



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Regular Board Meeting

Agenda

Monday, April 26, 2021
7:30 p.m.

For livestreaming of this Regular Board Meeting, click here:
<https://dcdsb.ca/BoardMeeting>

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Education Centre
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Regular Board Meeting - Open Agenda

Apr 26, 2021 4:00 PM EDT

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Opening Prayer

Lord, thank you for bringing us together virtually for this meeting, under your hand of protection. This evening we ask that in every decision made and every challenge faced, you guide us, as you have from the beginning.

Amen



Morgan Ste. Marie

Chair of the Board and Trustee,
City of Oshawa
289-404-0896



Janice Oldman

Vice-Chair of the Board and Trustee,
Town of Ajax
905-431-8759



Richard Damianopoulos

Trustee, Townships of Scugog,
Uxbridge and Brock

416-587-8951



Robert De Souza

Trustee, City of Oshawa

905-424-8019



Monique Forster

Trustee, Town of Ajax

905-441-9418



Jim McCafferty

Trustee, City of Pickering
905-839-8454



John Rinella

Trustee, Town of Whitby
289-404-6319



Mikhail Yurkoski

Trustee, Town of Whitby

365-885-8050



Student Trustee

Annika Dela Torre

Notre Dame Catholic Secondary
School



Student Trustee

Declan Amaral

All Saints Catholic Secondary School



Tracy Barill

Director of Education



Scott Grieve

Superintendent of Facilities,
Maintenance and Custodial Services



Susie Lee-Fernandes

Superintendent of Education



Mike O'Neill

Superintendent of Education



Mariah O'Reilly

Superintendent of Education



Ryan Putnam

Superintendent of Business Services
and Chief Financial Officer



Jim Wilson

Superintendent of Education



Gerard Winn

Superintendent of Education



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Regular Board Meeting – Open Session Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board

March 22, 2021 at 7:30 PM EST

Virtual Meeting

Trustees Present

M. Ste. Marie (Chair), J. Oldman (Vice Chair)

Trustees R. Damianopoulos, R. DeSouza, M. Forster, J. McCafferty, J. Rinella

Regrets

Trustee M. Yurkoski

Student Trustees Present

D. Amaral

A. Dela Torre

Director of Education Present

T. Barill

Senior Administration Present

S. Grieve, S. Lee-Fernandes, M. O'Neill, M. O'Reilly, R. Putnam, R. Rodriguez,
J. Wilson, G. Winn

Senior Managers Present

M. Hammond, T. Long, J. McVeigh, C. Oldman

1. Call to Order

Chair Ste. Marie called the Open session to order at 7:00 p.m.

1.1. Motion to Move in Camera

Motion:

B2021-03-22-01 - Motion to Move In Camera

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board meeting move into In Camera session."

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.
CARRIED

Resumption of Open Session (7:30 p.m.)

1.2. National Anthem

The meeting opened with O Canada.

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1.3. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Chair Ste. Marie acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.4. Memorials and Prayer

Student Trustee Amaral offered the opening prayer.

1.5. Roll Call and Apologies

Trustee Yurkoski sent regrets.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Changes to Printed Agenda

None

2.2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

B2021-03-22-02 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the Monday, March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting as provided."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos.
CARRIED

3. Announcements

3.1. Announcements from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting

Vice Chair Oldman read the following announcements:

Retirements

Shelley Cecchetto, All Saints CSS, Effective March 31, 2021

Cheryl Dixon, Student Services Department, Effective June 30, 2021

Susan Ryan-Fung, Durham Catholic Virtual Elementary School, Effective June 30, 2021

3.2. Appointments and Transfers

None

4. Notices of Motions

Trustee Forster read the Notice of Motion on the Student Trustee Two Year Term Proposal (Appendix 1).

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5. Declaration of Interest

5.1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

6. Actions to be Taken

6.1. Approval and Signing of Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting of February 22, 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-03 - Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open Session of the February 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by M. Forster.

CARRIED

6.2. Business Arising from the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting of February 22, 2021

None

6.3. Approval and Signing of Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting (Policy) of March 8, 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-04 - Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open Session of the March 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting (Policy)."

Motion moved by R. De Souza and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos. CARRIED

6.4. Business Arising from the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting (Policy) of March 8, 2021

None

7. Presentations

7.1. De-streaming Grade 9

- Mariah O'Reilly, Superintendent of Education presented the De-Streaming of Grade 9 courses, starting with Mathematics in September 2021.
- Highlights of key topics from her presentation include:
 - De-streaming in Ontario 2021

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- Objectives of De-streaming
 - Goals of De-streaming
 - Why De-streaming?
 - Some Key Factors Provincially
- Superintendent O'Reilly said that de-streaming will phase out Grade 9 Academic and Applied (streamed) courses and phase in Grade 9 de-streamed courses, while supporting students to be successful. With this approach, students in Grade 9 will continue to learn Math curriculum, with a choice of streamed courses (Academic and Applied) in Grade 10.
- She stated that research shows that marginalized groups and students from low-income households are more likely to be steered away from academic courses which can impact post-secondary education and employments.
- Grade 8 students and families have also felt streamed course selection in Grade 9 is too early - many students don't know what career pathway they want to pursue and therefore don't know what course stream to take.
- Superintendent O'Reilly said that de-streaming will address systemic discrimination and help break down barriers for Indigenous, Black, and racialized students, students from low-income households, and students with disabilities and special education needs. She noted that everyone will have an equal opportunity to succeed, thrive and reach their full potential.
- The goals related to de-streaming include:
 - Cultural shifts in schools and boards to identify and dismantle systemic discrimination and structural inequities;
 - Increased educator capacity for effective culturally-responsive instruction, assessment, and evaluation in de-streamed, multi-level classrooms; and
 - Increased student engagement, achievement, and well-being.
- Superintendent O'Reilly noted that de-streaming will keep course options open and support all students for senior secondary courses that will allow them to pursue post-secondary pathways (apprenticeships, college or university) of their choice.
- Following the presentation Director Barill and Superintendent O'Reilly responded to questions from trustees.

Motion:

B2021-03-22-05 - De-streaming Grade 9

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information, the De-Streaming Grade 9 Report dated March 22, 2021.”

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by R. De Souza. CARRIED

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8. Delegation

None

9. Consideration of Motion

- 9.1. Motions to be read in Open Session from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of March 22, 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-06 - Motions Deemed Read

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Motions as deemed read from the In Camera session of the March 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.”

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. Rinella. CARRIED

10. Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting

None

11. Committees

11.1. Committee Reports

11.1.1. I.P.R.C Report for February 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-07 - IPRC Report for February 2021

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the I.P.R.C. report for February 2021.”

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. McCafferty. CARRIED

11.1.2. General Working By-Law Committee Meeting - February 23, 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-08 - General Working By-Law Committee Meeting - February 23, 2021

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the report of the February 23, 2021 General Working By-Law Committee meeting.”

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. McCafferty. CARRIED

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11.1.3. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - March 2, 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-09 - SEAC Meeting - March 2, 2021

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the report of the March 2, 2021 Special Advisory Committee meeting."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.
CARRIED

11.1.4. Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-10 - DCPIC Meeting Minutes - March 4, 2021

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the written report from the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 4, 2021."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.
CARRIED

11.2. Matters Referred from Committee

None

12. Staff Reports

12.1. Chair's Report

12.1.1. Chair's Verbal Report

Chair Ste. Marie provided the following verbal report:

- Thank you to staff for organizing the Black Mental Health Day presentation on March 1, 2021. The virtual event featured performances by Notre Dame and St. Mary Catholic Secondary School students, as well as a keynote address by Mental Health Speaker and Advocate, Asante Haughton. Asante shared his lived experience as a black male and the impact racism has on the mental health and well-being of individuals. During the presentation, Asante shared personal stories of his own encounters with racism and discussed the anxiety that many experience as a result. He recalled the words of his brother who said, "racism is difficult to define,

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but easy to feel.” Asante encouraged staff, parents and guardians to create compassionate, safe, and trusting spaces where students can access services and learn about Black leaders, while being encouraged to achieve their goals and dreams. A recording of the presentation is available at dcdsb.ca/equity.

- Thank you to trustees who attended the virtual Ordinandi Dinner on March 2, and celebrated the Class of 2021 for all those who have chosen the church as their vocation. Seven deacons shared their vocation stories and will soon become ordained priests.
- March 11, marked the one-year anniversary of the declaration of the global pandemic. The day was designated as a national day of observance in memory of the over 22 000 Canadians who have been lost to COVID-19. We extend our thoughts and prayers to staff, students and families who have experienced the loss of a loved one.
- This past year has been challenging for everyone. We have embraced online learning, virtual meetings, new technology and enhanced safety measures. We have also witnessed the generosity of students, families and staff who donated their time, talents and gifts by making face shields with 3D printers and donating masks and safety supplies to Lakeridge Health. Students recorded video messages to lift the spirits of residents in senior homes, wrote cards and messages of faith, hope and love, and staff delivered technology, supplies and food to families in need. We continue to see our Catholic Graduate Expectations, values and beliefs in action and it offers us hope for brighter days ahead.
- This Lenten season, the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee has been offering Lenten crafts that families can complete at home. A video highlighting the new weekly activity can be viewed at dcpic.ca. We encourage families to participate. Thank you to the members of DCPIC for their commitment to strengthening the home – school - parish connection.
- We invite families, students and staff to take time to pause and reflect on our faith as we celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Let us renew our faith in God and in the resurrected life offered to us through Jesus, the Risen Christ. May God’s strength and Easter Spirit dwell in our hearts, homes, hospitals, Churches and school communities and fill us with love and kindness as we are called to serve. Happy Easter.

12.1.2. Student Trustees' Verbal Report

Student Trustees Amaral and Dela Torre provided the following verbal report:

- This month was a very busy month for students across our board through social media! From recognizing International Women's Day, celebrating St. Patrick's Day, and commemorating this Lenten season, our students and student councils have remained engaged through various spirit week activities, social media challenges, and non-perishable food and hygiene product drives.
- Earlier today our Student Senate Committee partook in our first-ever virtual Student Trustee Elections, after months of promotion. Although this year's elections were very much different than that of previous years, we managed to maintain our traditional elections process. We had 17 candidates apply for the position, each of the secondary schools in our board was represented through the candidates. This afternoon and evening the Senate heard the candidates' speeches, interviewed them, and voted. All of the candidates were so amazing, well-spoken and dynamic student leaders, congratulations to them. We look forward to the announcement of who our 2021-2022 Durham Catholic student trustees will be!
- On the topic of Student Trustee elections, we wanted to speak to the motion presented this evening with the support of Trustee Forster regarding extending the term of a Durham Catholic student trustee from one year to two years. Our board currently elects student trustees for one-year terms of service as we did earlier this evening, and although this process works and is effective, it can be *improved*. The proposed change is a step in that direction, as proven through boards with existing two-year student trustee term models like the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board, Niagara Catholic District School Board, York Catholic District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, and many others across Ontario. With a two-year term, student trustees can properly transition into their role through meaningful mentorship with their senior student trustee and publicly elected trustees. In turn, the student trustees will have a complete understanding of the roles and responsibility of their position, and build upon student initiatives to not only uplift

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student voice, but to carry it longer and further, to ensure its quality, impact, and longevity. As students and as student trustees, we view this proposed change as essential to our school board, as it is supported by the board's students by way of unanimous approval of the Durham Catholic Student Senate Committee. Also, this proposed change is an agent of one of our board's core commitments, Engagement, "Providing opportunity for authentic student voice and ownership in their learning". Our current student trustee model falls short of this, so we hope that along with the students, the Board of Trustees agrees.

- To conclude our report this evening, we would like to wish our students, staff, families, and community members a safe and holy rest of the Lenten season.

12.2. Director's Report

12.2.1. Revised Committee Membership - January to December 2021

Motion:

B2021-03-22-11 - Revised Committee Membership - January to December 2021

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the revised membership for the following Statutory Committees:

- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL)
- Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. Rinella.
CARRIED

Motion:

B2021-03-22-12 - Revised Committee Membership - January to December 2021

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the revised membership for the following Standing Committee:

- Outstanding Home/School Communication Award Committee."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. Rinella.
CARRIED

12.2.2. Revised 2020/2021 Schedule for Board and Committee Meetings

Motion:

B2021-03-22-13 - Revised 2020/2021 Schedule for Board and Committee Meetings

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Revised Schedule of Board and Committee Meetings for the 2020/2021 school year.”

