Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology
Board of Governors Regular Meeting
Public Session Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Location: Oshawa Campus, DC Boardroom, A144

Members Present:
Lisa Allen, Board Chair
Megan Bent
Brandon Bird
Melissa Bosomworth
Alison Burgess
Jeff Dornan
Kelly Doyle
John Ecker
Rhonda Jessup
Ian Murray
Jerry Ouellette
Elaine Popp, President
Peter Pryce, Board Vice Chair
Kwende Thomas
Dwight Townsend
Nathan Wilson

Regrets:
Jim Brown

Staff Present:
Jean Choi, VP, Academic and Students
Rick Hutchinson, VP, Strategic Infrastructure and Campus Safety
Barbara MacCheyne, VP, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer
Thom MacDonald, AVP, Enrolment and International Education
Melissa Pringle, Manager, Board Governance and Privacy and Assistant to the President

1. Call to Order

With quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair introduced guests in attendance: Debbie McKeeDemczyk, Associate Vice President, Innovation and Research; Melanie Hewitt, Director, Institutional Research and Planning; Meagan Quesnelle, Director, School-College Work Initiative and Academic Upgrading; Victoria Kee, Manager, School-College Work Initiative and Academic Upgrading; and Rachel Al Balouchi, student.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Governor Jessup offered the land acknowledgement.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Chair asked if there were conflicts of interest to declare. None noted.

4. Presentations

4.1 Access to Post-Secondary: Highlighting Durham College's Academic Upgrading and Dual Credit Program

The Vice President, Academic and Students, introduced the presenters.

The Board received a presentation about the College's Academic Upgrading and Dual Credit Program.

The Board questioned the presenters.

4.2 Presentation of the Advanced Good Governance Certificate to Governor Thomas

The Board congratulated Governor Thomas for completing the Advanced Good Governance Certificate.

5. Consent Agenda

Moved by Governor Wilson
Seconded by Governor Doyle
"That all items listed under the heading of consent agenda be adopted as recommended." CARRIED

5.1 Approval of the Public Session Agenda – May 13, 2026

That the public agenda for the May 13, 2026, meeting of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.

5.2 Approval of Public Minutes from the Board of Governors Meeting of April 8, 2026

That the public minutes from the April 8, 2026, meeting of the Board of Governors be approved as presented.

5.3 Post-Election Report – Student Governor and Administrative Staff Governor Elections

That the Durham College Board of Governors ratify the results of the Administrative Staff Governor Election and Tanya Wakelin be confirmed as the Administrative Staff Governor for a three-year term starting September 1, 2026.

5.4 Ratification of Results for the Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

That the Durham College Board of Governors ratify the results of the election of Board Chair and Vice Chair and:

a) Peter Pryce be confirmed as the Board Chair for the 2026-2027 Board year; and,

b) John Ecker be confirmed as the Board Vice Chair for the 2026-2027 Board year.

6. Report of the Board Chair

- The Chair extended congratulations to the incoming Board Chair and Board Vice Chair and thanked all candidates who allowed their names to stand for leadership roles, noting their commitment to effective governance.

- The Chair recognized members and staff for notable achievements, including receipt of a professional award, a milestone service anniversary, and completion of a directors' education program.

- The Chair highlighted recent engagement activities, including a conference promoting careers in science, technology, and skilled trades for young women, and acknowledged the support of external partners.

- The Chair invited reflections from Governors who attended recent municipal and regional events, noting a shared emphasis on collaboration across industry, education, and government, and the institution’s key role in workforce development.

- The Chair proposed a future in-camera discussion to reflect on Board governance practices considering recent sector developments, with a focus on decision-making, Board culture, and fostering open, constructive dialogue. Further, the Chair encouraged Governors to review the Board evaluation survey results in advance and identify opportunities to strengthen effectiveness, ensure all voices are heard, and enhance transparency and shared understanding of key governance processes.

7. Co-Populous Governors’ Report

There was no co-populous governors' report.

8. Decision Items

There were no decision items.

9. Discussion Items

9.1 Durham College-Ontario Tech University Academic Pathways Report for 2025-2026

The Board received a report on the 2025–2026 academic pathways between Durham College and Ontario Tech University from the Vice President, Academic and Students, and Director, Institutional Research, highlighting the continued strength and growth of the partnership in supporting student mobility and choice. The presenters emphasized that pathways remain a priority, enabling students to upskill or reskill through degree-level studies.

