



# Highlights

from the October 23, 2017 Board Meeting

## Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School Singers



Thank you to the student choir from Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School for opening the October 23, 2017 Board Meeting with their vibrant vocals singing O Canada followed by a harmonic version of In Flanders Fields and True Colours, sending a positive message of love and inclusion for all.

## Awards and Accolades

The Durham Catholic District School Board celebrated recent acknowledgements in alignment with various areas of the *Discovery 2020 Strategic Plan*.



### Mother of Delphine Award from ShareLife

Thank you to the wonderful stewards at ShareLife for the tremendous work that you do reaching out to families in need, and for recognizing our Durham Catholic family with this award.



### BRAVO Awards from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE)

This national recognition aligns with the strategic priority of Advancing Communications in the Board's *Discovery 2020 Strategic Plan*.



### Civic Pride Award Finalist from the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce

In recognition of our efforts in maintaining our commitment to caring for God's creation and preserving our planet, the Durham Catholic District School Board was pleased to be selected as a finalist in consideration of the Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce's Civic Pride Award.

Congratulations to all of our leaders across the Durham Catholic District School Board for sharing your gifts with our Catholic learning communities.



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## 2017-2018 Board Improvement Plan



Director Anne O'Brien shared an overview of the 2017-2018 Student Well-Being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan. The plan builds on the goals and actions that were accomplished since 2014. "Thanks to our senior administrative team for their work on this document and for their dedication to our strategic priorities under the guiding principles of Excellence, Equity and New Evangelization," Director O'Brien said.

Ronald Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer was invited to expand on the information presented in the strategic priority of Emerging Technology. Mr. Rodriguez provided an update on the work achieved over the last five years and discussed the strategic priorities for the ICT Team for 2017-2018:

- Service and Equalization
- Modernization to improve efficiency and productivity
- Security

## Making an Impact in Student Achievement: 2017 EQAO Results

Teaching and Learning staff shared details regarding DCDSB's 2017 EQAO results. "We did see an increase in our results from last year and we are proud of the work staff has been doing in our schools," said Gerry O'Reilly, Superintendent of Education.



Judy Bear, Math teacher at Father Leo J. Austin CSS was invited to speak about the success of implementing the Ultimate Potential (UP) Math program. "Across the province we've been struggling with the success of students, particularly in Grade 9 Applied Math. But last year was a fantastic year for our Grade 9 EQAO Math results," Ms. Bear said. She noted that of the DCDSB

students who wrote Grade 9 EQAO assessment showed a significant increase of students achieving Levels 3 and 4 from the previous assessment they wrote in Grade 6. Ms. Bear credited the UP Math learning strategy for the success of this cohort of students.



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### Update from John Rinella, Chair of the Board



In this season of Thanksgiving, I extend thanks to our Durham Catholic District School Board of Trustees, staff, partners and ratepayers, for your involvement and continued support of our quality Catholic education system here in Durham Region.

Earlier this month, I was invited to participate as a guest at the annual conference for the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education.

With a focus on emergency preparedness and crisis situations, the sessions offered perspective on the work and preparation by our communications staff on a daily basis. I would like to congratulate our award-winning communications team and acknowledge their leadership, often working behind the scenes while making a positive impact in our Board.



On Wednesday, October 11 we honoured every one of our Durham Catholic schools at the annual EcoSchools Celebration. The event recognized students, staff and parents for their dedication to environmental awareness within their school communities. Thank you to our EcoSchool teams for selflessly giving your time to environmental matters, and to

our school and trustee representatives who attended the evening.

We look forward to celebrating the Commissioning Mass for our Catholic Parent Council chairs and members this week at our Pope Francis Centre. Being part of this group is a special commitment from parents and we value their roles in making our schools faith-filled school communities.



On Tuesday, October 24 we are asked to wear purple in support of our partners at the Durham Children's Aid Society. This awareness raising initiative for Child Abuse Prevention aligns with our strategic directions and promoting student well-being and achievement.



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### Update from Anne O'Brien, Director of Education



October has been a busy month celebrating many special milestones and acknowledgements, such as Indigenous Education Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Principals' Month, Mental Health Day and other important initiatives.

In this season of almsgiving, we have much to be grateful for in the Durham Catholic District School Board. We are thankful for our Durham Catholic family - our educators, administrators, support staff, parents, students, clergy and community members - for your contributions and commitment to Catholic education. Our school communities and staff have celebrated their gratitude through prayer and donations to local food banks and so on. I extend my personal thanks to our parish priests who have led our individual communities in Masses of Thanksgiving.



October 15 to 21 was designated by the province as Local Government Week. Established to increase youth and public awareness about the role local government plays in our communities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board of Trustees and acknowledge their role as elected officials representing the Durham Catholic students and families. Thank you for all that you do in

reaching out to the community, and advocating for Catholic education here in Durham and across the province.

As we prepare to wrap-up October with many common activities throughout our schools, we also pause to recognize All Saints Day on November 1, and All Souls Day on November 2. The privilege of recognizing these holy obligations in our Catholic learning communities is part of what makes our schools special and unique.

Please note that the Regular Board Meeting (Policy) has been changed from November 6, 2017 to November 13, 2017.



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### Motions

- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the verbal report with respect to the EQAO Primary & Junior Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics and Grade 9 Math – OSSLT – 2016..
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive as information the Unnamed North Oshawa Catholic Elementary School Facility Report dated October 23, 2017.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive as information the All Saints Catholic Secondary School Arts and Media Program (AMP) report dated October 23, 2017.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive as information the Ministry of Education 2017 Capital Project Funding Submission report dated October 23, 2017.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the report regarding Offence Declarations for 2017/2018.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive as information the Enrolment and Staffing Update as at October 23, 2017.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information the 2017-2018 Board Improvement Plan.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the revised Schedule of Board and Committee Meetings for the 2017-2018 school year.

### Announcements

Kathy LeFort, Vice-Chair of the Board, made the following announcement:

### Retirement

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Position</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Joan C. Richardson	Teacher, Arch Denis O'Connor CHS	November 30, 2017

**Minutes of the October 2017 Board Meeting will be posted on the Board website as part of the agenda for the next Regular Board Meeting of Monday, November 30, 2017.**