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. Rinella.
CARRIED

12.2.3. COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

Motion:

B2021-03-22-14 - COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information, the COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update dated March 22, 2021.”

Motion moved by J. Rinella and motion seconded by R. De Souza.
CARRIED

12.2.4. Director's Verbal Report

The Director provided the following verbal report:

- The adjustment made by the Ministry of Education to the timing of March Break has been challenging for both students and staff who have worked hard since Christmas to accommodate the ever changing landscape due to COVID-19. We recognize those efforts and the resilience that has been demonstrated to get the board to where we are today. On a positive note, Spring Break will soon be here and before that, the celebration of the Holy Triduum and the most sacred day of our liturgical calendar, Easter. As the reflective season of Lent draws to its conclusion, we anticipate the joyful celebration of the 50 days of Easter, beginning Easter Sunday and carrying on through to Pentecost.
- Thank you to DCDSB's System Animator for Faith Formation, Katherine Mustachi and Academic Consultant, Sarah Crockford for the spiritual leadership they have provided for our staff and learning communities by organizing weekly prayer services and the Wednesday evenings' Together in

Prayer services for the broader community throughout this Lenten season. Thanks also to school chaplains, staff and our parish communities for joining our students and families in prayer and other Lenten activities.

- Recently, Senior Administration have started planning for the coming school year. It is the board's goal to provide students, families and staff with information on what to expect in the fall as soon as possible. The Ministry of Education will be providing additional information in April. It is our intention to offer an Elementary Virtual School in September as an option for our families. We are able to make this decision as staffing in the elementary is more straightforward than in secondary. Additional information is required to make a decision regarding a virtual secondary school. Therefore, in the coming weeks secondary students and families will be asked to complete a survey to determine if a virtual secondary option will be possible in the 2021-2022 year. We will continue to share information as it becomes available.
- The Board is accepting nominations for the annual [DCDSB's Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award](#). If you know of a former DCDSB student who deserves to be recognized for their pursuit of personal excellence, positive contributions to their community and who represent the image of the Catholic learner as outlined in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, visit dcdsb.ca and complete the online nomination form on or before Friday, April 9, 2021. Winners will be recognized during Catholic Education Week in May.
- We welcome all new staff to the DCDSB community due recent retirements and those who have moved onto new roles. As part of the Board's strategic plan and commitment to Excellence, Equity and Engagement key staffing positions have been created to support the critical steps needed to ensure that all students in our schools are able to learn and grow in environments that are equitable and inclusive. In the fall, the board welcomed Senior Manager of Equity, Anti-Racism and Engagement, Margaret Brimpong. The board now welcomes Senior Manager for Indigenous Education, Karli Robertson who has joined our DCDSB community. Karli Robertson has worked with DCDSB as an Indigenous Education Support and is currently the Chair of Indigenous Youth Council for the National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association (NATOA) and is a Board Member with the Bawaajigewin Aboriginal Community Circle. Ms. Robertson worked at Trent University, Peterborough campus, as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for Indigenous Studies and with

the Oshawa campus as the Co-Facilitator of Cultural Awareness Training for the City of Oshawa. She has also worked with Fleming College as an Indigenous Studies Faculty member, with CAREA Community Centre as the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe Language) Activity Facilitator, and with Durham College as an Ojibwe Language Teacher. Ms. Robertson together with DCDSB's Indigenous Education Advisory Circle held a virtual event on March 3 with Beedahbin Peltier. Nearly 300 self-identified Durham Catholic Indigenous families and community members learned about traditional plants and how to harvest plant medicines while promoting health and well-being.

- The board has received tremendous community response to the call for participation in DCDSB's Equity Advisory Committee. The committee's first meeting will be held on March 30 at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to working together to define the mandate and terms of reference that will guide the work and to setting up sub-committees for specific projects/tasks.
- Students and families are encouraged to participate in the following upcoming events. On March 30, families with students in Grades 7 to 12 are invited to a virtual meeting with Trent University's Indigenous Enrolment Advisor, Ryan Gray-Brady to discuss post-secondary pathways with Indigenous Student Services. The virtual session begins at 4:00 p.m. and families can register at dcdsb.ca. On March 31, schools will acknowledge Indigenous Language Day. Students in primary will be using Anishinaabemowin, Ojibway language, which is the traditional language of the territory we, in Durham Region, live in.
- April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day. As this is Good Friday, DCDSB schools, trustees and staff will "light it up" in blue on Tuesday, April 6 showing support for students and families in our communities and around the world.
- As we end our Lenten journey, may we keep our students and families in our prayers and find hope in the risen Christ as we near the celebration of Easter. This Easter, we wish you peace in your heart, harmony with your family and joy in the resurrection of Jesus.

12.3. Facilities Services

12.3.1. Brooklin French Immersion Transition Report

Motion:

B2021-03-22-15 - Brooklin French Immersion Transition Report

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the Brooklin French Immersion Transition Report for March 22, 2021”

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.
CARRIED

12.4. Policy

12.4.1. Interim Policies

Staffing Policy (PO328)

- Trustee Damianopoulos provided feedback regarding language in sections 5.5 and 6.5. It was agreed that the language would be adjusted to provide further clarity regarding the ongoing nature of employment systems review.

Motion:

B2021-03-22-16 - Staffing Policy

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the Staffing Policy (PO328).”

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. Oldman.
CARRIED

Motion:

B2021-03-22-17 - Staffing Policy

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board declare the Staffing Policy (PO328) as an interim Policy pending Third and Final Reading.”

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. Oldman.
CARRIED

Conflict of Interest Policy (PO317)

- Trustee Damianopoulos inquired if the following wording in section 6.5.1 was necessary: *whether arising from dishonesty or inattention.*

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- Director Barill indicated that this language has been taken directly from the Ministry PPM. She will review to see if verbatim quote is required.

Motion:

B2021-03-22-18 - Conflict of Interest Policy

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the Conflict of Interest Policy (PO317).”

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. Oldman.

CARRIED

Motion:

B2021-03-22-19 - Conflict of Interest Policy

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board declare the Conflict of Interest Policy (PO317) as an interim Policy pending Third and Final Reading.”

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by J. Oldman.

CARRIED

13. Correspondence

13.1. Correspondence

Motion:

B2021-03-22-20 - Correspondence

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information the following correspondence:

Letter to Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure and Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, dated March 5, 2021.”

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by J. Rinella.

CARRIED

14. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

15. Pending Items

None

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16. Adjournment

Motion:

B2021-03-22-21 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, March 22, 2021."

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by J. McCafferty. CARRIED

17. Closing Prayer

Student Trustee Dela Torre offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Morgan Ste. Marie Chair of the Board
Durham Catholic District School Board

Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead

Appendix 1

Notice of Motion

Student Trustee Two Year Term Proposal

Moved by Monique Forster

Whereas the current Student Trustee Policy (PO215) requires the election of two student trustees each year to represent the interests of the students of the DCDSB.

Whereas the student trustee one-year term does not promote proper transition.

Whereas the student trustee one-year term does not support and may hamper new initiatives and cause them to be lost between years.

Whereas the current one-year term limits the student trustees' opportunities for peer-mentoring and learning.

Whereas there is unanimous support from the Student Senate Committee, which represents the students of the DCDSB, for a proposed two-year term of service for student trustees.

Whereas the DCDSB believes that students are the future of Catholic Education, and student interest are best represented by students.

Whereas trustees have the responsibility to mentor and guide student trustees.

Whereas the student views at the Board table inform the decisions made by members of the Board of Trustees.

Whereas, although a 'shadowing' period exists to provide incoming student trustees with the opportunities for leadership-skills acquisition from the departing student trustees, trustees who have served for a second consecutive year affirm their increased confidence and ability to inhabit the role more fully after completing their first year.

Whereas while student trustees serving their first term report the many and significant benefits of serving alongside an experienced student trustee, student trustees serving their second consecutive term affirm their increased capacity to provide peer-mentorship and guidance to incoming student trustees during their first year of service.

Whereas this initiative, which originates from the DCDSB student representatives, it also fulfills the DCDSB's strategic priority to empower students, by enabling them to access and learn from the life experience and expertise of adults, while also providing opportunities to develop quality leadership skills.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the DCDSB will amend the Student Trustee Policy (PO215) to a two-year term for student trustees, thus allowing for quality leadership and mentoring for DCDSB student leaders.

Submitted by: Monique Forster March 15, 2021



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Catholic Education and Children's Mental Health Week – Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude (May 3 – 7, 2021)**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information the Catholic Education and Children's Mental Health Week report dated April 26, 2021.”

Rationale

Catholic Education & Children's Mental Health Week – Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude

Each year, the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week. During the week of May 3 to 7, the Durham Catholic District School Board will celebrate two very important weeks: Catholic Education Week and Children's Mental Health Week.

In this year of Love, the theme for the combined week at DCDSB is **Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude**. This theme is a merging of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) theme of 'Nurturing Hope' with our board's selected Children's Mental Health Week theme of 'Cultivating Gratitude'.

Memorandum | Page 2 of 3

Re: Catholic Education and Children's Mental Health Week – Nurturing Hope;
Cultivating Gratitude (May 3 – 7, 2021)

The theme of Nurturing Hope set out by OCSTA is inspired by:

- The ongoing realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a strong desire by the OCSTA planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme of Catholic Education Week 2020, **Igniting Hope**.
- The special Year of Laudato Si' which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, *Care for Our Common Home*.
- An intentional reflection from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission on Indigenous spirituality.

Gratitude is the virtue that makes us aware and appreciate the gifts we receive each day. To express thankfulness is a simple way to share our faith as it fills our hearts with a readiness to cherish all that we have. Even in challenging times, if we look around, we can find something or someone to appreciate. This doesn't cancel out what's hard in our lives, but it does invite a sense of balance and reminds us of what we have. Practicing gratitude can boost our physical and mental health. In this week, we will actively acknowledge and appreciate the things, both big and small that God has blessed us with.

Ultimately, the challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Children's Mental Health Week, all the more relevant which is why DCDSB will honour these two weeks together.

The five sub-themes for this year's DCDSB Catholic Education and Children's Mental Health Week mirror the sub themes set out by OCTSA.

Day 1 (Monday, May 3rd) – Preparing the Earth

Day 2 (Tuesday, May 4th) – Sowing Seeds of Gratitude

Day 3 (Wednesday, May 5th) – Cultivating Relationships

Day 4 (Thursday, May 6th) – Harvesting New Fruit

Day 5 (Friday, May 7th) – Marveling in Wonder

Catholic Education Week is marked by the following special activities for all of our Catholic Education Community:

Tuesday, May 4th – Distinguished Catholic Educator and Leader Award (Media Release & YouTube Premiere Event)

Memorandum | Page 3 of 3

Re: Catholic Education and Children's Mental Health Week – Nurturing Hope;
Cultivating Gratitude (May 3 – 7, 2021)

Wednesday, May 5th – Catholic Education Week Mass at 11 a.m. EST (Live Event)

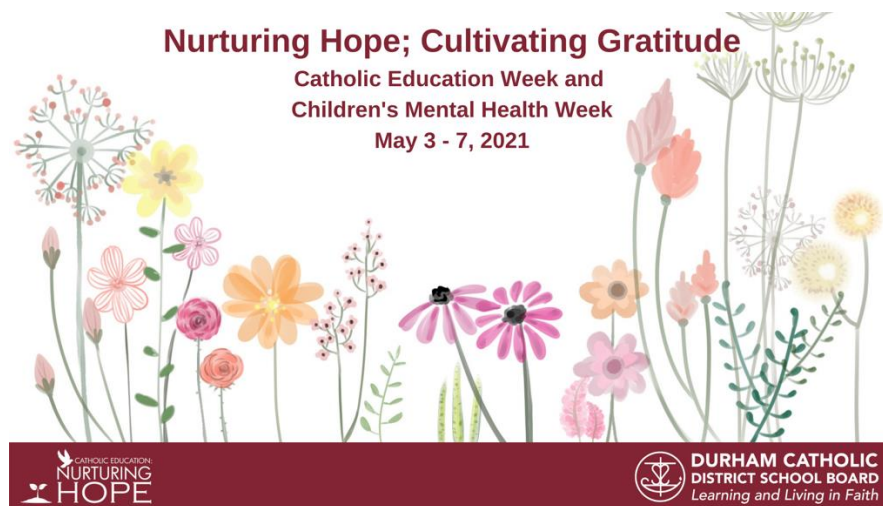
Thursday, May 6th – Wear Green Day & Distinguished Catholic Alumni Awards (Media Release)

On Wednesday, May 5, his Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins will join thousands of students across the province in the celebration of a special Catholic Education Week mass that will be live streamed at 11:00 a.m. All DCDSB schools are invited to participate. The link to the live stream mass will be shared as it becomes available from the Archdiocese.

