:

Chair Tracy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo (virtual with Chair's approval, joined 7:07 p.m., left at 7:44 p.m.), Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar (virtual)

Regrets:

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director David Wright (virtual), Associate Director Jim Markovski, Superintendents Lauren Bliss, Michael Bowman, Margaret Lazarus (virtual), Stephen Nevills, Andrea McAuley, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson (virtual), General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly, Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Student Trustees Kayla Hoare and Nitishan Poopalasundaram 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. African Ancestral Acknowledgement

Trustee Stephen Linton gave the following African Ancestral Acknowledgement in recognition of Black History Month:

This African Ancestral recognition is made in the spirit of Umoja: a calling for us to come together, to work collectively towards the common good for the success of all students with particular attention to Black and Indigenous students, staff, and caregivers. We are evoking the spirit of the African ancestors to guide us and protect us in this work of learning, leading, and healing. We will continue to survive and thrive long after the history of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. We also believe that advancing Indigenous sovereignty is deeply and inextricably linked to Black liberation and we remain committed to advancing both. We want to recognize the long-standing generations of Black people in Canada and celebrate the legacy of their contributions towards building this country by honouring the shoulders upon those we stand.

4. O Canada

Trustees Michelle Arseneault and Christine Thatcher welcomed and thanked the Willows Walk Public School R & B Choir, under the direction of Andrea James, Bill Houlden and Andrew Watson, for their performance of *O Canada* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2025:RB03

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

7. Proposed Consent Items

As there were no objections, the following proposed consent items were approved and adopted:

(a) Approval of meeting minutes:

- i. DRAFT Minutes of the January 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- ii. DRAFT Minutes of the January 29, 2025 Special Board Meeting

(b) Adoption of the Following Resolutions from the January 29, 2025 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, which the Committee Recommended to the Board:

- i. That the Board Adopt the Draft Accessibility Policy
- ii. That the Board Adopt the Draft Filling a Trustee Vacancy policy and Revisions to Section 6 of the Bylaws

- (c) Adoption of Any Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Standing Committee Meeting of February 3, 2025.
- (d) Adoption of Any Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 18, 2025.

8. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding school year calendars. Staff responded to the question.

9. Chair's Update

Chair Tracy Brown shared the following update:

Although it has been a cold and snowy month, February has been busy with so many great activities happening throughout the District.

On February 6, Vice Chair Oldfield joined the celebration of Lunar New Year which was held right here at the Education Centre, hosted by the Durham East Asian Network in Education (DEANE). Deb shared that the event was just amazing, with beautiful traditional performances, delicious East Asian cuisine, and fun cultural activities, which gave everyone a taste of some of the beautiful Lunar New Year traditions.

That same evening, I had the pleasure of joining the Fallingbrook school community to celebrate their 25th anniversary. It was quite something to look back and see how much the community has grown over the years. It was a lovely evening, and great to celebrate the achievements of both staff and students throughout the years.

On February 10, our new Student Trustees were elected for the 2025-2026 school year. Congratulations to Hansika Jalendra Shetty of J. Clarke Richardson, Harshmann Singh of Pine Ridge, and Maggie Rendor of R.S. McLaughlin – we look forward to having you join us and you will have some big shoes to fill given how great our student Trustees have been this term.

Student Trustees play a vital role in keeping their peers informed about Board and government decisions, while also advocating for the key interests of students. Congratulations to the successful candidates, as well as to all the students who ran outstanding campaigns and participated in the election by exercising their right to vote.

Looking ahead to the rest of February - I'm excited to attend the Durham Black Educator's Network (DBEN) Black History Month event at Ajax High School. I hope you can all join us this Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. as we come together to spotlight the wonderful businesses, services, and resources that empower and elevate the Black community in Durham.

Students have prepared incredible performances and inspiring artwork for the Art Gallery. With participation from 13 high schools and 13 elementary schools, this event is a true community-wide effort to share many of the beautiful expressions of Black Excellence that exists in our community.

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Also next week, the Muslim Educators' Network of Durham (MEND) is excited to host their 2nd annual Ramadan Market this Sunday at J. Clarke Richardson from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. In collaboration with the Muslim Student Association, the market will feature over 50 community vendors offering a variety of treats, jewelry, clothing, henna, and much more. Don't miss out on this vibrant celebration!

And last but not least, congratulations are in order for two Grade 6 students at Seneca Trail Public School. Nia Languigne and Jadira Brown were presented with awards by the local Oshawa Legion Branch, for their inspiring poems in the National Youth Remembrance Contest. Well done Nia and Jadira!

