

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

### The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, March 20, 2023

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

1. Call to Order:

Chair Donna Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Linda Stone, Christine Thatcher, Jill Thompson, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Lauren Edwards, Gwen Kuyt

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor Associate Director Jim Markovski, Associate Director David Wright (virtual), Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Kandis Thompson, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Donna Edwards gave the Land Acknowledgment: the Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island (North America). 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. O Canada

Trustee Christine Thatcher welcomed and introduced the Blair Ridge Bobcat Senior Band who performed O Canada. The band is made up of students in Grade 8 and is accompanied and conducted by music director Reagan Jones who is the junior/intermediate music teacher at Blair Ridge. Principal Elaine Warburton was also in attendance.

4. Declaration of Office

Under the guidance of Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, Jill Thompson made her declaration of office both orally and in writing to fulfill the swearing in process for the Board. Director Camille Williams-Taylor welcomed Jill Thompson as a Trustee of the Board.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

6. Adoption of Agenda

2023:RB20

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

Minutes

2023:RB21

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

(a) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2023.

(b) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023.

CARRIED

2023:RB22

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

(c) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2023.

(d) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2022.

CARRIED

7. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

March Break: Director Camille Williams-Taylor shared that she hoped that students, families and staff had a chance to experience a slower pace or a break with some time for reflection during the March Break last week. Today marks the Spring equinox in the Northern hemisphere, as we are moving together into a cycle of rebirth and renewal. For many the longer hours of sunlight are welcome and uplifting after a long winter.

Ramadan: For the Muslim community, the start of Ramadan is expected to begin the evening of March 22, which signals a period of fasting, prayer and deep reflection. Director Williams-Taylor wished a peaceful month to all DDSB families observing Ramadan.

Summer School 2023: Summer school course information is now available. Durham Continuing Education offers a variety of credit and non-credit programs for students in Grades 6–12. Anyone interested in finding out more about summer learning opportunities is encouraged to visit the DCE website at [DCE.ca](https://dce.ca).

Graduation Requirements: The Government of Ontario recently announced that they are implementing a new high school graduation requirement. Starting with students entering Grade 9 in September 2024. All students will be required to earn a Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit as part of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. There are many questions about the new requirement, which will require discussion with our partners and the sector. More information about this new requirement will be shared with students, families and staff as it becomes available.

Director Williams-Taylor referenced two important upcoming days of significance:

March 21, 2023 is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The theme for this year focuses on the urgency of combatting racism and racial discrimination, 75 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

March 31, 2023 marks International Transgender Day of Visibility. On this day staff reiterate the ongoing commitment to the transgender community in DDSB places of learning and work, to ensure that the transgender community, feel seen, and heard.

Director Williams-Taylor shared that the United Nations statement really resonated, when preparing her comments for this evening, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. As a school board, staff are committed to the dignity of our students and families not just through our actions, policies and procedures, but also in the spirit of all of our interactions.

Tomorrow, on the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, and on March 31, 2023 Transgender Day of Visibility, we are all called upon to reflect with care and concern for those who have been and continue to be negatively impacted because of

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their identities and turn our minds, hearts and actions to eradicating the oppression, erasure and dehumanization that targets some people in our community. Healthy debate is an important aspect of democratic society. As evidence of tonight staff will work hard to ensure that each and every child, family staff member knows that they are valued and that they belong just the way they are.

8. Public Question Period

Dylan R., a student of DDSB presented a question virtually regarding the Maple Ridge Boundary Review. Staff responded to the question.

Jessica Wilkins, a community member presented a question in person with regards to reading materials. Staff responded to the question.

Mandy Dalton, a community member presented a question in person with regards to gender identity data. Staff responded to the question.

Barry Bedford, a parent presented a question in person with regards to support for the DDSB 2SLGBTQ population. Staff responded to the question.

Clint Cole, a community member presented a question in person with regards to parent representation in the DDSB. Staff responded to the question.

9. Report from the Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Christine Thatcher reported on the actions of the Committee of the Whole In Camera meeting and confirmed that the following matters were discussed:

- The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
- Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; and
- Administrative transfers and placements.

2023:RB23

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE ACTIONS OF THE MARCH 20, 2023, IN CAMERA MEETING.

CARRIED

10. Good News from the System

Yamen and Mya from Sinclair Secondary School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

Dr. Pam Palmater, a Mi'kmaw lawyer, spoke with passion and understanding of the myths and facts about Indigenous Rights at the recent Parent Engagement speaker series presentation.

Robert Cutting joined students at Sinclair Secondary School to talk about the history of Indigenous people, storytelling, and traditions.

O'Neill CVI presented *The SpongeBob Musical*, with 45 students taking the stage and many more working behind the scenes.

Whitby Shores Public School presented *The Wizard of Oz*, an inclusive play with many different roles and entry points into the arts, and students played them incredibly well.

Cadarackque Public School students are participating in *Manie Musicale*, an engaging competition that spotlights 16 popular French songs and competes in a March Madness style competition.

GL Roberts CVI was very excited to host a "Taste of Culture" event. The Black Student Association, with the assistance of staff, provided an amazing experience for every student that included music and food.

