



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

## Regular Board Meeting

# Agenda

Monday, October 28, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Live Streaming Details: <https://dcdsb.ca/BoardMeeting>

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Education Centre  
North Boardroom  
650 Rossland Road West  
Oshawa, ON L1J 7C4

Main Telephone Number: (905) 576-6150  
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Board Website: [www.dcdsb.ca](http://www.dcdsb.ca)

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## **Regular Board Meeting - Open Agenda**

Durham Catholic District School Board  
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, North Boardroom  
October 28, 2024, 7:30-9:30 P.M.

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## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we gather for this meeting, we ask for your presence among us. May our discussions be fruitful, and our thoughts guided by understanding and respect. Help us to work together in harmony and to focus on our shared goals. Thank you for this opportunity to collaborate and make a difference.

Amen.



## Land Acknowledgement

We here in the Durham Region respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.



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

## **Regular Board Meeting – Open Session Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board – North Boardroom  
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, ON, L1J 7C4  
September 23, 2024, at 7:30 PM EST

### **Trustees Present**

M. Forster, Chair, R. Damianopoulos, Vice Chair  
Trustees K. Beatty, R. De Souza, J. Emanuel, M. Hall, J. McCafferty\*, M. Ste. Marie

### **Student Trustees Present**

O. Aje, A. Walsh

### **Director of Education Present**

G. Winn

### **Senior Administration Present**

K. Akomolafe, M. O'Neill, J. Outram, R. Rodriguez, J. Sheepwash, P. Sorhaitz,  
K. Stevenson, J. Wilson

### **Senior Managers Present**

F. Pileggi, R. Tawembe

*\* Attended virtually*

#### **1. Opening**

##### **1.1. Call to Order**

Chair Forster called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

##### **1.2. Motion to Move In Camera**

###### **Motion:**

B2024-09-23-01 - Motion to Move In Camera

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

Motion moved by J. Emanuel and motion seconded by K. Beatty.  
CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

##### **1.3. Memorials and Prayer**

Student Trustee Aje offered the opening prayer.

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1.4. Land Acknowledgement

Annabelle G., a student from St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic School offered the land acknowledgement.

We here in the Durham Region respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.

Nous voulons souligner, respectueusement, que les terres sur lesquels nous sont réunis font parti du territoire traditionnel des Mississaugas des l'îles du Scugog.

In saying the land acknowledgement, we remind ourselves that everybody has to listen to the concerns of the community. We must recognize the culture and traditions of the land we are on, and acknowledge them as part of our history. It is the beginning of a learning process and rebuilding of relationships. The land acknowledgement should lead to more questions about the people and how their land came to be possessed by settlers. In learning about our history, we may take one step closer to reconciliation.

1.5. Canadian Anthem

The choir from St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic School sang O Canada.

1.6. Roll Call and Apologies

Trustee McCafferty attended virtually.

1.7. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-02 – Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the Monday, September 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as provided."

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Mare.

CARRIED

1.8. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

1.8.1. Special Board Meeting held June 11, 2024

**Motion:**

B2024-09-24-03 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the June 11, 2024, Special Board Meeting."

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

Emanuel. CARRIED

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1.8.2. Regular Board Meeting held June 17, 2024

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-04 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the June 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting."

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

1.8.3. Special Board Meeting held June 24, 2024

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-05 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the June 24, 2024, Special Board Meeting."

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

1.8.4. Special Board Meeting held August 19, 2024

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-06 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the August 19, 2024, Special Board Meeting."

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

1.9. Declarations of Interest

None.

1.10. Student Trustee Affirmation

Director Winn conducted the Affirmation of Faith with Student Trustees Ololade Aje and Aoife Walsh.

2. Items of Information

2.1. Announcements

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

Vice Chair Damianopoulos read the following announcements:

**Retirements**

Laurie Foster-Leduc, St. Mary C.S.S., effective July 30, 2024



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**Resignations**

Basil Johny, Elementary panel, effective July 29, 2024

Fritznel Clermont, St. Christopher C.S., effective August 29, 2024

Guy Moulton, Secondary panel, effective October 31, 2024

Kathleen Peters, St. Kateri Tekakwitha C.S., effective September 10, 2024

Linda Maroy, St. Teresa of Calcutta C.S., effective August 13, 2024

Magdalena Stankov, Father Fenelon C.S., effective August 29, 2024

Monique Duarte, Sir Albert Love C.S., effective August 29, 2024

Nicole Wright, St. Anne C.S., effective June 28, 2024

## 2.1.2. Appointments and Transfers

None.

## 2.2. Notices of Motion

## 2.2.1. None.

## 2.3. Presentations

## 2.3.1. 2024-2025 Spiritual Theme

- Katharine Stevenson, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the DCDSB's Spiritual Theme for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Highlights of the presentation include:
  - Jubilee 2025
  - What is hope? Common usage
  - The Christian sense of hope
  - Called to be witnesses of hope
  - Spiritual theme poster design
    - The camera lens
    - Fruits of the Holy Spirit
    - Hidden Images
  - Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

## 2.3.2. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

- Jessica Outram, Superintendent of Education, presented to the Board of Trustees on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which takes place on September 30.
- Highlights of the presentation include:
  - Purpose
  - Renewing our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation
  - Three Foundational Documents
  - Next Steps
- Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions.

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## 2.4. Delegations

## 2.4.1. Proactive School Safety, Mr. Oliver McLaren

Mr. McLaren presented his public delegation on “Proactive School Safety” to the Board of Trustees. He responded to questions following the presentation.

## 2.5. Student Trustees Report

The Student Trustees provided the following report:

**Intro** (Aoife): Ololade and I are very excited to have started our roles as Student Trustees for the 2024-2025 school year officially in August. Throughout the month of September, we have communicated with our Senate to discuss the operation of the student senate. We are very happy to see that schools have been off to a great start with many schools holding school rallies, clubs, sports and extra-curriculars. Senate is extremely excited for the year ahead!!

**Senate** (Ololade): Today we had our first Senate meeting of the year. It was amazing to get to know our senate, and despite our shortened time, we already got to have informational and meaningful discussions. Our Senate is excited to get working on possible initiative ideas, and we cannot wait to share them with the board of trustees.

**Back to School** (Ololade): We have heard many good reports about students' returns to school. All our high schools have successfully hosted a version of a Gr. 9 orientation, plus exciting pep rallies or spirit weeks. Students are excited to return to school this year and to see what events their schools have in store for them. Based on what we have heard from our Senate meeting, we gather that many students are in high spirits for the year ahead of us. Student Senate looks forward to helping foster a safe and caring community within all our schools.

**OSTA-AECO** (Aoife): Ololade and I are very excited to continue working with OSTA-AECO this year. Our long-standing relationship with them has been beneficial to the work we do as Student Trustees and our Senate. Recently there have been a few structural changes to OSTA-AECO, and we look forward to the advocacy work that we will get done this school year.

**Closing** (Aoife): With all the excitement about returning to normalcy and the passion amongst students for student advocacy, we are very excited for the year and cannot wait for the amazing initiatives the student leaders and our Senate will carry out.

## 2.6. Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation

Received for information.

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2.7. Minutes and/or Reports from Committee Meetings

The minutes and/or reports from Committee meetings were received for information. Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

2.7.1. Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit – Sept. 9, 2024

2.7.2. Special Education Advisory Committee – Sept. 10, 2024

2.7.3. Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee – Sept. 12, 2024

2.8. Staff Reports (for information)

Director Winn provided an overview of the staff reports for information.

2.8.1. 2024 DCDSB Workforce Census

2.8.2. Summer Learning Program (Summer Rays)

2.8.3. School Year Calendar and Professional Activity Day Compliance

2.8.4. Annual Audit Committee Activity Report

2.8.5. Elementary Class Size Compliance and Staffing Update 2024-2025

2.8.6. Facilities Services Summer Capital Updates

2.8.7. Accessibility Update

2.8.8. 2024-2025 Spiritual Theme – Living in Hope

2.8.9. September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

3. Items for Decision

3.1. Consideration of Motions for which previous notices has been given.

3.1.1. Trustee Membership on Board Advisory Committees

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-07 – Trustee Membership on Board Advisory Committees

WHEREAS, the Board has identified listening as a foundational practice of the current multi-year strategic plan and has made a commitment to build better understanding of the needs of each member of our community by creating spaces and establishing intentional practices to listen, with the ears of the heart, to all voices; and

WHEREAS committees have been established within DCDSB for senior staff to engage with specific communities to build better understanding of the lived experienced of equity-deserving groups, namely the DCDSB Indigenous Education Circle, the DCDSB Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Committee and the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS these committees provide a venue for equity-based community input and feedback; and

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WHEREAS the Board of Trustees is committed to our mission to be an inclusive Catholic learning community that inspires every student to reach their full potential through faith and education; and

WHEREAS the Board values respect, reconciliation, and learning; and

WHEREAS it is beneficial to Trustees to have direct insight into the ideas, concerns and/or work of equity-deserving groups;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that an ad hoc committee be formed which will convene on a maximum of three occasions in September-October 2024. The committee will:

- a. examine best practices and bring recommendations to the Board for how to improve communication and build stronger relationships between the Board of Trustees and the three abovementioned Board advisory groups;
- b. have a maximum of 8 participants;
- c. will report back to the Board at the October 28, 2024, Regular meeting of the Board;
- d. and after bringing forward recommendations to the Board, the committee will be dissolved.

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Hall

- The motion was put on the floor for discussion.
- Trustee Beatty proposed an amendment

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-08 – ~~Trustee Membership on Board Advisory Committees~~

WHEREAS, the Board has identified listening as a foundational practice of the current multi-year strategic plan and has made a commitment to build better understanding of the needs of each member of our community by creating spaces and establishing intentional practices to listen, with the ears of the heart, to all voices; and

WHEREAS committees have been established within DCDSB for senior staff to engage with specific communities to build better understanding of the lived experienced of equity-deserving groups, namely the DCDSB Indigenous Education Circle, the DCDSB Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Committee and the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee; and

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WHEREAS these committees provide a venue for equity-based community input and feedback; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees is committed to our mission to be an inclusive Catholic learning community that inspires every student to reach their full potential through faith and education; and

WHEREAS the Board values respect, reconciliation, and learning; and

WHEREAS it is beneficial to Trustees to have direct insight into the ideas, concerns and/or work of equity-deserving groups;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that an ad hoc committee be formed which will convene on a maximum of three occasions in ~~October-November~~ ~~September-October~~ 2024. The committee will:

- a. examine best practices and bring recommendations to the Board for how to improve communication and build stronger relationships between the Board of Trustees and the three abovementioned Board advisory groups;
- b. have a maximum of 8 participants;
- c. will report back to the Board at the ~~December 16, 2024, October 28, 2024~~, Regular meeting of the Board;
- d. and after bringing forward recommendations to the Board, the committee will be dissolved.

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by J. Emanuel.

CARRIED

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-07 – Amended Motion

WHEREAS, the Board has identified listening as a foundational practice of the current multi-year strategic plan and has made a commitment to build better understanding of the needs of each member of our community by creating spaces and establishing intentional practices to listen, with the ears of the heart, to all voices; and

WHEREAS committees have been established within DCDSB for senior staff to engage with specific communities to build better understanding of the lived experienced of equity-deserving groups, namely the DCDSB Indigenous Education Circle, the DCDSB Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Committee and the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee; and

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WHEREAS these committees provide a venue for equity-based community input and feedback; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees is committed to our mission to be an inclusive Catholic learning community that inspires every student to reach their full potential through faith and education; and

WHEREAS the Board values respect, reconciliation, and learning; and

WHEREAS it is beneficial to Trustees to have direct insight into the ideas, concerns and/or work of equity-deserving groups;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that an ad hoc committee be formed which will convene on a maximum of three occasions in October-November 2024. The committee will:

- a. examine best practices and bring recommendations to the Board for how to improve communication and build stronger relationships between the Board of Trustees and the three abovementioned Board advisory groups;
- b. have a maximum of 8 participants;
- c. will report back to the Board at the December 16, 2024, Regular meeting of the Board;
- d. and after bringing forward recommendations to the Board, the committee will be dissolved.

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Hall. CARRIED

3.2. Motions to be read in Open Session from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of September 23, 2024

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-09 – Approval of Central Terms and Conditions of Employment Between Catholic Principals Council of Ontario and Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

“The Durham Catholic District School Board approve the central terms and conditions of employment contained within the Memorandum of Settlement and attached Appendices, dated August 10, 2024, made between the Principals' and Vice-Principals' Associations comprised of (Association des Directions et Directions Adjointes des Ecoles Franco-Ontarienne (ADFO), the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) and the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)) and the l'Association des conseils scolaires des ecoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACEPO), l'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC), the Ontario Catholic School

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Trustees' Association (OCSTA) and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and agreed to by the Crown. Further that the approval of the motion of the central terms be reported to OCSTA."

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

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-10 – Motions Deemed Read

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Motions as deemed read from the In Camera session of the September 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by R. De Souza and motion seconded by M. Hall. CARRIED

3.3. Business arising from previous meetings

None.

3.4. Staff Reports (for decision)

Staff responded to questions from Trustees as they arose.

3.4.1. Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-11 – Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

"THAT the Board of Trustees approve to extend the Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit recommendations to the Board not later than the December 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting in order to allow more time to explore various options and collaborate with community partners.

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Hall.  
CARRIED

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-12 – Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

"THAT the committee be dissolved immediately following the January 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie.  
CARRIED

3.4.2. Out of Province Travel

**Motion:**

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B2024-09-23-13 – Out of Province Travel

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) approve the attendance of up to two staff members to represent DCDSB at the 2024 National Association for Pupil Transportation Annual Conference, scheduled from October 4-8, 2024, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.”

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by J. Emanuel  
CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1. Board Communications

4.1.1. Correspondence – TCDSB

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-14 – Correspondence

“THAT the Chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board drafts a letter to the Ministry of Education outlining concerns regarding Bill 98 on behalf of the Board of Trustees to be reviewed at the October 28, 2024, Board meeting for further consideration.”

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

4.2. Director's Report

In addition to his written report that was provided in the agenda, Director Winn also offered the following comments.

- A warm welcome to the Board of Trustees and our Student Trustees to the first regular Board meeting. I am very humbled and grateful to serve as the Director of Education and I'm appreciative of your support.
- A sincere thanks to members of our Senior Administration Team and all employee groups across the system for their efforts in starting up a new school year. I've been blessed to get out to approximately 25 schools to visit and chat with students and staff (Custodians, Administrative Assistants, Designated Early Childhood Educators, principals, teachers, support staff, and more) – I'm very grateful for the dedication of our board and school leadership and staff.
- I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge a few of our Senior Managers present with us at our Board meetings:
  - Tonya Long, Senior Manager of Compensation, Pay Equity & HRIS;



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- Jackie McVeigh, Senior Manager of Human Resource Services;
  - Faeron Pileggi, Senior Manager of Communications Services; and
  - RaeAnn Tawembe, Senior Manager of Operations and Maintenance.
- I would like to thank all our advisory committees for lending their valuable expertise to support our students, staff, families and communities. I'd also like to thank the Anti-Black Racism & Black Excellence Advisory Committee for their efforts in establishing the new [Black Student Excellence Awards](#) program.
- I am looking forward to attending a DCDSB Coach/Advocate for Black Students (CABS) event on September 25 at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School titled [Empowering Our Community Through Mathematics](#). This event is open to families, and includes networking opportunities, a panel discussion, keynote speakers Alexander Coleman and Carl E. James. Thank you to our CABS staff and partners for their efforts in organizing this event to support families.
- Finally, I wanted to share a brief overview of our new Beacons of Hope recognition program. Beacons of Hope is connected to the 2024-2025 Spiritual Theme, *Living in Hope*, and will recognize two elementary students, two secondary students, and two staff members each month. Each month has a theme, which has been assigned based on the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and our Catholic virtues. The selected nominees will be recognized at our monthly Board Meetings for a special award presentation. Families, students, staff and community members are welcome to nominate a DCDSB student or staff member that exemplifies and embodies the theme for the month – nomination forms can be found on our website. I look forward to celebrating our first students and staff Beacons of Hope at the October 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting.

## 4.3. Chair's Report

Chair Forster provided the following report:

- Welcome and thank you for joining us for the first Regular Board Meeting of the 2024-2025 school year.
- I want to take this opportunity to recognize each one of my fellow Durham Catholic District School Board Trustees as well as each member of the Senior Administration team for their service and dedication to our Catholic learning community.
- Once again, I would like to extend a special welcome to Director Winn, who is joining us as the Director of Education for the first time

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at a Regular Board Meeting. We are grateful for your leadership and continued dedication to DCDSB.

