

## An Unpredictable and Tumultuous School Year Draws to a Close

As the 2020-2021 school year comes to an end, we want to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all parents and guardians for the incredible patience, understanding and resiliency you have displayed over the past months.

When we began the school year last September, we did so with a degree of uncertainty on how things would unfold. We have had to adjust the manner in which we delivered educational programming in response to constantly shifting pandemic conditions. This required our educators, as well as our students, to adapt to new paradigms of teaching and learning. We know this has not been easy and we know that the impact of the pandemic, which has dictated so many aspects of our lives, has been significant on all of us. We are optimistic that we will be able to return to a more stable sense of normalcy by the fall when we begin the 2021-2022 school year, but we must remain vigilant.

We will continue to provide you with updated information on our return to school in the fall throughout the summer break.

To our graduating students, we congratulate you for enduring the constantly changing pandemic conditions over the past 15 months. You overcame significant challenges but are now poised to continue on your life's journey, some of you to post-secondary education and others to the world of work. We know that the Dufferin-Peel Catholic education that you received will serve you well no matter what your next steps will be. We would also acknowledge and congratulate all Grade 8 students who are graduating to secondary school. We look forward to your continued success at the next stage of your Catholic education.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our educators for their constant support of our students during this most challenging time.

To our parents/guardians, we thank you for choosing a Dufferin-Peel Catholic education for your child(ren).

Please know that we, your trustees, are here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out to us with any issues and concerns you may have, including throughout the summer. Our contact information is included in this newsletter and we are always happy to try to help you if we can.

As an unpredictable and tumultuous school year draws to a close, may God continue to watch over you and your family and may you all a blessed and safe summer.

**Your DPCDSB Board of Trustees**

### Board of Trustees

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## **School Reopening Updates**

As we look forward to the start of the 2021-2022 school year in September, we are encouraged by news of declining COVID numbers and are optimistic that we can return to school with a greater degree of normalcy than we have experienced for the past 15 months. The DPCDSB continues to take direction on public health matters, including COVID-19, from our regional public health authorities, Peel Public Health and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, as well as the Ministry of Health and Health Canada. We are also continuing to work closely with the Ministry of Education to plan for the reopening of schools.

Throughout the summer we will continue to post and relay information to keep our community apprised of any developments that impact our schools and operations. Community Information Bulletins will be sent through the SchoolMessenger system. If you are not receiving our SchoolMessenger emails, please contact your school directly to request to be added to the distribution list.

These updates and other information will be posted on our [School Updates and Information webpage](#) and on our social media channels. Follow us on Twitter @DPCDSBSchools, Facebook @DPCDSBSchools and Instagram @dpcdsb.schools.

## **2021-2022 Budget**

During the current 2020-2021 year, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) has continued to adapt and adjust to the changing pandemic environment that has impacted all aspects of operations and instructional learning. The financial impact alone has been monumental and planning for another year of COVID restrictions and uncertainty has been challenging. The Ministry released the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and associated technical paper for the 2021-2022 year in May, however additional guidance and health and safety information for reopening will not be available until the summer months. For 2021-2022, the Ministry will continue to provide temporary COVID funding supports to support safe operations of schools through a phased approach where only 50% of the total funds are available to start the year. Enrolment decline is a significant challenge for DPCDSB in 2021-2022 and the stabilization funding provided to school boards this current year will not be available in 2021-2022. COVID related expenditures and the fully funded long term disability (LTD) plan have created additional challenges for DPCDSB, resulting in a proposed deficit budget situation that exceeds compliancy. The Board of Trustees have conditionally approved the proposed 2021-2022 budget as we continue to dialogue with the Ministry on next steps. The budget development process was similar to last year, utilizing virtual options to connect with stakeholders. Many opportunities were provided for public input from parents/guardians and other community stakeholders, including a recorded presentation and access to the ThoughtExchange® platform for sharing of thoughts and ideas. All public input was shared in a report to the Board of Trustees on May 11, 2021. It was extremely important throughout the process to align the allocation of limited resources to the Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) of DPCDSB and ensure that impacts of any required reductions were minimized for students and the direct classroom.

