

APPROVED

MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Board Monday, March 17, 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, Kelly Miller, Carolyn Morton, Shailene Panylo, Christine Thatcher, Student Trustees Kayla Hoare, Nitishan Poopalasundaram, Shampavi Vijayakumar

Regrets: Trustee Deb Oldfield

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

Recording Secretary: Gillian Venning

2. Land Acknowledgement

Student Trustee Kayla Hoare 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

Trustees Mark Jacula and Shailene Panylo welcomed and thanked the Beau Valley Public School Bobcat Blues Band for their performance of *O Canada* and *Low Rider*.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this time.

5. Adoption of Agenda

2025:RB18

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Donna Edwards

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Proposed Consent Items

Trustee Donna Edwards requested that item 6(b)i be removed from Consent to be addressed under Recommended Actions.

Trustee Stephen Linton requested that item 6(b)ii be removed from Consent to be addressed under Recommended Actions.

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

(a) Approval of meeting minutes:

- i. DRAFT Minutes of the February 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

(b) Adoption of the Following Resolutions from the February 26, 2025 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting, which the Committee Recommended to the Board:

- i. ~~That the Board Adopt the Amendments to Section 7 of the Board Member Code of Conduct~~ (removed from consent)
- ii. ~~That Staff Prepare an Information Report to the Governance and Policy Committee Regarding Bullying~~ (removed from consent)
- iii. That Staff Prepare a Report Regarding Trustee Professional Development
- iv. That the Board Adopt the Amendments to Section 4.2.4 of the Bylaws

(c) Adoption of Any Resolutions from the In Camera, Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 17, 2025.

7. Public Question Period

Dylan Reynolds joined the meeting virtually and asked a question regarding inclement weather and student transportation. Staff responded to the question.

8. Chair's Update

Chair Tracy Brown shared the following update:

Although the weather was cold and snowy, it did not dampen the Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN) Black History Month celebration at Ajax High School on February 20, 2025. Trustee Edwards and myself attended the event and enjoyed the art, food, and celebrating the many Black-owned businesses within the community.

In Whitby, Trustee Thatcher had the honour of attending a Black History Month celebration at Donald A. Wilson Secondary School, where she was impressed by the remarkable talents of the senior students. The event drew around 450 Grade 11 and 12 students and centered around the theme of "Self-Love," emphasizing the significance of self-empowerment through dances, skits, spoken words, trumpet playing, and more.

Trustee Linton also participated in an event for Black History Month, where he joined Pine Ridge Secondary School's Black Student Union for a meaningful assembly. During the event, students presented the findings of a recent survey and highlighted the significance of having a dedicated Black Graduation Coach at the school. They spoke passionately about the profound impact Trecia Browne, their Black Graduation Coach, has had on their academic and personal growth. Students expressed their gratitude for the invaluable support and opportunities Trecia has provided, which have made a lasting difference in their lives.

Another highlight of the past few weeks for Trustees was attending the Ramadan Market, hosted by the Muslim Educators' Network of Durham (MEND) and held at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate. The event continues to grow year over year, attracting over 2,800 attendees! and featuring more than 60 local vendors.

Trustee Morton was thrilled to attend the Inclusive Skills Competition at Uxbridge Secondary School on February 21. This annual event, organized by culinary teacher Dave Brown and his students, brings together students of all abilities from across Durham for a baking and food preparation competition. The community is invited to attend and witness our students in action, supporting one another and forming valuable connections. A heartfelt thank you to Dave Brown and his students for their leadership in this incredible initiative. As an aside, I would like to highlight that Mr. Brown has been nominated by a community member for an Ontario Teaching Award – congratulations and well deserved.

In celebration of International Women's Day, Trustee Morton also attended an event hosted by the Lindsay Advocate. Director Williams-Taylor delivered an inspiring keynote address, speaking to attendees about leadership and turning passion into opportunity. With her blend of humour and wisdom, she captivated and motivated everyone in attendance. A heartfelt thank you to Director Williams-Taylor for her exceptional leadership.

While February can be long and gloomy, all of these events were a bright spot for Trustees this month.

9. Good News from the System

Noa from Cadarackque Public School and Griffin and Rhys from Brooklin High School shared good news from across the system on behalf of DDSB students.

10. Recommended Actions

(a) Motion to Reschedule the September 2, 2025 Standing Committee Meeting

Trustee Emma Cunningham introduced the draft motion, noting the importance of families being able to spend the evening together on the first day of school without a Standing Committee meeting taking place and as such, it is proposed that the meeting scheduled for September 2 be moved to the following day.

Trustee questions were answered.

2025:RB19

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Christine Thatcher

THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 BE MOVED TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 SO THAT IT DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

CARRIED

(b) Items Removed from the List of Consent Items

- i. That the Board Adopt the Amendments to Section 7 of the Board Member Code of Conduct

Trustee Edwards requested that an overview of the proposed Code of Conduct changes be provided prior to a decision being made. General Counsel Patrick Cotter noted that the changes are summarized in Appendix A of the report which was presented to the Governance and Policy Committee and subsequently adopted on February 26, 2025.

2025:RB20

MOVED by Trustee Emma Cunningham

SECONDED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 7 OF THE BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT.

CARRIED

- ii. That Staff Prepare an Information Report to the Governance and Policy Committee Regarding Bullying

Trustee Stephen Linton requested additional information about the timeline in which staff intend to present a response report regarding this motion. Director Camille Williams-Taylor confirmed staff will present the report on April 30, 2025 at the Governance and Policy Committee.

2025:RB21

MOVED by Trustee Shailene Panylo

SECONDED by Trustee Mark Jacula

THAT STAFF PREPARE AN INFORMATION REPORT TO THE
GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE REGARDING BULLYING.

CARRIED

11. Information Items

(a) Quarterly Construction and Major Projects

Associate Director David Wright introduced Head of Facilities Services Lisa Bianca who shared a presentation and provided an overview of current information on capital and major projects being undertaken by staff, including progress on anticipated opening of new schools and additions and how Ministry of Education funding for school repairs and renovations is being used.

Trustee questions were answered.

(b) Mid-Year Update on Implementation of the 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid provided an overview of the report, which provides a progress update on the 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan, focusing on key initiatives, educator professional learning, student engagement and areas for growth. The report also highlights implementation progress, challenges and opportunities, and next steps to support mathematical achievement across Ministry of Education-identified priority schools.

Trustee questions were answered.

(c) Report: Approved January 29, 2025 Governance and Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Trustee Kelly Miller shared the minutes of the January 29, 2025 Governance and Policy Committee meeting.

There were no Trustee questions.

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(d) OPSBA Update

Trustee Donna Edwards shared a reminder of the following upcoming meeting and event dates:

- Regional Meeting, April 5, 2025
- Education Labour Symposium, May 1 and 2, 2025
- Board of Director's Meeting, May 2 and 3, 2025
- Annual General Meeting, June 12 and 14, 2025

It was also noted that OPSBA Policy Resolutions are due from all school boards by April 9, 2025.

There were no trustee questions.

12. Correspondence

(a) City of Pickering Council Resolution: Ban of Nazi Swastika

The correspondence was shared for information. There were no trustee questions.

13. Dates of Significance

The dates of significance were shared for information.

14. Adjournment

2025:RB22

MOVED by Trustee Mark Jacula

SECONDED by Trustee Stephen Linton

THAT THE MEETING DOES NOW ADJOURN.

CARRIED

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



Chair



Secretary