

AGENDA

Faith and Program Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre

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

Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.

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Faith and Program Committee Meeting March 4, 2025

March 4, 2025: Lent

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, during this season of Lent,

Teach us a new freedom.

Freedom to reject comparison and to embrace uniqueness.

Freedom to cut ties with greed and feast on love.

Freedom to abstain from overindulgence and feast on self-control.

Freedom to leave behind selfish thoughts and to focus on the needs of others.

Freedom to fend off insecurity and to embrace grace.

Lord, thank you for the freedom you bring.

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MINUTES

Faith and Program Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre**

Trustees:	Shawn Xaviour	Chair
	Brea Corbet	Vice-Chair
	Paula Dametto-Giovanozzi	Trustee
	Luz del Rosario	Trustee
	Darryl D'Souza	Trustee
	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee
	Mario Pascucci	Trustee
	Stefano Pascucci	Trustee
	Anisha Thomas	Trustee
	Thomas Thomas	Trustee
	Bailey Clyne	Indigenous Student Trustee
	Jia Sharma	Student Trustee
	Raheem White	Student Trustee
	Bailey Clyne	Indigenous Student Trustee
Regrets:	Herman Vilorio	Trustee
Staff:	Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.	Director of Education, Secretary to the Board
	Max Vecchiarino	Executive Superintendent, Policy, Strategy, Research, Safe Schools
	Dulcie Belchior	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Wayne Brunton	Superintendent, Equity and Indigenous Education
	Brian Diogo	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Carmel Murphy	Superintendent, Program and Learning Services
	Laura Odo	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Drago Radic	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Adrian Scigliano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Viviana Varano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Kevin Wendling	Assistant Superintendent: Math Lead
	Bruce Campbell	General Manager, Communications and Community Relations
	Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education
Recorder:	Cindy Child	Board and Committee Information Officer

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair Shawn Xaviour called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer

Chair Shawn Xaviour led the Opening Prayer.

3. Land Acknowledgment – Chair Shawn Xaviour

4. Approval of Agenda

Distribution of G4, correction on Page 11, Terms of Reference should read 2025, and Page 29 second bullet should read: “In Grade 1, 44% of the students are performing at **or** above benchmark, demonstrating strong foundational reading skills in phoneme segmentation and word reading.”

Moved by Brea Corbet

MOTION TO ADD E2 GOOD NEWS REPORT.

CARRIED

Moved by Stefano Pascucci

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Declaration of Interest – Nil

6. Approval of the Minutes from the Faith and Program Committee Meeting, October 8, 2024

Moved by Thomas Thomas

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 8, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

a. Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

B. Proposed Terms of Reference 2025 - Director Mazzorato

Moved by Darryl D'Souza

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING 2025, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

C. Awards and Presentations

1. Giselle Gaylie, Motivational Speaker

Trustee Brea Corbet thanked Giselle Gaylie for her motivating and inspiring presentation.

The assembly gave Giselle Gaylie a round of applause and photos were taken with the Board of Trustees.

D. Delegations – Nil

E. Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees for Receipt – Nil

1. Regular Reports

- a. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Report

Chair Shawn Xaviour reminded trustees that the OCSTA seminar is this Friday.

2. Good News Report

Trustee Brea Corbet

Mississauga Ward 9 & 10

On January 13, National Rubber Ducky Day was celebrated in the elementary schools of Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) with fun activities in math and literacy for our students. All Senior Kindergarten classes were supplied with rubber ducks for counting activities. All Grade 1 students were invited to participate in a rubber ducky writing contest to show off their creativity in poetry or stories. All schools were sent a jar of baby rubber duckies for estimating games. The Program math team hosted a livestream math session for each division. Junior and intermediate students learned some fun facts related to rubber duckies - for example, the impact of an incident of a shipment of 28,000 duckies that went overboard in 1992 and for the last twenty years has actually helped scientists track ocean currents. Students looked at microplastics and rubber as part of our ongoing effort to showcase the importance and excitement science and technology offer.