## **Summer Work**

The Plant Facilities Department will undertake facility renewal, school condition improvement, special accommodation, fire alarm replacement, building automation systems, painting, paving and outdoor grounds projects, include federally funded CVRIS funded projects, in 155 schools and board facilities valued at approximately \$38M. Included in the planned projects are energy management-related projects at 21 schools, and 34 mechanical projects including air-handling unit, boiler and exhaust fan replacements. Through additional federal CVRIS funding, the installation of water filling stations will continue at all our schools, as well as the installation of video entry systems at 109 schools and portable replacements at six schools. Due to challenges associated with COVID-19 delays, 23 projects from last year's program will also continue this summer. In addition, two child care renovations at St. Edith Stein and Holy Spirit will be undertaken over the summer and will continue into the fall.

## **New Student Trustees elected for 2021-2022**

The elections for student trustees for the 2021-2022 school year took place via Zoom this year in late February. On August 1, our newly elected student trustees will begin their term of office. Leroy Onuoha, a student at Cardinal Leger Secondary School and Dea Sokoli, a student at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School were elected to the north and south positions. We thank Heather Fernandes and Alejandro Garcia Polo, our student trustees for 2020-2021, for their exceptional service to Catholic education this year. They represented secondary students and elevated the importance of Student Voice at the board table this year.

### **Multi-Year Strategic Plan**

The Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) informs constituents of board's priorities. The MYSP reflects the board's vision and mission, including its overall purpose, beliefs and strategic directions; it is also based on local practices, traditions and cultures. Strategic planning is required of school boards by the Ministry of Education. Our MYSP is also deeply aligned with our primary focus on Catholic Social Teachings, on the inherent human dignity of all, the need to work to support interdependence and the common good and the requirement of ensuring subsidiarity across the levels of our system, from classroom to board.

Throughout the course of the 2020-2021 school year, the Board of Trustees has continued to work with staff to implement the 2019-2023 MYSP. COVID-19 has had impact; priorities, while unchanged, are being refined to reflect current and emerging realities related to teaching, learning, and the well-being of all, with particular focuses on equity and gap closing.

### **Make a Difference - Get involved in your local Catholic School Council**

At DPCDSB, parents/guardians are an integral part of our Catholic school communities. We appreciate the involvement of parents/guardians at the local school and encourage participation in school activities and events. Consider becoming involved in your school's Catholic school council. School councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance. For more information about your local Catholic school council, please inquire through your school office and visit the [Central Committee for Catholic School Councils webpage](#).

### **Support Catholic Education**

Like many Catholics, you may be surprised to find out that you are not registered as a Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, but rather, as a Public School Supporter. By directing your tax support to the Separate School System:

- You may vote for Catholic School Trustees in Municipal elections;
- Your children may attend Catholic elementary schools, subject to eligibility requirements;
- You show your support for the Catholic school system.

To verify that you are an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice. To register as a Separate (Catholic) School Supporter or change your Direction of School Support, contact our Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24512 or [admissions@dpcdsb.org](mailto:admissions@dpcdsb.org).

### **Follow Your Trustee and DPCDSB on Social Media**

DPCDSB social media is a great way to receive important and timely information related to issues that impact schools, such as Hold and Secures, Lockdowns, bus cancellations due to weather conditions and other notices. It is also a great way to see examples of the many wonderful things that take place in our schools each and every day. Many trustees also are active on social media, so check the Trustee Section profiles on the [DPCDSB website](#). Following is a listing of all DPCDSB social media channels.

**CONNECT with us!**



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## ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

Dufferin-Peel's Catholic schools are overseen by a board of 11 elected trustees. Trustees serve as system leaders of publicly funded education in their communities and province. They work collaboratively with their community to shape a vision for DPCDSB that is reflective of the input of parents, students and community members. Trustees advocate for excellence in education and act as role models to engender confidence in publicly funded education. In addition, Catholic school trustees have a clearly defined role as stewards and guardians of Catholic education. Two student trustee representatives, elected by their peers, also sit with the Board of Trustees in a non-voting capacity.

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Check out the [Trustees](#) section of our school board website.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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