

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
March 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, 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, 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:SC07

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

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THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations: Strategic Implementation

(a) Positive School Climates, Mental Health and Well-Being

Superintendent Michael Bowman introduced Steffanie Pelleboer, Mental Health Leader, Mike Menheere, Positive School Climates System Lead, Malaika Leacock, Positive School Climates Facilitator, Souraiya Rahee, Well-Being Facilitator and Sharlene Cook, Mental Health Facilitator, who shared a presentation on the work being done across the District through the Positive School Climates and Well-Being teams in support of creating and maintaining the conditions that promote positive school environments and student well-being.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, February 3, 2025

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the minutes from the February 3, 2025 Standing Committee meeting.

2025:SC08

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram and Shampavi Vijayakumar shared updates on the recent Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Education Action conference, planning for the May 7, 2025 Mental Harmony: Beyond the Stigma event and the February 2025 Student Trustee Election, welcoming the incoming 2025-2026 Student Trustees Maggie Rendor, Hansika Jalendra Shetty and Harshmann Singh.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards provided a summary of the February 2025 OPSBA Board of Directors meeting, highlighting the presentations that were provided and focus areas of the meeting, including Truth and Reconciliation, Student Success, Equity and Well-

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Being. Trustee Edwards also shared updates on local school board governance, the opening of nominations for the annual OPSBA Awards, upcoming meeting and event dates and the creation and circulation of the By Your Side resource by School Mental Health Ontario.

There were no trustee questions.

(c) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) Update

Trustee Michelle Arseneault highlighted the ongoing Make Tomorrow Brighter Auction, which is open until March 5, 2025 and the Ignite Open June 10, 2025 golf tournament.

There were no trustee questions.

8. Adjournment

2025:SC09


MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m.



Chair



Secretary