

# APPROVED

## MINUTES

### The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, April 17, 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 7:00 p.m.

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

Regrets: Trustees Stephen Linton, Shailene Panylo, Student Trustee Lauren Edwards

Officials Present: Director of Education and Secretary to the Board Camille Williams-Taylor Associate Director Jim Markovski, Associate Director 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

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 Emma Cunningham welcomed and introduced the video performance from the Altona Forest Public School band and choir. The members are Grades 6 and 7 students and are directed by teacher Andrew Tyas. In addition to singing O Canada, the band performed "Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar. Later this year the students will perform this piece during the Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2023:RB30

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Minutes

2023:RB31

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Kelly Miller

THAT THE FOLLOWING APPROVED MINUTES BE RECEIVED:

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

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

CARRIED

2023:RB32

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Jill Thompson

THAT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT MINUTES BE APPROVED:

(c) THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2023.

(d) THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2022.

CARRIED

7. Ministry Memorandums-Information Update

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

Director Williams-Taylor shared that the planning for the 2023 Student Art Gallery is underway, and that the submission deadline is Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Students in Grades 7 to 12 are encouraged to be creative in showcasing their unique perspectives about connection and community through art. We look forward to seeing the incredible student artwork displayed at this year's gallery taking place here at the Education Centre on June 8, 2023.

April 17, 2023

DDSB's French Immersion Information evening is Tuesday, April 25, 2023 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The evening session will provide families with important information about the French Immersion program and the opportunities for developing French language skills. Families interested in attending should speak with their child's principal for details about where sessions are taking place.

Next week the Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Francais or DELF exam will be taking place here at the Education Centre and more than 300 secondary students from both Core French and Immersion programs will be participating. This exam is voluntary and available to students who registered in Grade 12 French as a Second Language programs during this school year. The DELF is an internationally recognized assessment of French proficiency.

On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, we recognize Administrative Professionals' Day. Director Williams-Taylor shared a message of thanks to all DDSB's administrative staff. Your work provides valuable benefits to students, your colleagues, and the community. You are appreciated.

Finally, there were multiple announcements by the Ministry of Education over the past two days:

- An announcement yesterday on investing \$180 million province-wide in additional targeted support in the classroom to help students build math and reading skills.
- The release of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), which provides school boards with operating funding to support the operation of schools; and
- Earlier today, the Government of Ontario introduced the proposed Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act which has been tabled in the legislature. The proposed act contemplates improvements for students learning experiences in general with a focus on Math and Literacy outcomes. Staff will be reviewing the details of these announcements and the proposed legislation in the coming days and weeks to understand how staff will work together for effective implementation, should the proposed Act be passed.

#### 8. Public Question Period

Dylan R., a student of DDSB presented a question virtually regarding the School Year Calendar. Staff responded to the question.

Teresa Keefe, a community member presented a question in person with regards to the approval of library resources. Staff responded to the question.

Janice Strasbourg, a community member presented a question in person with regards to the LGBTQ community. Staff responded to the question.

Jessica Wilkins, a community member presented a question in person with regards to questions and discussions. Staff responded to the question.

A community member submitted a question with regards to library resources and sexually explicit content that was read out. Staff responded to the question.

The Chair called a recess at approximately 7:30 p.m. due to disruptive conduct in the gallery.

The meeting resumed at approximately 7:33 p.m., the Chair called the meeting to order.

The Chair called a second recess at approximately 7:37 p.m. due to disruptive conduct in the gallery.

The meeting resumed at approximately 7:48 p.m., the Chair called the meeting to order.

Public Question Period continued.

James Bountrogiannis, a community member provided a written question with regards to inclusive policies. 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:

- Litigation affecting the board.
- Administrative transfers and placements.

2023:RB33

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD RECEIVE THE ACTIONS OF THE APRIL 17, 2023, IN CAMERA MEETING.

CARRIED

10. Good News from the System

Alesha and Anousheh from Altona Forest Public School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

Students, staff, parents, guardians, and community members across the District have been celebrating Ramadan. Many of our schools have celebrated alongside students, staff, and families by hosting evening Iftars, a fast-breaking meal by Muslims during the month of Ramadan immediately after sunset.

On March 31, 2023 DDSB students and educators raised awareness about Transgender Day of Visibility. Classes celebrated the accomplishments of transgender and gender non-conforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to

April 17, 2023

achieve justice. The transgender flag was raised at the Education Centre and at schools across the DDSB.

The DDSB Ontario Youth Apprenticeship program was thrilled to host Jamie McMillan, a motivational speaker, journeywoman ironworker, apprentice boilermaker, author, and an advocate for skilled trades, technology, mental health, homelessness, and youth. Jamie visited 10 DDSB schools and spoke to more than 2,300 students in Grades 7 to 12, about pathways into the skilled trades.

The Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) team would like to thank all staff, students, and parents/guardians for participating in the second annual Make Tomorrow Brighter Online Auction!