- I also want to extend a special welcome to Jessica Outram, Superintendent of Education, and Jaime Sheepwash, Chief Human Resources Officer, who have joined the Senior Administration team.
- I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to each member of the DCDSB staff, as it is through their efforts that we have had a smooth start of this new academic year. I thank you for your continued dedication to the well-being and success of our students and their families.
- A special welcome back on behalf of our Board to Aoife Walsh and Ololade Aje – we are blessed to work with you as our Durham Catholic Student Trustees representing the student voice throughout this school year.
- Last week, I, along with other trustees attended the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association's Regional meeting. The Regional meetings are an opportunity for networking and discussion with fellow trustees from our region, while also ensuring that the OCSTA remains aware of current local priorities and concerns. Thank you to all Durham Catholic trustees who were able to attend.
- On August 20, 2024, the 9th Annual #ForeTheKids Golf Classic took place at the Deer Creek Golf and Banquet facility in support of the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation. We are grateful to our community for their wonderful support of our fundraising event. Our gratitude to our attendees and our generous sponsors. We successfully raised \$36,100. These funds will enable us to continue providing some essential necessities to students in need within our community, in our commitment to bring them hope and support. I want to extend our gratitude to Mr. Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer, and his team for their efforts in organizing and running this well-attended event.
- Please save the date for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual #ForeTheKids Golf Classic on August 19, 2025. Tickets will go on sale in April 2025.

### **Recognition Days**

- I will begin by thanking our students who inspire our work each day.
- A special thank you to all DCDSB staff for their dedication to our mission, to be an inclusive Catholic learning community that inspires every student to achieve their full potential through faith and education.
- Thank you to each one of you for your wonderful efforts on behalf of our students and those who serve them.
- Throughout the school year, we recognize and celebrate various employee appreciation days.
- In September, we are excited to celebrate:

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- Payroll, Business, Finance & Accounting Professionals Day;
  - IT Professionals Day; and
  - Human Resource Professionals Day.
- In October, we look forward to celebrating:
  - Custodian and Facilities Services Appreciation Day;
  - World Teachers' Day;
  - Clergy and Chaplain Appreciation Day; and
  - Child Care Worker and Designated Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.
- The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary, and we are reminded of the power of prayer. May God Bless everyone in our Durham Catholic community as we embark on this new school year.

4.4. Trustee Questions

Trustee Ste. Marie asked what items would be on the October board meeting agenda. Chair Forster and Director Winn replied that monthly staff reports would be included in the agenda as well as presentations on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Student Census Data, and Math Update.

4.5 Motion to Adjourn

**Motion:**

B2024-09-23-15 – Adjournment

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, September 23, 2024.”

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

4.6 Closing Prayer

Student Trustee Walsh offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

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Monique Forster, Chair of the Board  
Durham Catholic District School Board

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Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead



## **Policy Meeting Minutes (Open)**

Durham Catholic District School Board

October 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM EST

650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, North Boardroom

### **Attendance**

#### **Trustees Present**

M. Forster (Chair), R. Damianopoulos (Vice Chair)

K. Beatty, J. Emanuel, M. Hall, J. McCafferty\*, M. Ste. Marie, R. De Souza

#### **Regrets**

#### **Student Trustees Present**

A. Walsh. O. Aje

#### **Director of Education Present**

G. Winn

#### **Senior Administration Present**

K. Akomolafe, S. Grieve, M. Hammond, R. Rodriguez, P. Sorhaitz, J. Outram, K. Stevenson, J. Wilson, J. Sheepwash

#### **Regrets**

M. O'Neill

\*Attended electronically

#### **1. Opening**

Chair Forster opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

##### **1.1 Call to Order**

Chair Forster called the meeting to order.

##### **1.2 Memorials and Prayer - Student Trustees**

Student Trustee Walsh offered the opening prayer.

##### **1.3 Land Acknowledgement**

Traditional Lands and Territory were read by Chair Forster.

##### **1.4 Canadian Anthem**

Performance by St. John XXIII (pre-recorded).

Minutes of the Policy Meeting (Open)

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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1.5 Roll Call and Apologies

All Trustees were in attendance. Trustee McCafferty attended electronically.

1.6 Approval of Agenda

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the October 15, 2024 Policy Meeting."

Motion moved by K. Beatty and seconded by M. Ste. Marie. CARRIED

1.7 Declarations of Interest

None

2. Items of Information

2.1 Announcements

None

2.2 Notices of Motions

None

2.3 Presentations

None

2.4 Delegations

None

2.5 Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation

None

2.6 Staff Reports

Trustees were provided with an opportunity to ask questions.

2.6.1 Current Roster of Policies (Status Updates)

Trustees were provided with the current roster of policies detailing the status of each policy in the policy update process. Director Winn advised that, as many of the significant changes to the Trustee Meeting Attendance requirements do not take effect until September, 2025, PO205 Trustee Meeting Attendance, would be brought forward at a future policy meeting, following further clarification from the Ministry of Education. Director Winn noted that senior administration has also been working on updating administrative procedures. These updates will be shared throughout the year.

Minutes of the Policy Meeting (Open)

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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2.6.2 Input Received

Trustees were provided with a listing of the policies that were posted for input following the May 6, 2024, policy and June 17, 2024 Board meetings and a summary of the stakeholder input received to date.

3. Items for Decision

3.1 Consideration of Motions For Which Previous Notice Has Been Given

None

3.2 Business Arising from Previous Meetings

None

3.3 Staff Reports

3.3.1 First Reading

3.3.1.1 PO314 Criminal Background Checks and Offence Declarations Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-02 – Criminal Background Checks and Offence Declarations Policy (PO314)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the revised Criminal Background Checks and Offence Declarations Policy (PO314)."

Motion moved by J. Emanuel and seconded by K. Beatty. CARRIED

Trustee Ste. Marie inquired about the cost of criminal background checks for volunteers and whether or not the Board accepts other databases as acceptable sources for Criminal Background Checks outside of Durham Regional Police Service. Staff advised that the costs associated with criminal background checks for volunteers are less than those of employees, but would inquire about the process at other school boards. Staff will also inquire about other potential databases and include any edits for second reading, if required.

3.3.1.2 PO407 Smoke, Tobacco, and Vape Free Environment Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-03 – Smoke, Tobacco, and Vape Free Environment Policy (PO407)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the First Reading of the revised Smoke, Tobacco, and Vape Free Environment Policy (PO407)."

Motion moved by J. Emanuel and seconded by K. Beatty. CARRIED

## Minutes of the Policy Meeting (Open)

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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Trustees inquired about the potential use of stronger language around employees duty to report violations of the policy (must vs. should). Staff advised that they would review the reporting process in advance of second reading. Trustees also sought clarification around the prohibition of smoke on all board properties and the implications for smudging. Staff noted that they would review language to ensure there were no limitations for cultural practices.

## 3.3.2 Second Reading

## 3.3.2.1 PO204 Director of Education Performance Appraisal Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-04 – Director of Education Performance Appraisal Policy (PO204)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Second Reading of the revised Director of Education Performance Appraisal Policy (PO204)."

Motion moved by R. De Souza and seconded by J. Emanuel. CARRIED

## 3.3.2.2 PO412 Community Use of Schools Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-05 – Community Use of Schools Policy (PO412)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Second Reading of the revised Community Use of Schools Policy (PO412)."

Motion moved by K. Beatty and seconded by M. Ste. Marie. CARRIED

Trustee Hall sought clarification around the community use of schools and what community entailed. Staff confirmed that the Durham Catholic District School Board community has priority but other organizations use the facilities if those priorities have been exhausted. "DCDSB" to be added to "board/school events" under section 5.4 prior to second reading.

## 3.3.2.3 PO427 Records and Information Management Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-06 – Records and Information Management Policy (PO427)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Second Reading of the revised Records and Information Management Policy (PO427)."

Motion moved by R. De Souza and seconded by J. Emanuel. CARRIED

Minutes of the Policy Meeting (Open)

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

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3.3.3 Third and Final Reading

3.3.3.1 PO201 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-07 – Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy (PO201)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Third and Final Reading of the revised Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Policy (PO201)."

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and seconded by M. Hall. CARRIED

3.3.3.2 PO210 Policy Development and Implementation Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-08 – Policy Development and Implementation Policy (PO210)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Third and Final Reading of the revised Policy Development and Implementation Policy (PO210)."

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and seconded by M. Hall. CARRIED

3.3.3.3. PO445 Student Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Policy

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-09 – Student Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Policy (PO445)

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Third and Final Reading of the revised Student Fees for Learning Materials and Activities Policy (PO445)."

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and seconded by M. Hall. CARRIED

3.3.4 Policies to be Rescinded

None

4. Other Business

4.1 Board Communications

None

4.2 Trustee Questions

Trustee Emanuel inquired about the follow up to the Proactive School Safety delegation from the September, 2024 Board meeting. Director Winn confirmed that every delegation receives a follow up. Superintendent of Safe Schools, Paula Sorhaitz is in the process of setting up a meeting with the delegate to continue discussions.



Minutes of the Policy Meeting (Open)  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024  
Page 6 of 6

4.3 Motion to Adjourn

**Motion:**

P2024-10-15-10- Motion to Adjourn

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Policy Meeting of October 15, 2024."

Motion moved by M. Hall and seconded by J. Emanuel. CARRIED

4.4 Closing Prayer

O. Aje offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Monique Forster, Chair of the Board  
Durham Catholic District School Board

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Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: C. Cavalier



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Presentation: Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report**

Origin: Kayode Akomolafe, Human Rights & Equity Advisor

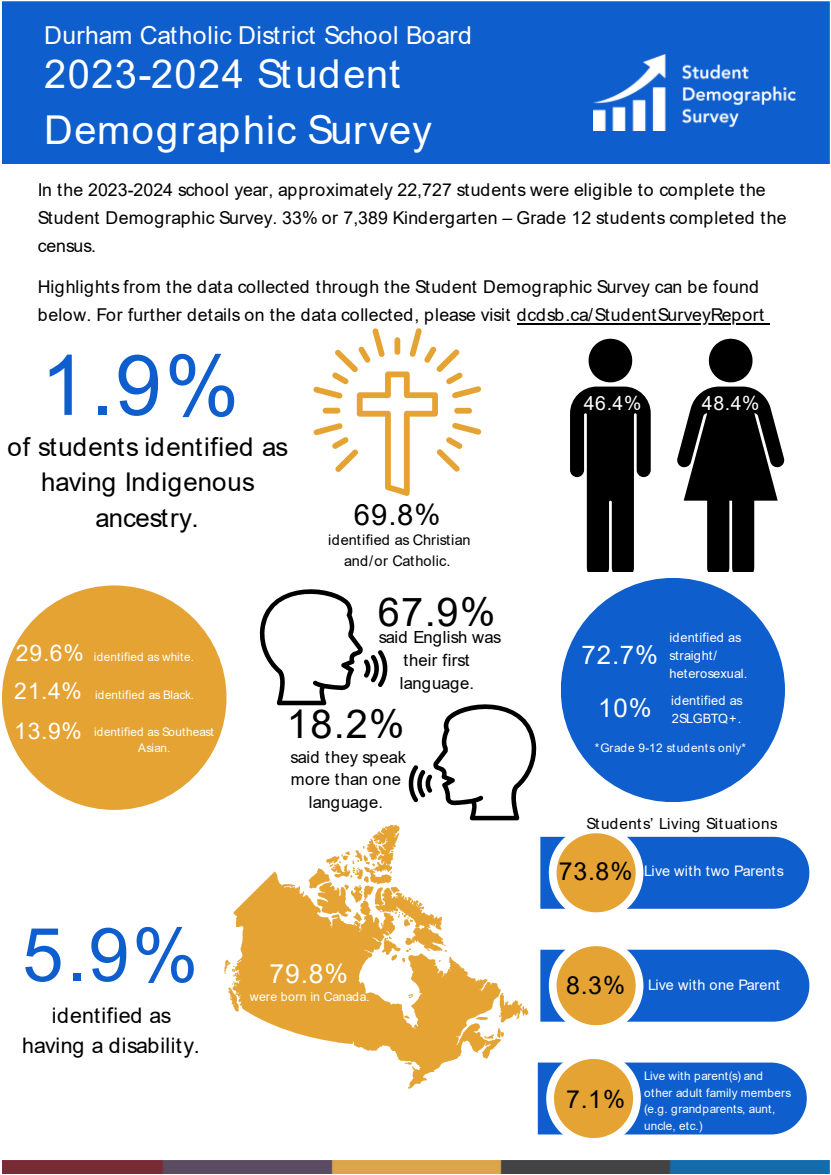
Please find attached a copy of the *Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report* presentation.

GW/KA/eb  
Attachment: Presentation

# DCDSB 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey Report


October 28, 2024

# DCDSB 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey Data Outcomes Overview



# High-Level Direct Comparisons – 2021-2022 and 2023-2024









## Student Demographic Surveys

| Comparable Metrics                                 | 2021 – 2022 Student Census (Grades 4-12)           | 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey (Grades K-12) | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or No Direct Comparison   |
|--|--|--|--|
| Overall Survey Completion Rate                     | 6,239 out of 15,900 students (39% completion rate) | 7,389 out of 22,727 students (33% completion rate) | Different grades assessed. No Direct Comparison.   |
| Grades 9-12 completion rates (eligible population) | 2,292 students (approximately 32%)                 | 3,924 students (approximately 57%)                 | Increase  |

# High-Level Comparisons – Of Those Who Responded: “Yes, I Consider Myself To Be A Person With A Disability”

| Comparable Metrics   | 2021 – 2022 Student Census<br>(Grades 4-12)               | 2023-2024 Student<br>Demographic Survey<br>(Grades K-12)  | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Yes, I Consider Myself To Be A Person With A Disability</b>   | 7.5% (468 students / 6,239 students who submitted Survey) | 5.9% (436 students / 7,389 students who submitted Survey) | Decrease ↓                   |
| <b>More than one disability<br/>(if yes to having a disability) %</b>  | 7.3%  | 36.7%   | Increase ↑                   |
| <b>Autism Spectrum Disorder %</b>  | 23.1%   | 28.2%   | Increase ↑                   |
| <b>Learning Disability(ies) %</b>  | 30.8%   | 12.2%   | Decrease ↓                   |
| <b>Mental Health Disability(ies)%</b>  | 20.3%   | 5.0%  | Decrease ↓                   |
| **of the 468 students ('21-'22 survey) and 436 students ('23-'24 survey) who stated “Yes, I have a disability”** |   |   |                              |

# High-Level Comparisons – Perceptions of Representation in the Curriculum and Classroom

| Comparable Metrics  | 2021 – 2022 Student Census<br>(Grades 4-12) | 2023-2024 Student<br>Demographic Survey<br>(Grades K-12) | Increase (+) or Decrease (-)   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Perceptions of Representation<br>in the Curriculum and School<br>Resources %  | 18.5% - <b>Always</b>                       | 22.4% - <b>Always</b>                                    | Increase    |
|   | 24.8% - <b>Frequently</b>                   | 23.1% - <b>Frequently</b>                                | Decrease    |
|   | 43.1% - <b>Sometimes</b>                    | 33.8% - <b>Sometimes</b>                                 | Decrease    |
|   | 13.7% - <b>Never</b>                        | 11.7% - <b>Never</b>                                     | Decrease    |
| Perceptions of Representation<br>in the Classroom and School<br>Environment % | 21.0% - <b>Always</b>                       | 25.0% - <b>Always</b>                                    | Increase    |
|   | 27.0% - <b>Frequently</b>                   | 24.5% - <b>Frequently</b>                                | Decrease   |
|   | 40.5% - <b>Sometimes</b>                    | 32.5% - <b>Sometimes</b>                                 | Decrease  |
|   | 7.7% - <b>Never</b>                         | 6.4% - <b>Never</b>                                      | Decrease  |

# Next Steps

- Survey data results will be shared with various groups (e.g., DCPIC, SEAC, IEAC, ABR-BE, P/VPs) for updates and input on potential actions/recommendations
- Survey data results will be posted on DCDSB website
- Strategies will be developed to improve existing programs and initiatives targeted at addressing systemic discrimination and promoting improved student learning





## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Presentation: Student Achievement Plan**

Please find attached a copy of the *Student Achievement Plan* presentation.

