



DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING

**STANDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION**

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Chair: Deb Oldfield

Vice-Chair: Tracy Brown

Director of Education and Secretary to the Board: Camille Williams-Taylor

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

DATE: Tuesday, September 3, 2024

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Boardroom

ATTACHMENTS: Agenda

Copies to:

All Trustees

Director of Education

All Superintendents

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
7:00 p.m.

		PAGE
1.	<u>Call to Order</u>	Verbal
2.	<u>Land Acknowledgement</u>	Verbal
	<p>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.</p>	
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	Verbal
4.	<u>Motion to Approve Agenda</u>	Verbal
5.	<u>Recommended Actions</u>	
	(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, June 3, 2024 (Trustee Deb Oldfield)	1-6
6.	<u>Information Items</u>	
	(a) Student Trustee Report (Student Trustees K. Hoare, N. Poopalasundaram, S. Vijayakumar)	7
	(b) OPSBA Update (Trustees D. Edwards, K. Miller)	8-9
	(c) Trustee Professional Learning Report: Canadian Congress of Black Parliamentarians Conference (Trustees T. Brown, S. Linton, K. Miller, S. Panylo)	Verbal
7.	<u>Correspondence</u>	
	(a) Response Letter from Ministry of Education: Education Development Charge Legislation	10-12

8. Memos

(a) 2425:48, Early Reading Screeners 13-14

(b) 2425:49, 2024-2025 School Year Start 15-16

9. Adjournment

**Report of the Durham District School Board
Standing Committee Public Session
June 3, 2024**

A meeting of the Standing Committee of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair of Standing Committee, Deb Oldfield called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Deb Oldfield

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Ben Cameron, Kayla Hoare

Regrets: Trustee Jill Thompson, Student Trustee Neha Kasoju

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Directors Jim Markovski, David Wright, Superintendents Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Stephen Nevills, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson, General Counsel Patrick Cotter

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Deb Oldfield 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.

Chair Christine Thatcher shared a statement recognizing Indigenous History Month:

At the Durham District School Board, we understand the importance of acknowledging the rich and complex history of Indigenous peoples both past and present. We recognize that the lands upon which our schools and communities thrive have been the ancestral territories of Indigenous nations, each with their own unique cultures, languages and traditions. Our commitment to fostering understanding, respect and

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes June 3, 2024

reconciliation is reflected in the work of our Indigenous Education Department. Through dedicated efforts, we strive to implement the calls to action set forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, ensuring that Indigenous history, perspectives and contributions are woven into the fabric of our educational practices. Central to our mission is the empowerment of our students, providing them with opportunities to explore and celebrate their own identities while cultivating a deep appreciation for the diverse cultures that enrich our shared community. Moreover, we recognize that our responsibility extends beyond the classroom walls, encompassing a commitment to engage with Indigenous communities in meaningful dialogue and collaboration. In adopting our Indigenous Education Policy, we affirm our belief in the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples to preserve and promote their cultural heritage. We pledge to uphold these rights by ensuring that our educational materials and public information are inclusive, accurate and respectful of Indigenous perspectives.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2024:SC16

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Director's Update

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

June 1st marked the beginning of Pride month, 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. The annual Durham Pride Parade took place yesterday and there was a great turnout of trustees, staff, students and families in attendance helping to confirm the important message to 2SLGBTQI students that they are seen and that they matter.

Last week, three DDSB students competed at the Skills Nationals in Quebec City as a part of team Ontario: Tina and Sonny from Donald A. Wilson in Animation and Marius from Maxwell Heights in Photography. Marius brought home a silver medal for his photography skills.

Also last week, Maxwell Heights Secondary School student Omar Elgazzar was awarded the prestigious TD Scholarship for Community Leadership. Annually, TD awards this scholarship to 20 graduating high school students from across Canada who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and contributions to support change and progress that help their communities thrive. In addition to his academic achievements, Omar has been an active member of the Maxwell Heights Muslim Student Association and a community leader engaging with local initiatives that support people in Durham who are unhoused and navigating food scarcity. Congratulations to Omar on this outstanding accomplishment. We wish you the very

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
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best this fall as you begin the next stage of your educational journey studying Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Waterloo.