The Board questioned the presenters regarding student outcomes following transfer, including comparative performance, enrolment trends, and potential impacts from changes in the international student cohort. The Board also questioned the presenters regarding the extent and limitations of data available to track student pathways and credential completion.

The presenters highlighted ongoing efforts to expand partnerships and position pathways as a strategic differentiator through collaborative program design and alignment with labour market needs. The Board also received clarification regarding a separate medical education initiative involving another institution, noting it is connected to a local healthcare partnership and does not present a direct concern.

9.2 Strategic Mandate Agreement 2025-2030 – Year One Evaluation

The Board received a report on the Year One evaluation of the 2025–2030 Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4) from the Vice President, Academic and Students and Associate Vice President, Innovation and Research. The SMA4 introduced revised performance metrics, funding structures, and accountability requirements. The presenters highlighted that eight metrics are now in place, with a portion of funding tied to performance that will increase over the agreement term. The presenters noted that the institution met seven of the eight metrics in Year One, with the only shortfall being graduate employment in a related field, resulting in a minor financial impact and a net funding gain due to overall strong performance.

The Board questioned the presenters regarding the prioritization of performance metrics within the Ministry framework, including how weightings are determined and aligned with institutional strengths and areas of focus. The Board also explored whether additional metrics would be valuable, including the growing importance of experiential learning in preparing students for evolving workforce demands. Further discussion addressed how “related field” employment is defined and measured, with management noting limitations due to reliance on self-reported survey data and recent changes to the Ministry’s approach to collecting this information.

9.3 Annual Academic Quality Assurance Activities

The Board received a report on the College’s annual academic quality assurance activities from the Vice President, Academic and Students, including updates on the comprehensive program review (CPR) process and planned reviews for the coming year. The Vice President, Academic and Students, noted that CPRs are informed by program performance metrics and comparator data, with 13 program reviews completed this academic year and 29 planned for the next. Program teams report on action plan progress, and completed reviews are shared with internal committees to promote best practices, celebrate program strengths, and support improvements in areas such as retention and graduation rates. Reviews are coordinated through a multi-year planning approach to manage workload and ensure compliance with required review cycles.

The Board questioned the Vice President, Academic and Students regarding program review capacity and scheduling, common themes emerging from reviews, and how program relevance is maintained in rapidly changing fields. Discussion also addressed the institution’s ability to respond quickly to industry changes outside of formal review cycles, including program modifications informed by advisory committees and employer feedback. Additional questions focused on the treatment of suspended programs within the review cycle and examples of successful program revitalization.

9.4 Keeping the College Safe: Employee Health and Safety and Campus Safety Activities

The Board received a report from the Vice President, Strategic Infrastructure and Campus Safety, on employee health and safety and campus safety activities, noting stable performance, a focus on continuous improvement, and proactive risk management. The Vice President, Strategic Infrastructure and Campus Safety, highlighted that the College's number of health and safety incidents remains well below provincial averages, with incidents generally minor in nature. Campus safety operations were described as comprehensive and supported by systems such as CCTV and emergency alert technology, with incident volumes remaining stable year over year.

The Board questioned the Vice President regarding the structure and effectiveness of governance and oversight models, key safety risks and areas of concern, and protocols for engaging law enforcement in response to incidents. The Board also questioned the use and management of surveillance systems, data tracking and reporting limitations, and the availability of comparative benchmarking data. Additional discussion addressed emerging safety considerations, including emergency preparedness, the handling of trespass incidents, and opportunities to enhance safety awareness and training initiatives.

10. Upcoming Events

The Chair drew attention to the following upcoming events:

- Lean Into Green Event – May 20, 2026, Oshawa Campus
- June Board Meeting – June 10, 2026, Whitby Campus
- Convocation Ceremonies – June 15 to 18, 2026
- Board of Governors Year-End Social – June 25, 2026

11. Move to In-Camera Session

By-law No. 1 provides for the Board to go in-camera to discuss items deemed confidential to the College.

Moved by Governor Townsend
Seconded by Governor Dornan
“That the Durham College Board of Governors move in-camera after a 10-minute recess.” CARRIED

The Board recessed at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened in-camera at 8:00 p.m.

During the in-camera session, the Board discussed the presidential evaluation process and financial and contractual matters.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.

Lisa Allen
Board Chair

Melissa Pringle
Board Secretary