GW/eb  
Attachment: Presentation

# Student Achievement Plan 2024 – 2025

October 28, 2024  
Regular Board Meeting

2023-2026  
**Strategic  
Plan**



**Inspire 2026**

# Inspire 2026

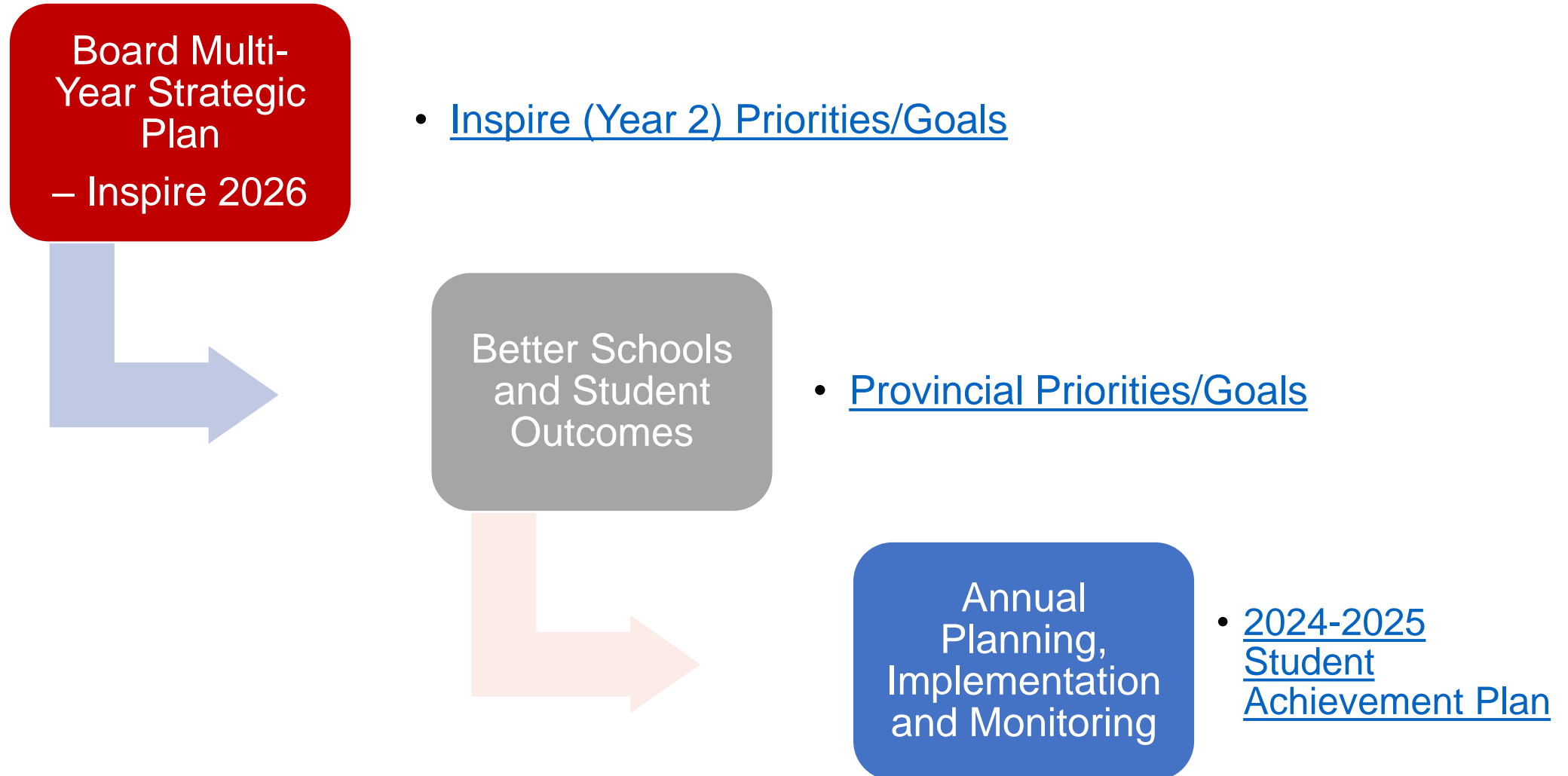
# Bill 98 – Better Schools and Student Outcomes (July 28, 2023)

The regulation on provincial priorities for education in the area of student achievement prescribes three priorities:

- **Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills**
- **Preparation of Students for Future Success**
- **Student Engagement & Well-Being**

School boards are required to adopt these provincial priorities into their trustee-approved multi-year plans

# From Planning to Practice



# Supporting Faith and Well-Being

- Overall Goal: Develop and strengthen Catholic identity through a focus on the five key elements of Catholic schools
- Catholic Community: Regular, intentional conversations support effective partnerships among the triad of home, school, and parish
  - Build on the success of Home-School-Parish Symposium (June 2024)
  - Focus on sharing of information and enhanced collaboration between school and parish
  - Plan for Symposium follow-up May 2025

# Supporting Faith and Well-Being

Priority One of the DCDSB Mental Health Strategy:

**Amplify the promotive and protective influence of schools by creating culturally responsive, mentally healthy schools and classrooms**

Goal: Build student mental health engagement and leadership

This goal aligns with a School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) provincial goal within their 2022-2025 School Mental Health Strategy

# Advancing Human Rights and Equity

Deepen the culture of respect for the inherent dignity and human rights of every student, staff and family in DCDSB

- Continued professional development for Senior Admin, PVPs, all CEC and OMAC staff
- NTIP professional development
- Student Human Rights Conference
- Collaboration with ABR & BE, parent councils



# Indigenous Education

Overall Goal: Demonstrate growing commitment board wide to Truth and Reconciliation

- Improve well-being and achievement for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students
- Advance 'Indigenous Education for All' through providing authentic learning opportunities for students and explicit connections to curriculum

# Improving Student Learning

## Highlights:

- Improve foundational reading skills in early literacy
  - New Curriculum
  - Science of Reading
  - Universal Reading Screeners
  - Literacy Intervention Teachers

# Improving Student Learning

## Highlights:

- Improve knowledge of math facts and procedural fluency through
  - Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and the use of high-impact instructional strategies.
  - Providing ongoing professional learning opportunities to strengthen mathematics content knowledge board-wide.
  - Ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions and supports are relevant and responsive.

# Improving Student Learning

Pathways: Overall Goal – Improve graduation rates and preparedness for student success.

- Support credit accumulation and pathway opportunities for Grade 9 and 10 students.
- Increase Grade 11 and Grade 12 student participation in specialized pathway programs.
- Promote and expand board wide participation in prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).

# Next Steps

- Updates (e.g., presentations/reports) on implementation/impact/insights
- School Improvement Plans
- Corporate



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation**

Please find attached a copy of the Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation.

GW/eb  
Attachment: Order Paper



## Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation

| Resolution   | Date of Approval | Referred to             | Return Date to Board  | Date of Completion   |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| <p>“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Schedule of Financial Reports to the Board of Trustees as outlined in the report.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023/2024 Budget Process</li> <li>• Ministry of Education Funding Announcement</li> <li>• 2022/2023 Second Quarter Budget Status Report</li> <li>• 2023/2024 Budget Update</li> <li>• 2023/2024 Final Budget Report</li> <li>• 2022/2023 Audited Financial Statements</li> <li>• 2023/2024 Revised Estimates Report</li> </ul>  | Jan. 23/23       | Chief Financial Officer | Feb. 27/23<br>Mar./Apr. 2023<br>Apr. 24/23<br>May 23/23<br>June 19/23<br>Nov./23<br>Dec./23 | Feb. 27/23<br>May 23/23<br>Apr. 24/23<br>May 23/23<br>June 19/23<br>Nov. 27/23<br>Dec. 18/23 |
| <p>“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Schedule of Financial Reports to the Board of Trustees as outlined in this report.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024/2025 Budget Process</li> <li>• Ministry of Education Funding Announcement</li> <li>• 2023/2024 Second Quarter Budget Status Report</li> <li>• 2024/2025 Budget Update</li> <li>• 2024/2025 Final Budget Report</li> <li>• 2023/2024 Audited Financial Statements</li> <li>• 2024/2025 Revised Estimates Report</li> </ul> |                  |                         | Feb. 26/24<br>Mar./Apr. 2024<br>Apr. 22/24<br>May 27/24<br>June 17/24<br>Nov./24<br>Dec./24 | Feb. 26/24<br>April 22/24<br>May 27/24<br>June 17/24   |

Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation  
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| Resolution   | Date of Approval | Referred to      | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <p>“Whereas, since the 1960s until 2014, the bussing of the majority of high school students to and from Durham schools was handled efficiently by the municipal transit agencies through the use of bus tickets/passes; the municipal operators were Ajax-Pickering Transit, Whitby Transit, Oshawa Transit and Clarington Transit, later amalgamated into Durham Region Transit (DRT) in 2006;</p> <p>Whereas, in 2014, Durham Region Transit raised the cost of the monthly bus pass significantly and the school boards assumed responsibility for transporting eligible high school students on yellow school buses through its consortium Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS);</p> <p>Whereas, for the last few years, pre- and post-pandemic, school bus operators across Ontario have had difficulty finding and retaining a sufficient number of school bus drivers;</p> <p>Whereas many transit agencies in the province (Toronto, York Region, Ottawa, Kingston) have a high percentage of high school students using public transit to travel to and from school, and more boards and transit agencies are considering similar arrangements;</p> <p>Whereas DSTS continues to maximize the efficiency of its system using the resources it has, in the fall of 2021, Durham District School Board (DDSB) and Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) sought an expanded relationship between DRT and DSTS. A public delegation was made to the Transit Executive Committee of Durham Region on December 8, 2021, with the intention of explaining the benefits of transit passes for high school students; negotiating a lower</p> | Jan. 22/24       | Ad hoc Committee | Feb. 26/24           |                    |



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| Resolution   | Date of Approval | Referred to | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|--|------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <p>rate for DRT passes currently purchased by DSTS; and a strategy to have more high school students given monthly DRT transit passes;</p> <p>Appendix A. DCDSB presentation at a Virtual Public Meeting by Morgan Ste. Marie, Chair (pages 1-6 focused on current DRT passes) and Declan Amaral, Student Trustee (pages 7-13, benefits of public transit, student perspective).</p> <p>Appendix B. DDSB presentation transcript by Carolyn Morton, Chair, (focused on expanded use of public transit for high school students);</p> <p>Whereas, in the months after this delegation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Region, the Boards and DSTS that “establishes shared principles to guide on-going collaboration” and this MOU was made public on June 8, 2022;</p> <p>Whereas, the Durham Region Transit Service Strategy 2022-2025 references identified opportunities to increase the percent of high school students using transit from 9% to 42%;</p> <p>Be it resolved that an ad hoc committee of Staff and no less than 3 Trustees be created to lay out an engagement strategy that advances the shared principles of the Memorandum of Understanding, including “enhancing the use of public transit by youth, including secondary school students, within a fiscally responsible framework” with our transportation partners, transit agencies and other levels of government.</p> |                  |             |                      |                    |

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| Resolution   | Date of Approval | Referred to      | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <p>“THAT the DCDSB amend motion number B2024-01-22-04 Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit previously adopted on January 22, 2024, to include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the committee will provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees not later than the September 2024 Regular Board Meeting.</li> <li>2. That the committee be dissolved immediately following the October 2024 Regular Board Meeting.</li> <li>3. That the committee include a maximum of 8 trustees</li> </ol> <p>That at the first meeting of the committee that staff provide a report on relevant information pertaining to the committee’s mandate including any legal advice regarding jurisdiction and the DSTS Consortium Agreement.”</p> | Feb. 26/24       | Ad Hoc Committee |                      |                    |

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| Resolution   | Date of Approval | Referred to           | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <p>“WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 83/24 Director of Education Performance Appraisal came into effect on March 4, 2024; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board’s current policy on Director Performance Appraisal (PO327) Director of Education Performance Appraisal is no longer compliant with legislation; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the current Director of Education is retiring effective August 31, 2024, and the Board is currently undertaking an executive search for a new Director of Education;</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED</p> <p>THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board dissolve the Director’s Performance Appraisal Committee previously established in accordance with PO327 Director’s Performance Appraisal”</p> | Apr. 22/24       | DPA Committee         |                      | Apr. 22/24         |
| <p>“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board review and revise PO327 Director of Education Performance Appraisal to comply with the new legislation and incorporate any framework or guidance provided by the Ontario Catholic Trustees’ Association specific to the appraisal of Catholic directors of education.”</p>  | Apr. 22/24       | Director of Education | June 17/24           | June 17/24         |

Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation  
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| Resolution  | Date of Approval | Referred to      | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| “THAT in compliance with Ontario Regulation 83/24 Director of Education Performance Appraisal the Durham Catholic District School Board establish a committee responsible for conducting a performance appraisal of the director of education for the board composed of not fewer than three and not more than seven board members one of whom shall be elected by the majority of the committee to be the chair.”  | Apr. 22/24       | DPA Committee    |                      | May 6/24           |
| <p>WHEREAS, the Board has identified listening as a foundational practice of the current multi-year strategic plan and has made a commitment to build better understanding of the needs of each member of our community by creating spaces and establishing intentional practices to listen, with the ears of the heart, to all voices; and</p> <p>WHEREAS committees have been established within DCDSB for senior staff to engage with specific communities to build better understanding of the lived experienced of equity-deserving groups, namely the DCDSB Indigenous Education Circle, the DCDSB Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Committee and the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee; and</p> <p>WHEREAS these committees provide a venue for equity-based community input and feedback; and</p> | Sept. 23/24      | Ad Hoc Committee |                      |                    |

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| Resolution  | Date of Approval | Referred to | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|---|------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <p>WHEREAS the Board of Trustees is committed to our mission to be an inclusive Catholic learning community that inspires every student to reach their full potential through faith and education; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Board values respect, reconciliation, and learning; and</p> <p>WHEREAS it is beneficial to Trustees to have direct insight into the ideas, concerns and/or work of equity-deserving groups;</p> <p>THEREFORE, be it resolved that an ad hoc committee be formed which will convene on a maximum of three occasions in October-November 2024. The committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. examine best practices and bring recommendations to the Board for how to improve communication and build stronger relationships between the Board of Trustees and the three abovementioned Board advisory groups;</li> <li>b. have a maximum of 8 participants;</li> <li>c. will report back to the Board at the December 16, 2024, Regular meeting of the Board;</li> <li>d. and after bringing forward recommendations to the Board, the committee will be dissolved.</li> </ul> |                  |             |                      |                    |

Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation  
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| Resolution  | Date of Approval | Referred to        | Return Date to Board | Date of Completion |
|---|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| <p>“THAT the Board of Trustees approve to extend the Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit recommendations to the Board not later than the December 16, 2024, Regular Board Meeting in order to allow more time to explore various options and collaborate with community partners.”</p> <p>“THAT the committee be dissolved immediately following the January 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.”</p> | Sept. 23/24      | Ad Hoc Committee   |                      |                    |
| <p>“THAT the Chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board drafts a letter to the Ministry of Education outlining concerns regarding Bill 98 on behalf of the Board of Trustees to be reviewed at the October 28, 2024, Board meeting for further consideration.”</p>  | Sept. 23/24      | Chair of the Board | Oct. 28/24           |                    |



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

## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – October 1, 2024**

Origin: Paula Sorhaitz, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting held on October 1, 2024.

GW/PS/pw

Attachment: Minutes of October 1, 2024



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

## **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting**

Oct. 01, 2024, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Catholic Education Centre, 650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa

*North and South Board Rooms*

### **Members Present:**

*Mariam Maskell, Participation House (Virtual)*

*Julie Sorhaitz, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region (In-Person)*

*Walter Heeney, Vice Chair, Durham Down Syndrome Association (In-Person)*

*Claudia Nosseir, Grandview Kids (In-Person)*

*Alex Massis, Community Representative (Virtual)*

*Donna Callaghan, Alternate, Durham Down Syndrome Association (Virtual)*

### **Trustees Present:**

*Robert De Souza, Trustee (Virtual)*

### **Staff Present:**

*Yulan Fisher-Brown, Senior Manager, (In-Person)*

*Helen Killoran, Student Services Coordinator (In-Person)*

*Paula Sorhaitz, Superintendent of Education (In-Person)*

### **SEAC Representatives Present:**

*Patricia Bosley, CUPE Representative (Virtual)*

*Frank Porco, CPCO Representative (Virtual)*

*Lo Davis, OECTA Representative (In-Person)*

### **Regrets:**

*Valerie Adamo, Chair, VOICE for the Hearing Impaired*

*Edward Secnik, Autism Ontario – Durham Region*

*Candace Julien, Community Representative*

*Jim McCafferty, Trustee*

*Ashley Toohey, APSSP Representative*

## **Minutes**

### **1. Opening**

#### **1.1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Walter Heeney called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m., offered the opening prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **1.2. Memorials and Prayers**

#### **1.3. Land Acknowledgements**





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

**1.4. Roll Call and Apologies**

**1.5. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion: SS-2024-10-01-01

Approval of the Agenda

Motion moved by Julie Sorhaitz and seconded by Claudia Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Tuesday, October 1, 2024, meeting, as presented.” (CARRIED)

**1.6. Approval of the Minutes of September 10, 2024, SEAC Meeting**

Motion: SS-2024-10-01-02

Approval of Minutes

Motion moved by Robert De Souza and seconded by Mariam Maskell

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Tuesday, September 10, 2024, meeting, as presented.” (CARRIED)

**1.7. Declarations of Interest**

**2. Items for Information/Decision**

**2.1. Announcements**

**2.1.1. EQAO Data Released (Superintendent's Report)**

**2.2. Presentations**

**2.2.1. Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region – Julie Sorhaitz**

**Julie Sorhaitz presented an OHRC *Right to Read* Update:**

- The [Right to Read Report](#) was released February 28th, 2022. It calls for critical changes to Ontario's approach to early reading including:
  - Curriculum and instruction
  - Screening
  - Reading interventions
  - Accommodations
  - Professional assessments.
- [A 2 Year Anniversary Update](#) was released September 5th, 2024

**Curriculum & Instruction**

Progress:



## **DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

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- May 2022: Ontario Ministry of Education released *Effective early reading instruction: a guide for teachers*
- June 2023: Ontario Ministry of Education released the revised curriculum for Grade 1 to 8: Language and Francais and Grade 9: English and Francais
- Revised Kindergarten Program to be implemented in 2025

### Continued Need:

- Revision of French Immersion Program
- Revision of teacher education programs
- Continued development of comprehensive, sustained and *job-embedded* in-service teacher professional learning and resources

## **Universal Screening**

### Progress:

- August 2023: Ministry released Policy and Procedure Memorandum 168, Reading Instruction and Early Reading Screening (PPM 168)
- Requires boards to screen all children in Kindergarten Year 2 to Grade 2 once per year, with a second screening necessary for students identified as being at risk during the first screening.