10. Good News from the System

Aksayan and Stephen from Pine Ridge Secondary School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

11. Recommended Actions

(a) 2025-2026 School Year Calendars

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided an overview of the report, which outlines the consultation and development process which has taken place to create the draft 2025-2026 school year calendars being presented for consideration and approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Ministry of Education requirements. DDSB has schools operating on one of four calendars: Elementary Regular, Secondary Regular, Elementary Modified, Secondary Modified.

Trustee questions were answered.

2025:RB04

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE PROPOSED 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS BE APPROVED (APPENDICES A-D). THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ENSURING THAT THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD IS COMPLIANT WITH REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN REGULATION 304.

CARRIED

(b) Boundary Review: Unnamed Coughlan PS

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided an overview of the report, which included a significant public consultation process leading to the establishment of the recommended permanent attendance boundary for the Unnamed Coughlan Public School which is expected to open in September 2025. It was noted that through consultation, staff received community feedback requesting a change to the proposed boundary, and through analysis, staff determined that the community

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proposed boundary could be successfully incorporated into the final boundary recommendation presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

Trustee questions were answered.

2025:RB05

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PERMANENT ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY SET OUT IN SECTION 4.5 OF THIS REPORT AND REPRESENTED IN APPENDIX B2. THE PERMANENT BOUNDARY OF UNNAMED COUGHLAN PS REFLECTS THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA CONSIDERED DURING CONSULTATION, EXCLUDING THE AREA WEST OF RAVENSCROFT ROAD, NORTH OF HARTY CRESCENT, SOUTH OF PAULYNN PARK, AND EAST OF DUFFINS CREEK, AS THIS AREA WOULD BE INCORPORATED BACK INTO THE PERMANENT BOUNDARY OF ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL PS, AND EXCLUDING THE AREA WEST OF SALEM ROAD, NORTH OF TAUNTON, SOUTH OF 5TH CONCESSION ROAD, AND EAST OF 16TH SIDELINE, AS THIS AREA WOULD ATTEND VALLEY VIEW PS (SEE APPENDIX B2). THIS PERMANENT ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY FOR UNNAMED COUGHLAN PS AND THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE BOUNDARIES OF ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL PS AND VALLEY VIEW PS WILL BE IN EFFECT AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

CARRIED

(c) Boundary Review: Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided an overview of the report, which included a significant public consultation process leading to the establishment of the recommended permanent attendance boundary for the Unnamed Pickering Seaton Public School which is expected to open in September 2025. It was noted that through consultation, staff received community feedback requesting a change to the proposed boundary, and through analysis, staff determined that the community proposed boundary could be successfully incorporated into the final boundary recommendation presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval.

There were no trustee questions.

2025:RB06

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PERMANENT ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY SET OUT IN SECTION 4.5 OF THIS REPORT AND REPRESENTED IN APPENDIX B2. THE PERMANENT BOUNDARY OF UNNAMED PICKERING SEATON PS REFLECTS THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA CONSIDERED DURING CONSULTATION, EXCLUDING THE AREA WEST OF ALTONA ROAD, NORTH OF THE GATINEAU HYDRO CORRIDOR, SOUTH OF THE RAILROAD LINE, AND EAST OF SCARBOROUGH-PICKERING TOWNLIN, AS THIS AREA WOULD ATTEND WESTCREEK PS (SEE APPENDIX B2). THIS PERMANENT ATTENDANCE

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BOUNDARY FOR UNNAMED PICKERING SEATON PS AND THE ADJUSTMENT TO THE BOUNDARY OF WESTCREEK PS WILL BE EFFECTIVE AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025.

CARRIED

(d) Motion: Trustee Professional Learning Request

Trustee Kelly Miller provided an overview of the proposed motion, noting that it seeks the Board of Trustees consideration and approval, in accordance with the Trustee Expenses Policy, for Trustee Miller to attend Mental-Health First Aid training and be reimbursed up to \$225.00 from the discretionary budget.

Trustee questions were answered.

2025:RB07

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE USE OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS OF \$225.00 TO COVER THE COST OF TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DDSB TRUSTEE EXPENSE POLICY WHICH ENTITLES A TRUSTEE TO REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO A TOTAL OF \$1,000 PER YEAR IN DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES.

2025:RB08

MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES AFTER \$225.00.

CARRIED

2025:RB09

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE USE OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS OF \$225.00 PLUS APPLICABLE TAXES TO COVER THE COST OF TRUSTEE KELLY MILLER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DDSB TRUSTEE EXPENSE POLICY WHICH ENTITLES A TRUSTEE TO REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO A TOTAL OF \$1,000 PER YEAR IN DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES.

