



DPCDSB October Newsletter
Anna da Silva B.A. M.A.
Trustee Wards 1,3 & 4
Vice Chair of the Dufferin- Peel CDSB

Hello everyone

It is very hard to believe that October is upon us already and that Thank Giving is just around the corner. I want to wish you all a very blessed Thanks Giving. We are so fortunate in our part of the world to be free of war and abject poverty. Recently hurricanes, tornados and typhoons and have destroyed many schools. As we celebrate this year with our families lets us say a prayer to ask our Lord to help those less fortune than ourselves.

As all of you know, this fall was very hot and extremely uncomfortable. I received calls from parents asking about what the board is doing about air conditioning. I thought you might like know what is being considered at the the board regarding this issue. Last year, based on comments from parents, we asked for a report on the cost of putting in central air for all schools. When the report came forward the cost of implementing central air was prohibitive. At that time I asked if our staff could find a lower cost alternative. In response our staff identified some portable air conditioning unites that might be appropriate. The board approved the testing of these units. The units are in place at various locations this fall as a pilot. We will know more about the suitability of the units once the pilot is complete. I will keep you posted on the results. It is my hope that we can find some method to cool off the classrooms during these exceptionally hot periods. In the meantime, if the hot air persists please ask principals to contact the maintenance department and ask for industrial size fans to be provided. These fans can be set up in designated area to create cooling centers.

I have been asked over the last few weeks about **class size and combined classes**. I consulted with senior staff who provided me with some information that I'd like to will share with you. As most of you are aware Ministry of Education imposes a cap on class size in the primary grades. As a result of this cap **legislation regarding class organization** compels school boards to organize and reorganize classes based on numbers by a particular date. For DPCDSB, that date was Thursday, September 6, 2018. Should enrolments increase or decrease after the count day, schools are not required to reorganize any further.

Several factors play a role in determining the school organization of classes:

- The number of students enrolled per grade level at each school
- Class size guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education
- Adherence to collective agreements
- Funding
- Available space within the school

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

The organization and staffing of Full Day Kindergarten classes is regulated by legislation specific to Full Day Kindergarten. The legislation states:

There can be three different types of classes:

- "Full Class" which is staffed by (1.0 FTE) certified teacher and (1.0 FTE) Designated Early Childhood Educator (DECE). Full classes are defined as having more than 15 pupils.
- "Half Class" which is staffed by (1.0 FTE) certified teacher only. This class cannot have more than 15 pupils. Once the ceiling of 15 is pierced, a DECE must be staffed to the class.

- “Kindergarten/Grade One Combined” which is a class of Year Two Kindergarten and Grade One students. This class is hard capped at 20 students. The Board has made a commitment to keep the proportion in the class to 10 Year Two Kindergarten students and 10 Grade One students as much as possible.

In DPCDSB, the breakdown of number of classes is as follows:

- 346 classes in total
- 297 Full Classes
- 39 Half Classes
- 10 Year Two Kindergarten/Grade One Combined Classes
- The overall, aggregate DPCDSB (board wide) ratio in Full Day Kindergarten cannot exceed 26:1 as of the count date. Similar to junior classes, there will be classes that are smaller than 26 and there will be classes that are larger than 26.
- The DPCDSB is permitted to have 10% of its classes with 30 pupils or more, up to a maximum of 32 as of the count date.
- If a school has a “half class”, no other Full Day Kindergarten class in the school can be higher than 29 students.
- Year Two Kindergarten/Grade One Combined classes are recommended to be educated in an FDK classroom.

As of reorganization, the DPCDSB has:

- 0 classes at 32 students
- 2 classes at 31 students
- 15 classes at 30 students
- 90% of all flexible boundary requests for Full Day Kindergarten were approved as of the count date.
- 10% of all flexible boundary requests are still pending as of the count date.

There is a Full Day Kindergarten Steering Committee, consisting of staff from various departments (i.e., Instructional, Finance, Planning, Employee Relations, and Human Resources) that meet regularly to review enrollment.

If enrolments in classes become substantially larger during the year, class reorganization may be considered. This is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

PRIMARY CLASSES (GRADES 1-3)

- There is a hard cap of 20 pupils to one teacher in all primary classes as of the count date.
- As per legislation, the DPCDSB can have 10% of its primary classes “over the cap” to a maximum of 23 pupils in any one class as of the count date.
- All grade three/four combined classes have a hard cap of 23 pupils as of the count date.
- As a result of ensuring that 90% of the classes are staffed to 20:1 in the primary grades, reorganization at the local school occurs based on the count date in order that the entire Board is compliant with class size regulation.
- **As a result of the hard cap, there may be more combined classes in a particular school.**
- In most subject areas, teachers use resources specifically created for combined grades to deliver the curriculum.
- There is no DPCDSB policy that defines the number of consecutive years that a student can be in a combined grade; in some smaller schools, there are exclusively combined grades year after year.

JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES (GRADES 4-8)

- There is no hard cap in the Junior and Intermediate grades.
- The board-wide aggregate ratio for Junior and Intermediate grades is 24.5:1 as of the count date. As such, some classes will have more than 24 or 25 students

Open Houses and School BBQ’s

Thank you to all of my schools for inviting me to attend these great events. Special thanks to the administrators, school councils, teachers and ECEs for welcoming all parents and guardians to take a look at their children's classes and to meet the staff.

Catholic School Councils

Thank you to all of you who have joined our Catholic School Councils. This is important work that has a direct effect on student achievement in your schools. We consult school councils and the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils about all initiatives and look for your input which directly effects decisions that are made at the board and in our schools.

Student Transportation and Funding

We are funded for transportation by the Ministry of Education. Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR <https://www.dpcdsb.org/schools/student-transportation>) is a consortium, formed by agreement between the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board, for the purpose of providing a common administration of transportation services for students residing in the Region of Peel. Courtesy Ridership is still supported by Dufferin-Peel. Decisions around Courtesy Ridership are made in October. Extended French and Gifted Transportation are funded by the Ministry while French Immersion and Specialty Programs are not funded.

New MPP's

We have new MPP's who are responsible for provincial government decisions including class size, funding and curriculum.

MPPs are your representatives in the Legislative Assembly of **Ontario**. There are currently 124 seats in the Legislature. Each seat represents a riding in **Ontario**. Members of **provincial** Parliament (**MPPs**) are elected to the Legislative Assembly of **Ontario** by citizens in their riding. **Your new Minister of Education is:**

The Hon. Lisa Thompson
lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org
Ministry
900 Bay Street, 22nd Floor, Mowat Block
Ministry of Education
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1L2
Tel 416-325-2600
Fax 416-325-2608

I hope that you found this information of value. You may always contact me at 416-706-5679. Follow me on Twitter @ampodesta and Face Book at Anna da Silva for up todate news about what is happening at the board meetings.