

Our DPCDSB Mission: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body and soul to the fullness of life.

Our DPCDSB Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.

December 2024

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) virtue for the month of December is **HOPE**. The liturgical Season of Advent is guided by hope, as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Through the birth of the baby Jesus, God's message of hope inspires us to reflect on the miracle and meaning of Christmas.

Election of DPCDSB Chair and Vice-Chair: At the annual Organizational Meeting of the DPCDSB on Tuesday, November 19, I am grateful to my fellow Trustees for re-electing me to a third consecutive term as Chair of the 11-member Board of Trustees. Mississauga Ward 5 Trustee Thomas Thomas was also re-elected Vice-Chair for a third consecutive term. A complete list of the trustees representing all board committees is available on the DPCDSB website.

Enrolment Report: The Ministry of Education requires boards to submit student enrolment data (as of October 31 and March 31), which it uses to determine and/or verify eligibility for grants. As of October 31, 2024, DPCDSB reported 40,549 elementary students and 30,235 secondary students, with 198 students learning remotely, for a total enrolment of 70,784 students. This is a decrease of 896 elementary students (-2.16 %) and an enrolment increase of 248 secondary students (0.83 %) since October 31, 2023. The overall board-wide enrolment decreased by 648 students (-0.91 %) from one year ago. Complete enrolment data for the board is available in the November 12, 2024 Administration and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda.

Air Conditioning Feasibility Report: The Board of Trustees requested that staff undertake a study to determine the feasibility and structural requirements for introducing air conditioning into all elementary school facilities that are currently not fully air conditioned.

The feasibility study estimated the cost to install air-conditioning at all schools that were not fully air-conditioned to be approximately \$35-\$40M and the timeline for implementation, based on current funding levels and other competing projects and commitments, would be 15 to 20 years.

In 2021, DPCDSB received approximately \$21M in funding from the federal government through the *COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream* (CVRIS) grant. Most of this grant was used to add or enhance the amount of air conditioning in 15 schools that were identified as having little or no air conditioning. Over the past several years, DPCDSB has made it a priority to ensure that all schools have at the very least, a cooling station to serve students and staff on extreme weather days. Due to funding constraints and competing priorities, committing to provide every elementary school with full air-conditioning is not



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“For unto us,
a child is born,
to us a son
is given.”
— Isaiah 9:6

AGENDAS AND MINUTES Board and Committee Meetings

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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feasible without additional funding from the Ministry of Education. Expanding cooling stations at each of the schools that are not fully air-conditioned to include the gymnasium is a more feasible and achievable commitment for the board at this time.

DPCDSB is funded approximately \$33M annually, but it is not enough to address an estimated \$350M in outstanding renewal needs identified over the next five years. The \$33M funding represents less than 10% of the total funding required to address the board's outstanding renewal needs and is intended to address the following items at all 151 DPCDSB schools:

- Health and safety concerns – lighting, security, traffic circulation, pedestrian access, etc.
- Maintaining facilities in good repair and functional status – remediating any structural issues such as leaks, deterioration of building materials, etc.
- Replacement of aged, outdated, and malfunctioning infrastructure, e.g., windows, roofs, boilers, doors, security panels, water mains, etc.
- Addressing new legislative or regulatory changes, e.g., emergency lighting in childcare rooms.
- Undertaking alterations to facilities to accommodate new program offerings at schools
- Addressing infrastructure upgrades required to facilitate the technological needs of our students
- Replacing end of life cycle mechanical equipment

French Immersion (FI) Site Consolidation Consideration and Review: On an annual basis, the DPCDSB Planning Department conducts a review of school boundaries and recommends potential changes to reduce enrolment pressures and to balance enrolments in neighbourhood schools. In addition, staff consider the location and configuration of programs of choice such as the consolidation of FI sites.

Our DPCDSB Board of Trustees has requested a review of the potential consolidation of FI sites. FI at the elementary level begins in Grade 1 and proceeds through to Grade 8. There are several FI locations where FI students in Grades 1 to 4 attend one school and are then directed to a dedicated 'sister' location for Grades 5 to 8. DPCDSB staff are conducting a review of sister-site locations to determine the viability of combining sites to offer FI Grades 1 to 8 in one location. In doing so, staff will take into consideration the following: school capacity, FI enrollment, English Track enrollment, other existing programs, site size, kiss 'n ride, general vehicular access to the site and availability of on-street parking.