CARRIED

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- (e) Motion: Request for Report on Impact of Removal of Kindergarten from Single-Track French Immersion Schools

Trustee Carolyn Morton provided an overview of the proposed motion, noting there is interest in determining what, if any, impact there has been on enrolment at the single-track French Immersion schools across the DDSB which have had the Kindergarten program removed.

2025:RB10

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT STAFF PREPARE A REPORT WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT WHICH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FROM SINGLE-TRACK FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS HAS HAD ON THE PROGRAMMING AND ENROLMENT IN THOSE SCHOOLS AND THAT THE REPORT BE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY JUNE 16, 2025.

2025:RB11

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE AND THE NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS AFTER IN THOSE SCHOOLS.

CARRIED

2025:RB12

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT STAFF PREPARE A REPORT WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT WHICH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM FROM SINGLE-TRACK FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS HAS HAD ON THE PROGRAMMING AND ENROLMENT IN THOSE SCHOOLS AND THE NEIGHBOURING SCHOOLS AND THAT THE REPORT BE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY JUNE 16, 2025.

CARRIED

- (f) Motion: SEAC Association Membership

Trustee Donna Edwards provided an overview of the proposed motion which is presented as a recommendation of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Trustee questions were answered.

2025:RB13

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE THE SEAC RECOMMENDATION FOR THE GRANDVIEW PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BECOME AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTED ON THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC), AND THAT SEANA HALEY BE THE REPRESENTATIVE AND ANAGHA SUMANT BE THE ALTERNATE.

CARRIED

(g) Items Removed from the List of Consent Items

There were no items removed from the List of Consent Items.

12. Information Items

(a) Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) Annual Report 2023-2024

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the report, which summarizes route and operator statistics, start-up communications, student safety programs, distance measurement used by DSTS, requests to review or reconsider transportation arrangements, school bus weather zones and key performance indicators for the 2023-2024 school year.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Trustee Expenses 2023-2024

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the report which defines the different types of trustee expenses in accordance with applicable policy and summarizes trustee expenses for the period of November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024.

There were no trustee questions.

(c) Education Finance Committee Meeting Dates: 2025-2026 Budget

Associate Director David Wright provided an overview of the report, which outlines DDSB's annual financial reporting cycle and the schedule of Education Finance Committee meeting dates which take place each spring to support the development of the annual budget. It was noted that adjustments to the proposed meeting cycle may need to be made pending results of the February 27, 2025 provincial election.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Report: Approved December 11, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Kelly Miller shared the minutes of the December 11, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

There were no Trustee questions.

(e) Report: Approved January 9, 2025 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Donna Edwards shared the minutes and highlights of discussion that took place at the January 9, 2025 SEAC meeting.

There were no Trustee questions.

(f) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards confirmed there is no update at this time.

13. Correspondence

(a) Letter from DDSB Student Regarding School Bus Air Quality

The letter was shared for information. Discussion took place and trustee questions were answered.

2025:RB14

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BRING THE MATTER OF SCHOOL BUS AIR QUALITY TO THE DSTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AT ITS MARCH 26, 2025 MEETING, THROUGH TRUSTEE MORTON, REQUESTING THAT A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF AIR QUALITY BE PROVIDED AND THAT TRUSTEE MORTON PROVIDE AN UPDATE FOLLOWING THE MARCH 26, 2025 DSTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

2025:RB15

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE ORIGINAL MOTION BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BRING THE MATTER OF SCHOOL BUS AIR QUALITY TO THE DSTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AT ITS MARCH 26, 2025 MEETING, THROUGH TRUSTEE MORTON, TO INITIATE A DISCUSSION~~REQUESTING THAT A REPORT~~ ON THE MONITORING OF AIR

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QUALITY ~~BE PROVIDED~~ AND THAT TRUSTEE MORTON PROVIDE AN UPDATE FOLLOWING THE MARCH 26, 2025 DSTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

CARRIED

2025:RB16

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BRING THE MATTER OF SCHOOL BUS AIR QUALITY TO THE DSTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AT ITS MARCH 26, 2025 MEETING, THROUGH TRUSTEE MORTON, TO INITIATE A DISCUSSION ON THE MONITORING OF AIR QUALITY AND THAT TRUSTEE MORTON PROVIDE AN UPDATE FOLLOWING THE MARCH 26, 2025 DSTS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

CARRIED

14. Dates of Significance

The dates of significance were shared for information.

15. Adjournment

2025:RB17

MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m.



Chair



Secretary