F. Updates/Information/Reports from Committees for Receipt – Nil

G. Updates/Information/Reports from Administration for Receipt

1. 2023-2024 Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC) Fact Sheets: Public Release
Executive Superintendent Vecchiarino summarized the report.
2. A Systematic Approach to Supporting Students' Reading Development in DPCDSB
Superintendent Murphy summarized the report and introduced Melanie Quintana, Coordinator, Early Years Program Lead to present.
 1. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: If a child is found to be below the benchmark can information be sent to parents/guardians to advise what can be done at home to help the student?

Superintendent Murphy: The benchmark and the report card should inform the teacher and the parents/guardians of any learning gaps and areas for improvement. Together they can discuss a plan for improvement over the coming year.
3. Transforming Education: Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in DPCDSB
Superintendent Murphy summarized the report and introduced Lisa Buczek, Coordinator, Technology Based Learning to present.
 1. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Have we found a tool that can detect if an assignment is copied with no citing or author references; plagiarized?

Superintendent Murphy: We have not found a reliable tool that has no biases, for example students that are ELL or ESL. Students may not have cited correctly; it is not easy to correctly cite AI. We are working on developing citation skills from ChatGPT so that students are not breaking copy right rules and acting responsibly in their academic journey and their future business positions.

2. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: What percentage of our students are ELL and ESL?

Superintendent Murphy: Approximately 5 to 7 percent. When we develop learning and resources we take into account students from ELL, ESL and special education. If a student does not cite correctly, they must acknowledge their source.

3. Trustee Brea Corbet: Thank you for providing PD for staff and trustees regarding AI. I would like to ask that the next step is to have parent/guardian resources made available following student resources.

Superintendent Murphy: We will work to ensure the broad audience is kept informed.

4. Trustee Brea Corbet: Is there a policy on academic integrity when using AI?

Superintendent Murphy: There are significant guidelines on plagiarism that we can provide in Issues & Events.

Director Mazzorato: We have existing policy regarding assessment and evaluation, and when we bring that forward for review, it will be an opportunity to incorporate AI into the policy.

5. Student Trustee Raheem White: What happens when a student has said they did not use ChatGPT and they are challenged by the teacher?

Superintendent Murphy: There are steps along the way to the end result, and through the process there is the opportunity to discuss the work in progress. Teachers are not trying to trip-up students, rather they are encouraging students to do their very best work and students should be willing and able to communicate their process.

4. Driving Excellence with Edwin: A Digital Tool for Engaged Learning and Instruction

Superintendent Murphy summarized the report.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost having come down substantially, cost per pupil, and the comparison of textbooks, their shelf life and how Edwin is updated continuously to prevent outdated information.

1. Trustee Darryl D'Souza thanked Superintendent Murphy and her team for a fabulous report.
2. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: In a Grade 6/7 split are teachers provided the same access to the Edwin material?

Superintendent Murphy: The teachers work together to ensure equitable access. The same material may be available in different ways.

3. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: Can staff ensure that teachers are aware of different access and that they have the appropriate licenses?

Director Mazzorato: We will.

5. International Women's Day

Superintendent Murphy summarized the report.

1. Trustee Luz del Rosario: Have we decided on location and grades?

Superintendent Murphy: We have a tentative location and speaker. Program department has invited girls from each Family of Schools to discuss Day of Empowerment and gather their feedback and input before we set a date. Information on the event will follow.

H. Trustee/Committee/Administration Reports requiring Action

1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Resolutions

Executive Superintendent Vecchiarino summarized the report.

OCSTA Resolution 1. Funding to Support Additional Supervision

Trustee Brea Corbet: Can we include language around vandalism and vaping?

Director Mazzorato: Please send your suggested wording to Executive Superintendent Vecchiarino.

Moved by Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi

THAT THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE SUBMISSION 1. FUNDING TO SUPPORT SERIOUS BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS RESOLUTION TO OCSTA.

