

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
October 2, 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 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Christine Thatcher

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham (virtual), Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo (virtual), Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare, Neha Kasoju

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson

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, Martine Robinson, Executive Lead Robert Cerjanec, 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.

Trustee Christine Thatcher shared that today's Land Acknowledgement reminds us that this past Saturday, September 30 was recognized by the federal government as the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is important to recognize and understand the lasting impacts and current realities

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that continue to impact Indigenous students and families. In addition, DDSB schools marked Orange Shirt Day on Friday as a day for schools and communities to commemorate Residential School and Indian Day School survivors and engage in age-appropriate learning about the legacies of the residential school system.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2023:SC29

MOVED by Trustee Donna Edwards

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations

(a) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation Update

Executive Director Stacey Lepine-Fisher introduced Chair Neil Joshi, Vice-Chair Mohamed Karatella and Fundraising Development Coordinator Emily Collins who provided information on the foundation's work and shared a video presentation with trustees.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF)

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus introduced Program Facilitators Lynda Dortelus and Christina Demaray who provided trustees with an overview of the *Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF)*, Fall and Spring 2022-2023. A video presentation was shared with trustees.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Director's Update

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

October is a month in which we recognize, honour and celebrate the histories, heritages, uniqueness, milestones, bravery and expression of an incredible cross-section of individuals and groups who call Canada, the Durham Region and the DDSB home. Across our schools and communities, students will have opportunities to learn about Islamic History Month, Women's History Month, Dyslexia Awareness Month, Autism Awareness Month, 2SLGBTQI History Month,

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Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, Latin American Heritage Month, Neurodivergent Acceptance Month and Disabilities Awareness Month.

Beginning last week, the Jewish community continues to celebrate the 7th day festival of Sukkot followed by Simchat Atzeret on the 7th and Simchat Torah on October 8th. Happy holiday to all who celebrate.

Today is National Custodial Workers Day. On behalf of all students, staff and families I extend sincere gratitude to all of our custodial staff. Without you, our learning and working environments would not be operational each day. On Thursday we celebrate World Teachers Day. Teachers in DDSB schools and around the world do so much more than teach – they listen, learn alongside students, comfort, build confidence, innovate, differentiate, support and encourage growth. Thank you for all that you do in classrooms and schools across our District.

As always, a detailed listing of recognized days and months of significance is included in the monthly Board meeting agenda, on the DDSB's website and with posts on social media.

Last Thursday the Not in My Name Holocaust Exhibit opened here at the Education Centre. Professional learning opportunities and resources related to the exhibit and Holocaust education are available for staff and students. Dr. Neil Orlowsky, Chair and Avi Benlolo, Founder of the Abraham Global Peace Initiative opened the exhibit with a presentation to staff. The exhibit tells the important story of the MS St. Louis where a group of Jewish refugees were denied entry into Canada, the United States and Cuba prior to the start of the second world war and explores the intersections of the Holocaust, Antisemitism and Canada's discriminatory immigration policies at that time in history.

On September 23, 2023, 400 DDSB students in Grades 7 to 12 with a passion for music, visual art, musical theatre and dance arrived at the Durham Integrated Arts Camp in Haliburton. Throughout their week-long stay, students were immersed in a creative outdoor culture and learning environment that provided opportunities for development of deeper understandings of their art and their unique abilities. The camp also focused on leadership development for all students, encouraging them to return to their schools and find ways to have a positive, community-based impact. Information about DIAC is always available on our website and the annual planning and registration process takes place each spring.

Earlier this evening we heard from Superintendent Margaret Lazarus and team about the DELF. Students enrolled in DDSB Grade 12 Core and Immersion French courses are eligible to write the Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF) exam taking place November 14th to 25th. Registration closes Thursday, October 5th. This exam tests students' ability to use French language verbally and in writing in real-life situations. Successful candidates will receive a DELF diploma from France's Ministry of National Education. .

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Thanksgiving is coming up this weekend and all schools will be closed on Monday. It is my hope that you have an opportunity to gather with your friends and loved ones.

7. Recommended Actions

There were no recommended actions at this time.

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees provided the following update:

The inaugural Student Senate meeting is taking place on Thursday, October 5 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. The student trustees are looking forward to getting to know this year's Senators and electing the Executive Council. Senators will have the opportunity to network, learn about their new leadership role, and what the Student Senate is all about! It is crucial for senators to thoroughly understand and embrace the Senate's values and responsibilities, to allow them to be successful leaders, both at school and beyond. The Student Senate will continue meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

Student trustees met with Director Williams-Taylor to discuss several initiatives that they would like to accomplish during their term. For example, an easy-to-access opportunities database for secondary school students.

Student trustee Ben Cameron attended the OSTA Leadership Team meeting on September 23, 2023. Much time was spent organizing the FGM, which is taking place in October. As well, OSTA put out a statement reaffirming their commitment to students' rights, including trans and queer students, in the education system.

(b) Elementary and Secondary Student Enrolment and Teacher Staffing Update 2023-2024

Superintendent Heather Mundy provided the trustees with an overview of elementary and secondary student enrolment and teacher staffing for the 2023-2024 school year. The Ministry of Education requires school boards to meet specific class size requirements for elementary and secondary as outlined in this report.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) OPSBA Report

Trustee Donna Edwards provided trustees with an update on the OPBSA Board of Directors meeting that took place on September 23 and 24, 2023.

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9. Adjournment

2023:SC30

MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 p.m.

	
_____ Chair	_____ Secretary