On Thursday, May 6, all DCDSB staff, students and families are encouraged to wear green. On this day, our gratitude theme will focus on the earth and the opportunity to be stewards of the environment. The colour green symbolizes the earth and is also associated with mental health awareness.

DCDSB is inviting families to participate in our “With Gratitude” initiative and our At-Home Activities. Families can download a postcard and either print it off or send it digitally to praise or thank a friend or colleague or member of our local community for something they've done or something they appreciate about them. Members of our DCDSB community are invited to join us to share uplifting messages of hope and gratitude with everyone around us – spreading joy, love and happiness. Families can access the postcard and view the At-Home activities on the [board's website](#).

All are invited to participate in any of our activities as we celebrate Catholic Education Week & Children's Mental Health Week 2021.

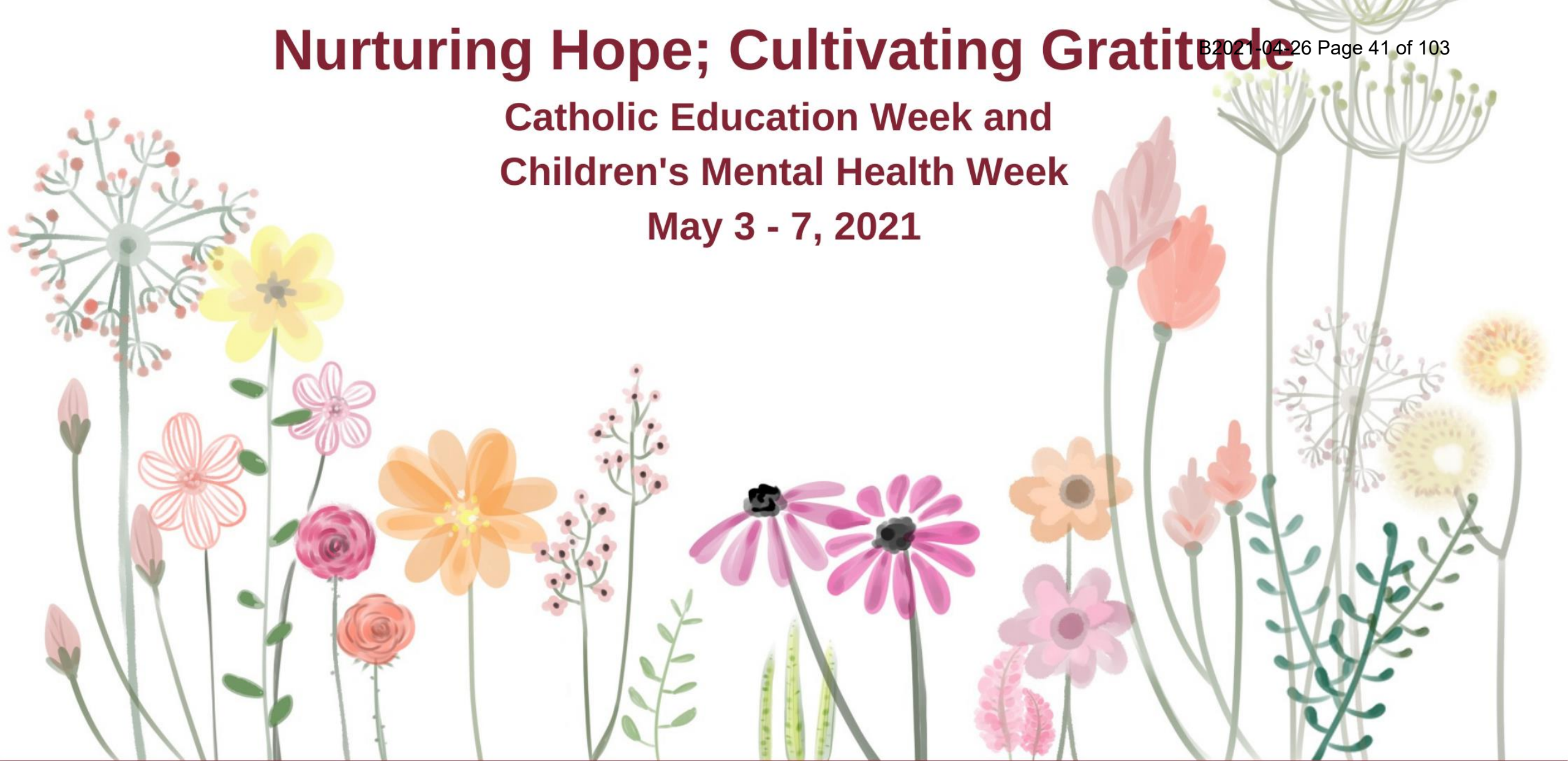


TB/JW/lj

Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude

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**Catholic Education Week and
Children's Mental Health Week
May 3 - 7, 2021**





Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude

Monday: Preparing the Earth

Tuesday: Sowing Seeds of Gratitude

Wednesday: Cultivating Relationships

Thursday: Harvesting New Fruit

Friday: Marveling in Wonder





Resource Materials

- Administrators Resource Package
 - Prayers
 - Link to Gratitude and Mental Health Tip
 - Information for Families
- Educators Resource Package (Elementary & Secondary)
 - Videos
 - Daily Activities
 - Additional Resources
- French Prayer Package



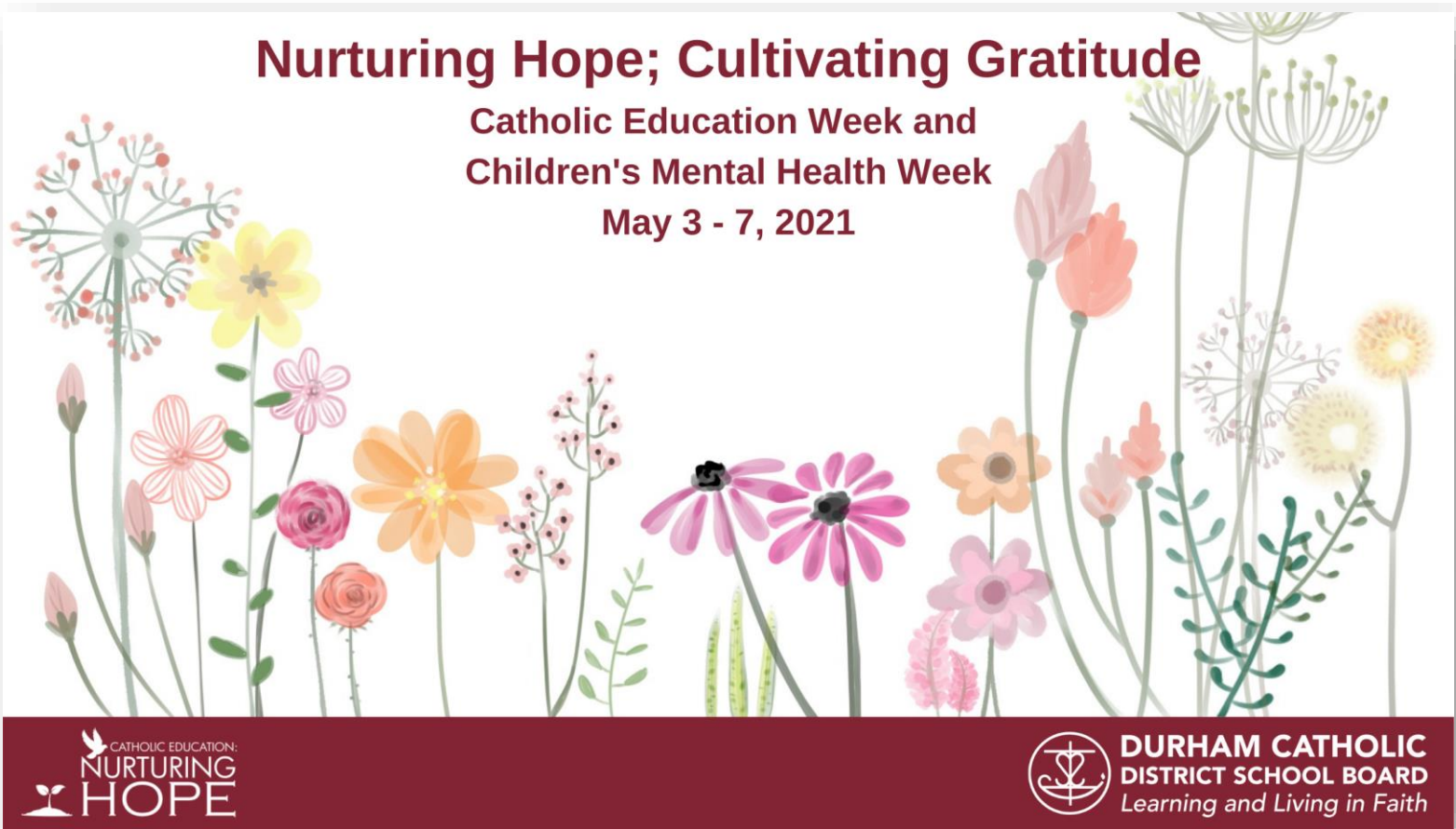
Special Events

- Tuesday, May 4: Distinguished Catholic Educator and Leader Award (Media Release & YouTube Premiere Event)
- Wednesday, May 5: Catholic Education Week Mass -11:00 a.m.
 - Province Wide mass celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Collins
- Thursday, May 6: Wear Something Green & Distinguished Catholic Alumni Awards (Media Release)
 - Our gratitude theme will focus on the earth and the opportunity to be stewards of the environment. The colour green symbolizes the earth and is also associated with mental health awareness.



Family Participation

DCDSB families are invited to participate in our at-home activities and “With Gratitude” digital postcard initiative.



Notice of Motion

Student Trustee Two Year Term Proposal

Moved by Monique Forster

Whereas the current Student Trustee Policy (PO215) requires the election of two student trustees each year to represent the interests of the students of the DCDSB.

Whereas the student trustee one-year term does not promote proper transition.

Whereas the student trustee one-year term does not support and may hamper new initiatives and cause them to be lost between years.

Whereas the current one-year term limits the student trustees' opportunities for peer-mentoring and learning.

Whereas there is unanimous support from the Student Senate Committee, which represents the students of the DCDSB, for a proposed two-year term of service for student trustees.

Whereas the DCDSB believes that students are the future of Catholic Education, and student interest are best represented by students.

Whereas trustees have the responsibility to mentor and guide student trustees.

Whereas the student views at the Board table inform the decisions made by members of the Board of Trustees.

Whereas, although a 'shadowing' period exists to provide incoming student trustees with the opportunities for leadership-skills acquisition from the departing student trustees, trustees who have served for a second consecutive year affirm their increased confidence and ability to inhabit the role more fully after completing their first year.

Whereas while student trustees serving their first term report the many and significant benefits of serving alongside an experienced student trustee, student trustees serving their second consecutive term affirm their increased capacity to provide peer-mentorship and guidance to incoming student trustees during their first year of service.

Whereas this initiative, which originates from the DCDSB student representatives, it also fulfills the DCDSB's strategic priority to empower students, by enabling them to access and learn from the life experience and expertise of adults, while also providing opportunities to develop quality leadership skills.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the DCDSB will amend the Student Trustee Policy (PO215) to a two-year term for student trustees, thus allowing for quality leadership and mentoring for DCDSB student leaders.