Each year, the Anderson CVI Raiders and Henry Street High School Hawks participate in Rivalry Week. During this three-day competition both the Raiders and the Hawks, experienced incredible spirit, school pride, and a deeper sense of community.

In February, Olympic silver medalist and DDSB educator Shelley-Ann Brown spoke to students at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Public School about dedication, perseverance, and Black excellence. She shared messages of inspiration and believing in yourself. After the assemblies, staff and students inducted Shelley-Ann into the school's Black Excellence Wall of Fame.

Scott Central Public School students Isaac and Daniel are budding comic book creators. They gather ideas from different movies and then collaborate on writing and drawing comic books. Isaac is currently working on a new comic book called *Star Wars 2*, which will be ready soon.

Uxbridge Secondary School hosted the first-ever Inclusive Culinary Competition for students across Durham Region. The event had celebrity judges. This is the first competition of its kind, allowing all students to compete at a regional level.

Students at Eastdale CVI worked, collaborated, and brainstormed on who to feature on their highly anticipated Black Excellence Mural. The Mural was revealed on March 16, 2023. A huge thank you to Eastdale Black People Speak Group and their staff advisors, Ms. Griffiths, Ms. Rose, and Ms. Steer for helping to organize this beautiful mural.

Pink Shirt Day that is celebrated worldwide, had humble beginnings, originally inspired by an act of kindness in a small town in Nova Scotia. Schools throughout the District showed their support by dressing up in pink shirts and displaying acts of kindness, empathy, and understanding in support of those impacted by bullying.

Students across the DDSB have their own unique cultures, traditions, languages, and style. DDSB loves to celebrate what makes us unique. These characteristics contribute

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to our diverse makeup. It is important to celebrate our differences all year long and to create an inclusive environment for all of our students.

Congratulations to all DDSB students who competed from February 12 to 14, 2023 in the DECA provincial competition. Winners will compete in their categories at the International Career Development Conference.

### Dates of Significance:

March 20	Spring Equinox
March 20	Eostre
March 21	Shunki-Sorei-Sai
March 21	Nowruz
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day
March 21	United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 22	Ramadan Begins
March 23	Atheist Day
March 25	Earth Hour
March 26	Epilepsy Awareness Day
March 26	Purple Day for Epilepsy
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility
April	Sikh Heritage Month /
	Genocide Awareness Month
April 2	World Autism Day
April 2	Palm Sunday
April 5-13	Passover/Pesach
April 7	Good Friday
April 9	Vimy Ridge Day
April 9	Easter Sunday
April 10	Easter Monday
April 12	International Day of Pink
April 14	Holy Friday (Orthodox)
April 14	International Day of Silence
April 14	Tamil and Sinhala New Year
April 14	Vaisakhi
April 16	Easter (Orthodox)
April 17-18	Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day
April 18	Laylat al-Qadr
April 20-May 2	Ridvan
April 22	International Earth Day
April 26	Administrative Professionals' Day

11. Recommended Actions

(a) Report: Standing Committee Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2023

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared with trustees the minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on March 6, 2023.

2023:RB23

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE MARCH 6, 2023, STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING.

CARRIED

(b) People and Culture: Rescission of Policies and Regulation

Trustee Tracy Brown provided trustees with the People and Culture: Rescission of Policies and Regulation report that was presented as a Notice of Motion at the February 21, 2023, Board meeting.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:RB24

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESCIND THE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS AS OUTLINED IN APPENDIX A.

CARRIED

(c) Inclusive Student Services: Rescission of Policy

Trustee Tracy Brown provided trustees with the Inclusive Student Services: Rescission of Policy report that was presented as a Notice of Motion at the February 21, 2023, Board meeting.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:RB25

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESCIND THE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICER POLICY.

CARRIED

(d) School Year Calendar 2023-2024

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 School Year Calendars:

- Elementary Regular
- Secondary Regular
- Elementary Modified (C.E. Broughton Public School, Winchester Public School)
- Secondary Modified (Brock High School, Henry Street High School, Maxwell Heights Secondary School)

Trustee questions were answered.

Trustee Ben Cameron proposed the following motion:

2023:RB26

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS CONTAINED IN APPENDICES A-D BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE A BOARD HOLIDAY ON APRIL 10, 2024, INSTEAD OF A PA DAY ON APRIL 19, 2024, AND

THAT THOSE AMENDED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS BE APPROVED.

2023:RB27

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DEFER TO THE APRIL 3 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION THAT STAFF CAN PULL FOR US AT THIS TIME AND MAKE A DETERMINATION ON HOW TO PROCEED.

CARRIED

12. Information Items

(d) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report, January 19, 2023

Trustee Kelly Miller and Deb Oldfield presented the SEAC meeting minutes to trustees for information.

2023:RB28

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE REPORT BE RECEIVED AS WRITTEN.

CARRIED

(e) OPSBA Report

There was nothing to report at this time.

13. Dates of Significance

The dates of significance were shared with trustees for information.

14. Memos

The memos were shared with trustees for information.

(a) No.2023:09 Definitely Durham

(b) No.2023:10 Positive School Climates Report Update

Trustee questions were answered.

15. Adjournment

2023:RB29



MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

	
_____ Chair	_____ Secretary