On May 30, the Ministry of Education announced plans to introduce new high school graduation requirements and programming changes intended to ensure students are better prepared for life beyond high school. Some of the changes will include a financial literacy graduation requirement, modernized home economics courses, career coaching and revised guidance education, and a student exit survey. Implementation of the changes will be phased in starting in the 2024-25 school year and beyond and more information will be shared with DDSB students, families and staff as it becomes available.

On May 31, the Ministry of Education announced funding approval for DDSB to proceed to the next phase of construction for two new schools; one elementary school in west Ajax that includes a child care centre and one new secondary school in north Oshawa. Combined, these schools represent space for over 1,900 students and will provide accommodation pressure relief in Pickering, Ajax and Oshawa on their anticipated openings in fall 2025 and fall 2026 respectively.

On May 24 the annual Durham Region Heritage Fair took place here at the Education Centre. This multi-media initiative helps to increase public awareness and interest in Canadian history and DDSB students had the opportunity to explore aspects of Canadian heritage and present their own projects in a public exhibition. I commend the hard work and research undertaken by all the students who participated.

Coming up on June 20, the Whitby Station Gallery will host the first annual Durham Alternative Secondary Student Art Exhibition opening reception. Students have been hard at work creating paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, and mixed media and their works will be on display from June 8 to June 30.

6. DDSB Presentations

(a) Multi-Year Plan (MYSP) Operational Plan

Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Superintendent Georgette Davis, and Manager of Research and Strategic Analytics Chris Conley provided an overview of the Operational and Action Plan for 2024-2025, which builds on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and shared a PowerPoint presentation with trustees.

Trustee questions were answered.

7. Recommended Actions

(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, May 6, 2024

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the minutes from the May 6, 2024 Standing Committee Meeting.

2024:SC17

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2024

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham
SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOW APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2024 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING.

CARRIED

8. Information Items

(a) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Kayla Hoare shared that from May 13 - 17, O'Neill CVI organized a Menstrual Equity Drive, supported by Student Senate, to address the crucial issue of menstrual equity. The Drive had significant support from students, staff and the community, successfully raising awareness about menstrual health and equity while providing essential hygiene products to the students within their school community.

The Student Senate organized a Mental Health Conference, Creating Harmony, on May 7, which brought together students from across the DDSB to engage in educational workshops, interact with community partners and discuss the importance of mental health awareness. The conference received positive feedback, highlighting the significance of providing platforms for students to address and discuss critical issues affecting their well-being.

Student Trustee Ben Cameron shared that as the school year comes to a close, Senator elections in each secondary school for the upcoming year have concluded. The transition to a new cohort of student leaders marks a significant milestone, and anticipation is high as newly elected senators prepare to run for positions on the exec team at the final Student Senate meeting on June 6.

The recent OSTA conference provided an enriching experience for Student Trustees, offering opportunities for learning, networking and bidding farewell to outgoing trustees embarking on new adventures.

Student Trustee Cameron shared a farewell statement reflecting on his two terms as a Student Trustee.

(b) Schools Utilizing Modified School Year Calendar

Associate Director Jim Markovski provided the Board of Trustees with information on the five Durham District School Board schools utilizing a modified school year calendar.

Trustee questions were answered.

2024:SC18
MOVED by Trustee Christine Thatcher
SECONDED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024

I MOVE THAT STAFF INITIATE A REVIEW OF THE MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AT THE THREE SECONDARY SCHOOLS BROCK HIGH SCHOOL, MAXWELL HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL AND HENRY STREET HIGH SCHOOL. INPUT IS REQUIRED FROM THE COMMUNITY - STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS, AND A REPORT IS TO COME BACK TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 2025.

CARRIED

(c) 2024-2025 Inclusive Student Services/Special Education Plan

Superintendent Andrea McAuley provided the trustees with an overview of the Special Education Plan for the 2024-2025 school year for information. A recommendation for approval of the Special Education Plan will be brought forward during the Board Meeting of June 17, 2024.

Trustee questions were answered.

(d) 2023-2024 Teaching and Learning Plan Update

Superintendents Georgette Davis, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Stephen Nevills provided trustees with a presentation and update on the implementation of the 2023-2024 DDSB Math Achievement Action Plan and 2023-2024 Teaching and Learning Plan, which integrate Literacy and Numeracy initiatives into a cohesive strategy.

Trustee questions were answered.

(e) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Progress Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services, Lisa Bianca who shared an update on the status of construction and major projects as of June 3, 2024. 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.

9. Adjournment

2024:SC19

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:31 p.m.