### Continued Need:

- A central repository of data in a consistent format that can be used to drive system improvement and innovation

## **Reading Interventions**

### Progress:

- 2023 Budget: \$25 million to support students in Kindergarten Year 2 (formerly known as Senior Kindergarten) to Grade 2
- 2024-25 Budget: The ministry provided \$12.5 million continued funding to enable school boards to purchase licences, resources and professional learning to support the provision of systematic, evidence-based tiered reading programs and interventions for struggling readers, including but not limited to students with reading disabilities.

### Continued Need:

- Support for students in Grade 3 and older who did not have this support in earlier grades
- Mandated removal of existing ineffective programs such as Level Literacy Intervention (LLI) programs

## **Accommodations**

### Progress (Minimal):

- Ministry guidance emphasizes accommodations and modifications at the expense of interventions
- Long-debunked approaches such as “learning styles” remain

### Continued Need:



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
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- A new policy and procedure memorandum should be created to outline requirements for clear communication with parents regarding the use of accommodations and modifications and how these are being implemented alongside intervention.

### **Assessments**

#### **Progress (Minimal):**

- Ontario has yet to officially recognize dyslexia or update the official definitions of learning disabilities outlined in PPM 8
- Some progress in removing requirements for an assessment to access accommodations, but no written policy standardizing this across the province.
- Starting in 2024-25, the Ministry will be providing yearly and stable funding to school boards for professional assessments.

#### **Continued Need:**

- The province should update PPM 8 to align the definition of learning disabilities with the DSM-5 and the recommendations of the Inquiry
- Formalize the Response to Intervention model of assessment for learning disabilities, outline when professional assessments should happen, and how assessments should be used

### **Addressing Systemic Issues**

#### **Progress:**

- June 2023: Ontario passed the Better School and Student Outcomes Act (BSSOA).
- The OHRC appeared before the Standing Committee on Social Policy to support the Minister of Education's goal of laying the groundwork for a unified education system focused on improving student outcomes in the important life-long skill of reading

#### **Continued Need:**

- Clear, mandatory standards related to curriculum and instruction, early screening, reading interventions, accommodations, and professional assessments
- Central ongoing monitoring and better accountability within the education system
- Stable, enveloped, yearly funding

Julie Sorhaitz asked the Committee if they would be supportive of writing a letter to the Ministry concerning the areas with minimal progress in the Right to Read report.

Motion: SS-2024-10-01-02

Draft a Letter to Ministry

Moved by Claudia Nosseir and seconded by Robert De Souza

"THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve drafting a letter to the Ministry of Education." (CARRIED)

### **2.2.2. Inspire 2026 – Paula Sorhaitz**



## **DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

*Learning and Living in Faith*

Superintendent Paula Sorhaitz presented an overview of the Strategic Plan for Durham Catholic District School Board:

- Support Faith & Wellbeing
- Advance Human Rights & Equity
- Improve Student Learning
- Bill 98 – Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act: School boards are required to adopt the provincial priorities into their trustee-approved multi-year plans (Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills, Preparation of Students for Future Success, and Student Engagement & Well-Being)
- Student Achievement Plan goals that support provincial priorities:
- Improve students' literacy learning and achievement
- Improve students' math learning and achievement
- Improve students' graduation rates and preparedness for future success
- Improve students' participation in class time and learning
- Improve student well-being

### **2.3. Discussion Items**

#### **2.3.1. SEAC Goals for 2024-2025**

An idea was brought forward by the Acting Chair regarding writing letters following Member presentations to ensure the Committee is sharing what we are learning and discussing at SEAC with the Ministry of Education.

### **2.4. Business arising from the Minutes**

#### **2.4.1. Recordings**

Deferred to next meeting.

### **2.5. Staff Reports**

#### **2.5.1. Student Services Report – Helen Killoran, Yulan Fisher-Brown, Paula Sorhaitz**

#### **Helen Killoran presented the Coordinator's Report:**

- All new Program Support Teachers (PSTs) received training on IEP Online (IOL) on September 12 & 19, and Weschler Fundamentals Training on September 19
- PSTs received training on Lexia Power Up which is for students in Grades 6 and up.
- The Board has 1215 Lexia licenses for use in schools. 215 additional licenses were purchased in September. On October 8, a second Lexia training session with cover Lexia Core 5 which is for students up to Grade 5.
- Greenfield Learning, our providers of Lexia, will do a presentation for SEAC in Spring 2025.



## **DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

*Learning and Living in Faith*

- After School Social Skills Programs for students with ASD have begun. We are currently offering Friendship Lab, PEERS and Secret Agent Society.
- Durham College Behavioural Science program students have begun placements in various schools in the board. They are supporting students with behavioural challenges by collecting data and supporting the school team with strategies

### **Yulan Fisher-Brown presented the Mental Health (MH) Report:**

- The Staff Mental Health Champions from each school met on September 12th.
- Staff shared success stories of mental health promotion within their schools and examined ways in which they could be supporting the creation of a mentally healthy school.
- There were presentations from Jack.org and Erika's Lighthouse, 2 organizations that offer support in organizing student led mental health and well-being promotion in schools and offer funding for various initiatives.

### **BWell**

- The BWell MH Secondary Leadership Group met on September 20th.
- The group spent time learning about what mental health is and sharing some of the initiatives happening at their schools.
- The bulk of the day was spent looking at the data collected from secondary students in the spring and planning accordingly.
- The group will reconvene on December 3rd to work on specific board wide mental health promotion campaigns based on the data and discussions that took place.

### **TAMI Summit**

- The elementary Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) Summit will take place on November 5th.
- The coalition is currently reviewing the mandate of TAMI to align with the current direction of the province with respect to mental health literacy.
- We will be expanding the student engagement and leadership aspects of the summit and adding in an additional summit in the spring where school teams will return and share their experiences.

### **Upcoming Professional Development:**

- Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST) - October 9th and 10th
- Violent Threat Risk Assessment Level 1 Training - October 23rd and 24th

### **Paula Sorhaitz presented the Superintendent's Report:**

- EQAO data was released on September 26, 2024. Academic Services staff are currently reviewing the data. Dan Allen, Assistant to the Superintendent, and Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Education, will present the data to the Committee at a future meeting. EQAO results indicate a stabilization of learning in Ontario.

### **Acadience screening K-2 update:**

- Literacy Intervention Teachers continue to support K-2 teachers in screening their students



PST Learning at a Glance

October topics:

- Grandview – Tiered model of classroom intervention
- Best practices for data collection (BCBAs)

Motion: SS-2024-10-01-03

Approval of the October 1, 2024, verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader, and Superintendent Reports

Motion moved by Julie Sorhaitz and seconded by Claudia Nosseir

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee accept the verbal Coordinator, Mental Health Leader and Superintendent Reports of the October 1, 2024, meeting.” (CARRIED)

## **2.6. Association Reports**

Julie Sorhaitz, Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region – October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.

## **2.7. Correspondence**

## **3. Other Business**

### **3.1. Board Communications**

### **3.2. Motion to Adjourn**

**3.2.1.** The next meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on November 5, 2024.

Motion: SS-2024-09-10-08

Motion to Adjourn

Motion moved by Robert De Souza and seconded by Alex Massis

“THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of October 1, 2024, adjourn.” (CARRIED)

### **3.3. Closing Prayer**

Closing prayer was offered by Alex Massis. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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Walter Heeney  
Acting Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
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Paula Sorhaitz  
Superintendent of Education, Resource

Recording Secretary: Paige Wiggans



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)**  
**Minutes of October 10, 2024**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meeting held on October 10, 2024.

GW/JW/lj  
Attachment: Minutes of October 10, 2024





**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
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**Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board  
October 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM North Boardroom  
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, ON L1J 7C4

**Committee Members Present:**

Rose Lo Presti (Chair), Kim Beatty (Trustee), Josie Mullen (Vice-Chair), Andrea Gagliardi, Melissa Bevan, Michelle Gillis, Michelina Dos Santos, Chris Szent-Ivany, Lucia Lacorte, Mike McKenna, Pius Francis, Oliver McLauren

**Staff Present:**

Jim Wilson, Lori Jones, Emily McCall

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Lo Presti called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the October 10, 2024, meeting. Chair Lo Presti acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

**1.1. Opening Prayer – Christ Szent-Ivany**

Chris Szent-Ivany recited the opening prayer.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:**

DCPIC2024-10-10-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of Thursday, October 10, 2024, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting as provided".

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and motion seconded by Christine Santos.

CARRIED

### **3. Announcements**

- 3.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2024.

### **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 September 12, 2024.

**Motion:**

DCPIC2024-10-10-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the September 12, 2024, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting".

Motion moved by Michelina Dos Santos and motion seconded by Lucia Lacorte. Carried

- 4.2. Election/Selection of Parent and Community Representatives

Chair Lo Presti reviewed that there were eleven vacancies for the position of Parent Member Representative with a two-year term and 2 vacancies for the position of Community Member Representative with a one-year term.

Chair Lo Presti conducted a call for nominations. Superintendent Wilson reviewed the Duties of Parent Members as outlined in Section 7.6 of the DCPIC By-Laws. Twenty-five candidates confirmed their willingness to stand for election to the position of Parent Representative and were provided with the opportunity to address the committee. Elections were held and eleven people acclaimed the position of Parent Member and two people acclaimed the position of Community Rep Member. The successful candidates for the position of Parent Representative were: Melissa Bevan, Christine Santos (Chair), Lucia Lacorte, Michelina Dos Santos, Pius Francis, Temitope Awayemi, Kewku Winful, Paola Beci, Tosan Ekoko, Robert van den Berg, Tonya Brogan.

The successful candidates for the position of Community Representative were: Serena Holmes and Joel Pereira.

## **5. Presentations**

### **5.1 Planning for annual Commissioning Mass – October 17, 2024**

Chair Lo Presti confirmed that the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee will be hosting the Annual Commissioning Mass and Orientation on October 17, 2024. This event will take place at the Pope Francis Centre for the morning only. Lori Jones updated the DCPIC on what has taken place so far to get ready for the event. The Outreach sub-committee will work with Lori Jones to start the planning process. Lori Jones has sent out invitations to all Principals and School Council Chairs.

## **6. Reports/Information/Items**

### **6.1. Chair's Report**

Chair LoPresti thanked everyone for all their service to DCPIC over the years and welcomed the new members who have joined us this evening. Also, thank you to Lori for her hard work and dedication with our meetings and events and to Emily for her support with communications.

This year's Annual Catholic School Council Commissioning Mass will be on October 17th. We will be having a half day format at the Pope Francis Centre. This will be a great opportunity for learning and collaboration.

The next DCPIC meeting will be on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. All the best to the new committee at their first official meeting.

### **6.2 Trustee's Report**

Trustee Beatty shared how the Board Meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup> included an affirmation and a couple of presentations.

The Trustees welcomed Student Trustees Ololade Aje and Aoife Walsh to their first board meeting of the new school year. They participated in an Affirmation of Faith led by Director Winn. The trustees are looking forward to the student voice that Ololade and Aoife will provide in their role.

Katharine Stevenson, Superintendent of Education, provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the DCDSB's Spiritual Theme for the 2024-2025 school year. The DCDSB community will be guided by the spiritual theme of Living in Hope during the 2024-2025 school year.

Jessica Outram, Superintendent of Education, presented to the Board of Trustees on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which took place on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Outram said that during this day of solemn reflection, we

honour the children who never returned home from residential schools. Superintendent Outram shared that the board will continue to collaborate with the Indigenous Education Circle and Student Indigenous Education Circles and will work to deepen understanding of Indigenous education across the curriculum.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Please refer to our website for more information concerning attending the Board Meeting virtually.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, may you continue to have an excellent school year and thank you for choosing Catholic Education!

### **6.3 Resource Report**

Superintendent Wilson congratulated new members to the 2024 – 2025 DCPIC Committee and thanked those members that are at the end of their term. Due to your hard work and dedication, DCPIC has reaped many successes for the betterment of parent engagement, which in turn helps all DCDSB students.

October welcomes a multitude of key events at Durham Catholic. Please log on to [dcdsb.ca](http://dcdsb.ca) to check out the various activities that our Catholic learning community will engage in during the month of October.

Superintendent Wilson expressed his thanks to Lori Jones and Emily McCall for their support as a resource to DCPIC. Thank you to those whose DCPIC term has ended. Your hard work and dedication make every school in our system a better place for our students. Lastly, thank you to our past Chair, Rose Lo Presti. Your leadership was much appreciated!

### **6.4 PRO Grant Subcommittee Report**

Andrea Gagliardi updated the DCPIC committee on the actions the Pro Grant Subcommittee is working on. Next steps are setting dates for Parent Engagement nights and confirming speakers. Once dates have been decided Lori Jones will work on securing locations to hold such events.

### **6.5 Communications Subcommittee Report**

Christine updated the DCPIC that she looks forward to upcoming events.

### **6.6 School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report**

Deferred

### **6.7 Faith Formation Subcommittee Report**

Deferred

**6.8 Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report**

Deferred

**6.9 Budget Subcommittee Report**

Deferred

**7. Adjournment**

Motion:

DCPIC2024-10-10-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2024, adjourn at 10:41 p.m.

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and seconded by Michelle Gillis.

CARRIED

**8. Closing Prayer**

Christ Szent-Ivany

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Rose Lo Presti  
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent  
Involvement Committee

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Jim Wilson  
Superintendent of Education

JW:lj



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Ad Hoc Committee Meeting for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit – October 15, 2024**

Please find attached a copy of the minutes of the ad hoc committee meeting for enhancing the use of public transit held on October 15, 2024.

GW/eb

Attachment: Minutes of October 15, 2024



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
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## **Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit Meeting Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.  
Director's Conference Room

### **Committee Members Present**

Trustees M. Ste. Marie (Chair), K. Beatty (Vice Chair), M. Hall, M. Forster

### **Staff Present**

G. Winn, Director of Education, J. Wilson, Superintendent of Education,  
K. Mechoulam, DSTS, Marie Hammond, Chief Financial Officer

#### **1. Opening**

##### **1.1. Call to Order**

Chair Ste. Marie called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

##### **1.2. Memorials and Prayer**

Trustee Forster offered the opening prayer.

##### **1.3. Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Ste. Marie acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

##### **1.4. Roll Call and Apologies**

All committee members were present in person.

##### **1.5. Approval of Agenda**

#### **Motion:**

AHC2024-10-15-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit  
approve the agenda of the October 15, 2024, meeting as provided."

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Forster. CARRIED

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting For Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Page 2 of 3

1.6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

**Motion:**

AHC2024-10-15-02 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

“THAT the Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2024, meeting.”

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by K. Beatty. CARRIED

1.7. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Items for Discussion

2.1. Updates and potential next steps

- Updates from the previous meeting were provided.
- Director Winn indicated that our partner Board within DSTS was not interested in exploring the use of public transit for high school students at this time.
- After further discussion, the committee agreed on the following next steps:
  - members of the adhoc committee are encouraged to actively engage with community partners, to explore political willingness and potential interest regarding enhanced use of public transit for students in the Durham region.
  - bring a report to the Board with a recommendation to lay the motions of January 22, 2024, and February 26, 2024, on the table with the provision that they can be taken up again in the future whenever a majority so decides.