Submitted by: Monique Forster March 15, 2021



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **I.P.R.C. Report for March 2021**

Origin: Susie Lee-Fernandes, Superintendent of Education – Student Services

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the I.P.R.C. report for March 2021.”

Rationale

IPRC Report for March 2021

Number of Pupils Referred to I.P.R.C.:	0
Number of Pupils Identified as Exceptional:	1
Number of Pupils Reviewed by I.P.R.C.:	2

From September 2020 to June 2021

Total Number of Pupils Referred to I.P.R.C.:	0
Total Number of Pupils Identified as Exceptional:	15
Total Number of Pupils Reviewed by I.P.R.C.:	18

TB/SLF/dp



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Date: April 26, 2021
Subject: **General Working By-Law Committee Meeting – March 23, 2021**

Recommendation

Moved by , seconded by

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the report of the March 23, 2021 General Working By-Law Committee meeting.”

Rationale

As attached.

TB:eb
Attachment: March 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes



General Working By-Law Committee – Open Session Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board

March 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Committee Members Present

Trustee R. De Souza (Chair), Trustee J. McCafferty (Vice Chair), Trustee M. Ste. Marie

Staff Present

T. Barill, Director of Education

Guest Present

G. Tuck Kutarna, Miller Thomson LLP

1. Call to Order

Chair De Souza called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Chair De Souza acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory

1.2. Memorials and Prayer

Chair De Souza offered the opening prayer keeping in mind all special intentions.

1.3. Roll Call and Apologies

All committee members were present.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Changes to Printed Agenda

None

2.2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

WBL2021-03-23-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the General Working By-Law Committee approve the agenda for the March 23, 2021 Committee meeting."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie.

CARRIED

Minutes of the General Working By-Law Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Page 2 of 5

3. Announcements

None

4. Notice of Motions

None

5. Declarations of Interest

5.1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

6. Actions to be Taken

6.1. Approval and Signing of Minutes of the General Working By-Law Committee Meeting of February 23, 2021

Motion:

WBL2021-03-23-02 - Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the General Working By-Law Committee approve the Minutes of the General Working By-Law Committee Meeting of February 23, 2021."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie.
CARRIED

6.2. Business Arising from the General Working By-Law Committee Meeting of February 23, 2021

None

7. Business

7.1. General Working By-Law Review

The committee provided a list of proposed revisions and items for consideration.

Mission, Vision and Values

Move these statements to the Resource section in OnBoard

Article 1 Interpretation

- Agreed that first meeting in December shall be referred to as the 'Annual Meeting.'
- Agreed that first meeting in December following a municipal election of that year shall be referred to as the 'Inaugural Meeting.'
- Committee of the Whole – definition clarified.
- Include: Student Trustee definition

Article 2 Inaugural and Annual Meetings

Section 2.7 Seating

Include: the Chair determines seating '*for trustees.*'

Article 3 Board Meetings

Section 3.1 Regular Meetings of the Board

Include: Policy meetings (four per year)

Section 3.2 Special Board Meetings of the Board

Include: agenda distribution one day prior for Special Board Meetings.

Include: Chair can set date on 24 hours notice

Section 3.3 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting In Camera

Option to bring forward discussion items that are not privileged information.

Section 3.4 Notice of Meetings

Change: 48 hours notice to 24 hours notice for Special Meetings

Section 3.5 Trustee Attendance

Section to be revised due to changes in regulation on electronic meetings

Appendix C

Discussion took place on Order Paper. The Order Paper could fall under 'Business Arising.'

Appendix A

No motion is required to receive and file a report. Consider putting these reports under Staff Reports in the agenda.

Article 4 Committees

Section 4.2 Standing Committees

Changes to Standing Committees:

- Change the following to Ad Hoc: Board Award of Merit, Outstanding/Home School Communication, Trustee Youth Award and General Working By-Laws
- Remove: Transportation Consortium and Student Senate – they have their own governance
- Add Appointments: Transportation Consortium Governance, Children's Foundation, Student Senate, Indigenous Education Advisory Circle, Equity Advisory.

Agreed that a regular review of Standing Committees should take place at the first meeting of the Board.

Section 4.4 Terms of Reference

At its first meeting of the year, each Committee shall review its terms of reference.

Agreed that supplemental resource documents should be moved to OnBoard.

Section 4.7 Committee Meetings

Agendas for Committee meetings shall be posted and distributed to trustees no later than three business days prior to the meeting.

Article 10 Protocol for Debate

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern. Remove those sections that are found in Robert's Rules and retain the following sections that are not:

- 10.3 Time Limit on Speakers
- 10.4 Time Limit on Debate
- 10.5 Procedure When Time Limit Expires

Article 11 Voting**Section 11.2 Methods of Voting**

Discussion took place regarding methods of voting. G. Tuck Kutarna advised that it was preferable that a standard method be adopted and that it not be changed randomly as that could be seen as a method of controlling the vote.

Section 11.7 Recorded Vote

A recorded vote may only be used at a meeting of the board or meeting of committees upon the request of not less than three trustees entitled to vote on the matter, provided that the request is made before the vote is called.

Next Steps:

- At the next meeting the Committee will review and finalize the re-drafted By-Law document.
- G. Tuck Kutarna will forward the Committee samples of Code of Conduct documents for their review.
- An additional meeting will be scheduled to review supplemental documents

Minutes of the General Working By-Law Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Page 5 of 5

8. Adjournment

Motion:

WBL2021-03-23-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the March 23, 2021 meeting of the General Working By-Law Committee by adjourned."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie. CARRIED

9. Closing Prayer

Chair De Souza offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Robert De Souza, Chair
Durham Catholic District School Board

Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – April 6, 2021**

Origin: Susie Lee- Fernandes, Superintendent of Education – Student Services

Recommendation

Moved by , seconded by

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the report of the April 6, 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting.”

Rationale

As per attached minutes

TB:SLF:dp



Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board

April 6, 2021 at 7:30 PM EST

Virtual Meeting

Present:

V. Adamo (Chair, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired), K. Burke (Vice Chair, Learning Disabilities Ontario, joined at 7:45 p.m.), J. McCafferty (Trustee), J. Oldman (Trustee), W. Heeney (Durham Down Syndrome Association, joined at 7:40 p.m.), C. Nossier (Grandview Children's Centre)

Staff Present:

S. Lee-Fernandes (Superintendent of Education), D. Mullane (Mental Health Leader), J. Abrams (Chief Psychologist), S. Phoenix (Manager, Social Work and Attendance) H. Killoran (Consultant for Autism Services), A. Roffey (Communications)

SEAC Representatives:

L. Wardle (Principal/Vice Principal Representative), T. Robertson (APSSP Representative), M. Cope (CUPE Representative)

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. Land Acknowledgement
- 1.2. Memorials and Prayer

Chair Adamo called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and offered the opening prayer. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Adamo noted that quorum was not reached so the meeting would be proceeding without motions.

- 1.3. Roll Call and Apologies

2. Approval of Agenda

- 2.1. Changes to the printed Agenda
 - None

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

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3. Announcements

None

4. Considerations of Motion

None

5. Declarations of Interest**5.1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

None

6. Actions to be Taken**6.1. Business arising from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 2, 2021**

None

7. Presentations**7.1. Budget Overview - R. Putnam**

Superintendent Putnam reported that the Durham Catholic School Board continues to keep a Balanced Budget Framework and has addressed the pandemic investments and various impacts through a combination of Federal and Provincial government funding and the use of reserves.

Superintendent Putnam presented a detailed summary of the Special Education budget and advised that the Board is very supportive of special education.

Superintendent Putnam answered questions as they arose and offered to return in May if a follow up is required.

7.2. Ventilation/Air Quality in Schools – S. Grieve

Supervisory Officer Grieve provided a detailed breakdown of the measures that have been put in place in regards to personal protective equipment for staff and students, hand sanitizers, and increased disinfecting and cleaning.

Supervisory Officer Grieve also informed that Provincial funding was provided to improve heating, ventilation and air conditioning in the schools. Additional funding included the upgrading to higher efficiency filters and HEPA filter air purifiers. Federal government funding will be forthcoming to eligible projects encompassing occupational health and safety, facility improvements; including air quality and

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

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water filling stations, enhancing physical distancing and facilitating distance learning (network and broadband infrastructure).

Supervisory Officer Grieve responded to questions as they arose.

7.3. Autism Updates – H. Killoran

Helen Killoran, Consultant for Autism Services, informed that both Elementary and Secondary schools recognized World Autism Awareness Day today, Tuesday, April 6th. The DCDSB schools tweeted pictures of their front foyer displays and virtual classroom participation. A few of the displays were shared with the Committee. A prize will be awarded to the most creative display submitted.

Helen shared that the Durham Catholic Autism Resource Team (DCART) continues to support the student referral from both Elementary and Secondary panels in the various areas. Additional supports for students who do not qualify for DCART services have been provided by the Consultant and Resource Teacher for Autism Services. The objective is to further develop capacity building in the school, while supporting the Program Support Teachers in their roles as Special Education Leaders, offer professional development to educators and support the implementation of PPM140. Helen provided a detailed summary of the various professional development opportunities offered for educators; including the Geneva Centre Ministry Course, Promoting Emergence of Advanced Knowledge (PEAK) and Autism Behaviour Assessment courses.

Helen also shared a number of programs that DCDSB currently offers for virtual learning and reported that they have been well attended all year.

Helen communicated that a new committee of 16 PSTs has formed to create a document to support teachers on the development of Alternative Curriculum.

8. Discussions Items

None

9. Delegations

None

10. Notices of Motions

None

11. Unfinished Business from Previous Meeting

None

12. Staff Reports**12.1. Coordinator's Report – H. Killoran**

Quadmester 3 ends April 9, 2021 and the electronic Report Card distribution will happen on April 23rd.

New PST mentoring series continued with a presentation on Understanding Applied Behaviour Analysis.

The Student Services staff provided Sharing of Excellence workshops on the following topics:

- Principles of ABA: Generalization – Part 1 and 2
- A5 is Against the Law

12.2. Mental Health Leader's Report - D. Mullane

During the month of March, Student Services advertised a **Student Services Spring Workshop Series for Program Support Teachers and Administrators**. Eleven optional workshops have been offered between March and June by Psychological Services staff, Speech-Language Pathologists and members of the Durham Catholic Behaviour Resource Team (DCBRT). This is in addition to the regular Sharing of Excellence workshops that are ongoing.

During the month of March, Student Services ran a Mental Health Poster Contest. 267 posters were received from students in grades 1 to 11. The students were asked to focus on positive mental health themes, (e.g., what it means to 'be well'; help-seeking; how to help a friend; stomping out stigma; positive ways of coping; or the connection between physical and mental health). Winning submissions will be used to create a board-wide poster and will be featured throughout Children's Mental Health Week in May. Winners will receive a gift card and all participants will receive a certificate.

After a successful first run of a new virtual group called **TRAILS to Wellness: Coping with COVID**, two Social Workers are ready to take on a bigger project by offering it as a virtual series to grade 7 and 8 students throughout the board. All parents have been invited to attend an information session on April 20, 2021. The series will provide psychoeducation to students to help them learn and practice healthy strategies for managing feelings of stress, low-mood, or increased worry, especially related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, the DCDSB is engaged in two projects with the Canadian Centre on Substance Use & Addictions (CCSA)

1. The DCDSB has entered into a partnership with CCSA along with two other school boards to develop four training modules that address issues of concern for educators. Our boards will be piloting the modules and informing the content as they're being developed. These modules will help to build capacity of our educators, with the intention of further scaling up to meet the needs of educators with other school boards across jurisdictions in Canada.
2. DCDSB, DDSB and KPRDSB have also partnered with the CCSA, Ontario Addiction Treatment Centres, and Lakeridge Health (Pinewood Centre) to host a **Virtual Expert Panel event** on April 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The panel will be discussing youth substance use and how current events, including the pandemic and Opioid Crisis, are impacting youth and the choices they are making regarding drugs. Interested participant must register to attend (via link on attached poster).

On April 28, 2021, the **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)** is hosting a virtual parent conference featuring keynote speaker Aubrey Noronha, who will focus on coping with stress, loneliness and isolation related to COVID. Aubrey is a popular speaker and a DCDSB graduate. The event will be announced within the next week.

