

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
June 5, 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 7:00 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 (virtual), Jill Thompson, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Lauren Edwards, Gwen Kuyt

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:SC25

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Tracy Brown

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Community Presentations

Trustee Christine Thatcher welcomed the delegate 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 1 delegate virtually with regards to parent voice.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)

Superintendent Stephen Nevills introduced SAL Facilitator Melissa Provost and Child and Youth Worker Heather Hawco-Gray who provided trustees with information on Supervised Alternative Learning.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Director's Update

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

June is a month where many significant events and dates are acknowledged, including National Indigenous History Month – this is a time to engage in learning about the diverse history and contributions of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the responsibilities that we all have in fulfilling the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Also, on June 21 it is National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada as well as the Summer Solstice. June 21 recognizes, honours and celebrates Indigenous achievement, culture and magnificence.

June 1st marked the beginning of Pride month around the world. Pride is a time to demonstrate our commitment to making every person in the 2SLGBTQI community feel welcome, included, safe and affirmed in their unique perspectives and lived experiences in every DDSB school and workplace. As part of the Durham Pride Festival that took place yesterday, we had a great turnout of DDSB trustees, staff, students and families participating in the Pride Parade in Ajax. By raising the Progress Pride flag at schools and worksites we are confirming to 2SLGBTQI students that they are seen and that they matter.

Our recent GSA Youth Conference welcomed 119 students to the Education Centre where they networked with friends and engaged in learning workshops that were tailored to their needs and interests.

The commitment to properly and respectfully acknowledge and include 2SLGBTQI identities has been endorsed by Minister Lecce's recent memo (page 4 of the minutes) to school boards, with a message to all students that the Ministry stands with them.

Portuguese Heritage Month also takes place in June. Canada is home to over half a million Portuguese Canadians; one of the largest Portuguese diasporas in the world. We are grateful to those of Portuguese heritage for sharing their traditions and culture with our community.

Filipino Heritage Month is recognized in June and the Canadian Filipino community is one of the fastest growing populations across the country. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of welcoming and preserving Filipino heritage and celebrating the positive impact of Filipino Canadians.

Recognition of Italian Heritage Month also takes place in June and is a time to celebrate the rich history of generations of Italians in Canada and to appreciate their contributions to shaping the culture of our communities.

On May 25th the Cypher Black Male Empowerment Conference took place at Durham College. This year, the conference was hosted by keynote speaker Matthew Samuels, known professionally as Boi-1da ("Boy Won-Da"), a Pickering High School alumnus and Grammy award winning music producer. Students engaged in networking opportunities with community agencies, followed by workshops facilitated by Black male professionals in the industry. Students were exposed to a wide range of pathways beyond high school and post-secondary education and were inspired and encouraged to unapologetically live up to their own potential and brilliance.

National Accessibility Week took place from May 28th to June 3rd. As an organization the DDSB embraces inclusion and accessibility for people with diverse abilities. DDSB schools and staff continue to make positive changes to increase accessibility and inclusion and to be supportive of individual autonomy and uniqueness. Our commitment to inclusive designs and challenging ableist stereotypes and assumptions, helps students and staff address accessibility barriers in their everyday lives.

As you can see this is an incredibly busy time of the year, but a time that also reflects our commitment to our students and our diverse communities. Thank you, that is my update for this evening.

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

From: Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

Subject: **Pride Month in Ontario**

June 1 marks the beginning of Pride month in Ontario and around the world. For many, Pride is a time to celebrate the things that make us unique and special, to look to community for acceptance and support and to demonstrate our commitment to making every single person feel welcome.

Recognizing that many 2SLGBTQ+ students face increasing levels of bullying, harassment, and mental health issues, it is my expectation that school boards will redouble their efforts to protect these students and ensure their inclusion within Ontario schools.

It is incumbent on all school boards to ensure all students – most especially 2SLGBTQ+ students – feel supported, reflected in their schools, and welcomed within our communities. That includes celebrating Pride in a constructive, positive and meaningful ways to affirm that 2SLGBTQ+ students know that their educators and staff, school board administrators, and government stand with them.

We firmly believe that all publicly funded schools must be safe spaces for all children, regardless of race, heritage, faith, sexuality, and gender.

My message to children in our schools, particularly 2SLGBTQ+ students is that Ontario's government sees them, values them, and we are proud to stand with them.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education

8. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

9. Information Items

(a) Workforce Census 2022 and Employee Experience (2 Reports)

Superintendent Heather Mundy and staff provided a PowerPoint presentation on the analysis of the Workforce Census 2022 data and the DDSB Employee Experience data gathered through the 2022 Listening Tour surveys.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees provided the following update:

From May 18-21st, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Lauren Edwards, Gwen Kuyt and incoming student trustee Neha Kasoju attended the OSTA-AECO's annual general meeting. Student Trustees elected the OSTA's 2023-2024 executive team, reviewed the organization's work, participated in a variety of skills and professional development workshops, and connected with incoming student trustees to prepare them for the 2023-2024 term.

OSTA's AGM, awarded Student Trustee Ben Cameron with the best at Robert's Rules of Order. Ben was also elected to the Executive Council as Chair of the Indigenous Student Trustees' Council.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron is one of two Student Trustees who are Indigenous and who do not fill the Indigenous Student Trustee position.

Student Trustees were part of the Student Recognition Night. It was an evening to recognize and celebrate the many achievements of high school students all across the DDSB.

On June 6th Student Trustees will be holding their last Student Senate meeting of the term. At the meeting the group will be reviewing the work from the term, discussing Senate's successes and the renewed Senate constitution. The meeting will end with an awards ceremony to reward students. Student Trustees thanked the Student Senators who participated and supported the positive change that they have worked towards in the DDSB.

Student Trustees provided some recommendations for the Board and staff on how to empower Student Trustees going forward and making sure they have all of the tools they need to thrive:

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1. That Student Trustees are given a standardized orientation prior to their first Board meeting, that covers the scope of their role, rights and responsibilities under the Board bylaws and Education Act.
2. That incoming Student Trustees are introduced to all Superintendents and Trustees.
3. That this Board establish a Trustee advisor to assist the Student Trustees and move motions on their behalf at meetings.
4. That the role and responsibilities of the Student Trustees' Superintendent and Staff Advisors be clearly outlined and defined.
5. That the Student Trustee should always be free to speak independently on all matters.
6. That a clear process to refer student concerns that are operational in nature to appropriate staff members is developed.

Student Trustees thanked staff for their support over the past year.

(c) Improving Environmental Sustainability and Planning

Associate Director David Wright provided trustees with an update on environmental sustainability across Durham District School Board facilities and operations.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca who provided trustees with an update on the status of construction and major projects as of May 31st, 2023. Updates to this report will be provided to Trustees on a quarterly basis (January, March, June and September), and will be posted on the Board's website.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) 2023-2024 Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided trustees with an overview of the Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan for the 2023-2024 school year for information. A report for consideration of the 2023-2024 Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan will be brought forward during the June 19, 2023 Board Meeting.

(f) OPSBA Report

There was nothing to report at this time.

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10. Memo

- (a) 2023:26 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Parent/Caregiver Survey

11. Adjournment

2023:SC26
MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.



Chair



Secretary