3. Closing

3.1. Adjournment

**Motion:**

AHC2024-10-15-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit adjourn the October 15, 2024, meeting."

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by K.Beatty. CARRIED



Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting For Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Page 3 of 3

3.2. Closing Prayer

A closing prayer was offered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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

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Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Ad Hoc Committee Meeting for Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups – October 21, 2024**

Please find attached a copy of the minutes of the ad hoc committee meeting for enhancing communication with advisory groups held on October 21, 2024.

GW/eb

Attachment: Minutes of October 21, 2024



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

## **Ad Hoc Committee - Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups Meeting Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board  
Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
Director's Conference Room

### **Committee Members Present**

Trustees J. Emanuel (Chair), K. Beatty (Vice Chair), R. Damianopoulos, M. Forster,  
M. Hall\*, M. Ste. Marie

### **Staff Present**

G. Winn, Director of Education, K. Akomolafe, Human Rights & Equity Advisor

*\* Attended virtually*

#### **1. Opening**

##### **1.1. Call to Order**

Director Winn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

##### **1.2. Memorials and Prayer**

Director Winn offered the opening prayer keeping in mind all special intentions.

##### **1.3. Land Acknowledgement**

Director Winn acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

##### **1.4. Roll Call and Apologies**

Trustee Hall attended virtually. All committee members were present in person.

##### **1.5. Election of Chair**

Director Winn opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Committee.

| <b>Nominee</b> | <b>Moved by</b> | <b>Seconded by</b> | <b>Willing to Stand?</b> |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| J. Emanuel     | M. Forster      | M. Ste. Marie      | Yes                      |

## Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups

Monday, October 21, 2024

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## 1.6. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Emanuel opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Committee.

| <b>Nominee</b> | <b>Moved by</b>  | <b>Seconded by</b> | <b>Willing to Stand?</b> |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| K. Beatty      | R. Damianopoulos | M. Forster         | Yes                      |

## 1.7. Approval of Agenda

**Motion:**

AHCAG2024-10-21-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the October 21, 2024, Ad Hoc Committee meeting on Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups."

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and motion seconded by M. Forster.  
CARRIED

## 1.8. Declarations of Interest

None.

## 2. Items for Discussion

## 2.1. Review of Mandate and Goals of the Committee

Director Winn provided an overview of the Ad hoc committee's mandate and goals:

- Discuss/explore best practices to enhance communication between Board of Trustees and the following DCDSB advisory groups: Indigenous Education Circle, Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence, 2SLGBTQ+.
- Bring recommendations to the Board for how to improve communication and build stronger relationships between the Board of Trustees and the advisory groups referenced above.
- Convene on a maximum of three occasions (October-November 2024); report back to the Board at the December 16, 2024, board meeting.

## 2.2. Potential options to improve communication with the Board's three advisory groups

- Director Winn provided a summary of the Board's Statutory and Non-Statutory committees, along with the ways in which they communicate information (e.g., meeting minutes, agendas, staff reports); outlined potential formal/informal ways to enhance communication

## Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups

Monday, October 21, 2024

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- Director Winn clarified that the ABR-BE committee meetings are open to the public; agendas/minutes posted on the board website. Committee meetings for the 2SLGBTQ+ and Indigenous Education Circle (IEC) are not open to the public.
- Kayode Akomolafe, Human Rights & Equity Advisor, shared that the ABR-BE committee has previously asked for Trustee representation at their meetings.
- Director Winn suggested that if the advisory committees extend an invitation for Trustee representation, the process for Trustee appointment to the advisory committee(s) could potentially mirror the current process outlined in the Trustee By-Laws for statutory and non-statutory committees with revisions/updates to the by-laws as needed.
- Ad hoc committee discussed various options to potentially enhance communication between the Board of Trustees and the three advisory groups:
  - Staff reports/updates
  - Formal presentations during board meetings
  - Surveys
  - Celebrating Mass together
  - Trustee attendance at key events (e.g., Equity Invitational Series)
  - Trustee representation on advisory committees when/if an invitation is extended
  - Consideration of a policy and/or update to existing Trustee by-laws with respect to Trustee representation on advisory committees
- Next Steps:
  - Reflect/discern on the various options outlined above and reconvene at a future date/time as determined by the Chair of the Adhoc committee in consultation with members

## 3. Closing

## 3.1. Adjournment

**Motion:**

AHCAC2024-10-21-02 - Adjournment

"THAT the committee adjourn the October 21, 2024, Ad Hoc Committee meeting on Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups."

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by K. Beatty. CARRIED

## 3.2. Closing Prayer

A closing prayer was offered.

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Enhancing Communication with Advisory Groups

Monday, October 21, 2024

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The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Janelle Emanuel, Chair of the Committee  
Durham Catholic District School Board

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Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Honoraria for Board Members**

Origin: Marie Hammond, Chief Financial Officer

## Purpose

To provide the Board of Trustees with the Honoraria for Board Members for the period November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025.

## Rationale

Ontario Regulation 357/06 sets out the method for calculating the limits on honoraria paid to Board Members for each year of term of office. The Board has established Policy PO217 and Administrative Procedure AP217-1 to administer Board Member honoraria under the regulation.

As per correspondence from the Ministry of Education, dated September 28, 2022, the base amount for Trustee honoraria for the 2022-2026 term of office will continue to be maintained at \$5,900. There is an additional amount of \$5,000 for the position of Chair and \$2,500 for Vice-Chair.

## Honorarium Components

For a term of office beginning in 2022 (therefore November 15, 2022) the annual honorarium for a member of a District School Board (Trustee) shall consist of the following four components:

- 1) The Base Amount for the year (constant for the 4-year term);
- 2) The Enrolment Amount for the year (to be recalculated annually);
- 3) The Attendance Amounts payable for the year (for prescribed Committees);
- 4) The Distance Amounts payable for the year (if applicable).

Memorandum | Page 2 of 3  
Honoraria for Board Members

**1) Base Amount (constant for the 4-year term)**

- a) The annual base amount for each Board Member is \$5,900 per year;
- b) The Chair will receive an additional \$5,000 per year; and
- c) The Vice-Chair will receive an additional \$2,500 per year.

**2) Enrolment Amount (to be adjusted annually)**

The enrolment to be used for each year beginning November 15th is that of the previous fiscal year (therefore enrolment for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024 will be used to determine the November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025 amount). For the Durham Catholic District School Board, the average daily enrolment for the 2023/2024 school year was 22,638 students.

- a) The basic enrolment amount for the Board, as a whole, is \$1.75 per student (therefore 22,638 students at \$1.75 each yields a total of \$39,616.50).
- b) The total amount for the Board is divided by the number of Board Members (therefore \$39,616.50 divided by 8 Members equals an annual amount of \$4,952.06 per Member).
- c) The calculations contained within the Regulation add the following amounts to the basic enrolment amount for the Chair (5 cents per student) and Vice-Chair (2.5 cents per student) respectively:
 

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Chair -      | \$1,131.90 |
| Vice-Chair - | \$ 565.95  |

**3) Attendance Amount (for prescribed Committees)**

An attendance amount of up to \$50.00 may be paid to a Member for attending any meeting of a Committee of the Board that is required to be established by an Act or Regulation made under an Act. Past practice for the DCDSB is to provide the attendance amount for the following Committees (as permissible by the Ministry): Audit Committee, Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee and Supervised Alternative Learning Committee.

**4) Distance Amount (if applicable)**

This component is not applicable for the Durham Catholic District School Board as the minimum distance between a Member's residence and the meeting location (i.e. – Catholic Education Centre) is 200 kilometers in order to be eligible to receive this amount.



## Summary

Presented in Table One below is a summary of the amount to be paid, by component, for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Trustee for the period of November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025. Comparative amounts for the previous year (November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024) have also been provided for information purposes.

**Table One - Annual Honorarium**

| For the period November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025: |                    |                    |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | <b>Chair</b>       | <b>Vice-Chair</b>  | <b>Trustee</b>     |
| 1) Base Amount (as per Ministry)                       | \$10,900.00        | \$8,400.00         | \$5,900.00         |
| 2) Enrolment Amount (22,638 students)                  | <u>6,083.96</u>    | <u>5,518.01</u>    | <u>4,952.06</u>    |
| Total Honorarium                                       | <u>\$16,983.96</u> | <u>\$13,918.01</u> | <u>\$10,852.06</u> |
| For the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024  |                    |                    |                    |
|  | <b>Chair</b>       | <b>Vice-Chair</b>  | <b>Trustee</b>     |
| 1) Base Amount (as per Ministry)                       | \$10,900.00        | \$8,400.00         | \$5,900.00         |
| 2) Enrolment Amount (21,819 students)                  | <u>5,863.86</u>    | <u>5,318.39</u>    | <u>4,772.91</u>    |
| Total Honorarium                                       | <u>\$16,763.86</u> | <u>\$13,718.39</u> | <u>\$10,672.91</u> |

GW:MH:II



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Piloting Vaping Sensors at Two Secondary Schools**

Origin: Ronald Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer – Freedom of Information and Privacy

## Background

On April 28, 2024, the Ministry of Education issued Policy/Program Memorandum 128 announcing special funding over three years to assist with equipping schools with vape detectors due to the concerns about the alarming rise of youth vaping in schools.

## Next Steps

The Board is currently in the process of selecting the vaping sensor product through Supply Ontario Vendor of Record (VOR). Two schools will be selected to pilot the vaping sensor initiative. Installation is expected to occur before the end of 2024. More details will be shared with the Board of Trustees in the future.

GW/RR/II



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Math Achievement Action Plan 2024-2025**

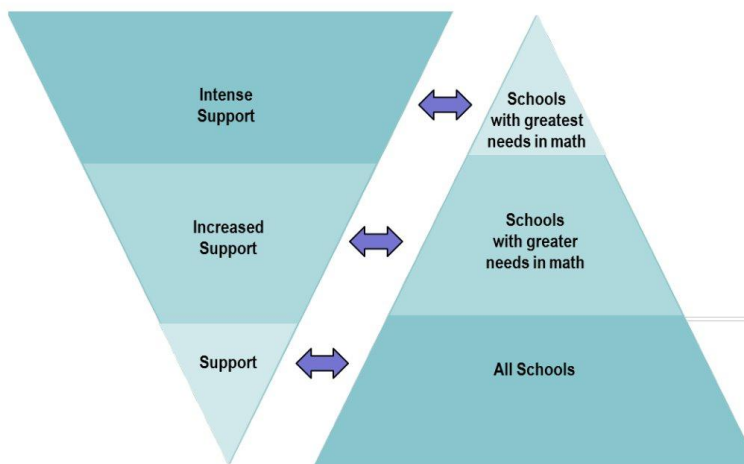
Origin: Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Education  
Dan Allen, Board Math Lead

## Purpose

To provide information to the Board of Trustees regarding the Math Achievement Action Plan 2024-2025.

## Background

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Durham Catholic District School Board will implement a tiered support model as part of its Math Achievement Action Plan. This approach combines board-wide mathematics learning initiatives with targeted support for designated Priority Schools



### **Access to Professional Learning**

All schools will have access to mathematics professional learning through a variety of formats, including professional activity days, staff and divisional meetings, "Sharing of Excellence" sessions, and "Lunch and Learn" meetings.

### **Support for Priority Schools**

Priority Schools will receive additional support from Numeracy Intervention Teachers. These teachers will work to identify and address student learning gaps, improve students' attitudes and confidence in mathematics, and help prepare classes for the spring EQAO assessments.

### **Key Goals of the Action Plan**

The goal of improving students' math learning and achievement in the 2024-2025 school year will be accomplished through:

- Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and the use of high-impact instructional strategies.
- Providing ongoing professional learning to strengthen math content knowledge board-wide.
- Ensuring math tasks, interventions, and supports are relevant and responsive to student needs.

### **Strategies for Supporting Curriculum Fidelity and Instructional Practices**

Numeracy Intervention Teachers will work with grade 3 and 6 educators in Priority Schools to ensure curriculum fidelity and the use of high-impact instructional strategies. Educators will also participate in regional "Math Hub" sessions to share research-based practices. Additionally, licenses for the digital platform **MathUP Classroom** will be provided for all K-8 educators to align teaching resources with the Ontario curriculum.

### **Ongoing Professional Learning Opportunities**

Both Priority and non-Priority schools will benefit from ongoing professional development, including Professional Activity days, Staff Meetings, Lunch and Learn sessions, and Sharing of Excellence presentations. This will also include capacity-building for Program Support Teachers, new educators in the New Teacher Induction Program, and Educational Assistants. Families will also have access to math learning events focused on Financial Literacy, Confidence in Mathematics, and Supporting Students with Special Education Needs.

### **Data-Informed and Responsive Instruction**

Analysis of EQAO results, diagnostic data, and report card assessments will guide educators in ensuring math tasks are relevant and responsive. Numeracy Intervention Teachers will conduct diagnostic assessments in grade 3 and 6 classes in Priority

Memorandum | Page 3 of 3

Numeracy Achievement Action Plan Update

Schools, providing targeted remediation to ensure students grasp foundational concepts for success. Additionally, MathUP Student will be implemented in grades 1-8 in the fall of 2024, helping teachers identify and address student learning gaps.

GW:M'ON:DA:br



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report**

Origin: Kayode Akomolafe, Human Rights and Equity Advisor

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to share with the Board of Trustees the outcome of the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) student demographic data collection which was conducted in the spring of 2024.

## Background

As a follow-up to the Ministry of Education-mandated 2021-2022 student census, Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) conducted a student demographic survey on April 22 - May 3, 2024. The survey, a voluntary demographic data-gathering exercise, provided students the opportunity to share their identities, culture, race, ethnicities, genders, abilities, and countries of origin, etc. The resulting data will be disaggregated to better understand and address systemic barriers and disproportionalities that students experience.

The survey was completed by Grade 9-12 students who were provided class time to complete the survey, and parents or guardians of K-8 students. This contrasts with the April 2022 student census which was completed by Grade 9-12 students and parents or guardians of Grade 4-8 students.

The goals of collecting students' demographic data include:

1. Understand and support the diversity of students and families
2. Identify and eliminate barriers to student success, engagement and well-being
3. Improve student achievement
4. Enrich students' learning by providing the right supports at the right time
5. Ensure our schools are safe, welcoming and accepting spaces
6. Know and understand our students, so we can better respond and support them

## Census Mandate

The government of Ontario set the following mandates to guide the survey process:

- i. Promote the DCDSB's understanding and support of the diversity of students and their families,
- ii. Eliminate barriers to student success,
- iii. Enrich students' learning by providing the right supports at the right time, while making schools a safer, more welcoming space to belong to, and
- iv. Deepen the DCDSB's understanding of how to gauge the impact of systemic barriers on the student's desk.

## Outcomes

[The full Student Demographic Survey report can be found on our website.](#)

## Key Demographic Indicators

7,389 Student Demographic Surveys were completed by students and/or their parents, approximating a 33% participation rate of the entire DCDSB student population (approximately 22,727 eligible students in Grades K-12 in the 2023-2024 school year).

Out of the 7,389 submitted surveys, 3,461 (47%) were completed by parents of students in Grades K-8, while 3,928 of submitted surveys (53%) were completed by Grades 9-12 students themselves. This reflects an inverse of this survey's previous iteration, which saw a higher Elementary completion rate (Grades 4-8) than Secondary completion rate (Grades 9-12)

Secondary students' participation in this current survey saw a significant increase from the survey's previous iteration. Over 1,600 additional secondary students completed the '23-'24 survey compared to its '21-'22 predecessor. 3,928 surveys were submitted out of 6,858 eligible secondary students, which accounts for a completion rate of approximately 57% compared to approximately a 32% completion rate for the '21-'22 iteration.

## Census Participation and Mode of Analysis

Several data vetting processes accompanied the analysis of this survey data as a means of summarizing responses for each identity question. With a 33% response rate overall, and a combination of both multiple choice and open-ended questions being used, conclusions about the survey data should be considered with that in mind.

## Reporting Measures and Caveats

The data in this report represents participating students only (i.e., students who completed the Census questions) and does not include missing or inadmissible data, students who opted out, etc. Multiple data cleaning processes took place with careful

Memorandum | Page 3 of 8  
 Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report

considerations made to ensure data is presented as it was initially reported, to honour the voice of DCDSB students and how they choose to self-identify. This data is presented in graphical and, where possible, tabular format for all Census questions. For multi-response questions, both single and multiple responses are accounted for via data cleaning.

