

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
May 1, 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 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Christine Thatcher

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

Regrets: Student Trustee Lauren Edwards

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, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Kandis Thompson, Interim Executive Lead Kathy Witherow, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Kathy Fitzpatrick

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

2023:SC17

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

Trustee Christine Thatcher welcomed the delegates and provided an overview of the delegation process and shared that the Durham District School Board welcomes presentations by individuals and groups at the Standing Committee meetings. The trustees heard from 2 delegates with regards to Inclusive Initiative Committee (in person) and Creating a Safe Learning Environment for Students of all Backgrounds (virtually).

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Graduation Coach for Black Students

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced Program Lead and Secondary Principal Alicia Russell, Graduation Coaches Dwayne Duke, Brian Elrington, Trecia Brown and DDSB students and parent, who shared a PowerPoint presentation with trustees which summarized the Durham District School Board's Graduation Coach for Black Students Program and the evidence of the impact on students accessing the program.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Board Climate, Mental Health and Safety

Superintendents Gary Crossdale, Andrea McAuley and Heather Mundy provided trustees with information on the actions taken that reflect the DDSB's commitment to ensuring that schools are safe, welcoming, inclusive, and provide respectful working and learning spaces that promote well-being for all students and staff.

The report provided information to meet legislative requirements for reporting data and to support transparency and accountability related to:

1. Employee Violent Incident Reporting;
2. School Climate and Well-Being; and
3. The Board of Trustee's Motion, October 17, 2022.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Director's Update

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

Each year, the first week of May is recognized as Children's Mental Health Week. This is a time to focus on increasing awareness of child and youth mental health, decreasing stigma, and spreading the word that help is available. DDSB schools are participating in a variety of initiatives this week to recognize the importance of children's mental health. Earlier today the province announced that the Grade 10 Career Studies curriculum will be updated for fall of 2024 in an effort to strengthen mental health and learning supports in classrooms as well as the introduction of mandatory resources for teachers and students on mental health literacy in Grades 7 and 8.

The first week of May is Education Week and DDSB will be celebrating student achievement and educator excellence alongside school boards across the province.

We are recognizing three Heritage Months in May:

Asian and South Asian Heritage Month: over the last two centuries, immigrants have come to Canada from East, South, West and Southeast Asia bringing to Canada a rich cultural heritage representing many languages, ethnicities and religious traditions.

Dutch Heritage Month: Canada is home to over 1 million people of Dutch descent, and we are grateful for the contributions of Dutch Canadians to the economic, political, social and cultural fabric of our society.

Jewish Heritage Month: an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the history and inspirational role of Jewish Canadians. Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world.

On April 19, the Leadership department hosted a networking fair at the Education Centre that provided opportunities for new and experienced school and centrally-assigned leaders to build connections and collaborate. The event was well attended and provided opportunities to build trust among colleagues and work toward achieving common goals in support of DDSB students.

I'm happy to confirm the in-person return of the Durham Partners Symposium coming up later this month on Saturday, May 27. The symposium theme for this year is *Fostering Resilience in Children – Supporting Mental Health and Social Well-being*. The full-day event will feature four keynote speakers as well as a variety of breakout sessions that families can attend based on their unique interests and needs. For more information and to register, please visit the DDSB website.

May is proving to be a month of celebration as we have two school communities recognizing significant milestones. On May 6, Port Perry High School will

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2023

celebrate its 150th anniversary and on the weekend of May 26 to 28, Uxbridge Secondary School celebrates its 100th anniversary. More information about these events is available on our website.

As we celebrate student achievement as part of Education week, it is important to share that DDSB students are competing at the Skills Ontario Competition this week at the Toronto Congress Centre where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate that they are the best of the best in their fields. Today elementary students competed and DDSB took home one gold, one silver and one bronze and tomorrow, May 2, secondary students will compete followed by closing ceremonies on May 3.

8. Recommended Actions

(a) Motion: Establishment of Ad Hoc Committee

Trustees Deb Oldfield and Shailene Panylo provided trustees with the background on the motion that they brought forward to establish an Ad Hoc Committee.

Trustee questions were answered.

