



## General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026 @ 4:30pm (Virtual)

**Members Present:** Quorum

### **Executive Officers Present:**

Melody Hurtubise (President), April Bello (First VP), Natacha Verdiel (Second VP), Gena Di Giovanni (Chief Steward), Paulina Medeiros (Secretary/Treasurer)

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm

### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

### **3. Statement of Respect**

### **4. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion: To adopt the agenda as presented.

- *Moved By:* Cris Dimitru
- *Seconded by:* Sam Kassam
- *Result:* Motion Carried

### **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the previous meeting (December 2, 2025) as presented.

- *Moved by:* Leanne Cooper
- *Seconded by:* Padma Mathura
- *Result:* Motion Carried

Motion: To amend the previous minutes regarding Item #9 (Committee Guidelines & Reports of Committees – Health & Safety Committee Update) to reflect the following: The following sessions will be offered to Stewards: Alternative Learning Environments (ALE), Medical Leave and Accommodations, and Safety Plans

- *Moved by:* Brie-Ann Telford
- *Result:* Carried Unanimously

### **6. Business Arising**

#### **6.1 By-Law Amendment & Additions**

Several by-law amendments and additions were presented to and approved by the membership at the last General Membership Meeting. The status of these updates is as follows:

- The amendments have been forwarded to the OPSEU By-Law Review Committee.
- Following the committee's review, the documents will be sent to the President's Office
- Once final approval is received, the updated by-laws will be distributed to the general membership.

## 7. Staffing Reduction Update

As a result of the collective pushback from the unions, the Board has decided to withdraw the proposed staffing changes that impacted our members. However there continues to be concern regarding a lack of transparency from senior leadership to elected trustees, and a joint statement was sent to the Director's Office on behalf of all impacted Unions, then to the Minister of Education, and the public via media release.

## 8. Reports of Committees

**Health & Safety Committee Report:** Stewards are encouraged to monitor their email for upcoming training session dates and times. Training will cover the following topics: Alternative Learning Environments (ALE), Medical Leave and Accommodations, and Safety Plans

**Member Advocacy & Engagement Committee Report:** The committee is currently exploring opportunities for members to participate in various interests and activities. Members are encouraged to monitor upcoming announcements for further details.

## 9. Regional Meeting & Elections

The Regional Meeting will be held in Niagara Falls on March 21st from 9am to 5pm.

- Voting will be conducted via Simply Voting during the following times:
  - Delegates on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm
  - Alternates on February 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 am to 6:00pm.
- The first question on the ballot will ask the membership to approve a plurality voting system for the election.
- The local will cover the cost for 2 Alternates to attend in person and 2 Alternates to attend virtually.

### ***The following nominations were received for the eight (8) Delegate positions:***

- Jennifer Porter
- Amy Rideout
- Atiya Sohail
- Sabrina Lowry
- Donette Bobb
- Gena DiGiovanni
- April Bello
- Genea Hylton
- Geetha Thakur
- Paulina Medeiros

### ***The following Delegate nominations were received from the floor:***

- Sandra Hammond – nominated by Brie-Ann Telford (*accepted*)
- Naila Felix-Mitchell *self nominated*
- Amanda Da Conceicao – nominated by Donette Bobb (*accepted*)
- Alicia Farmer *self nominated*
- Natacha Verdiel – nominated by Jennifer McKelvey (*accepted*)

***The following Delegate nominations were received from the floor:***

- Jennifer McKelvey – nominated by Natacha Verdiel (*accepted*)
- Sandra Hammond – nominated by Brie-Ann Telford (*accepted*)

***The following nominations were received for the nine (9) Alternate positions:***

- Jennifer Porter
- Amy Rideout
- Atiya Sohail
- Sabrina Lowry
- Donette Bobb
- Gena DiGiovanni
- Genea Hylton
- Geetha Thakur
- Paulina Medeiros

## **10. Convention Elections**

OPSEU Convention will be held in Toronto from April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Voting will be conducted via Simply Voting during the following times:
  - Delegates on February 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm
  - Alternates on February 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 am to 6:00pm.
- The first question on the ballot will ask the membership to approve a plurality voting system for the election.
- The local will cover the cost for 2 Alternates to attend in person and 2 Alternates to attend virtually.

***The following nominations were received for the eight (8) Delegate positions:***

- Ava Wickens
- Amy Rideout
- Brie-Ann Telford
- Jennifer Porter
- Gena DiGiovanni
- Atiya Sohail
- Donette Bobb
- Jenna Suffern
- Kathleen Gorven
- Leah Carroccia
- April Bello
- Geetha Thakur
- Genea Hylton
- Paulina Medeiros

***The following Delegate nominations were received from the floor:***

- Natacha Verdiel – nominated by Jennifer McKelvey (*accepted*)
- Sandra Hammond – nominated by Brie-Ann Telford (*accepted*)
- Jennifer McKelvey – nominated by Jennifer McKelvey (*accepted*)

***The following nominations were received for the nine (9) Alternate positions:***

- Ava Wickens
- Amy Rideout
- Brie-Ann Telford
- Jennifer Porter
- Gena DiGiovanni
- Atiya Sohail
- Donette Bobb
- Jenna Suffern
- Kathleen Gorven
- Leah Carroccia
- Geetha Thakur
- Genea Hylton
- Paulina Medeiros

***The following Alternate nominations were received from the floor:***

- Natacha Verdiel – nominated Jennifer McKelvey (*accepted*)
- Sandra Hammond – nominated by Brie-Ann Telford (*accepted*)

As quorum was lost, no further business could be conducted.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 5:46 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026