CARRIED

OCSTA Resolution 2. Technology Funding

Trustee Brea Corbet: Suggested improved language.

Moved by Bruno Iannicca

THAT THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE SUBMISSION 2. TECHNOLOGY FUNDING RESOLUTION TO OCSTA.

CARRIED

OCSTA Resolution 3. Student Transportation Funding

Trustee Brea Corbet: Suggested improved language.

Director Mazzorato recommended that the motion come to the Regular Board meeting once staff have worked on the language suggested to ensure there is no liability in the wording.

OCSTA Resolution 4. Funding for Retrofitting/Renovating Schools

Moved by Thomas Thomas

THAT THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE SUBMISSION 4. *FUNDING FOR RETROFITTING/RENOVATING SCHOOLS* RESOLUTION TO OCSTA.

CARRIED

OCSTA Resolution 5. Funding to Lower Class Sizes in Grades 4 through 8

Trustee Brea Corbet: Suggested improved language.

Director Mazzorato recommended that the motion come to the Regular Board meeting once staff have worked on the language suggested to ensure there is no misunderstanding, i.e., that smaller class sizes ensure academic success.

OCSTA Resolution 6. Review of Moratorium on School Closures

Moved by Luz del Rosario

THAT THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO APPROVE SUBMISSION 6. *REVIEW MORATORIUM ON SCHOOL CLOSURES* RESOLUTION TO OCSTA

CARRIED

OCSTA Resolution 7. Review of Policies on Trustees Attendance at Board Meetings

1. Trustee Mario Pascucci: I would like to ask for this Resolution to come to the Regular Board meeting to allow time to work on the wording. I have concern regarding what is reasonable in terms of vacation time taken. If a trustee is terminated or vacates a seat for missing a meeting, who should pay for a byelection? At a cost of approximately \$150,000 this must be a consideration. This is a punitive consequence.
2. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Does missing a meeting include a work commitment?

Director Mazzorato: Changes to the legislation do not capture that scenario. We will improve the language and bring the Resolution to the January 28 Regular Board meeting.

I. Additional Business

1. Notices of Motion - Nil

J. Questions Asked by Trustees

1. Trustee Paula Dametto-Giovanozzi: RECongress – the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference is coming up February 20. Last year I attended for my first time and prepared a detailed report to share the wonderful Catholic experience. Can trustees that are interested in

attending this professional development register this year? I do have availability within my budget.

Director Mazzorato: We have paused conferences for senior staff and trustees.

2. Trustee Darryl D’Souza: Has the Ministry sent out information on what is acceptable?

Director Mazzorato: The Ministry has not provided limitations; we await the audit outcomes and directions. At this time, we have paused travel outside of Canada and are being reasonable about Conference choices within Canada.

3. Student Trustee Raheem White: In the literacy development benchmarks the report states “Grade 1, 44% of the students are performing at or above benchmark.” That seems low.

Director Mazzorato: I agree, now we need to determine what we are going to do about the benchmark change from Kindergarten to Grade 1.

4. Trustee Brea Corbet: Can we revisit the recommendations from Peel Public Health regarding extreme weather conditions?

Director Mazzorato: We can reach out to Peel Public Health and provide an update to administrators on the January Director’s webcast. Administrators take into account challenges on their properties i.e., wind and/or lack of shelter.

5. Trustee Brea Corbet: Some schools have socio-economic challenges and may not have proper outdoor essentials i.e. mitts and hats. What can be done about this?

Director Mazzorato: We are aware of the possibility. Many schools have extra mittens and hats available for students.

6. Trustee Brea Corbet: Next week secondary students begin exams, what is the expectation around culminating performance tasks (CPT) and other tests? Students need time to prepare for exams without having additional assignments.

Director Mazzorato: GAP 415: Homework – Kindergarten to Grade 12 outlines expectations. If there is a specific school, please advise so that we can address the concern. We will remind the system.