Planning for **Children's Mental Health Week**, which takes place during the first week of May, is well underway. Student Services has been co-planning with our Faith Department to merge the Catholic Education Week theme of Nurturing Hope, with the Board-selected theme of gratitude. Principals will receive an integrated package of "ready-to-go" resources and materials, so that they're not trying to juggle these two important weeks.

12.3. Superintendent's Report - S. Lee-Fernandes

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes shared Health and Safety updates and drew attention to the increased expectations of the staff regarding personal protective equipment as well as the increased strain on the staff coverage for absences related to Covid-19 as a result of the new Durham Region Public Health requirements for testing and isolation.

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes also shared the planning for the 2020-2021 school year and highlighted that the DCDSB will be offering a virtual learning option through the Durham Catholic Virtual Elementary School (DCVES). This will be a one-year trial to determine the possible benefits of

running a virtual school moving forward. Students selecting this option will be required to remain in the virtual setting for the full year.

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes communicated that the Student Services Department has been working diligently to review and update the information provided on the “Student Services and Special Education” webpages. The information and images are being reviewed through an equity lens to ensure sensitivity and diversity in the images and the language used as well as being AODA compliant.

Superintendent Lee-Fernandes noted that the Student Services Department is currently reviewing the Special Education Plan for 2022-2023 and that the plan will also be moving to a web-based format which will provide succinct and clear information for everyone to access and understand.

In regard to continuing to support students with special needs, Superintendent Lee-Fernandes alluded to key mindsets as preparations are underway for the new school year.

13. Association Reports

Learning Disabilities Association – Durham Chapter – K. Burke

Meetings or Conferences:

March 3 Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) webinar Your Next Steps: College and Career Prep for Young Adults with ADHD – An exploration of strategies to support key areas of independent living including social skills, goal setting, time management and effective communication.

March 5 & 6 LDAO Halton Hills Chapter 10th Solutions for Learning Conference online

March 11 Integra Understanding Memory and Learning Disabilities online

New Programs or Services:

LDADR is pleased to announce that this year we are able to offer paid attendance to 10 educators in the Durham Region to attend the LDAO Summer Institute online, August 16 and 17. Stay tuned for further details!

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

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Autism Ontario - S. Casola

Upcoming Meetings or Conferences:

We have a number of excellent webinars available “on demand” on our website:

<https://www.autismontario.com/programs-services/webinars/recent-and-upcoming-webinars>

New Programs or Services:

We have a number of distance program offerings – primarily virtual workshops being offered in Durham Region – all can be found here:

https://www.autismontario.com/events?custom_325=Durham&event_type_id=All

March Break funding will not be offered in March due to the moving of March Break to April. Still pending update from MCCSS about if funds will be available during “April Break” – please check out www.autismontario.com for details soon.

Grandview Kids – C. Nossier

New Programs or Services:

- Grandview Kids received funding to open a Complex Care Clinic for clients with complex medical needs.
- The clinic is set to open as early as April 2021, in partnership with Lakeridge Health, Sick Kids Hospital and the Central East LHIN.

Other Information:

- School-Based Rehab: We are continuing to connect with schools for students who were identified as having high needs, usually related to safety and/or equipment needs.
- Service is provided in person, in-centre, in-school or virtually.
- We continue to work with the SERTs and principals to coordinate for access to space in schools if it is safe to do so.
- COVID-19: Families/caregivers can request in-person services if they wish to receive care face-to-face. Therapists/clinicians will honour these requests.
- We have implemented extensive, evidence-based COVID-19 protocols to enable the delivery of safe, in-Centre care.
- New Build: Three RFP finalists were announced for our New Build, who are invited to submit their bid to design, build and finance the project. More information in our [Winter 2021 New Build update](#).

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021

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- The New Grandview Kids will support the seamless and coordinated provision of family-centred care for children and youth with physical, communication and developmental needs.
- It will be an open, welcoming and inclusive community-based paediatric facility, supporting an integrated mix of rehabilitation, medical and clinical services, as well as education and research activities.
- Our member association, Empowered Kids Ontario (EKO), recently launched its 2021 scholarship program. All the background information in terms of eligibility and application process are in the attached flyer.

14. Correspondence

- Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board dated February 19, 2021

15. Inquiries and Miscellaneous

None

16. Pending Items

None

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

18. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by V. Adamo

Valerie Adamo
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Susie Lee-Fernandes
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Delfina Pinto



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)
Meeting Minutes – April 8 2021

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Recommendation

Moved by , seconded by

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board accept the written report from the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021.”

Rationale

As per the attached minutes.

TB/jw/lj



Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Minutes Durham Catholic District School Board

Apr 8, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Committee Members Present (Virtual):

Erin Groat (Secretary/Treasurer), Karina Jill Doyle, Laka Ford-Williams, Andrea Gagliardi, Michelle Gillis, Angela Kielbowski, Marie Marilla, Heather McFadden, Josie Mullin, Channon Oyeniran, Trustee Mikhail Yurkoski,

Staff Present (Virtual):

Jim Wilson, Superintendent, Katherine Mustachi, Faeron Pileggi, Lori Jones

Absent:

Melissa Bevan (Chair), Rose LoPresti (Vice-Chair), Candice Belmontes, Cynthia Scott, Sherry-Ann Mohammed, Jay Ashwin, Vanessa Dreckmann, Christopher Szent-Ivany, Lara Spiers

1. Call to Order

Erin Groat called the virtual meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the April 8, 2021 meeting.

1.1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

1.2. Opening Prayer

Katherine Mustachi lead the meeting in prayer.

1.3. Welcome and Courtesies

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

DCPIC2021-04-08-01 Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, April 8, 2021 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting, as provided".

Motion moved by Marie Marilla and motion seconded by Josie Mullin.

Carried

3. Announcement

- 3.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Virtual Meeting:
Thursday, May 6, 2021

4. Actions to be Taken

- 4.1. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Open Session of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 7, 2021 and March 4, 2021.

Motion:

DCPIC2021-04-08-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2021 and March 4, 2021 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting".

Motion moved by Michelle Gillis and motion seconded by Channon Oyeniran. Carried

5. Discussion/Activity

- 5.1. Presentation on "Catholic Education Week and Children's Mental Health Week: Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude" - Katherine Mustachi, Senior Manager of Faith Formation

Senior Manager of Faith Formation, Katherine Mustachi guided the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee through the "Catholic Education Week and Children's Mental Health Week: Nurturing Hope; Cultivating Gratitude" presentation. During the week of May 3 - 7, 2021 two celebrations will be taking place. One is Catholic Education Week and the other is Children's Mental Health Week. In this Year of Love the Durham Catholic District School Board's theme is Nurturing Hope and Cultivating Gratitude. This year there is a big focus on ecological justice and conversion.

Monday: Preparing the Earth

Tuesday: Sowing Seeds of Gratitude

Wednesday: Cultivating Relationships

Thursday: Harvesting New Fruit

Friday: Marveling in Wonder

5.2. Virtual Parent Session in April - Mental Health Session - Erin Groat

Erin Groat updated the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee on the virtual parent session being held on April 28, 2021 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. "Battling Loneliness and Isolation Before and After COVID" will be the main focus of the session. Eventbrite will be the platform used for all to register. A large volume of participants are expected to register and Erin confirmed she will look into maximum capacity allowed with the Guest Speaker.

5.3. Durham Catholic Volunteer Awards - All

Lori Jones confirmed the scheduled date for this virtual event will be Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Lori Jones confirmed that 28 schools currently have submitted their nominations and Lori will follow up with the other schools to have their nominations in by Monday, April 12, 2021. Faeron Pileggi confirmed she will be working with the DCPIC to create a slideshow for the evening. Superintendent Wilson will speak to Chair of the Board and Director to invite them to speak on the night. Ongoing planning will be happening as the event gets closer.

6. Reports/Information/Discussion Items

6.1. Standing Items

6.1.1. Chair's Report

In Chair Bevan's absence, Erin Groat read the Chair's report.

The Parent Engagement Session being held on April 28th is about mental health, something everyone can learn from. Aubrey Noronha, a former Durham Catholic District School Board student, is the guest speaker. He works with a company called Hello Help. I encourage everyone to register for this session.

Also, I would like to note the importance of the Durham Catholic Volunteer Awards. It is always important to recognize those that help over and over again in our schools, but it is especially important in these times to acknowledge those still willing to help make our schools a safe place for our students.

Our next meeting will be on May 6th. All of our meetings will be virtual until further notice.

6.1.2. Trustee's Report

Trustee Yurkoski provided the following report:

1) At the March 22, 2021 Board Meeting, Superintendent O'Reilly did a presentation on the de-streaming of Grade 9 courses, starting with Mathematics in September 2021. De-streaming will phase out Grade 9 Academic and Applied (streamed) courses and phase in Grade 9 de-streamed courses, while supporting students to be successful. With this approach, students in Grade 9 will continue to learn Math curriculum, with a choice of streamed courses (Academic and Applied) in Grade 10.

2) On March 1, 2021 there was a Black Mental Health Day presentation. Mental Health Speaker, Asante Haughton, encouraged staff, parents and guardians to create compassion, safe, and trusting spaces where students can access services and learn about Black leaders, while being encouraged to achieve their goals and dreams. To view this presentation go to dcdsb.ca/equity.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be on April 26th at 7:30. This Board Meeting will be broadcasted live. The Finance Committee Meeting is on May 3rd at 7 p.m. Please refer to our website for more information concerning these meetings.

6.1.3. Resource Report

Superintendent Wilson announced nominations for the Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award are still being accepted on the DCDSB website until Friday, April 9th. Superintendent Wilson also confirmed that registration is now open for Summer School Programs. Also a friendly reminder was given to respond to the letter parents received on April 6th via School Messenger concerning the process for remote learning options in 2021/2122. Parents that prefer their child/children to be in remote learning in the Fall are asked to complete the survey by April 21st.

6.1.4. PRO Grant Subcommittee Report

Lori Jones confirmed that as of now, 10 schools have submitted their receipts to be reimbursed.

6.1.5. Communications Subcommittee Report

Faeron Pileggi confirmed the Spring Newsletter will be available as of May, 2021.

6.1.6. School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report

Deferred

6.1.7. Faith Formation Subcommittee Report

Angela Kielbowski thanked the Faith Sub-Committee for all their help with the Lenten activities.

6.1.8. Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report

Michelle Gillis announced the Policy Sub-Committee will be meeting on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join this meeting from the DCPIC. April 21st the Policy Sub-Committee must have any updates to the Board.

6.1.9. Budget Subcommittee Report

Deferred

7. Adjournment

Motion:

DCPIC2021-04-08-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021, adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Motion moved by Josie Mullin and motion seconded by Angela Kielbowski.
Carried

8. The meeting closed with a prayer

Melissa Bevan

Chair, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Jim Wilson

Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: L. Jones



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Finance Committee Minutes – April 19, 2021**

Origin: Ryan Putnam, Superintendent of Business & CFO

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive as information the minutes of the April 19, 2021 Finance Committee meeting.”

Rationale

See attached.

TB:RP:dm



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board

April 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM EST

Virtual Meeting

Trustees Present

M. Forster (Chair), R. Damianopoulos (Vice-Chair),
M. Ste. Marie, J. McCafferty, J. Oldman,
R. Desouza, M. Yurkoski

Student Trustees Present

D. Amaral, A. Dela Torre

Director of Education Present

T. Barill

Senior Administration Present

R. Putnam, R. Rodriguez, S. Grieve, S. Lee-Fernandes,
M. O'Neill, M. O'Reilly, J. Wilson, G. Winn

Senior Managers Present

M. Hammond

1. Call To Order

M. Forster called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

1.1. Memorials, Prayer, Land Acknowledgement

M. Ste. Marie acknowledged Traditional Territory and offered the opening prayer.

1.2. Roll Call and Apologies

All Committee members were noted as present. M. Forster welcomed other Trustees and both Student Trustees who were also in attendance. All Supervisory Officers were in attendance as well.

2. Approval of Agenda

2.1. Changes to Printed Agenda

None

2.2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Finance Committee approve the April 19, 2021 Agenda as printed."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by
R. Damianopoulos.