### Census Design – Themed Questions

The DCDSB Student Demographic Survey consisted of ten (10) main questions for the Grades K-8 Survey, and eleven (11) questions for the Grades 9-12 Survey, plus 2 (two) additional questions. These questions were thematically designed in accordance with identity categories, provided and informed by the Ministry of Education and the Anti-Racism Data Standards (ARDS):

- First Language
- Indigenous Status
- Canadian Status & Born in Canada Status
- Ethnic/Cultural Origins
- Race
- Religious or Spiritual Affiliation
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation (Grades 9-12 Survey ONLY)
- Disability Status & Type
- Students' Living Situation
- Students' Perceptions of Representation in Curriculum/Resources and Classroom/School Environment

### Key Findings

- **First Language** – 67.9% of SDS students are English-speaking only; 18.2% speak more than one language; percentage of bilingual speaking students (English and French) sits at 3.4%
- **Indigenous Status** – 1.9% of SDS students self-identity as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis)
- **Canadian Status** – 87.2% of SDS students consider themselves Canadian; 5.7% do not; 79.8% are born in Canada
- **Ethnic/Cultural Origins** (Top 3) – South Asian, East Asian or Southeast Asian (19.7%); European (17.5%), and Canadian/North American (10.9%)
- **Racial Group** (Top 3) – White/Caucasian (29.6%); Black (21.4%); and Southeast Asian (13.9%)
- **Religious or Spiritual Affiliation** (Top 3) – Christian - Catholic (69.8%); Christian – Non-Catholic (10.8%); and Atheist (3.6%)
- **Gender Identity** – Female (Woman/Girl) (48.4%); Male (Man/Boy) (46.4%); and Gender Diverse (0.4%)
- **Sexual Orientation** – Straight/Heterosexual (72.7%); 2SLGBTQ+ (10%)



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 Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report

- **Disability Status** – 5.9% identify as having a disability; Learning, Autism and Mental Health Disabilities comprise Top 3 identified disabilities of those who stated they have a disability (436 students / 7,389 students)
- **Students' Living Situation** – 73.8% of SDS students live with two parents; 8.3% of SDS live with one parent; 7.1% live with parent(s) and other adult family members (e.g. grandparents, aunt, uncle, etc.)
- **Perception of Representation** – 33.8% of students see themselves 'Sometimes' represented in curriculum and 32.5% see themselves 'Sometimes' represented in the classroom. Other choices were 'Always', 'Frequently' and 'Never'.

### **Comparative Analysis of 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Surveys**

The comparative analysis of data from the 2021-2022 Student Census and the 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey indicated marginal, noticeable or significant increase or decrease in numbers in responses along demographics based on questions asked. Please see Appendices B to D for the comparative data analysis tables.

### **Next Steps**

#### **Disaggregation**

The data collected from the Student Demographic Survey provides DCDSB a data set that will be disaggregated with a view of identifying trends and themes regarding systemic barriers to student success. Disaggregated data will help in developing a better understanding of the diversity of our students and their Code-protected characteristics, resulting in improved programming and resource allocation.

#### **Looking Forward**

Results will be shared with various groups and recommendations will be made to Senior Administration based on the outcome of a comparative analysis of the disaggregated data from the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 surveys. This may include strategies for developing new programs and initiatives targeted at addressing systemic discrimination experienced by students or improving existing programs and initiatives. This may also include reviewing processes and practices that will promote improved student learning.

GW/KA/rd

Appendices A - D

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Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report

Appendix A - DCDSB 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey Data Outcomes Overview

Durham Catholic District School Board

## 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey



In the 2023-2024 school year, approximately 22,727 students were eligible to complete the Student Demographic Survey. 33% or 7,389 Kindergarten – Grade 12 students completed the survey.

Highlights from the data collected through the Student Demographic Survey can be found below.

For further details on the data collected, please visit [dcdsb.ca/StudentSurveyReport](https://dcdsb.ca/StudentSurveyReport)

**1.9%**  
of students identified as  
having Indigenous ancestry.



**69.8%**  
identified as Christian  
and/or Catholic.

**5.9%**  
identified as  
having a disability.

**29.6%** identified as White.

**21.4%** identified as Black

**13.9%** identified as  
Southeast Asian



**48.4%**  
identified  
as Male.



**46.4%**  
identified  
as Female.

**72.7%** identified as  
straight/  
heterosexual.

**10%** identified as  
2SLGBTQ+.

\*Grade 9-12 students only\*

### Students' Living Situations

Live with two Parents **73.8%**

Live with one Parent **8.3%**

Live with Parent(s) and  
other adult family  
members **7.1%**



**67.9%**  
said English was  
their first language.

**18.2%**  
said they speak  
more than one  
language.




Scan for more Information



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

Appendix B – Survey Completion Rates

High-Level Direct Comparisons – 2021-2022 and 2023-2024  
Student Demographic Surveys

| Comparable Metrics                                 | 2021 – 2022 Student Census (Grades 4-12)           | 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey (Grades K-12) | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) or No Direct Comparison   |
|--|--|--|--|
| Overall Survey Completion Rate                     | 6,239 out of 15,900 students (39% completion rate) | 7,389 out of 22,727 students (33% completion rate) | Different grades assessed. No Direct Comparison.   |
| Grades 9-12 completion rates (eligible population) | 2,292 students (approximately 32%)                 | 3,924 students (approximately 57%)                 | Increase  |

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 Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report

Appendix C – Disability









## High-Level Comparisons – Of Those Who Responded: “Yes, I Consider Myself To Be A Person With A Disability”

| Comparable Metrics   | 2021 – 2022 Student Census<br>(Grades 4-12)               | 2023-2024 Student<br>Demographic Survey<br>(Grades K-12)  | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) |
|--|---|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Yes, I Consider Myself To Be A Person With A Disability</b>   | 7.5% (468 students / 6,239 students who submitted Survey) | 5.9% (436 students / 7,389 students who submitted Survey) | Decrease ↓                   |
| <b>More than one disability (if yes to having a disability) %</b>  | 7.3%  | 36.7%   | Increase ↑                   |
| <b>Autism Spectrum Disorder %</b>  | 23.1%   | 28.2%   | Increase ↑                   |
| <b>Learning Disability(ies) %</b>  | 30.8%   | 12.2%   | Decrease ↓                   |
| <b>Mental Health Disability(ies)%</b>  | 20.3%   | 5.0%  | Decrease ↓                   |
| **of the 468 students ('21-'22 survey) and 436 students ('23-'24 survey) who stated “Yes, I have a disability”** |   |   |                              |

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 Student Demographic Survey (2023-2024) Report

Appendix D – Perceptions of Representation in the Curriculum and Classroom

## High-Level Comparisons – Perceptions of Representation in the Curriculum and Classroom

| Comparable Metrics  | 2021 – 2022 Student Census<br>(Grades 4-12) | 2023-2024 Student<br>Demographic Survey<br>(Grades K-12) | Increase (+) or Decrease (-)   |
|---|---|--|--|
| Perceptions of Representation<br>in the Curriculum and School<br>Resources %  | 18.5% - <b>Always</b>                       | 22.4% - <b>Always</b>                                    | Increase  |
|   | 24.8% - <b>Frequently</b>                   | 23.1% - <b>Frequently</b>                                | Decrease  |
|   | 43.1% - <b>Sometimes</b>                    | 33.8% - <b>Sometimes</b>                                 | Decrease  |
|   | 13.7% - <b>Never</b>                        | 11.7% - <b>Never</b>                                     | Decrease  |
| Perceptions of Representation<br>in the Classroom and School<br>Environment % | 21.0% - <b>Always</b>                       | 25.0% - <b>Always</b>                                    | Increase  |
|   | 27.0% - <b>Frequently</b>                   | 24.5% - <b>Frequently</b>                                | Decrease  |
|   | 40.5% - <b>Sometimes</b>                    | 32.5% - <b>Sometimes</b>                                 | Decrease  |
|   | 7.7% - <b>Never</b>                         | 6.4% - <b>Never</b>                                      | Decrease  |



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **2024-2025 Student Achievement Plan**

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to share with the Board of Trustees goals and actions outlined in DCDSB's 2024-2025 Student Achievement Plan, in alignment with [Inspire 2026](#), the Board's Multi-Year Plan.

### Background

This is the second year of implementation for Inspire 2026 which focuses on the following key strategic priorities: Supporting Faith and Well-Being, Indigenous Education, Advancing Human Rights and Equity, and Improving Student Learning.

In accordance with the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023, which received royal assent on June 8 2023, the DCDSB Student Achievement Plan was developed to include the following mandatory provincial priorities and goals:

- Priority 1 – Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
  - ✓ Goal #1 (a) - improve students' literacy learning and achievement
  - ✓ Goal #1 (b) - improve students' math learning and achievement
- Priority 2 – Preparation of Students for Future Success
  - ✓ Goal #2 (a) - improve graduation rates and preparedness for future success
- Priority 3 – Student Engagement and Well-Being
  - ✓ Goal #3 (a) - improve students' participation in class time and learning
  - ✓ Goal #3 (b) - improve student well-being

Staff have worked collaboratively to incorporate Ministry priorities into the Board's previously established Multi-Year Strategic Plan for the upcoming school year.

## Next Steps

Senior staff will continue to refine the 2024-2025 Student Achievement Plan and provide updates (e.g., implementation, impact and insights) to the Board of Trustees during the course of the school year through board reports and presentations for each of the strategic priorities (e.g., supporting faith and well-being; Indigenous Education; advancing human rights and equity; improving student learning).

A detailed outline of DCDSB's 2024-2025 Student Achievement Plan can be referenced [here](#). A schedule of presentations/reports will be developed to support ongoing monitoring and implementation of the plan.

GW/eb



## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Ajax Schools – Program and Boundary Study Report**

Origin: Scott Grieve, Superintendent of Business, Finance & Facilities Services  
Jody Dale, Supervisor of Planning and Admissions

## Recommendation

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve to postpone the previously proposed program and boundary review for the Ajax families of schools for community consultation during the 2024-25 school year.”

## Rationale

On February 26, 2024, the Board of Trustees received the Long-Term Accommodation Plan 2024-2028 (LTAP) report and approved the guiding principles and actions to be undertaken. Within the LTAP report, staff was directed to undertake an Ajax program and boundary study, with recommendations for any potential changes to be identified for a community consultation and implementation review (any potential outcomes would be subject to the provision of a revised Pupil-Accommodation-Review-Guideline (PARG) from the Ministry of Education, and the removal of the current moratorium). The study would help to address potential program and service delivery models at one or more Catholic Schools in Ajax which are being impacted by the limited growth and an aging population in Ajax.

Board staff hired Watson and Associates Economists Ltd, who have worked with DCDSB in the past on Accommodation planning. This report summarizes the report provided by Watson and Associates titled “Ajax Attendance Area Review” (attached appendix).



### **Attendance Boundary Policy**

In accordance with Board Policy PO-415 School Attendance Area, a proposed school boundary is developed for each Catholic Elementary and Secondary School located within the Board's jurisdiction. The development of boundaries is undertaken to create neighbourhood or community schools. The boundary of each school should be of a sufficient size to sustain the long-term operation of the school at a full or near full capacity level. The boundary can be associated with a program (i.e., French Immersion; Arts and Media).

Staff is required, through Policy, to report to the Board of Trustees with respect to proposed boundaries changes. The Board of Trustees approves “In Principle” so that when the community consultation process commences, the affected schools will have a draft set of boundaries to work from and provide comments on.

Following the meetings with the affected communities, and based on input from these communities, a final report on the proposed set boundaries is brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.

### **Boundary Review Process**

- Staff develop draft boundaries for review by Administrative Council;
- The draft boundaries are brought forward to Trustees for Approval “In Principle”;
- Staff are directed to meet with the affected school communities to present the approved “In Principle” boundaries and receive public input;
- Staff review all input and present the proposed final boundaries to the Board of Trustees for approval;
- The Board of Trustees provides final approval to the boundaries;
- Staff communicate the approved boundaries to all affected parents and guardians of students living within the school boundaries and communicate all changes to attendance.

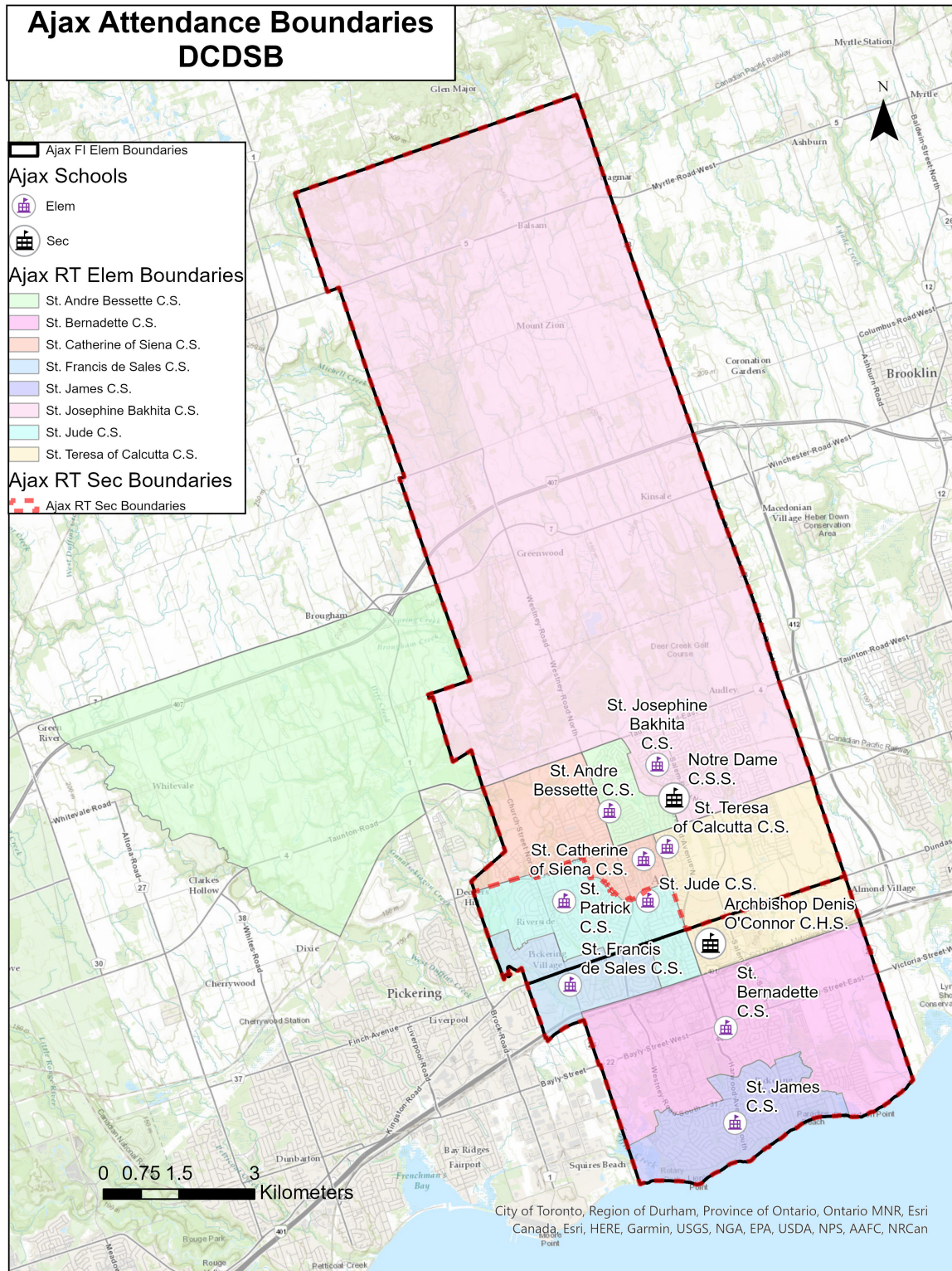
## **ANALYSIS**

### **Existing Enrolment and Boundaries**

At present the Ajax area has 9 regular track English elementary boundaries, 2 secondary boundaries, and 2 French Immersion boundaries.

Memorandum | Page 3 of 6  
 Ajax Schools – Program and Boundary Study Report

The map and subsequent table below outline the 2024/25 enrolment and attendance boundaries.



