

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, January 20, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Durham District School Board was held on this date.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Tracy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Trustees Michelle Arseneault, Emma Cunningham, Donna Edwards, Mark Jacula, Stephen Linton (virtual with Chair's approval), Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Deb Oldfield, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher (virtual with Chair's approval), Student Trustees Kayla Hoare (virtual), Nitishan Poopalasundaram (virtual), Shampavi Vijayakumar (virtual)

Regrets:

Officials Present: Director of Education Camille Williams-Taylor, Associate Director David Wright, Superintendents Lauren Bliss, Michael Bowman, Erin Elmhurst, Mohamed Hamid, Margaret Lazarus, Stephen Nevills, Andrea McAuley, Heather Mundy, Martine Robinson, Kandis Thompson, General Counsel Patrick Cotter, Senior Manager Dervla Kelly, Head of Facilities Lisa Bianca, Senior Manager Jennifer Machin

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Tracy Brown 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. O Canada

Trustee Mark Jacula welcomed and thanked the R S McLaughlin CVI Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Curtis Hunter for their performance of *O Canada* and *Through the Looking Glass*.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2025:RB01

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Consent Items

As there were no objections, the following proposed consent items were approved and adopted:

(a) Approval of meeting minutes:

i. DRAFT Minutes of the December 2, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

ii. DRAFT Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Special Board Meeting

(b) Adoption of Any Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 20, 2025.

7. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding cyber security. Staff responded to the question.

Staff read and responded to a question submitted by Kellie Lynn Pirie regarding gender identities.

Staff read and responded to a question submitted by Mike Palachik regarding high performance athletic programs.

8. Chair's Update

Chair Tracy Brown shared the following update:

As we begin a new year, I am pleased to introduce a new feature at our Board Meetings—the Chair's Update. This segment will provide monthly highlights of key initiatives, news, and events that Trustees engage with across the DDSB.

Despite the holiday break, many fantastic events and programs took place across the district over the past month.

November ended on a high note, with the Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN) hosting its inaugural Holiday Vendors Market at J. Clarke Richardson. Over 60 vendors attended, selling Afrocentric jewelry, books, food and delicious desserts. Esteemed authors, business consultants, and entrepreneurs were eager to share their expertise with the community.

Student and staff volunteers worked together to ensure a fun day with great tunes, tons of raffle prizes, and photos with Santa. It was a joy for the Trustees to attend.

One of the highlights of December for Trustees was attending holiday concerts and talent shows in our schools. These events showcased the incredible talent of our students and the dedication of the staff who make them possible.

In Port Perry, two community members joined the band to support the students—a testament to the community spirit in our schools.

Trustee Morton shared a beautiful quote from the program of Port Perry's Winter Winds concert: "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."

Though this quote from Plato is thousands of years old, it remains timeless, and we're thrilled to see these wonderful musical events across the DDSB continue to inspire our students' imagination and creativity.

We were moved by the generosity and giving spirit displayed throughout the DDSB during the holiday season. Students and staff organized numerous activities to raise funds in support of the Ignite Durham Learning Foundation (IDLF), which provides assistance to DDSB families in need.

Trustee Arsenault shared an overview of these efforts at a recent Standing Committee meeting, and many Trustees were fortunate to participate in these events. The impact of this collective effort was felt across our community, and we're grateful to all who contributed.

DDSB students also took the opportunity to volunteer their time at various initiatives, gaining valuable experience while fulfilling graduation requirements. One standout event was the Black Queens of Durham Holiday Pop-Up Market on December 7, 2024, where DDSB students participated as vendors and volunteers. The organizers sent Trustee Panylo a glowing email, praising the contributions of our students—a well-deserved recognition for their hard work and dedication.

Speaking of our exceptional students, I'd like to highlight the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Bootcamp, held on December 11 at the Education Centre. This event brought together 110 talented students from nine trades—carpentry, cooking, hairstyling, electrical, plumbing, construction, millwright, welding, and auto mechanics—along with their families. OYAP is a remarkable pathway for students to earn four credits: two through co-op and two through college-delivered trade courses. Students also complete Level 1 trade instruction with a college and are partnered with local companies to accrue hours and develop competencies. This initiative prepares students for successful careers in the trades and contributes to the growth of our province's economy. It's a shining example of how the DDSB is evolving its curriculum to meet our students' diverse aspirations and talents.

I want to highlight an upcoming event as we look forward to February. On February 23, the Muslim Educators Network of Durham (MEND) will host their second annual Ramadan Market in collaboration with DDSB Muslim Student Associations (MSA) from across the region. In celebration of the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Market will feature over 50 vendors of treats, gifts, clothing, henna, jewelry, and more.

9. Good News from the System

Noah and Sarah from Uxbridge Secondary School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Items Removed from the List of Consent Items

There were no items removed from the List of Consent Items.

11. Information Items

(a) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects Report

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who provided an update on construction and completion of major projects currently underway, including progress on the anticipated opening of new schools and childcare centres and how Ministry of Education funding for school repairs and renovations is being used.

There were no trustee questions.

(b) 2024-2025 Interim Financial Report – Quarter 1

Associate Director David Wright noted that the interim financial report includes an in-year deficit of approximately \$3M. Senior Manager of Finance Jennifer Machin provided an update on enrolment information, budget changes and operating expenditures as of November 30, 2024, representing the close of the first quarter of the fiscal year. This interim financial report is presented annually as part of the financial reporting cycle.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) 2024-2025 Supplementary Funds Summary

Associate Director David Wright introduced Senior Manager Jennifer Machin who provided a summary of the supplementary funding, known as Responsive Education Program grants, that have been announced or received to date for the 2024-2025 school year. This report is presented annually as part of the financial reporting cycle.

There were no trustee questions.

January 20, 2025

(d) 2024 Director's Annual Report

Director Camille Williams-Taylor introduced the 2024 Director's Annual Report, noting that the goal of the report is to provide a snapshot of how the commitments of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan are being undertaken through the comprehensive and collaborative effort of DDSB's senior team and staff. Trustees and members of the community are invited to review the 2024 Director's Annual Report by visiting the link noted in the meeting agenda: <https://2024.ddsbannualreport.ca/>.

There were no trustee questions.

(e) Report: Approved October 30, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Kelly Miller shared the minutes and provided an overview of discussion that took place at the October 30, 2024 Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

There were no Trustee questions.

(f) Report: Approved November 7 and December 5, 2024 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Kelly Miller shared the minutes and highlights of discussion that took place at the November 7 and December 5, 2024 SEAC meetings.

There were no Trustee questions.

(g) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards confirmed there was no update at this time.

12. Dates of Significance

The dates of significance were shared for information.

13. Adjournment

2025:RB02

MOVED by Trustee Deb Oldfield

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m.



Chair



Secretary