CARRIED

3. Announcements

None

4. Notice of Motions

None

5. Declarations of Interest

5.1. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None

6. Actions to be Taken

6.1. Approval of Minutes – February 1, 2021

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Finance Committee approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Finance Committee meeting."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by
R. Damianopoulos.

CARRIED

6.2. Business Arising from Minutes – February 1, 2021

None

7. Staff Reports

7.1. 2020/2021 Second Quarter Budget Status Report

R. Putnam presented the Second Quarter Budget Status Report comparing anticipated versus actual year to date results. He noted that the Board has maximized the use of any and all pandemic funding and there may be an opportunity to resume programs such as the Multi-Year Technology Strategy. Staff is projecting the 2020-2021 year end financial statements will be within budget with the possibility of some remaining funds for use in subsequent years.

T. Barill advised that the Board received approximately \$7M in COVID infrastructure funding last week to be used for facilities and technology upgrades. This funding must be spent by December 2021. S. Grieve confirmed that the facilities portion will be completed on time. R. Rodriguez noted that the technology portion of the funding has been used to replace aging access points in every classroom as well as to purchase additional iPads and Chromebooks to support remote learning.

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-03 - 2020-2021 Second Quarter Budget Status Report

"THAT the Finance Committee receive as information the Second Quarter Budget Status Report as presented by staff on April 19, 2021."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by
R. Damianopoulos.
CARRIED

7.2. 2021/2022 Budget Priorities and Investments

R. Putnam provided an overview of the budget framework noting that the Board is in a position to resume the multi-year technology plan. He noted that the core operating budget is balanced and that enrolment is projected to remain constant for the next three years which provides stable funding and the ability to plan with some certainty.

R. Putnam also reviewed the various pandemic considerations. The impact this school year was approximately \$12M which was offset by using the reserve, pandemic related funding and deferral of budget initiatives. At this time staff is estimating the pandemic impact for next year could be as

much as \$3M. To date there is no indication from the Ministry as to whether additional funding will be provided.

T. Barill noted that this year the Board used the reserve fund to hire additional teachers to lower in person class sizes. She indicated Boards have been advised by the Ministry that decreased class sizes will not be an expectation next year. The Board is currently in the process of determining overall staffing needs for the upcoming year in order to give notice of potential redundancy. T. Barill advised that redundant staff are often able to be recalled and placed for September due to retirements and student registrations.

T. Barill reviewed the impact of the past year on the Board community and noted that she is looking forward to being able to connect in person with staff and students again in more traditional ways. She highlighted the spiritual theme for next year is Community of Faith and that faith formation opportunities for staff will be an intentional focus. M. Forster commended the Director's emphasis on faith formation initiatives in the upcoming year.

M. Ste. Marie inquired as to the use of funding designated for cleaning. S. Grieve advised that it is used to ensure there are enough custodians to do the extra disinfecting required noting that absences have increased. He advised that we also received funding to improve HVAC systems and to purchase air filters for classrooms.

R. Damianopolous asked if there is any information that can be provided with respect to the role that virtual schools might play next year and if it is a cost or cost savings. T. Barill responded that Boards are awaiting information from the Ministry as to the mandate for next year regarding virtual learning. The Senior Team has decided to move forward with offering a virtual elementary program due to sufficient interest and given that staffing is more flexible due to it being enrolment driven. She indicated that Secondary requires a core number of students in order to offer a full program with a variety of course options for students. A survey has been issued to ascertain interest and the results are pending. There was also discussion surrounding the potential viability and challenges of offering a virtual French Immersion. Staff will continue to provide updates to Trustees throughout the process.

R. Putnam introduced members of the Senior Administrative Team as each presented an overview of the priorities, pressures and investments for their respective area of responsibility. Portfolios discussed included the following: Academic Services, Student Services, Special Education, Equity/Anti-Racism, Facilities Services, Transportation, Human Resources,

and Information Technology. R. Rodriguez also presented the updated Multi-Year Technology Strategy which is to be resumed in the upcoming year.

R. Desouza asked for some examples of what might be covered under Student Injury Prevention. Director Barill provided some examples noting that it is a collaborative initiative between Academic Services, Health and Safety and Facilities Services.

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-04 - 2021/2022 Budget Priorities and Investments

“THAT the Finance Committee receive as information the 2021/2022 Budget Priorities and Investments as presented on April 19, 2021.”

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.
CARRIED

7.3. Staffing and Enrolment Update

M. O'Neill provided an update regarding the status of staffing and enrolment processes noting that redundancy declaration is an annual proceeding. He indicated that he will be meeting with the appropriate affiliates in the coming weeks as numbers are refined and budget decisions are finalized.

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-05 - Staffing and Enrolment Update

“THAT the Finance Committee receive as information the Staffing and Enrolment Update as reported on April 19, 2021.”

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos.
CARRIED

7.4. Ministry Funding and Budget Consultation Update

R. Putnam advised that the Ministry has not yet released the necessary funding parameters for next year. The Senior Team will continue to plan for upcoming year based on certain working assumptions however final

decisions will have to wait until funding is confirmed. In the interim staff will seek community input via electronic means as to planned priorities and initiatives. Any feedback will be considered at the May Finance Committee meeting.

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-06 - Ministry Funding and Budget Consultation Update

“THAT the Finance Committee receive as information the Ministry Funding and Budget Consultation Update dated April 19, 2021.”

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by
R. Damianopoulos.
CARRIED

8. Information Items

None

9. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Closing prayer was offered by J. Oldman

Motion:

FC-2021-04-19-07 – Adjournment

“THAT the Finance Committee meeting of April 19, 2021 be adjourned.”

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

M. Forster, Chair, Finance Committee

R. Putnam, Resource, Finance Committee

Recording Secretary: D. Morton



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update**

Origin: Administrative Council

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information, the COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update dated April 26, 2021.”

Rationale

As the provincial landscape in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, ongoing communications, guidance and directives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Durham Public Health continue to be received. To keep the Board of Trustees advised of our current situation and recent developments, staff are providing the following Operational and Academic and Student Services Updates.

Operational Updates

COVID-19 Positive Case Management

As of April 17, 281 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported within our school communities. 207 of those cases have been resolved. These cases have resulted in 15 outbreaks being declared by the Durham Region Health Department.

The Durham Region Health Department continues COVID-19 testing at DCDSB schools for high-risk exposed staff and students. Currently the Durham Region Health Department has been using converted transit buses for testing, but these buses will be used for vaccinations and the public health nurses will be testing in designated areas of DCDSB schools, such as gyms.

Memorandum | Page 2 of 6

Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

Asymptomatic testing continues for staff, students, and their households. This testing is on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays at designated DCDSB and DDSB secondary schools. As of April 16, 1264 DCDSB students have been tested resulting in 9 positive COVID-19 cases.

Vaccinations

Prior to the Spring Break, on April 7, 2021 the Government of Ontario announced that beginning the week of April 12, 2021, eligible education staff would be able to begin to register for appointments to get vaccinated.

The first group of education workers to become eligible under the government's framework are those who support the learning of students with complex special education needs and included Program Support Teachers, Educational Assistants, Custodians, Principals and Vice Principals as well as any other staff members who are required to work from the school during periods of shut down to support access to in-person learning for those students who cannot access adequate programming remotely. Letters of eligibility were provided to 694 staff members.

It has also been indicated by the government that education workers who live and/or work in designated hotspots (identified by postal code) will be next in line to be eligible for vaccination. At the time of writing this report, vaccination appointments are not yet open to this group of individuals. However, educators who work in DCDSB but live in a designated hot spot in Toronto or Peel are able to book appointments.

The following schools are in the designated hot spot zones for Durham Region:

DCDSB School Locations Based on Postal Code

POSTAL CODE	SCHOOL
L1S (SW AJAX)	Archbishop Anthony Meagher CCEC
	Archbishop Denis O'Connor C.H.S.
	St. Bernadette C.S.
	St. Francis de Sales C.S.
	St. James C.S.

Memorandum | Page 3 of 6

Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

L1T (NE AJAX)	Notre Dame C.S.S.
	St. Andre Bessette C.S.
	St. Catherine of Siena C.S.
	St. Josephine Bakhita C.S.
	St. Jude C.S.
	St. Patrick C.S.
L1Z (E AJAX)	St. Teresa of Calcutta C.S.
L1V (C PICK)	St. Mary C.S.S.
	St. Monica C.S.
	St. Isaac Jogues C.S.
	St. Elizabeth Seton C.S.
L1X (BR PICK)	St. Wilfrid C.S.

Memorandum | Page 4 of 6

Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

We continue to work with Durham Region Public Health to remain abreast of all developments on the vaccination roll out.

Facilities Services

The Board has continued to receive orders of personal protective equipment (PPE) each month. An order for April has not been submitted due to the lockdown order and the Board having extra PPE available for the limited staff in the buildings. Provincially supplied disinfectant was distributed to custodial staff, who conducted a thorough disinfecting of all spaces during the lockdown. As a recommendation of the Joint health and Safety Committee, the Board has procured 2500 safety goggles and distributed to all staff as an alternate source of eye protection.

All of the additional custodial staff had been hired to assist with the increased disinfecting and cleaning, however, since September there have been full time vacancies which floater custodians have moved into, which has reduced the additional staff complement, and required the board to conduct additional hiring.

Disinfectant foggers are being used for quick response disinfecting. Hand sanitizer continues to be used as part of Durham Health's good hand hygiene guidelines. Provincial funding for improved heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) changes was provided in September, and a second round of funding was issued at the start of 2021. Measures that have been completed as part of the funding, and some planned measures with the additional funding include:

- upgrading filters to a higher efficiency (MERV13). The first delivery of the filters has gone out to schools in March. Supply of MERV13 filters has been delayed due to global demand for the materials used in the manufacturer;
- the mechanical systems have been programmed to increase the amount of fresh air, and additional HEPA filter air purifiers have been distributed to all elementary classrooms. Extra units are available to be dispatched to secondary schools should there be a mechanical system issue;
- Retro-commissioning of a limited number of schools is scheduled this spring;

The Federal government under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) announced up to \$700 million in the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) funding. The funding was time limited and required boards to submit proposals that will protect the health and wellbeing of students, staff and children in schools and co-located childcare facilities for consideration. Eligible projects needed to promote one or all of the following themes:

- promoting occupant health and safety;
- improving facility condition (e.g., optimize air quality and water refilling stations that also improve access to safe drinking water);
- enhancing physical distancing;

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Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

- facilitating distance learning (e.g., network and broadband infrastructure)

The funding had some restrictive timelines that required all projects to have been started by September 30, 2021, and be substantially complete by December 31, 2021, otherwise the boards will be responsible for the entire cost of the project. The board has since been advised that approximately \$7.4million has been approved for capital renewal projects. The following projects will be occurring at various locations across the system:

- Updated Wifi Access points across the system;
- Window replacements;
- HVAC replacements (e.g., Chiller, Boilers; Air handling);
- Bottle filler stations (childcares);
- Sink replacements;
- Accessible doors (childcares);
- Gym partitions;
- Outdoor spaces

Human Resources

Barring any announcements of additional covid related staffing funding for next school year, there will be a number of employees who will be declared redundant to our enrolment needs for September. Staff will be notified according to the corresponding staffing timelines dictated through their respective collective agreements.

Home School Hybrid Learning Model – Quadmester 4

The Home School Hybrid Learning Model continues in Quadmester 4 in our Secondary Schools when in-person learning resumes.

Information Technology

Under the supervision of the Chief Information Officer – Freedom of Information and Privacy, Ronald Rodriguez, the Information Technology team continues to provide timely and effective technical support to our students, parents and staff.

As we transition back to remote learning, we have technology (Chromebooks and iPads with LTE) in stock to support students that require it for online learning.

Academic Services**Remote Learning**

All schools pivoted to remote learning on April 19, 2021 to support the enforcement of the province's Stay-at-Home order and additional public health measures.

Memorandum | Page 6 of 6

Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Secondary students will receive their report card for Quadmester 3 on Friday, April 24, 2021.

Students with Special Needs

Program Support Teachers and system-level resource staff will be in contact with families to determine appropriate programming adjustments for their child. Students with special needs will be supported virtually and possibly through remote learning packages where necessary.