Based on these considerations, staff may recommend all, some, or no sister-sites be consolidated, or that the FI program be relocated to an alternate school in the community, or that the number of FI sites be reduced. Following the compilation of information from the considerations to consolidate FI sister-sites, if there are any proposed changes to the existing locations, staff will conduct broader community engagement through a Community Open House.

Unassigned Boundary Reviews: Annually, DPCDSB conducts a review of school boundaries and recommends potential changes to reduce enrolment pressures and to balance enrolments in neighbourhood schools. In consultation with Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR), staff has identified areas of the board that are currently not assigned to a school boundary or require a minor adjustment to align the boundary with a municipal border. All proposed boundary amendments have no impact on existing students, or their siblings and no additional transportation costs will be incurred. Staff identified areas of the board not currently assigned to an elementary or secondary school boundary, or both. These areas are not zoned for residential uses, however, in view of recent zoning proposals, as well as the establishment of new shelter accommodations in alternative facilities such as hotels and motels, it is necessary to include all areas of the board in existing school boundaries. For more information, please refer to the November 12, 2024 - Administration and Finance Committee Meeting on the DPCDSB website.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025 - 2026 school year – Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year at DPCDSB schools is now open. Parents/guardians can register online on the board’s website. DPCDSB offers the full-day Kindergarten program in 125 Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville. Elementary school admissions are open to Catholic children and children of Catholic parents. Kindergarten students must be at least 4 years of age by December 31 of the school year for which they are registering.

DPCDSB Volunteer of the Year Award: Adekoye Sowemimo from the Mississauga West Family of Schools was recently honoured as the DPCDSB Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding contributions to Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School. The school endeavours to strengthen students’ minds, bodies, and spirits with Catholic values, to be the best version of themselves. Mr. Koye (as students know him) has worked for the last three years with students of all ages teaching fundamental skills in various sports. He has helped coach and has also started school clubs to support more active opportunities for students. This year, he organized a soccer tournament, coached cross country and two school volleyball teams. He teaches students new games, helps to maximize the use of all gym equipment, and keeps it organized throughout the year. He has earned the respect of staff and students and is a tremendous asset to the school community. Congratulations Mr. Sowemimo! Photo below at the Awards Night.



Jordan’s 10th Annual Sock Drive: DPCDSB student Jordan is “warming the world, one pair of socks at a time.” Last year, Jordan’s 2023 Sock Drive collected 8,161 pairs of new socks for those experiencing homelessness in Peel and beyond! In 2015, a 6-year-old girl with a big dream started an annual sock drive, that has now collected 76,732 pairs of socks. This year is Jordan’s 10th Annual Sock Drive, and she has set a goal to collect 10,000 pairs of new socks! The donation deadline is December 22, 2024. For more information, please visit JordansSocks.com or email: JordansSocks@hotmail.com

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your local school administrators and education teams at your child(ren)’s Catholic school, should you require more information and support for your family. We welcome the opportunity to support collaborative relationships between home, school, and parish, as we continue to achieve excellence in Catholic education.

Breakfast with Santa, Christmas Craft, Christmas Gatherings! It is a season of hope, preparation and joyful expectation. Joining our students, staff and parents/grandparents at Breakfast with Santa event, building gingerbread house, Christmas Advent Masses, Christmas concerts and Coffee House helped me get into the spirit of Christmas. Thank you to our School Councils, students and staff for hosting these wonderful events. Please see pictures below:

At St. Julia Catholic Elementary School Breakfast with Santa



At St. John XXIII Catholic Elementary School Breakfast with Santa



At St. Veronica Catholic Elementary School Advent Luncheon – whole school gathered to have lunch together



At St. Marcellinus CSS ARD Christmas Market



At St. Valentine Catholic Elementary School:



At St. Joseph CSS Coffee House. Amazing musical concert organized by Mrs. Jade Morrisson. Thank you Mrs. Morrison!



At St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School (Mississauga)



Wishing our students, families, and staff in our DPCDSB schools and communities a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



DPCDSB Christmas Break is **Monday, December 23, 2024, to Friday, January 3, 2025**. Schools will be closed during this time.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday January 6, 2025.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your family.

Take care and God bless you always.

Luz del Rosario

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Chair of the Board of Trustees

Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11