The auction provided the opportunity to bid on more than 200 amazing prizes including NBA and NHL tickets, a spa experience, and so much more. Through your participation, \$17,820 was raised to help ensure DDSB students have food, clothing, and the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

Students across the District continue to show compassion for their neighbours through multiple giving campaigns:

- Students from Seneca Trail Public School sold bracelets in support of mental health programs at Lakeridge Hospital.
- Maxwell Heights Secondary School students brought in gently used items to donate.
- Port Perry High School students raised more than \$1,300 for the Oak Ridges Hospice.

The Muslim Educators' Network of Durham (MEND) organized their annual Ramadan Iftar dinner this year on March 30, 2023 at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate. The dinner raised over \$1,000 for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief Fund.

The second annual Empower Her Conference took place on March 30, 2023, where elementary schools from across the DDSB joined together. This conference is designed to “uplift, inspire, and give a voice” to young women of colour, provided students with the opportunity to interact with strong female mentors. These girls left the conference understanding the importance of setting goals to achieve their fullest potential and become leaders and changemakers within their community.

Lochlan M., a Grade 3 student at Maple Ridge Public School, got his big screen debut this year in the film *‘Women Talking’*. The film was featured at the Toronto International Film Festival, and Lochlan couldn't be prouder of the well-received film and the important messages it conveys. He is now working on a new Netflix limited series and is grateful for all the support from his school community.

Dates of Significance:

April 17-18	Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day
April 18	Laylat al-Qadr
April 20-May 2	Ridvan
April 22	International Earth Day

Regular Meeting of the Board Minutes

April 17, 2023

April 26	Administrative Professionals' Day
May	Speech, Language and Hearing Month
	Asian and South Asian Heritage Month
	Jewish Heritage Month
	Dutch Heritage Month
May 1	National Principal's Day
May 4-8	Education Week
May 5	Wesak
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 11-18	Tamil Genocide Education Week
May 14	Mother's Day
May 15	International Day of Families
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
May 18	Mullivaikkal Remembrance Day
May 18	Ascension
May 22	Victoria Day
May 29	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh
May 28-June 3	National Accessibility Week
May 1-5	Children's Mental Health Week
May 28	Pentecost
May 31	Red Shirt Day

11. DDSB Presentation

(a) Youth Liaison Worker Update

Associate Director Jim Markovski introduced Community and Partnership Development Specialist Nicole Brown, who shared along with staff and student, a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of the program for trustees.

Trustee questions were answered.

12. 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 April 3, 2023.

2023:RB34

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD NOW RECEIVE THE MINUTES AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE APRIL 3, 2023, STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING.

CARRIED

(b) Update: Strategic Planning Process

Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec provided the Board of Trustees with an update on activities related to the Strategic Planning process since the last update on November 21, 2022, and the recommendation to extend the existing Ignite Learning Strategic Plan through to December 31, 2023 to allow sufficient time for the consultation and development process of the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:RB35

MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXTEND THE CURRENT IGNITE LEARNING STRATEGIC PLAN THROUGH TO DECEMBER 31, 2023 TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE CONSULTATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE NEW MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

CARRIED

13. Information Items

(a) Integrity Commissioner Report

i. Annual Report

General Counsel Patrick Cotter provided an overview of the Durham District School Board Integrity Commissioner Annual Report for the Operating Period of January 22, 2022 to January 21, 2023.

ii. Code of Conduct Complaint-Summary Report

General Counsel Patrick Cotter shared with trustees the Code of Conduct Complaint – Summary Report dated March 23, 2023.

Trustee questions were answered.

Trustee Tracy Brown provided trustees with the following Notice of Motions coming out of the March 29, 2023, Governance and Policy Committee meeting for trustees information:

(b) Notice of Motion: Rescission of Legal Opinions Policy and Regulation

(c) Notice of Motion: Rescission of School Operations Policies and Regulations

(d) Notice of Motion: Rescission of Youth and Adult Student Engagement and Success Grades 7 - 12+ Policies and Regulations

(e) Notice of Motion: Revised Consolidated Bylaws

Trustee Tracy Brown shared that the policies will be presented at the May 15, 2023, Board meeting for trustee approval.

Trustee questions were answered.

(f) Governance and Policy Committee Report-February 1, 2023

Trustee Tracy Brown shared the minutes of the February 1, 2023, Governance and Policy Committee Meeting.

(g) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report, February 16, 2023

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

(h) OPSBA Report

Trustee Emma Stone provided trustees with an OPSBA update.

13. Dates of Significance

The dates of significance were shared with trustees for information.

14. Adjournment

2023:RB36

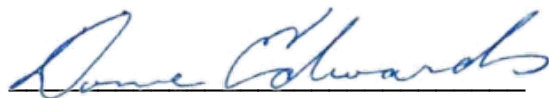
MOVED by Trustee Carolyn Morton

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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



Chair



Secretary