In-person learning accommodations will be in place once again for students with the highest special needs starting Wednesday, April 21, 2021. In-person learning will continue to be offered to students with extensive alternative programming, pervasive 1:1 support required throughout the day for safety and the inability to independently access online learning. Students who are placed in our Early Intervention Classrooms, with intensive supports and programming for communication, school-readiness skills, self-regulation and social-emotional development will also continue to attend for in-person learning.



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Update on Virtual Learning for September 2021**

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information, the Update on Virtual Learning for September 2021 report dated April 26, 2021.”

Rationale

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, schools boards across the province were required to provide a virtual learning option in 2020-2021 for all elementary and secondary students. Multiple meetings took place from June through August with Senior Administrative Teams and the Ministry of Education to determine the best models with which to proceed.

In Durham Catholic, a decision was made to launch independent Virtual Learning Schools for Elementary and Secondary. Through the efforts of Human Resources Department and the assigned School Administrators, every attempt was made to accommodate families who were opting for Virtual Learning in the fall. Given the uncertainty, families had a difficult time make decisions and many altered their placement requests well into October.

The Ministry further required that families be given the option to transition at various points during the year. This was operationally extremely challenging as the Board was still required to respect class size caps (as set out by Ministry regulation and Collective Agreement requirements). Additionally, the Board committed to maintain lower class sizes in bricks and mortar schools to better facilitate physical distancing. Moving into the Christmas Break a significant wait list for virtual learning had accumulated.

At that time, the Board received additional funding to support “red zone” requirements. This influx of funds allowed for the hiring of a sufficient number of Elementary Virtual

Memorandum | Page 2 of 4

Re: Update on Virtual Learning for September 2021

Learning teachers, to accommodate the waitlist without having to restructure classes in schools across the system. At that time, a decision was made to introduce a “high flex” or “hybrid” model for secondary students on the waitlist for virtual learning. Through this model, students were given access to their scheduled classes through virtual means and did not have to transfer from their current school or change their schedule for the year. This model does however require classroom teachers who have at home learner in their class to make their classes available virtually for those students while still teaching the students physically present in the room.

As of April 19, 2021, the Ministry of Education has yet to provide any information regarding expectations for learning models for the 2021-2022 school year. Given staffing timelines and requirements, it was incumbent on staff to make decisions in absence of Ministry direction on how to proceed with regards to future virtual learning options.

Virtual Learning – Elementary English Program

Notwithstanding future direction from the Ministry of Education, Senior Administration has made the decision to proceed with a Virtual Learning Elementary School for the 2021-2022 school year. This decision was possible because staffing in Elementary schools is essentially allocated by enrolment. This gives the Board the ability to expand or decline in accordance with the number of students (assuming a minimum viability of approximately 15 student/grade) without incurring unfunded staffing costs.

On Monday, April 6, 2021, a letter was sent to all families informing them of the Virtual Learning Elementary School option for the 2021-2022 school year and requesting that those who wish to register for the school complete and submit an electronic “pre-registration” form by April 21, 2021. As of April 19, 2021, pre-registrations have been received for 772 students, which makes the Virtual Learning Elementary School viable for the coming school year.

French Immersion

At this time, the Board is not in a position to offer a virtual learning opportunity in 2021-2022 for students enrolled in a French Immersion program.

There are a variety of factors at play that contribute to this decision.

1. To date, the Ministry of Education has not mandated that Boards provide a virtual learning option of any kind for the 2021-2022 school year. As such, no funding can be expected beyond the regular funds generated by student enrolment.
2. Notwithstanding the current increase in Covid-19 transmissions, with the vaccination rollout, it is expected that by September, while some layers of protection may continue to be required, schools will be able to provide a more normal experience for students. Consequently, it is expected that most students

Memorandum | Page 3 of 4

Re: Update on Virtual Learning for September 2021

will be returning to in-person learning in their home schools. Current registrations reflect a 75% decline in Elementary English enrolment for virtual learning.

3. Senior Administration has decided to operate a Virtual Learning Elementary School as a pilot program option for the 2021-2022 school year. This differs from our current situation where virtual learning was made available as a health and safety measure for those who had concerns about Covid-19 transmission in schools. Those who choose this as a learning option would no longer be connected to a “home school” and in-year movement between the Virtual Learning School and bricks and mortar schools would be discouraged for all but exceptional reasons.
4. Recruiting and retaining qualified French Teachers has been an ongoing challenge across the province and here in Durham Catholic. Staffing for DCDSB French programs (core and immersion) is so tight that when staff absences occur, they frequently need to be filled with non-French speaking teachers. This is detrimental to programming.
5. Since issuing the invitation for pre-registration, a significant number of communications/questions (approximately 70) have been received from families seeking a virtual learning French Immersion offering in the 2021-2022 school year. Unfortunately, even if all the families who reached out did in fact enroll their children, the numbers would still not meet the threshold to be able to sustain a viable virtual program.

Virtual Learning – Secondary

Senior Administration continues to consider Virtual Learning Options for Secondary students in the 2021-2022 school year. Staffing considerations in Secondary are more complex than Elementary in that to run a Secondary Virtual School that provides a full course selection for students would require a fairly significant enrolment.

To better inform the decision-making process, communication was sent to all families who had students in grades 8-12 that may be attending our Secondary schools in the fall. Those interested in a virtual learning option were asked to complete a survey.

As of April 19, 2021, a total of 317 families with Secondary students indicated that they would enrol in virtual learning for the 2021-2022 school year if it were an option.

Grade	Total
9	59
10	93
11	95
12	103

Memorandum | Page 4 of 4

Re: Update on Virtual Learning for September 2021

# Students per Family	Total
1	287
2	27
3	3

This data will be considered as staff contemplate Secondary program options and await further direction from the Ministry of Education regarding requirements for virtual learning for September 2021.



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Date: April 26, 2021
Subject: **Catholic Student Trustees 2021-2022**
Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the Catholic Student Trustees 2021-2022 report dated April 26, 2021.”

Rationale

The Catholic Student Trustees for the Durham Catholic District School Board for 2021-2022, as elected by their peers, are Declan Amaral, student at All Saints Catholic Secondary School, Whitby and Sophie Nwaoha, student at Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School in Whitby.

Declan Amaral

Declan is a full-time Grade 11 student at All Saints Catholic Secondary School in Whitby. Declan has demonstrated his commitment to the school through community efforts and leadership at various activities and events. As a member of the Regional Arts and Media Program, Declan has been able to collaborate with students of all ages as well as staff to bring performances and other artistic opportunities to fruition. He has also demonstrated compassion, creativity, and drive for an inclusive and welcoming learning environment through his work on Student Council, as well as the Ontario Student Trustees' Association where he is a regional representative on the Catholic Board Cabinet, and Co-Chair of the Advocacy Working Group. Declan is a participating member of his parish's Youth Ministry and is an active member at the Church of St. Leo the Great in Brooklin.

Memorandum | Page 2 of 2
Re: Catholic Student Trustees 2021-2022

Sophie Nwaoha

Sophie is a full-time student at Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School in Whitby. Sophie's leadership qualities were demonstrated when she secured a position in the school's Social Justice Club where she used her voice to stand up for the rights of students. Sophie is also a member of the Black Student Union which amplifies the voices of BIPOC and ensures racial equity, equality and policies. Most recently, Sophie won Student of the Month in February 2021. This award recognized her hard work, determination, excellent attendance and enthusiasm for the culture at Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School. Sophie is an active member of Holy Family Parish and is very dedicated to her faith. Sophie has been part of the Youth Ministry program, as well as an Altar Server and a choir member of the church.

Declan and Sophie are both looking forward to representing the students of the Durham Catholic District School Board for the 2021-2022 school year.

TB/JM/lj



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Brooklin French Immersion Transition Report for April 26, 2021**

Origin: Gerard Winn, Superintendent of Education, Whitby Family of Schools
Mariah O'Reilly, Superintendent of Education, Academic Services
Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Human Resources
Scott Grieve, Superintendent of Facilities Services
Ryan Putnam, Superintendent of Business

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the Brooklin French Immersion Transition Report for April 26, 2021”

Rationale

As a follow up to the motions approved by the Durham Catholic District School Board of Trustees on Monday, December 14, 2020, regarding the consolidation of the French Immersion program in Brooklin, updates will be provided to the Board of Trustees throughout the transition process.

Update – Transition Process

In March, an expression of interest survey was embedded in an electronic communication and sent to current Grade 6 and 7 French Immersion students at St. John Paul II Catholic School to indicate their preference to remain at St. John Paul II Catholic School for Grade 7 and 8 or transfer to St. Leo Catholic School for French Immersion. Families were reminded that grandfathering students will be taken into consideration based on sufficient interest and viable class sizes. The closing date of this survey was Monday, March 15, 2021.

Memorandum | Page 2 of 2

Re: Brooklin French Immersion Transition Report for April 26, 2021

In early April, parents/guardians of students currently in the Grade 6 and 7 French Immersion program received confirmation that St. John Paul II Catholic School would be offering a Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion class for the 2021-2022 school year and Grade 8 class for the 2022-2023 school year. As well, families who expressed an interest in transitioning over to St. Leo Catholic School for the 2021-2022 school year for Grades 7 or 8 were informed that this request would be granted based on the results of the survey.

School communities continue to receive monthly communication newsletters with updates and information throughout the transition process. As well, Human Resources is working with union affiliates and school administration to communicate processes for staffing reorganization in the coming weeks and months.

TB:GW:MO:MO:SG:RP:II



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Replacement of Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School – Progress Update**

Origin: Scott Grieve, Superintendent, Facilities Services
Daniel Carlin, Sr Manager, Planning, Capital and Admissions

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file, for information the Replacement of Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School – Progress Update Report dated April 26th, 2021.”

Background Data

On July 22, 2019 the Ministry of Education released Memo 2019:B17, announcing the launch of 2019-20 Capital Priorities Program, including Child Care Capital Funding and review of School Construction Standards. Subsequent to the announcement, DCDSB sent forward a request for Ministry approval for the design and construction of the replacement Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School.

On July 23rd, 2020 the Ministry of Education announced the approval for capital funding for the relocation of Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School.

Rationale

The existing Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School is located in the City of Oshawa in a building which has a capacity for 981 students. Significant portions of the school were originally constructed in 1963, with two subsequent additions. The school has had 2 renovations for community partners including the Grandview Children’s Centre and Community Innovation Lab which occupy approximately 12,000 square feet

of space in the school building. The building is not located in close proximity to the majority of existing secondary students and is not located close to where 11,700 units of new housing are being constructed in north-east Oshawa. As a result, the Board was approved for a replacement school of 1,061 pupil places to serve a growing Grade 7-12 population that is in close proximity to existing and planned growth areas.

A Catholic Secondary School site has been identified at the corner of Harmony Road and Greenhill Drive area of Northeast Oshawa and is required to be purchased prior to the relocation and reconstruction of the existing Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School.

Pre-Design Activities

Site Fit

The Board hired an architect to prepare site fits for the allocated site, and based on the approved capacity.

Site acquisition

The designated site for the DCDSB to construct the new Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School, is currently divided into three parcels of land, which are owned by three different owners.

Parcel 1-

Currently the main site is owned by Metro Ontario Inc. The site is currently not severed or zoned for a secondary school. Metro Ontario are currently in the process of preparing the documentation for submission to the City of Oshawa for severance and re-zoning from the existing residential zoning to the Community Institutional Zoning (CIN) required for the secondary school. Once that is complete, the DCDSB will prepare the purchase of sale agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the sale of the property. An appraisal of the property was completed in March of 2020, and an additional appraisal is being completed in April. Once a price is agreed upon it will require a 60-day period of review by the Ministry of Education.

Parcel 2 and 3 -

Two sites located at 1761 and 1735 Harmony Road North, Oshawa are also required for the development. The sites are residential properties and privately owned by different owners. The properties have been valued, and negotiations regarding the acquisitions are in process. Once a price is agreed upon it will require a 60-day period of review by the Ministry of Education.

Additional Information

The DCDSB have engaged consultants in the following areas of expertise to help navigate the acquisition process:

- Traffic Consultant
- Environmental Consultant
- Storm water management
- Land appraisal
- Legal real estate

All costs associated with acquiring the land are part of the educational development charges (EDC).