Student Trustee Raheem White: We have heard concerns at our senate meetings that some teachers have assigned CPTs this week and last week.

Indigenous Student Trustee Bailey: This is a common theme from students.

Student Trustee Jia Sharma: If teachers gave the CPTs the first week back from Christmas, that works, but if they give them to us in the second week it does interfere with our exam preparations.

Director Mazzorato: We are very disappointed to hear the student voice feedback. We will communicate now and be proactive for June exams.

K. Declared Interest Items – Nil

L. In Camera Session - Nil

M. Report from In Camera – Nil

N. Future Meetings

March 4, 2025

May 13, 2025

O. Adjournment

Moved by Anisha Thomas

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 9:35 P.M.

CARRIED



Transforming Education: Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in DPCDSB

Q 3	Trustee Brea Corbet: Is there a policy on academic integrity when using AI?	Students must acknowledge the use of any secondary source and AI must be acknowledged as a secondary source. Program provides this information in its upcoming AI Guidelines and will highlight how students should be citing their use of AI in their assignments.
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REGISTRATION FORM FOR PRESENTATIONS

Presenters must register five (5) working days before the date of the meeting. Up to two presenters may speak with a total time allotted of five (5) minutes. Trustees may ask questions of clarification after the presentation in accordance with Board Procedural By-Law Article 7.

Meeting name & date: Faith and Program Committee Tuesday M Subject: _____

- I wish to speak ONLY on my own behalf.
- I wish to delegate as a spokesperson for: Making Prom Happen
- I am an employee of the Board and my subject cannot be dealt with under a Board Collective Agreement.

Presenters are reminded that no decision on the issues presented will be made at the meeting.

Please provide a brief summary of the subject.

Making Prom Happen
 - Free Grad/Prom wear event April 10, 2025 at Turner Fenton High School
 - Event is open to all Region of Peel Students - Grades 8-12

The Board does not wish to prevent the expression of honest opinion, however, delegates should refrain from negative, critical or derogatory comments about identifiable persons.

Please read Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board By-Law Article 7 (*see reverse*) prior to signing, and returning the registration form to the Board and Committee Information Officer. The Board and Committee Information Officer will contact you to confirm the date and time of your presentation.

Please note that presentations will be only heard during the allotted period for presentations. If it is necessary to cancel the presentation, please do so in writing by email, fax or hand delivered copy at least 24 hours prior to the meeting: Phone 905-890-0708, Ext. 24433 Email cindy.child@dpcdsb.org

Presentation Contact Information: *

Name	Donna Boucher
Address	_____

Date: 27Feb2025

Signature: Donna Boucher  Digitally signed by Donna Boucher
Date: 2025.02.27 19:34:39 -05'00'

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Personal information is collected under the legal authority of the *Education Act, RSO 1990, c. E.2* and will be used by the Board and Committee Information Officer for corresponding with delegates. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the Manager, Records Management and Access/Privacy (905) 890-0708, Ext. 24443.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR DELEGATIONS

All delegations are required to submit a Registration Form outlining the key points to be presented by no later than 1:00 p.m. five (5) business days before the date of the applicable meeting for the request to be considered. The written presentation and materials must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. one (1) business day prior to the meeting. Trustees may ask questions of clarification after the presentation in accordance with Board Procedural By-Law 1-01, Article 7. Delegations are reminded that no decision on the issues presented will be made at the meeting. Delegations are allotted five minutes to present.

Meeting name & date: March 4, 2025 Subject: EQAO Awards Policy ^{Going Against}

- I wish to speak ONLY on my own behalf.
 I wish to delegate as a spokesperson for: _____
 I am an employee of the Board and my subject cannot be dealt with under a Board Collective Agreement.

Please provide a brief summary of the subject of the delegation.

Math scores being abismal, Eqao not a fair representation, bringing focus BACK to academics and less on politics, Students confidence and mental health, Awards x high distinction, what happens to those faculty that go against board policy.