Memorandum | Page 4 of 6  
 Ajax Schools – Program and Boundary Study Report

| Ajax Enrolment Summary 2024 |              |                  |            |               |            |              |            |               |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--|
| Elementary School           | OTG          | French Immersion |            | Regular Track |            | Total Enrol. | Utiliz. %  | Surplus Space | Notes  |
|                             |              | Enrol.           | Share      | Enrol.        | Share      |              |            |               |  |
| St. Andre CS                | 461          | -                | -          | 319           | 100%       | 319          | 69%        | 142           | Enrolment slowly increasing over last few years, separate boundary pulls in students from Pickering area |
| St. Bernadette CS           | 608          | -                | -          | 622           | 100%       | 622          | 102%       | -14           | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. Catherine CS            | 395          | -                | -          | 345           | 100%       | 345          | 87%        | 50            | Enrolment fluctuating by ~30-40 over last few years  |
| St. Francis CS              | 291          | -                | -          | 153           | 100%       | 153          | 53%        | 138           | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. James CS                | 372          | 199              | 43%        | 267           | 57%        | 466          | 125%       | -94           | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. Josephine CS            | 479          | -                | -          | 467           | 100%       | 467          | 97%        | 12            | Enrolment declining since 2018   |
| St. Jude CS                 | 254          | -                | -          | 377           | 100%       | 377          | 148%       | -123          | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. Patrick CS              | 685          | 428              | 87%        | 63            | 13%        | 491          | 72%        | 194           | Enrolment declining since 2018   |
| St. Teresa CS               | 329          | -                | -          | 276           | 100%       | 276          | 84%        | 53            | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| <b>Elementary Total</b>     | <b>3,874</b> | <b>627</b>       | <b>18%</b> | <b>2,889</b>  | <b>82%</b> | <b>3,516</b> | <b>91%</b> | <b>985</b>    |  |

| Secondary School              | OTG          | French Immersion |            | Regular Track |            | Total Enrol. | Utiliz. %  | Surplus Space | Notes                           |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
|                               |              | Enrol.           | Share      | Enrol.        | Share      |              |            |               |                                 |
| Archbishop Denis O'Connor CHS | 825          | -                | -          | 718           | 100%       | 718          | 87%        | 107           | Enrolment increasing since 2020 |
| Notre Dame CSS                | 1,308        | 258              | 22%        | 815           | 78%        | 1,073        | 82%        | 235           | Declining Enrolment             |
| <b>Secondary Total</b>        | <b>2,133</b> | <b>258</b>       | <b>14%</b> | <b>1,533</b>  | <b>86%</b> | <b>1,791</b> | <b>84%</b> | <b>342</b>    |                                 |

Overall, the utilization rate in Ajax has continued to decline towards the current rate of ~91% in elementary and ~84% in secondary. This is mostly attributed to a lack of residential development/growth space in Ajax. There are currently no plans for new schools or additions to existing schools. A review of the boundaries and programs is meant to help support healthy school populations and utilization rates which provides optimum programming for students to succeed.

As part of this review the French Immersion (FI) programs of Ajax are being considered to determine how best to balance the schools that offer the program with the pressures of the capacity at those and surrounding schools. The existing FI programs currently have a total of 627 elementary students and that is expected to grow to ~640 by 2030. The dual track St. James school is over capacity, while the single-track St. Patrick school is under capacity. Secondary FI is currently offered at Notre Dame.

Watson & Associates indicated that the utilization rates are currently sustainable overall, but do vary by school and area. The over capacity utilization rates of St. James (125%) and St. Jude (148%) are two schools of concern, but are currently being managed with 3 and 4 portables respectively. The lower capacity under-utilized schools of St. Francis de Sales (53%) and St. Andre Bessette (69%) are more concerning as neither is a growing community, and it is noted that St. Andre Bessette is currently the holding school for students from the Seaton development of North Pickering. When the new

Memorandum | Page 5 of 6  
 Ajax Schools – Program and Boundary Study Report

Seaton #1 unnamed Catholic elementary school opens in September 2026, this will further exacerbate the utilization rate.

The consultant undertook a review of the “school areas” that support each of the individual school boundaries. This exercise allowed them to check if there was an opportunity to move some of the school attendance areas from one school to another to create balance. The observations noted that the following subtle tweaks could help to balance enrolment but these would require community consultation:

- Reassign area 6 from St. Bernadette to St. Francis de Sales;
- Reassign area 26 from St. Jude to St Catherine of Siena;
- Reassign area 15 from St. Josephine Bakhita to St. Andre Bessette;

The other potential change of significance would be to consolidate the French Immersion program to St. Patrick by removing it from St. James.

These observations would result in the potential following utilization rates as outlined below:

| Scenario<br>Areas 6 (Bernadette to Francis), 15 (Josephine to Andre) and 26 (Jude to Catherine), FI Program Consolidation (James to Patrick) |     |           |           |              |           |           |           |              |           |            |           |              |           |
|--|-----|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| School   | OTG | Current   |           |              |           | Scenario  |           |              |           | Difference |           |              |           |
|  |     | RT Enrol. | FI Enrol. | Total. Enrol | Utiliz. % | RT Enrol. | FI Enrol. | Total. Enrol | Utiliz. % | RT Enrol.  | FI Enrol. | Total. Enrol | Utiliz. % |
| St. Andre  | 461 | 319       | -         | 319          | 69%       | 342       | -         | 342          | 74%       | 23         | 0         | 23           | 5%        |
| St. Bernadette   | 608 | 622       | -         | 622          | 102%      | 562       | -         | 562          | 92%       | -60        | 0         | -60          | -10%      |
| St. Catherine  | 395 | 345       | -         | 345          | 87%       | 423       | -         | 423          | 107%      | 78         | 0         | 78           | 20%       |
| St. Francis  | 291 | 153       | -         | 153          | 53%       | 213       | -         | 213          | 73%       | 60         | 0         | 60           | 21%       |
| St. James  | 372 | 267       | 199       | 466          | 125%      | 267       | -         | 267          | 72%       | 0          | -199      | -199         | -53%      |
| St. Josephine  | 479 | 467       | -         | 467          | 97%       | 444       | -         | 444          | 93%       | -23        | 0         | -23          | -5%       |
| St. Jude   | 254 | 377       | -         | 377          | 148%      | 299       | -         | 299          | 118%      | -78        | 0         | -78          | -31%      |
| St. Patrick  | 685 | 63        | 428       | 491          | 72%       | 63        | 627       | 690          | 101%      | 0          | 199       | 199          | 29%       |
| St. Teresa   | 329 | 276       | -         | 276          | 84%       | 276       | -         | 276          | 84%       | 0          | 0         | 0            | 0%        |

## Recommendations of the Report

The above noted observations would normally make up the “In-Principle” recommendations that staff would bring to the Board of Trustees for approval to then consult with the community. Currently there is still no revised Pupil-Accommodation-Review-Guidelines from the Ministry of Education, which in the past have allowed the Board to consider more significant changes like school consolidations.

Therefore, given that the changes are only minimal and would require board staff to consult with the entire Ajax community which can cause anxiety for each of our communities that at this time doesn’t appear to be warranted, board staff are recommending that the proposed program and boundary study be postponed for the 2024-25 school year.



Memorandum | Page 6 of 6  
Ajax Schools – Program and Boundary Study Report

Staff will continue to monitor the enrolment numbers in the Ajax community, and will report annually through the long-term accommodation plan (LTAP). Should the Ministry of Education provide a new set of Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, and/or lift the 2018 moratorium on school consolidations, then board staff would bring back a report to consider a program and boundary review.

GW/SO/JD/tc  
Attachment: Ajax Attendance Area Review – Watson & Associates, Economists Ltd.



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
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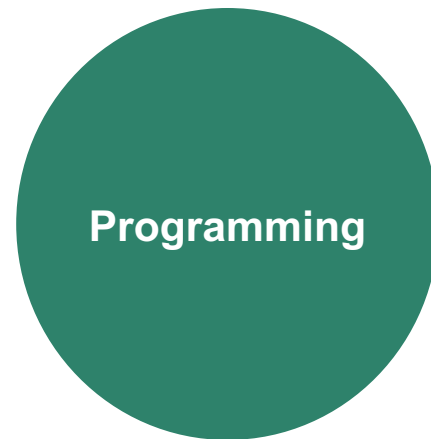
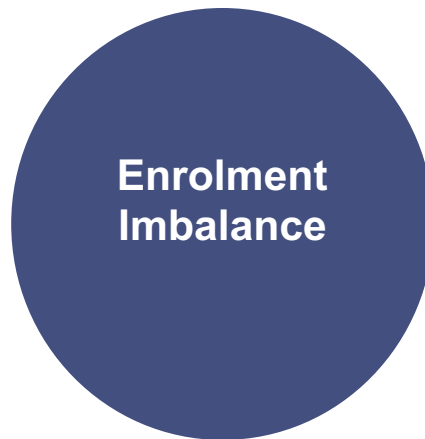
## Ajax Attendance Area Review

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Durham Catholic District School Board

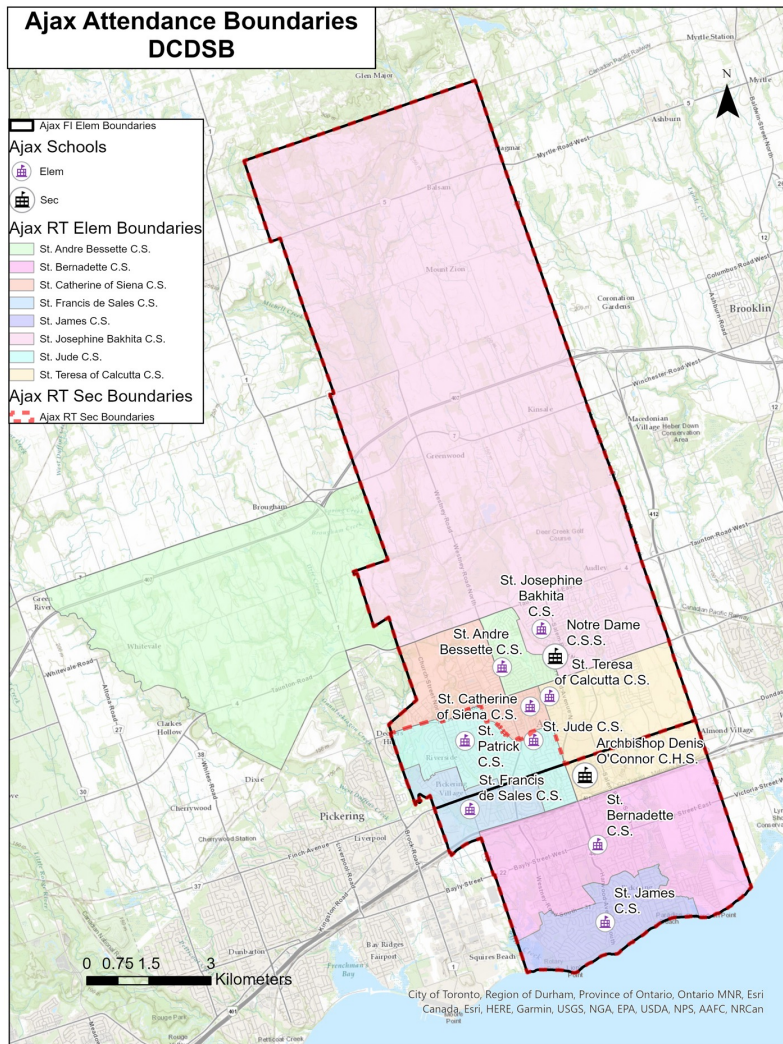
September 20, 2023

# Attendance Area Change Drivers



# Ajax Attendance Boundaries DCDSB

B2024-10-28 Page 103 of 121



Current Situation:  
Existing Attendance  
Boundaries



# Current Situation: Enrolment & Capacity

B2024-10-28 Page 104 of 121



| Ajax Enrolment Summary - 2024 |       |                  |       |               |       |              |           |               |  |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------|-----------|---------------|--|
| Elementary School             | OTG   | French Immersion |       | Regular Track |       | Total Enrol. | Utiliz. % | Surplus Space | Notes  |
|                               |       | Enrol.           | Share | Enrol.        | Share |              |           |               |  |
| St. Andre CS                  | 461   | -                | -     | 319           | 100%  | 319          | 69%       | 142           | Enrolment slowly increasing over last few years, separate boundary pulls in students from Pickering area |
| St. Bernadette CS             | 608   | -                | -     | 622           | 100%  | 622          | 102%      | -14           | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. Catherine CS              | 395   | -                | -     | 345           | 100%  | 345          | 87%       | 50            | Enrolment fluctuating by ~30-40 over last few years  |
| St. Francis CS                | 291   | -                | -     | 153           | 100%  | 153          | 53%       | 138           | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. James CS                  | 372   | 199              | 43%   | 267           | 57%   | 466          | 125%      | -94           | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. Josephine CS              | 479   | -                | -     | 467           | 100%  | 467          | 97%       | 12            | Enrolment declining since 2018   |
| St. Jude CS                   | 254   | -                | -     | 377           | 100%  | 377          | 148%      | -123          | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| St. Patrick CS                | 685   | 428              | 87%   | 63            | 13%   | 491          | 72%       | 194           | Enrolment declining since 2018   |
| St. Teresa CS                 | 329   | -                | -     | 276           | 100%  | 276          | 84%       | 53            | Enrolment steady last few years  |
| Elementary Total              | 3,874 | 627              | 18%   | 2,889         | 82%   | 3,516        | 91%       | 985           |  |

| Secondary School              | OTG   | French Immersion |       | Regular Track |       | Total Enrol. | Utiliz. % | Surplus Space | Notes                           |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------------|
|                               |       | Enrol.           | Share | Enrol.        | Share |              |           |               |                                 |
| Archbishop Denis O'Connor CHS | 825   | -                | -     | 718           | 100%  | 718          | 87%       | 107           | Enrolment increasing since 2020 |
| Notre Dame CSS                | 1,308 | 258              | 22%   | 815           | 78%   | 1,073        | 82%       | 235           | Declining Enrolment             |
| Secondary Total               | 2,133 | 258              | 14%   | 1,533         | 86%   | 1,791        | 84%       | 342           |                                 |

# Current Situation: In/Out of Boundary Analysis

B2024-10-28 Page 105 of 121



| Ajax Elementary Attending/Residing Summary - 2024 |                   |              |                   |                  |                |              |                  |             |                |               |                          |       |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Attending   | Residing          |              |                   |                  |                |              |                  |             |                |               |                          |       |
|   | School            | St. Andre CS | St. Bernadette CS | St. Catherine CS | St. Francis CS | St. James CS | St. Josephine CS | St. Jude CS | St. Patrick CS | St. Teresa CS | Out of Ajax AAR Boundary | TOTAL |
|   | St. Andre CS      | 263          | 1                 | 14               |                | 1            | 3                | 6           |                | 14            | 17                       | 319   |
|   | St. Bernadette CS | 3            | 572               |                  | 1              | 14           | 1                | 6           |                | 8             | 17                       | 622   |
|   | St. Catherine CS  | 11           | 3                 | 298              | 3              | 2            | 4                | 17          |                | 4             | 3                        | 345   |
|   | St. Francis CS    |              | 2                 |                  | 111            | 6            | 2                | 13          |                | 8             | 11                       | 153   |
|   | St. James CS      |              | 25                |                  | 3              | 419          | 2                | 4           | 2              | 3             | 8                        | 466   |
|   | St. Josephine CS  | 10           | 2                 | 7                |                | 8            | 421              | 6           |                | 4             | 9                        | 467   |
|   | St. Jude CS       | 1            | 7                 | 18               | 3              | 3            | 7                | 325         |                | 6             | 7                        | 377   |
|   | St. Patrick CS    | 4            | 2                 | 5                | 1              | 13           | 7                | 35          | 404            | 7             | 13                       | 491   |
|   | St. Teresa CS     |              | 1                 | 6                |                | 1            | 2                | 1           |                | 258           | 7                        | 276   |
|   | TOTAL             | 292          | 615               | 348              | 122            | 467          | 449              | 413         | 406            | 312           | 92                       | 3,516 |



# Ajax Attendance Area Review: Why a Review?

- **Catholic schools in Ajax** are collectively operating at a sustainable utilization rate; however, utilization varies significantly by individual school and area.
- **Utilization rates** of Catholic schools in Ajax range from as low as 53% to as high as 148%, reflecting this variability.
- **10 Catholic schools operate in Ajax** and are included in the scope of this review: *St. Andre Bessette, St. Bernadette, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Francis de Sales, St. James, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Jude, St. Teresa of Calcutta elementary schools, and Notre Dame and Archbishop Denis O'Connor secondary schools.*
- **French Immersion programming** is available at three locations: *St. James* (Dual-Track) and *St. Patrick* (Single-Track) elementary schools, as well as *Notre Dame* secondary school.



## Capacity Imbalance

- Several schools are at or over capacity (*St. Bernadette*, *St. Josephine Bakhita*, *St. Jude and St. James*) while the others have surplus space creating an uneven distribution of students.

## French Immersion (FI) Distribution

- FI program locations are impacting enrolment patterns across Ajax.
- *St. James* operates as a dual-track FI school, while *St. Patrick*, a single-track FI school, has experienced a consistent pattern of enrolment decline since 2018.

## Ajax Boundary and Growth Projections

- Although enrolment in Ajax remains stable, accounting for future developments and projected population growth is critical to the boundary assessment process.
- Enrolment is primarily concentrated in Ajax, though both *St. Andre Bessette* and *St. Josephine Bakhita* also serve the predominantly rural areas of North Pickering proximal to the lands reserved for Pickering Airport.