DCDSB has entered into partnership discussions in the following areas:

- Joint-use turf field with a track;
- Shared parking arrangements;
- Ontario Tech University (OnTechU) for curriculum connections in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math);
- OnTechU and Oshawa Public & Utilities Corporation for a district energy solution with an aim of reducing the energy footprint of the new school;
- Attempting to make further connections with the Durham energy sector on possible partnerships associated with the OnTechU curriculum and District Energy discussions.

Programming

The replacement of the existing Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School presents the Board with an opportunity to articulate a vision for the school and develop the program that this new Grade 7 to 12 school will offer.

In undertaking both the vision and program review the Board can develop the Facility Space Template (which is required by the Ministry of Education), and allows the Board to complete a space planning exercise which provides the architect with the attributes for each of the rooms that are included in the new school.

Staff are currently reviewing the credits that are offered to students of Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School this year, and using that to help inform the designated visioning team. Part of this process includes engaging community partners on potential opportunities.

A visioning team has been established to help provide insight into the design and programming of the space. The team developed a Thoughtexchange question which was issued to the Monsignor Paul Dwyer and family of school communities:

What are the values and traditions of Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School that are most important to our community?

There were 280 participants, with 187 thoughts, and 6,111 ratings of those thoughts. The roles participants identified with in the community consisted of the following:

%	# of People	Identity
4	11	Student
16	39	Teacher/Staff
78	196	Parent
2	6	Other

They represented the following communities:

%	# of People	School
36	89	Msgr Paul Dwyer
1	2	Good Shepherd
5	14	Sir Albert Love
7	18	St. Anne
9	22	St. Christopher
20	49	St. Kateri Tekakwitha
13	32	St. John Bosco
9	23	St. Joseph

The top key thoughts included:

- Air Conditioning
- Safety
- More practical life skills courses
- Excellence in academics, arts and athletics
- Faith formation
- Forward thinking students looking for staff and a building that promotes excellence in mind, body and spirit
- Leadership and community involvement values
- Keep the uniforms

The visioning committee continue to meet monthly to help with the space template and programming designs.

Anticipated Timelines

July 2020 – Ministry approved capital funding for new high school

August 2020 to December 2021 –

- Land acquisition of 3 parcels has been initiated and we hope to have this completed by July/August 2021; (Provincial Funding Signage to be installed once the land is owned);
- A team visioning exercise, including consultation from the school community (staff, students, parents, etc.) and feeder school communities (January – June 2021);
- Submit space template to Ministry of Education capital branch for review in July/August 2021;
- Assign architect (tendering process) in September/October 2021 and start design;

January 2022 – September 2024

- Submit site plan approval to City of Oshawa in May/June 2022;
- Complete design in May – October 2022 and get Ministry approval;
- Tender the construction October/November 2022;
- Award construction of new school with Ministry Approval December 2022;
- Construction January 2023 - August 2024
- Open doors to new school September 2024

Next Steps

Once the programming exercise is complete over the next few months and a sense of a vision for the new school has started, staff will look to engage specific stakeholders and potential partners to help complete the vision. The spacing template will be provided to the Ministry of Education for preliminary approval, which will allow the board to proceed with awarding an architect to design the school based on the space template and the vision.

While the programming and visioning is occurring, staff will be working to complete the land acquisition of three parcels of land in a condition suitable for construction of the new school.

At this point in the process, a timeline for opening the new school is challenging to predict based on the many moving parts, and various levels of government approvals that are required, but the goal is September 2024. As staff continue to provide updates to board, a schedule for opening will become clearer.



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Annual Facility Partnership Opportunities**

Origin: Scott Grieve, Superintendent, Facilities Services
Claudia Henry, Community Use, Partnerships and Compliance Officer

Recommendation

Moved by , seconded by

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the Annual Facility Partnership Opportunities Report dated April 26, 2021.”

RATIONALE

Background

In accordance with Board Policy PO-435 Community Planning and Partnerships Policy, the Board is required to determine a final list of schools that have suitable space available for partnership opportunities and communicate it to the public.

Developing cooperative and collaborative facility partnerships enables the Board to reduce facility costs and improve educational opportunities for students. Partnerships can also foster greater ties to the community and represents an important part of the Province’s strategy regarding community hubs.

The Board’s Partnership opportunities involve co-building new facilities, leasing and licensing existing unused spaces, and the development of joint use agreements to use portions of existing schools and administrative facilities during school hours. The Board has been receptive to sharing facilities for the use of unoccupied space in existing schools and administration facilities where the partnerships are appropriate for the school setting and where it enhances student achievement.

This report summarizes the list of schools that should be circulated for potential partnership in 2020-2021 in accordance with the Durham Catholic District School Community Planning and Partnerships Policy PO-435 and associated Administrative Procedure AP-435-1, and reports on both new and existing facility partnerships.

Criteria for Selection

In accordance with Administrative Procedure AP-435-1 schools are to be considered for potential partnership when they meet one or more criteria listed within the procedure.

The criteria for consideration includes:

- long term enrolment projections which allow for a portion of the building to remain unused or underutilized;
- all schools with a projection of 200 or more excess pupil places or 60% or less utilization for at least two (2) years from the start of the partnership;
- other schools where a portion of the building remains unused or underutilized;
- space is not required for Board programming or other uses;
- ability to identify and create a distinct and contiguous space within the facility;
- facility is not located within an area identified for a possible accommodation review within three (3) years from the time the space is identified as available;
- appropriate access to the space;
- parking availability;
- facility condition;
- zoning restrictions.

Schools Considered

Staff reviewed the enrolment projection and facility utilization data for all elementary and secondary schools in accordance with the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) 2021-2025 dated February 22, 2021 to determine if there were schools which would meet the enrolment criteria for consideration.

Based on the criteria contained within the Board's procedure, the following schools have underutilized spaces within the school that may be considered for the development of a facility partnership in available surplus space:

1. Holy Family Catholic School
2. St. Bridget Catholic School
3. St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School
4. St. Francis de Sales Catholic School
5. St. John Paul II Catholic School

Co-build Opportunities

The Board's Community Planning and Partnership Policy contemplates the ability of the Board to jointly build facilities with other agencies that are complimentary in nature. The

Board is seeking potential co-build partners for the following school construction projects located in the LTAP:

1. Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School Replacement - Oshawa
2. Unnamed Seaton #1 Catholic Elementary School - Pickering
3. Unnamed West Whitby Catholic Elementary School – Whitby
4. Unnamed Kedron Catholic Elementary School - Oshawa
5. Unnamed Brooklin Catholic Secondary School – Brooklin
6. Unnamed Seaton #2 Catholic Elementary School – Pickering
7. Unnamed Seaton Catholic Secondary School - Pickering

Existing Partnerships

The Board continues to work with many agencies and organizations to provide a range of facility partnerships. The current list of partners includes the following:

- Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School partnership with Back to Basics Basketball for the use of one portable;
- Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School partnership with Advantage Titans Basketball Club for the use of one portable;
- Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School partnership with Flying Angels Track and Field Club for the use of one portable;
- Holy Family Catholic School partnership with Brock Community Health Care to use the former child care space;
- The Giffard Centre partnership with The Participation House – Durham Region for use of the gym and one classroom;
- Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School partnership with Durham College for joint use of Technological Education space;
- Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School partnership with the Community Innovation Lab in renovated space;
- Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School partnership with Grandview Children's Centre in renovated space;
- St. Mary Catholic High School partnership for the use of City of Pickering fields and school facilities.

The Board has received approval to proceed from the Ministry of Education to expand Child Care Centres in the following schools:

- Good Shepherd Catholic School a total of four new infant, toddler and pre-school rooms for the YMCA Child Care;
- Monsignor Philip Coffey Catholic School a total of five new infant, toddler and pre-school rooms for Waterview Child Care;
- St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School a total of four new infant, toddler and pre-school rooms for PRYDE Child Care.

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Re: Annual Facility Partnership Opportunities Report

PUBLIC MEETING

In the past the Board has held a public meeting to address the available locations for potential facility partnerships in existing space and co-builds. Staff recommend that the information contained in the report be sent electronically at this time to all interested stakeholders, and if required a virtual meeting can be held.

NEXT STEPS

It is intended that staff would review any potential partnership applications in accordance with the Policy and Administrative Procedure and return to the Durham Catholic District School Board for further direction.

TB:SG:CH:tc



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Education Development Charges Report**

Origin: Scott Grieve, Superintendent, Facilities Services
Daniel Carlin, Sr Manager, Planning Capital and Admissions

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file, for information the Education Development Charges Report dated April 26, 2021.”

Background

The Durham Catholic District School Board approved passage of the Education Development Charges (EDC) Bylaw No. 6, (2019) on April 15, 2019. The rate of the EDC was calculated as part of the EDC renewal process. This process impacts both the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and DCDSB. Due to Provincial legislation the rate increase was capped at \$300 from the previous By-law amount.

The new EDC rate charged as of May 1, 2019 was \$1,086 per dwelling unit. Under the provisions of the Regulation, the rate can be increased annually by a maximum of \$300 or 5% whichever is greater. As part of the 2019 Bylaw approval the Board opted to increase the EDC annually on May 1st of each year by \$300 or 5%. As of May 1, 2020, the rate of the charge was \$1,386 per unit of housing. The new rate for May 1, 2021 will increase by an additional \$300 to a rate of \$1,686 per unit of housing. This report informs the Board of Trustees of the increase to the charge

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Re: Education Development Charges Report

Next Steps

Staff will advise all seven municipalities affected by the Development Charges Bylaw of the change of the collection amount for the Durham Catholic District School Board. Note that DCDSB staff notifies Ajax and Whitby on behalf of both boards, while DDSB staff notify the remaining municipalities on behalf of both boards.

TB:SG:DC:JD:tc



Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Date: April 26, 2021
Subject: **Correspondence from Minister Catherine McKenna**

Recommendation

Moved by , seconded by

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information the following correspondence:

- Email from Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, dated March 23, 2021.”

Rationale

As attached.

TB:eb

Attachment: Email dated March 23, 2021

From: [Minister / Ministre \(INFC\)](#)
To: [Liz Beckstead](#)
Cc: [Minister Champagne / Ministre Champagne \(IC\)](#)
Subject: Office of Minister McKenna
Date: March 23, 2021 11:06:07 AM
Attachments: [2021-03-05 Ministers Scott and McKenna.pdf](#)

CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - This email comes from an external organization. Do **NOT** reply, click links (embedded links) or open attachment(s) unless you recognize the **sender email address**. Also, do **NOT** provide your username and password.

Dear Morgan Ste. Marie and Tracy Barill:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 5, 2021, also addressed to the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure of Ontario, requesting increased federal funding to improve broadband delivery. Thank you for taking the time to write. Please be assured that your comments have been carefully reviewed.

The Government of Canada is delivering a range of initiatives in coordination with provinces, territories, federal arm's-length institutions and private partners to improve broadband access that will benefit communities across Canada.

The Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) recently announced its Growth Plan, a \$10-billion investment plan focused on high impact infrastructure, including broadband projects, which will strengthen Canada's capacity to grow now and in the future. The CIB will deliver its Growth Plan over the next 24 to 36 months, contributing to the economic recovery and long-term resilience of the country.

Broadband projects are also eligible under the federal Gas Tax Fund, provided that the municipalities involved, as the ultimate recipients under the program, choose to apply their allocation to the particular project. Broadband projects may also be eligible under the recently introduced COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) if they directly link to the pandemic response. Under the ICIP, proposed projects must first be submitted to the province so that it may determine whether the project should be prioritized for funding consideration.

Since the matter of high-speed Internet projects across the country also falls under the purview of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne and the Honourable Maryam Monsef, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to their offices for consideration.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
 Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of the month, we look forward to the blessings that you have in store for us in May. Next week is Catholic Education Week, a time of reflection and celebrating the gift we all work to preserve, Catholic Education. As we prepare for the week ahead, help us to not just recognize the Catholic Education Week's sub-themes, but to deeply reflect and act on them. Help us to actively Prepare the Earth, Sow the Seeds of Gratitude, Cultivate Relationships, Harvest New Fruit, and Marvel in Wonder.

Amen