Chair

Secretary



Durham District School Board
Student Trustee Report
September 3, 2024 Standing Committee

The focus of this report is an introduction to the 2024-2025 DDSB Student Trustees:

Kayla Hoare

Kayla is a second-term, Grade 12 student at Port Perry High School, returning for a second term as Student Trustee. Kayla will continue to prioritize highlighting student voices, opportunities and fostering stronger outreach between elementary and secondary schools for the duration of the term. Kayla is pleased to be back at the Board table this year and welcomes her new to the role peers, Nitishan and Shampavi.

Shampavi Vijayakumar

Shampavi is a first-term, Grade 12 student at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate. Shampavi is honoured to be a part of the Board and is excited to embark on this journey with her co-Student Trustees to actively participate in working to create positive change within the DDSB.

Nitishan Poopalasundaram

Nitishan is a first-term, Grade 12 student at R.S. McLaughlin Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Nitishan is honoured to have been elected by his peers to represent student voice at the Board table and looks forward to working alongside his co-Student Trustees to continue to foster a positive and inclusive environment for students in the DDSB.



Durham District School Board

OPSBA Report

September 3, 2024 Standing Committee

Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) Congress and Ontario School Board Association's (OPSBA) Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The CSBA Congress and OPSBA AGM was held in Toronto from July 3-5, 2024.

The CSBA Congress started with a keynote speaker Dr. Marie Battiste, Mi'kmaw educator and Professor Emerita, University of Saskatchewan, speaking on decolonization of education and learning in and through Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing. She unpacked the layers of inequities of colonization, the struggles for equity, diversity and inclusion. She emphasized the structural and philosophical difference when reconciliation, Indigenization, and decolonization are fully understood and applied to address the historical inequities of Eurocentric settler colonialism in systems of learning and management of them.

Trustees could choose to attend several workshops offered on a variety of topics such as:

- Combating Hate and Racism – Creating an Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy
- The Trustee's Roadmap to AI: Understanding, Ethics, and Impact
- Inviting All Employees to Improve Student Attendance: Because It Matters
- Acknowledge, Revisit, Renew: A Residential School Workshop
- Black Boys Like Me – In Conversation with Matthew Morris
- Student Trustees and Student Voice presented by OSTA-AECO
- Cybersecurity Workshop presented by BLG

The OPSBA AGM was also held during the CSBA Congress. Kathleen Woodcock of Waterloo DSB was elected President of OPSBA. Katheryn Pierroz of Rainy River DSB was elected First Vice-President and Michelle Aarts of Toronto DSB was elected second Vice-President. Jaine Klassen-Jeninga is the Regional Chair for Central East.

4 DDSB Trustees were elected in the Regional Elections held at the AGM for Central East:

- **Donna Edwards** for the position of Policy Development Work Group
- **Kelly Miller** for the position of Education Programs Workgroup and Policy Development Work group (BTC Rep)
- **Christine Thatcher** Education work group (alternate member)
- **Stephen Linton** Policy Development Work Group (BTC alternate member)

[OPSBA 2023-2024 Annual report](#) was released. Members voted on numerous constitutional changes to be in compliance with the Not-For-Profit Corporations Act and to representation from the Black Trustee's Caucus on the Executive Committee and Policy Development and Education Programs Working Groups.

DDSB's motion to have OPSBA acknowledge the recommendations set out in the 4th review of AODA and champion accessibility was also carried.

Legislative Business

Minister of Education Todd Smith, MPP for Bay of Quinte resigned on August 18, 2024 and a mini cabinet shuffle took place. Jill Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North became the new Minister of Education.

A Ministry of Education Memorandum was sent to all boards on July 30, 2024 regarding changes to Trustees' Code of Conduct, attendance at meetings and Integrity Commissioner-led investigations with different in-force dates. Earlier in July, the Ministry also provided a memo to school boards stating that they will continue to provide school boards access to menstrual products to be provided to students, at no cost.

Ministry of Education

Capital and Business Support
Division

315 Front Street West
15th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

Ministère de l'Éducation

Division du soutien aux
immobilisations et aux affaires

315, rue Front Ouest
15^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

157-2024-2193

June 25, 2024

Christine Thatcher
Chair
Board of Trustees
Durham District School Board
400 Taunton Road East
Whitby, ON L1R 2K6

Dear Christine Thatcher,

Thank you for your letter to the Minister of Education regarding a proposed change to the Education Development Charge (EDC) legislation. Your letter has been forwarded to me and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Ministry of Education (ministry) values feedback provided by the school boards and stakeholders. As you have noted in your letter, removing the cap on annual EDC increases would require an amendment to the *Education Act*. The ministry thanks you for your feedback and will take this under advisement.