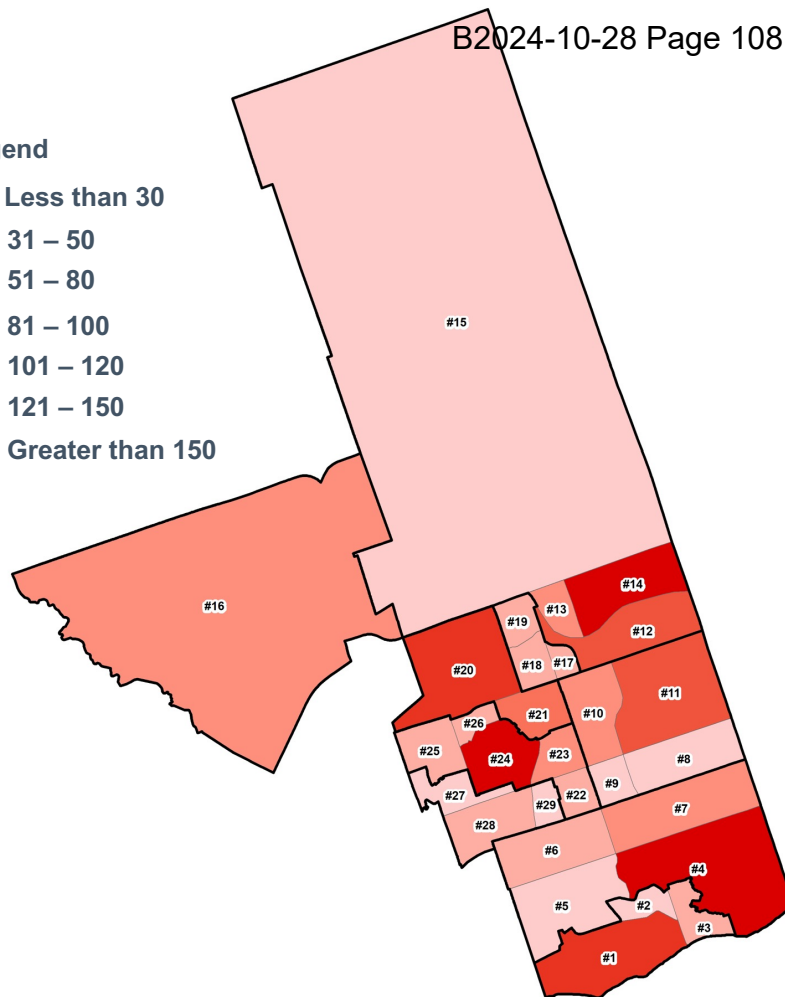
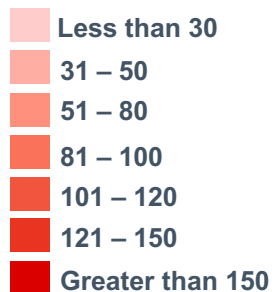
# Review Area Enrolment

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| School                    | Area Name | Program |       |       |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|
|                           |           | FI      | RT    | Total |
| St. James CS              | Area 1    | 56      | 189   | 245   |
|                           | Area 2    | 8       | 27    | 35    |
|                           | Area 3    | 17      | 43    | 60    |
| St. Bernadette CS         | Area 4    | 78      | 382   | 460   |
|                           | Area 5    | 6       | 38    | 44    |
|                           | Area 6    | 8       | 52    | 60    |
|                           | Area 7    | 13      | 143   | 156   |
| St. Teresa of Calcutta CS | Area 8    | 1       | 18    | 19    |
|                           | Area 9    | 4       | 56    | 60    |
|                           | Area 10   | 15      | 113   | 128   |
|                           | Area 11   | 41      | 125   | 166   |
| St. Josephine Bakhita CS  | Area 12   | 30      | 117   | 147   |
|                           | Area 13   | 8       | 98    | 106   |
|                           | Area 14   | 48      | 214   | 262   |
|                           | Area 15   | 3       | 20    | 23    |
| St. Andre Bessette CS     | Area 16   | 0       | 122   | 122   |
|                           | Area 17   | 11      | 51    | 62    |
|                           | Area 18   | 7       | 54    | 61    |
|                           | Area 19   | 10      | 65    | 75    |
| St. Catherine of Siena CS | Area 20   | 48      | 159   | 207   |
|                           | Area 21   | 29      | 189   | 218   |
| St. Jude CS               | Area 22   | 8       | 55    | 63    |
|                           | Area 23   | 9       | 92    | 101   |
|                           | Area 24   | 92      | 184   | 276   |
|                           | Area 25   | 21      | 29    | 50    |
|                           | Area 26   | 25      | 53    | 78    |
| St. Francis de Sales CS   | Area 27   | 9       | 18    | 27    |
|                           | Area 28   | 7       | 55    | 62    |
|                           | Area 29   | 2       | 49    | 51    |
| Outside of Ajax           |           | 13      | 79    | 92    |
| Total                     |           | 627     | 2,889 | 3,516 |

## Legend





## St. Bernadette (RA 4, 5, 6, 7) and St. Francis (RA 27, 28, 29)

- *St. Bernadette* is over capacity, while *St. Francis* is underutilized (59%).
- Reassign Area 6 (*St. Bernadette*) to *St. Francis*.

## St. Jude (RA 22, 23, 24, 25, 26) and St. Catherine (RA 20, 21)

- *St. Jude* is over capacity, while *St. Catherine* is underutilized.
- Reassign Area 26 (*St. Jude*) to *St. Catherine*

## St. Josephine Bakhita (RA 12, 13, 14, 15) and St. Andre (RA 16, 17, 18, 19):

- *St. Josephine* is over capacity, and *St. Andre* has available space.
- Reassign Area 15 (*St. Josephine*) to *St. Andre*.

## St. James (RA 1, 2, 3) and St. Patrick (Single-Track FI)

- *St. James* is over capacity, and *St. Patrick* has been declining in enrolment since 2018.
- Consolidate FI programming at *St. Patrick*.

# Hypothetical Scenario

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| Scenario   |     |           |           |              |           |           |           |              |           |            |           |              |           |
|--|-----|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Areas 6 (Bernadette to Francis), 15 (Josephine to Andre) and 26 (Jude to Catherine), FI Program Consolidation (James to Patrick) |     |           |           |              |           |           |           |              |           |            |           |              |           |
| School   | OTG | Current   |           |              |           | Scenario  |           |              |           | Difference |           |              |           |
|  |     | RT Enrol. | FI Enrol. | Total. Enrol | Utiliz. % | RT Enrol. | FI Enrol. | Total. Enrol | Utiliz. % | RT Enrol.  | FI Enrol. | Total. Enrol | Utiliz. % |
| St. Andre  | 461 | 319       | -         | 319          | 69%       | 342       | -         | 342          | 74%       | 23         | 0         | 23           | 5%        |
| St. Bernadette   | 608 | 622       | -         | 622          | 102%      | 562       | -         | 562          | 92%       | -60        | 0         | -60          | -10%      |
| St. Catherine  | 395 | 345       | -         | 345          | 87%       | 423       | -         | 423          | 107%      | 78         | 0         | 78           | 20%       |
| St. Francis  | 291 | 153       | -         | 153          | 53%       | 213       | -         | 213          | 73%       | 60         | 0         | 60           | 21%       |
| St. James  | 372 | 267       | 199       | 466          | 125%      | 267       | -         | 267          | 72%       | 0          | -199      | -199         | -53%      |
| St. Josephine  | 479 | 467       | -         | 467          | 97%       | 444       | -         | 444          | 93%       | -23        | 0         | -23          | -5%       |
| St. Jude   | 254 | 377       | -         | 377          | 148%      | 299       | -         | 299          | 118%      | -78        | 0         | -78          | -31%      |
| St. Patrick  | 685 | 63        | 428       | 491          | 72%       | 63        | 627       | 690          | 101%      | 0          | 199       | 199          | 29%       |
| St. Teresa   | 329 | 276       | -         | 276          | 84%       | 276       | -         | 276          | 84%       | 0          | 0         | 0            | 0%        |

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?





## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: October 28, 2024

Subject: **Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

## Recommendation

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

“THAT the Board of Trustees lay the motions of January 22, 2024 (motion #B2024-01-22-04), and February 26, 2024 (motion #B2024-02-26-10), on the table to allow members of the ad hoc committee for enhancing the use of public transit time to engage with community partners, to explore local connections and political willingness regarding public transit for students in Durham region, with the provision that the ad hoc committee can be taken up again in the future whenever a majority of the Board of Trustees so decides.”

## Background

On January 22, 2024, the following motion was passed:

“Whereas, since the 1960s until 2014, the bussing of the majority of high school students to and from Durham schools was handled efficiently by the municipal transit agencies through the use of bus tickets/passes; the municipal operators were Ajax-Pickering Transit, Whitby Transit, Oshawa Transit and Clarington Transit, later amalgamated into Durham Region Transit (DRT) in 2006;

Whereas, in 2014, Durham Region Transit raised the cost of the monthly bus pass significantly and the school boards assumed responsibility for transporting eligible high school students on yellow school buses through its consortium Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS);

Whereas, for the last few years, pre- and post-pandemic, school bus operators across Ontario have had difficulty finding and retaining a sufficient number of school bus drivers;

Whereas many transit agencies in the province (Toronto, York Region, Ottawa, Kingston) have a high percentage of high school students using public transit to travel to and from school, and more boards and transit agencies are considering similar arrangements;

<https://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/school-bus-routes/oc-transpo-public-transit-information/#:~:text=OC%20Transpo%20is%20a%20convenient,be%20issued%20to%20eligible%20students.>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/tvdsb-to-consider-free-transit-passes-for-high-school-students-1.7018273>

Whereas DSTS continues to maximize the efficiency of its system using the resources it has, in the fall of 2021, Durham District School Board (DDSB) and Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) sought an expanded relationship between DRT and DSTS. A public delegation was made to the Transit Executive Committee of Durham Region on December 8, 2021, with the intention of explaining the benefits of transit passes for high school students; negotiating a lower rate for DRT passes currently purchased by DSTS; and a strategy to have more high school students given monthly DRT transit passes;

Appendix A. DCDSB presentation at a Virtual Public Meeting by Morgan Ste. Marie, Chair (pages 1-6 focused on current DRT passes) and Declan Amaral, Student Trustee (pages 7-13, benefits of public transit, student perspective).

Appendix B. DDSB presentation transcript by Carolyn Morton, Chair, (focused on expanded use of public transit for high school students);

Whereas, in the months after this delegation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Region, the Boards and DSTS that “establishes shared principles to guide on-going collaboration” and this MOU was made public on June 8, 2022;

Page 38: <https://calendar.durham.ca/default/Detail/2022-06-08-1330-Transit-Executive-Committee-Meeting/fe6254eb-dde9-4e6b-9d5b-aea90122854e>

Whereas, the Durham Region Transit Service Strategy 2022-2025 references identified opportunities to increase the percent of high school students using transit from 9% to 42%;

Page 13: <https://www.durhamregiontransit.com/en/about-us/resources/The-Route-Ahead-ACCESSIBLE.pdf>

Be it resolved that an ad hoc committee of Staff and no less than 3 Trustees be created to lay out an engagement strategy that advances the shared principles of the Memorandum of Understanding, including “enhancing the use of public transit by youth, including secondary school students, within a fiscally responsible framework” with our transportation partners, transit agencies and other levels of government.

On February 26, 2024, an amendment to the January 22, 2024, motion was passed:

“THAT the DCDSB amend motion number B2024-01-22-04 Ad Hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit previously adopted on January 22, 2024, to include the following:

1. That the committee will provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees not later than the September 2024 Regular Board Meeting.
2. That the committee be dissolved immediately following the October 2024 Regular Board Meeting.
3. That the committee include a maximum of 8 trustees

“That at the first meeting of the committee that staff provide a report on relevant information pertaining to the committee’s mandate including any legal advice regarding jurisdiction and the DSTS Consortium Agreement.”

Four meetings of the Committee have taken place on April 18, 2024, May 22, 2024, September 9, 2024, and October 15, 2024.

## Next Steps

During the October 15, 2024, ad hoc committee meeting, staff from Durham Catholic shared reasons/rationale why our partner Board within DSTS is not interested in exploring the use of public transit for high school students at this time. As such, the committee agreed to bring a report to the Board with a recommendation to lay the motions of January 22, 2024, and February 26, 2024, on the table with the provision that they can be taken up again in the future whenever a majority of the Board of Trustees so decides.

In the meanwhile, members of the ad hoc also were encouraged to actively engage with community partners, to explore political willingness and potential interest regarding enhanced use of public transit for students in the Durham region.

GW/eb



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

## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Date: October 28, 2024  
Subject: **Out of Province Travel**

## Recommendation

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the attendance of the Director of Education, to attend the official delegation from the Archdiocese of Toronto at the Elevation of Archbishop Francis Leo to the College of Cardinals Consistory 2024, scheduled December 4-10, 2024, in Rome Italy.”

## Rationale

The Broader Public Sector Procurement and Expense Directives Policy (PO109) and its attended Administrative Procedure (AP109-1) require that out-of-province travel be brought by the Director to the Board for approval.

On October 6, 2024, Pope Francis announced that Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Francis Leo will be elevated to the College of Cardinals, at a Consistory on December 7, 2024.

The Director of Education along with other Catholic School Board Directors, has been invited to be part of the official delegation from the Archdiocese of Toronto for this occasion – departing December 4 and returning on December 10. This involves official events including the Consistory itself on December 7 officiated by Pope Francis, and Mass on December 8 in St. Peter’s Basilica officiated by the Holy Father.

There will be no expense to the Board. The Director will personally cover all costs.

GW/eb



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

## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Date: October 28, 2024  
Subject: **Correspondence from DCDSB to Archbishop of Toronto**

Please see the attached correspondence from the DCDSB to the Archbishop of Toronto dated October 15, 2024.

GW/eb  
Attach.



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

October 15, 2024

Most Reverend Francis Leo  
Archbishop of Toronto  
Archdiocese of Toronto  
Catholic Pastoral Centre  
1155 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M4T 1W2

Dear Cardinal-Elect Leo,

On behalf of the Durham Catholic District School Board, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on your elevation to Cardinal. This honour is a recognition by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, of your commitment to faith, community, and the advancement of Catholic values.

We are so blessed to have your spiritual leadership in the Archdiocese of Toronto, which includes the Region of Durham. We are grateful for the guidance and support you have provided to the students, families and staff in our Durham Catholic learning community. Your dedication to nurturing the spiritual growth of all in our community is sincerely appreciated.

As you take on this new role, we look forward to continuing our partnership as we strive for academic excellence in a learning environment rooted in the Catholic faith. As members of the Catholic community, and as people of hope, we offer prayers from the Durham Catholic District School Board as you embark on this new ministry.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved honour. May God continue to bless you with strength, courage, and wisdom in the pastoral care of the faithful.

Yours in hope and faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monique Forster".

Monique Forster  
Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerard Winn".

Gerard Winn  
Director of Education



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

## Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees  
From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education  
Date: October 28, 2024  
Subject: **Correspondence from DCDSB to Minister of Education**

Please see the attached correspondence from the DCDSB to the Minister of Education dated October 28, 2024.

GW/eb  
Attach.



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

October 29, 2024

The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
315 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8  
Sent via email: [Minister.EDU@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.EDU@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Dunlop:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB), please accept our congratulations and best wishes on your new appointment as Minister of Education. The Board of Trustees of DCDSB, working in partnership with its community and community partners, provides an essential service to students, families and those who serve them, based on their specific needs. We look forward to meeting you, and to working closely with you in support of our students and families in the years ahead.

We are in receipt of the memorandum, "Strengthening School Board Governance and Accountability" (dated July 30, 2024), outlining various changes to the central principles of school board governance. Out of great concern for the proposed regulations, the Board of Trustees wishes to request that the Ministry of Education consider re-writing these regulations, taking into consideration the important service that trustees provide to students and families in Ontario.

Of particular concern to the Board of Trustees of the DCDSB are the following:

- Ontario Regulation **306/24**: Integrity Commissioners and Process for Alleged Breaches of the Code of Conduct
- Ontario Regulation **311/24** Honoraria for Board Members
- Ontario Regulation **312/24** Trustee Code of Conduct Directives
- Ontario Regulation **313/24** Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance

Furthermore, the DCDSB has directed its professional association, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), to bring your attention to these serious concerns regarding the Better Schools and Better Outcomes Act.

We would welcome the opportunity to go into further detail about the implications of the above regulations.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Forster  
Chair of the Board

cc: DCDSB Trustees  
OCSTA





# Meeting Notes

Page provided to record notes

## Closing Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for the time we've spent together today and for the ideas shared. As we conclude, we ask for your continued guidance in our work. May we leave here inspired and motivated to put our plans into action, serving our community with dedication and purpose.

Amen.