2023:SC18

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF ALL TRUSTEES, WITH INPUT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SENIOR STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF INFORMATION GATHERING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING ISSUES RELATED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT INCLUDING ANY AND ALL INTERRELATED ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE OR BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLABORATIVELY BUILD POLICY, STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND MEASURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLANS.

Trustee Jill Thompson put forward a motion on behalf of Student Trustee Ben Cameron to amend the foregoing motion (2023:SC18) to add and Student Trustees.

2023:SC19

MOVED by Trustee Jill Thompson

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF ALL TRUSTEES AND STUDENT TRUSTEES, WITH INPUT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SENIOR STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2023

INFORMATION GATHERING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING ISSUES RELATED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT INCLUDING ANY AND ALL INTERRELATED ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE OR BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLABORATIVELY BUILD POLICY, STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND MEASURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLANS.

CARRIED

Trustee Deb Oldfield put forward a motion on behalf of Student Trustee Ben Cameron to amend the foregoing motion (2023:SC19) to add that the Committee shall create its preferred terms of reference and report back to the board for approval.

2023:SC20

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE AVAILABLE TO ALL TRUSTEES AND STUDENT TRUSTEES, STUDENT TRUSTEES, WITH INPUT FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SENIOR STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF INFORMATION GATHERING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING ISSUES RELATED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT INCLUDING ANY AND ALL INTERRELATED ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE OR BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLABORATIVELY BUILD POLICY, STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND MEASURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLANS. THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL CREATE ITS PREFERRED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND REPORT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL.

DEFEATED

2023:SC21

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRIKE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF ALL TRUSTEES AND STUDENT TRUSTEES, WITH INPUT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, UNION REPRESENTATIVES, AND SENIOR STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF INFORMATION GATHERING, MONITORING AND EVALUATING ISSUES RELATED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT INCLUDING ANY AND ALL INTERRELATED ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE OR BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL COLLABORATIVELY BUILD POLICY, STRATEGIES AND STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND MEASURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLLABORATIVE PLANS.

CARRIED

9. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Ben Cameron provided the following update:

Today marks the start of Children's Mental Health Week. On Wednesday students, staff, and the community were encouraged to wear green, the colour representing mental health awareness. Thank you to Disha, Student Senator from O'Neill CVI for leading the event.

Last Friday the annual Elementary Leadership Conference took place for Grades 7 and 8 students. Thank you to Aruba, Kenzie and Isabella for leading the event and providing leadership development for these young leaders.

Last month, the incoming Student Trustees for the 2023-2024 school year were elected.

The following students were elected as the incoming Student Trustees:

- Neha Kasoju, Oshawa-Whitby
- Jetlyn Nobes, Uxbridge-Scugog-Brock
- Ben Cameron, Pickering-Ajax

Student Trustees and the incoming Student Trustees will be attending OSTA-AECO's AGM from May 18 – 21.

Student Trustees expressed their support for keeping books in school libraries and available to students. The books are a rich collection of books that are free, diverse, and inclusive. Removing them does nothing but impair students' exploration and education.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Opioid Poisoning and Naloxone

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided trustees with information related to opioid poisoning and a proactive emergency naloxone program that would support students, staff, and community members within Durham District School Board schools and sites.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Deb Oldfield provided trustees with an update on the OPSBA meeting that took place over the past weekend.

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2023

2023:SC22
MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield
SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

Motion: Bill 98, Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023

THAT THE BOARD PREPARE A WRITTEN SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BILL 98, EXPRESSING THE BOARD'S CONCERNS ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE MAY 9, 2023 DEADLINE.

CARRIED

10. Memo

- (a) No. 2023:18 Children's Mental Health Week- May 1-5, 2023
- (b) No. 2023:19 Learning Resource Selection Policy and Process

Trustees discussed and asked questions regarding the Learning Resource Selection Policy and Process and shared concerns from the community.

2023:SC23
MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham
SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BE EXTENDED TO 10:30 P.M.

CARRIED

11. Adjournment

2023:SC24
MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 p.m.



Chair



Secretary