

**Report of the Durham District School Board  
Standing Committee Public Session  
November 4, 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 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Chair Deb Oldfield

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Tracy Brown, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustee Christine Thatcher

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

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.

Chair Deb Oldfield shared the following statement:

With profound sadness, we learned today of the passing of the Honourable Murray Sinclair, a visionary leader, advocate, and beacon of justice and reconciliation in Canada.

Senator Sinclair's legacy is one of courage, compassion, love, and dedication to truth. As the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he opened hearts and minds across our nation and beyond, to the stories of Indigenous survivors, their

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strength, and the necessity of healing. His wisdom has guided so many of us toward understanding, respect, and unity.

In our work within the Durham District School Board, Senator Sinclair's dedicated work and advocacy remind us of our shared responsibility to foster inclusivity, honour diversity, and support each child's journey toward a brighter future. His legacy will live on in the efforts we make each day to uphold truth, respect, and the dignity of every individual. May we continue to bring forth his vision with a renewed commitment to Indigenous Rights, equity, learning, and reconciliation in our schools.

Please join us as a Board of Trustees in remembering the Honourable Murray Sinclair's extensive contributions and let us collaboratively reflect on how we can continue his work for generations to come.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

4. Motion to Approve the Agenda

2024:SC25

MOVED by Trustee Tracy Brown

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. DDSB Presentations: Strategic Implementation

(a) Community Connected Experiential Learning Programs

Superintendent Stephen Nevills introduced Monique Muller, System Lead – Student Success and Richard Bishop, Community Connected Experiential Learning Facilitator, who provided an overview of the experiential learning opportunities available to DDSB elementary students.

Trustee questions were answered.

6. Recommended Actions

(a) Approval of the Standing Committee Minutes, October 7, 2024

Trustee Deb Oldfield presented the minutes from the October 7, 2024 Standing Committee Meeting.

2024:SC26

MOVED by Trustee Michelle Arseneault

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2024 STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

7. Information Items

(a) 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided an overview of the report, which outlines strategies that promote meaningful learning experiences in mathematics and advance student achievement across all schools in the District. The 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan aims to enhance mathematics education and improve math scores through targeted supports and evidence-based practices.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram and Shampavi Vijayakumar shared an update on their recent participation in a Ministry-provided Student Trustee webinar, and noted that later this month they will be participating in the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting in Toronto.

The 2024-2025 model for Student Senate Regional Groups and meetings has been established, with Senators being encouraged to participate in breakout sessions with peers from other regions to help promote the exchange of ideas and strategies for positive change.

Exploration of effective ways for Student Trustees and Student Senate to enhance student awareness of available resources and support systems inside and outside schools remains ongoing.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF) Update

Trustee Michelle Arseneault shared the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan Summary along with two videos highlighting some of the many ways IDLF has been providing resources to support DDSB students so far this year. A recent Global television segment highlighting the work of IDLF was also shared.

8. Memos

(a) 2425:52, Status Update: PPM 128 – Current Practices and Next Steps

(b) 2425:54, Food and Nutrition Supports in Schools

(c) 2425:55, 2023-2024 EQAO Results

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The memos were shared with trustees for information and questions were answered.

9. Adjournment

2024:SC26

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

  
Chair

  
Secretary