

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
June 6, 2022**

The hybrid regular meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair, Christine Thatcher called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Patrice Barnes, Michael Barrett, Chris Braney, Paul Crawford, Donna Edwards, Darlene Forbes, Niki Lundquist, Carolyn Morton, Scott Templeton, Student Trustees James Kay and De-Mario Knowles

Regrets: Student Trustee Kayla Malcolm

Officials Present: Director Norah Marsh, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Jack Nigro, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

2022:SC24

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

There were no community presentations at this time.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Student Voice Initiative

Superintendent Georgette Davis introduced Student Trustee De-Mario Knowles, Manager of Accountability and Assessment Chris Conley, and Principal, DDSB@Home Elementary Lauren Bliss, who provided trustees with an overview and shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Student Voice Initiative.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) First Nations, Metis and Inuit Contemporary Voices – Grade 11 English

Superintendents Erin Elmhurst and Stephen Nevills introduced staff members Michelle Evans, Jennifer Henderson, Denise Nickerson, Christine Upton, Cheryl Thompson, Zabel Ashukian and students Riley Quick and Jonathan Wright who assisted in providing trustees with an overview and shared a PowerPoint presentation on First Nations, Metis and Inuit Contemporary Voices – Grade 11 English.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Director's Update

Director Norah Marsh provided trustees with the following update:

At this time there is no update from the Ministry of Education.

The government recently moved forward with directing school boards to administer compulsory EQAO assessments. There were challenges with the administration in the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and across other school boards. Following a brief pause of assessments to try and repair issues and prevent further challenges, the assessments were reopened last week. A small number of DDSB schools continued to encounter challenges that prevented completion of assessments within the allotted time. Staff advocated with EQAO and the Ministry to ask for a cancellation of the assessments due to ongoing challenges and their impact on the mental health of students and staff involved. The Ministry has asked that the board continue with completing the assessments this month.

Trustee questions were answered.

8. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

9. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee James Kay shared that at the May 16, 2022 Student Senate meeting students were provided information regarding the Student Census and the opportunity to participate in a student voice panel discussion led by the Student Senate administrative team. Information regarding a research study project with the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario was also shared with senators. Student Trustees recently attended the OSTA-AECO AGM conference which served as an opportunity for both the DDSB outgoing and incoming student trustees to make connections with student trustees from other school boards as well as discuss student advocacy projects within the province.

Student Trustee De-Mario Knowles shared that the last Student Senate meeting for the 2021-2022 school year will be taking place on Monday June 20, 2022. It was noted that this past year, the Student Senate has been very productive, and the student trustees are happy with the progress as well as the outcome of their advocacy work.

Student Trustee James Kay shared that tentatively, the student success document, *The IN's and OUT's of Finding Help Resource*, will be completed prior to the end of this school year. The information included in the resource is currently being reviewed and vetted by the DDSB Mental Health Leadership Team and will be released when finalized.

Student Trustee De-Mario Knowles shared that Equity Working Group continues development of resources that will be made available before the end of the current school year.

Student Trustee James Kay shared that the DDSB Student Senate is collaborating with Durham Catholic District School Board to host a spirit week from June 13, 2022 to June 17, 2022. The spirit days include Meme Monday, Trivia Tuesday, Spirit Wear Wednesday, Throwback Thursday, and Finale Friday.

Student Trustee De-Mario Knowles shared that the Student Senate Virtual Open House has been postponed due to limited time for planning.

Student Trustees James Kay and De-Mario Knowles noted this would be the final report to Standing Committee from Student Trustees and thanked staff and their peers for their support during their term as Student Trustees.

(b) Special Education Plan and Programs 2022-2023

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with an overview of the Special Education plan and programs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Memorandum of Understanding with Durham Region Transit

Associate Director David Wright and Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec provided trustees with an overview of the new Memorandum of Understanding involving Durham District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) and Durham Region Transit (DRT).

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) OPSBA Report

Trustee Patrice Barnes shared that there is no update at this time and shared a reminder of the upcoming annual general meeting taking place June 9 – 11, 2022.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee Report, April 27, 2022

Trustee Patrice Barnes provided trustees with the Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Steering Committee minutes from the April 27, 2022 meeting.

Trustee questions were answered.

11. Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

12. Other Business

There was no other business at this time.

13. Adjournment

2022:SC25

MOVED by Chair Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 6, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

*Carolyn Morton*

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Chair

*Noreh Klaf*

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Secretary