

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
April 7, 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, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustees Stephen Linton, Shailene Panylo

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director Jim Markovski, Associate Director David Wright, General Counsel Patrick Cotter (virtual), Superintendents Michael Bowman, Lauren Bliss, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus (virtual), Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly, Senior Manager Jennifer Machin

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:SC10

MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula

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THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations: Strategic Implementation

(a) Mathematics in Action: System to Student Desk

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided an overview of the report on the 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan and introduced DDSB staff Carleigh Wu, Matthew Werenich and Brandon McPhail, who shared a video highlighting the early impacts of implementation of the Math Plan on student learning experiences at Glengrove Public School.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Recommended Actions

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

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

2025:SC11

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

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

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) Audit Committee Meeting Summary

Associate Director David Wright summarized the actions and discussion of the public session of the March 25, 2025 Audit Committee meeting, which included welcoming the newest Committee members, approving minutes of the previous meeting and confirming the upcoming meeting schedule.

There were no trustee questions.

(b) 2024-2025 Interim Financial Report – Operating Expenditures

Associate Director David Wright introduced Jennifer Machin, Senior Manager of Finance, who provided an overview of the report which includes a status update on operating expenditures as of February 28, 2025, representing the completion of the second quarter of the fiscal year.

Trustee questions were answered.

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(c) Update from DSTS Governance Meeting – School Bus Air Quality Monitoring

Trustee Carolyn Morton shared that discussion around school bus air quality was initiated at the March 26, 2025 Durham Student Transportation (DSTS) Governance Committee meeting in response to a recent Board resolution. The DSTS Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) addressed the matter, noting that the Ministry of Transportation sets school bus emissions and air quality standards that are regularly monitored for compliance. In response to concerns, DSTS may request individual operators to complete additional mechanical and emission testing to ensure safety and compliance.

The DSTS CAO will provide a detailed letter to the Board of Trustees, which will be included in the Correspondence section of an upcoming public meeting agenda.

There were no trustee questions.

(d) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram and Shampavi Vijayakumar shared updates on their learning about heating and cooling in DDSB buildings, key discussion topics and recommendations from the recent Student Senate and Student Trustee Workshop and their participation at the Annual Celebration of Courage Gala hosted by The Denise House.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards provided a summary of upcoming dates of note, including the following:

- April 14, 2025: Legislative Assembly of Ontario resumes
- May 1-2, 2025: Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium
- June 12-14, 2025: Annual Meeting

There were no trustee questions.

(f) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) Update

Trustee Michelle Arseneault shared that the recent Make A Difference Auction raised a total of \$69,435.43, almost double the amount raised in 2024 and expressed thanks on behalf of the IDLF team for everyone who donated and participated. Registration is now open for the first annual Ignite Open charitable golf tournament taking place at Royal Ashburn on June 10, 2025.

There were no trustee questions.

8. Memos

(a) 2425:70, Interim Artificial Intelligence Guidelines

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The memo was shared for information and trustee questions were answered.

9. Adjournment

2025:SC12

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:37 p.m.



Chair



Secretary