

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
April 3, 2023**

A 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 7:20 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Christine Thatcher

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton (virtual), Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield (virtual), Shailene Panylo (virtual), Jill Thompson, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Lauren Edwards, Gwen Kuyt

Regrets: Trustee Emma Cunningham

Not In Attendance: Trustee Linda Stone

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, 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, Human Rights and Equity Advisor Devika Mathur

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Christine Thatcher 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

The agenda was amended to add item 7.(b) Motion: Striking an Ad Hoc Committee

2023:SC08

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE ITEM 7.(b) MOTION: STRIKING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE

CARRIED

2023:SC09

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AMENDED AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Special Education Programs and Services

Andrea McAuley, Superintendent of Equitable Education, Inclusive Student introduced Michelle Crawford-Eade and Conor Jinkinson, Special Education Leads, who provided a presentation to trustees summarizing inclusive practices, wrap-around services and Special Education programs available to DDSB students.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

Director Camille Williams-Taylor provided trustees with the following update:

April is typically a month filled with optimism – the days are longer, the flowers start to come up and we catch a renewed energy as we approach the home stretch of the 2022-2023 school year. It's also a month where we recognize many significant events across cultures and communities, and I am pleased to share the following update this evening:

Sikh Heritage Month takes place in April and we take this time to celebrate the long and vibrant history of Sikhs in Canada and to educate future generations

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

about the experiences of Sikh Canadians and the important role that they have played in shaping the identity of our country.

April is also recognized as Genocide Awareness, Education, Condemnation and Prevention Month – an important time for us all to recognize that many religious and ethnic communities who have been persecuted in the past now call Ontario home and that genocide and cultural genocide continues to cause trauma and suffering in the lives of many. Awareness and education are the first steps toward change, prevention and the protection of human rights.

On Friday March 31 we recognized Transgender Day of Visibility. This is a day dedicated to valuing transgender people and to raising awareness of the realities of exclusion and discrimination faced by this community worldwide. To show support and stand in solidarity with the transgender community as we reflect on visibility, rights and allyship, along with the work we must continue to do to dismantle all forms of oppression, a flag raising ceremony took place at the Education Centre last Friday. This session was very well attended with students, staff and community partners bringing messages of our collective commitment to upholding human rights.

The second annual Empower Her Conference took place in DDSB elementary schools on March 30. The full day event provided an opportunity for students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 who identify as Black and female to connect with each other and learn from strong female mentors about the importance of setting goals to achieve their fullest potential. Participants were encouraged to become leaders and changemakers within their own communities.

Lastly, registration for students in Grades 7 – 12 to attend Durham Integrated Arts Camp (DIAC) this fall is now open until Friday, April 28. DIAC's creative learning environment provides students who have a passion for music, visual art, musical theatre and dance with opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of their art and abilities by making authentic connections among the arts disciplines.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) School Year Calendar 2023-2024

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendars, in response to a March 20, 2023 resolution of the Board.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:SC10

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS AS OUTLINED IN APPENDICES A – D OF THE REPORT BE APPROVED AND

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ENSURING THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD IS COMPLIANT WITH REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN REGULATION 304.

Trustee Deb Oldfield brought forward an amendment to revise the above foregoing motion (2023:SC10) by including an additional sentence.

2023:SC11

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Jill Thompson

THAT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE BE ADDED TO THE MOTION:

THAT STAFF, WHEN CRAFTING THE 2024-2025 PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS, CONSULT ON AND CONSIDER INCLUDING DIVERSE RELIGIOUS AND NON-RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF OBSERVANCE.

DEFEATED

Trustee Stephen Linton brought forward an amendment to revise the above foregoing motion (2023:SC10) by including an additional sentence.

2023:SC12

MOVED by Trustee Stephen Linton

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE BE ADDED TO THE MOTION:

THAT STAFF WHEN CRAFTING THE 2024-2025 PROPOSED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS, CONSULT ON AND CONSIDER DATES OF OBSERVANCE THROUGH AN EQUITY LENS.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron called for a recorded vote.

The motion was defeated on the following recorded vote:

Yes

Tracy Brown

Stephen Linton

Deb Oldfield

Shailene Panylo

Jill Thompson

No

Michelle Arseneault

Donna Edwards

Kelly Miller

Carolyn Morton

Christine Thatcher

Abstain

Absent

Emma Cunningham

Student Trustees (Non-Binding Vote)

Ben Cameron

Lauren Edwards

Gwen Kuyt

2023:SC13

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS AS OUTLINED IN APPENDICES A – D OF THE REPORT BE APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ENSURING THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD IS COMPLIANT WITH REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN REGULATION 304.

CARRIED

(b) Motion: Striking an Ad Hoc Committee

Trustee Shailene Panylo put forth the following motion:

2023:SC14

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF TRUSTEES, WITH INPUT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SENIOR STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATING ISSUES SUCH AS BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION, SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS, PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE, WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLABORATIVELY BUILD POLICY, STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND MEASURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLANS OVER 3 YEARS.

2023:SC15

MOVED by Trustee Kelly Miller

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE MOTION BE DEFERRED TO THE NEXT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 1, 2023.

CARRIED

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Ben Cameron provided the following update:

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

On March 7 & 8, the first round of Student Trustee Elections were held across the Board. 4 candidates will advance to the second round of elections in Pickering-Ajax and Whitby-Oshawa on April 18 & 19. Student trustee Ben Cameron shared that the candidate from the North Region has been acclaimed as trustee for the 2023-2024 school year.

Student trustees have created a Senate committee to review the Senate constitution and structures to make that the Senate is an effective conduit for student voice and engagement.

(b) Student Census Update Report

Superintendent of Equitable Education Mohamed Hamid provided trustees with an overview of the development and upcoming May 2023 administration of the DDSB Student Census.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Interim Financial Report-Operating Expenditures

Associate Director David Wright introduced Jennifer Machin, Senior Manager of Finance who provided trustees with an overview and update on the status of operating expenditures for the period ending February 28, 2023, or Quarter 2, within the 2022-2023 financial year.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Audit Committee Meeting Summary

Associate Director David Wright introduced the report, summarizing actions of the March 22, 2023 Audit Committee meeting.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) OPSBA Report

There was no update at this time.

9. Adjournment

2023:SC16


MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:37 p.m.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2023


Chair


Secretary