I understand ministry staff have been in contact with Durham District School Board. As the school board continues to review their financial outlook, ministry staff are available to discuss further.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Didem Proulx
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division



Durham District School Board

400 Taunton Road East, Whitby, Ontario L1R 2K6
Phone: 905-666-5500; Toll Free: 1-800-265-3968

March 26, 2024

Dear Minister Lecce,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Durham District School Board (DDSB), we are writing to you seeking a change to the Education Development Charge (EDC) legislation which, in 2019, introduced a limit to the amount that any school board's EDC could be increased, the "Cap".

EDCs are imposed by school boards on new residential and non-residential developments with the collected funds restricted to land acquisition and site preparation costs accrued to address growth-related student accommodation pressures in areas of new residential development.

Both the Durham District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Board adopted jurisdiction-wide EDC by-laws which reflected the legislatively capped rate provisions imposed by the province on March 29, 2019. The current EDC by-laws are set to expire on April 30, 2024, and successor by-laws must be adopted by April 26, 2024, to avoid any interruption to collection of EDCs. The Board will consider the adoption of the new by-law on April 15, 2024, with the in-force date being May 1, 2024.

The current legislative cap limits the annual increase to \$300 per residential unit and \$0.10 per square foot of non-residential gross floor area. Without a change to the current limitations of this approach, we will not be able to purchase new land without direct support from the Ministry of Education. Durham Region is growing at a rapid pace and school needs continue to grow. We have gone from 70,000 students in 2019 to 79,000 students in 2023, resulting in increased enrolment pressure. If the EDC cap is not addressed by the Ministry, it will create additional challenges in meeting growth needs.

The DDSB's EDC Background Study dated February 13, 2024, was submitted in February for the Ministry's analysis of our required 15-year projected needs by our Consultant, Quadrant Advisory Group Limited. The Study identified our current EDC deficit at \$116.5 million which is a direct result of higher land prices, increased borrowing costs and our inability to collect the equivalent of a calculated EDC per residential unit given that the charge is capped at an allowable increase of \$300 per residential unit.

Additionally, as the DDSB's financial shortfall occurs well beyond the next 15 years, almost 56% of the net education land costs are unfunded, provided that costs do not increase. This makes the DDSB unique in that, while growth-related expenditures are expected to continue with housing growth beyond Year 15, the revenue stream will continue to be limited to the 'cap' until Years 24/25. An additional \$56 million in funding, as identified in the Study, is required by 2026/27, but there is no committed and available funding source at this time.

However, as we move through another three by-law adoptions over next 15 years, and assuming the growth rates remain stable and costs don't exceed the projected land and site preparation values, there would be an expectation of an additional \$300 million in expenditures every by-law period, and for which there is no additional funding unless the cap is lifted.



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Despite imposing a legislative cap on EDCs, the Ministry of Education remained silent on how or who would cover the shortfall in collections which is the difference between the capped EDC and the actual amount required to purchase sites. Under our current by-law, the capped rate is \$3,449 per residential unit while the amount needed was calculated at \$11,876 per residential unit. Our proposed new by-law is capped at \$3,749 per residential unit and \$0.10 per Sq. Ft. of non-residential gross floor area when we actually need \$12,540 per residential unit and \$2.14 per Sq. Ft. of non-residential gross floor area to fully fund our \$1.14 billion of identified needs over the next 15 years.

We are requesting that the Ministry of Education remove the cap on EDCs to enable us to meet our obligations to our communities to provide new schools on school sites in growth areas where none currently exist and that the Ministry of Education provide us with sufficient funding to address the increasing shortfall in EDC collections directly attributed to the impact of the cap since 2019.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. In addition, DDSB staff are available to work with Ministry staff to provide clarification on any points regarding our request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christine Thatcher
Chair, Board of Trustees
Durham District School Board

Cc:

DDSB Board of Trustees
Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford
Minister of Finance, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy
Durham Region MPPs



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MEMORANDUM

To: Trustees **Memo: No. 2425:48**

From: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
Erin Elmhurst, Superintendent of Equitable Education
Kandis Thompson, Superintendent of Equitable Education

Date: August 29, 2024

RE: Early Reading Screeners

This memo informs the Board of Trustees about the mandatory literacy screeners required by [PPM 168](#). It outlines the rationale, implementation requirements, and resources to support families.

Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 168 was introduced by the Ministry of Education to ensure early identification of reading difficulties in students. The Ministry has mandated standardized literacy screeners for use in Kindergarten to Grade 2 to assess foundational reading skills required for reading proficiency such as identifying letters, sounds and their relationships, as well as decoding words and reading text. Early detection through these screeners enables educators to provide targeted interventions, ensuring students receive the necessary support for literacy success. This initiative is critical for improving literacy outcomes and ensuring equitable access to education.

Key Requirements:

- All students in Year 2 of Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 will undergo early reading screening using a Ministry-approved tool.
- The first screening must occur by mid-November and results will be included in the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning and Elementary Provincial Report Cards using checkboxes.
- A second screening is required only for students who did not meet the benchmark in the first screening. This screener will be completed in March and results will be included in the Term 2 Kindergarten Communication of Learning and Elementary Provincial Report Cards using checkboxes.
- Schools will share information about early reading screening with families within the first week of the school year.

- If a student does not meet the benchmark in the first screening, results will be communicated with families in a timely manner to encourage collaboration with the school to support the student's progress in reading.
- Screener results will guide instructional strategies and support planning while maintaining confidentiality.
- The Durham District School Board (DDSB) will use the Ministry-approved standardized screener, Acadience.

Early reading screening is designed to support effective instruction. Early reading screening data should not be used in the evaluation of curriculum expectations. Communication with parents and families is essential to ensure they are informed about the process, results, and any additional support their child(ren) may need.

Potential Recommendations for Families:

Schools will be providing families with additional information to support their child at home after receiving screener results. For example, parents may wish to:

1. Read Daily: Engage with a variety of reading materials (magazines, e-books, poems, comic books).
2. Have Fun: Play board games and card games such as word bingo and look for words and phrases that are all around us – on cereal boxes, street signs, maps, posters and books.
3. Use Educational Resources: Leverage online tools such as [Starfall](#), [Reading Rockets](#), [Epic!](#), and [PBS Kids](#) to support literacy.
4. Monitor Progress: Regularly communicate with their child's teacher to track progress and discuss additional support if needed.
5. Access the [Ontario Language Curriculum, Grade 1-8 Guide for Parents](#) for additional information.

Reading is a basic and essential skill that impacts students' lifelong success. In school, reading is a fundamental skill that impacts learning in all other subject areas. All students are capable of reading with adequate evidence-based support. Early reading screening data (in conjunction with classroom-based assessments) can support teachers to provide targeted evidence-based reading instruction to all students to prevent or quickly address reading difficulty.



MEMORANDUM

To: Trustees

Memo: No. 2425:49

From: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
David Wright, Associate Director of Corporate Services
Lisa Bianca, Head of Facilities Services

Date: August 29, 2024

RE: 2024-2025 School Year Start

School Openings

Final preparations and approvals are underway so that we can welcome students to Beaver River P.S., Maamawi iyaawag P.S. and the new addition to Mary St. Community School on Tuesday September 3rd. Buildings received final inspections the week of August 26th and staff and construction teams will work throughout the long weekend, putting the final touches in place and preparing the schools for students to arrive on Tuesday morning.

Enrolment Update

DDSB's 2024/2025 Official Enrolment Projection of 83,286 students has been exceeded, with over 84,000 students enrolled at DDSB schools at the end of August. Staff anticipate additional enrolment fluctuation over the coming weeks and are closely monitoring the impact on class organizations.

Portable Update

DDSB started ordering portables in January to manage the expected increase in enrolment. Three portable manufacturers were engaged, given the magnitude of the anticipated need across the District. Unfortunately, there have been delays with all three of the manufacturers in terms of meeting the agreed upon timelines for delivery and installation. DDSB was informed of these delays in mid-August and shared the information with the principals of the affected schools. Portables will continue to be delivered over the coming weeks and are being set up as they arrive.

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Based on the current enrolment and staffing across the system, 18 schools will see classes temporarily located in alternate settings such as libraries as they await delivery of their portable. Every effort will be made to ensure delivered portables are operational as soon as possible.

DSTS Busing and Driver Update

All DDSB bus routes have assigned drivers and are expected to be transporting students on the first day of school.