The Board does not wish to prevent the expression of honest opinion, however, delegates should refrain from negative, critical or derogatory comments about identifiable persons.

Please read Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board By-Law # 1-01, Article 7 (*see reverse*) pertaining to delegations prior to signing, and returning the registration form to the Board and Committee Information Officer. The Board and Committee Information Officer will contact you to confirm the date and time of your delegation.

Please note that delegations will be only heard during the allotted period for delegations. If it is necessary to cancel the delegation, please do so in writing by email, fax or hand delivered copy at least 24 hours prior to the meeting: Phone 905-890-0708, Ext. 24433, Fax 905-890-8837 or Email cindy.child@dpcdsb.org

Delegation Contact Information: *

Name Diane Borrelli
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

Date: Feb 28, 2025 Signature: [Signature]

* **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** Personal information is collected under the legal authority of the Education Act, RSO 1990, c. E.2 and will be used by the Board and Committee Information Officer for corresponding with delegates. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the Manager, Records Management, Access & Privacy at 890-0708, Ext. 24443.

Faith and Program Committee Meeting
March 4, 2025
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2025
Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust

“Hope does not disappoint.”
Romans 5:5

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) sponsors the provincial-wide initiative Catholic Education Week (CEW). Rather than just a one-week celebration in May, the initiative has grown to encompass the entire school year. Catholic Education Week 2025 is scheduled to take place during the week of May 4-9, where Catholic education is particularly highlighted and celebrated.

DISCUSSION

OCSTA is pleased to celebrate and honour the Jubilee Year which began on Christmas Eve 2024 and continues until January 6, 2026. In keeping with the promotion of Catholic identity in the 29 Catholic school boards across the province, this is a special opportunity for OCSTA to place Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic church at the centre of our Pilgrims of Hope journey.

This year’s theme is: **Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope**
L’éducation Catholique: Pèlerins de l’espérance

The quote for Catholic Education Week is: *“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us.”*
(Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022)

This year, Ontario Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Education as *Pilgrims of Hope*. Hope is foundational to our faith. We find hope in God’s grace and love. This year’s CEW, *Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope* is inspired by the Jubilee Year.

Celebrating Catholic Education is a yearlong journey as we accompany each other on our *Pilgrims of Hope* theme. The CEW Committee has provided school boards with special prayers and resources to support each other in this journey of hope.

This Jubilee Year provides us with the opportunity to serve the common good and recommit ourselves to prayer, service, and evangelization. As Catholic school communities, school boards, and as individuals active in Catholic education, we are invited to journey together during this special year, and to live it with enthusiasm, creativity, and generosity.

The five sub themes for CEW explore ways to live out Pope Francis' call for each one of us to be *Pilgrims of Hope*...

- *by honouring human dignity / honorent la dignité humaine (Monday)*
- *by caring for creation / prennent soin de la création (Tuesday)*
- *by responding to the poverties in our world / luttent contre les pauvretés (Wednesday)*
- *by serving in solidarity / servent en solidarité (Thursday)*
- *by living as peacemakers / vivent en artisans de paix (Friday)*

Information about this year's theme and the inspiration behind *Pilgrims of Hope* was shared across the system as Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) continues to celebrate the good work of Catholic education.

Resources

The First Week of School Kit resources, provided by the OCSTA CEW Committee, included prayers and scripture for both the elementary and secondary panels, CEW logos and graphics, as well as a planning sheet to support schools as they plan upcoming liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations.

The Advance Kit Resource Kit provides staff and students with monthly prayer services and opportunities for reflection beginning in the season of Advent and continuing until Catholic Education Week.

Staff across the system also have access to the [OCSTA Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope](#) monthly bulletins which provide suggestions on ways they can infuse the celebration of the Jubilee Year and the theme of *Pilgrims of Hope* in their classrooms, homes and parish communities. Members of the Dufferin-Peel community also have access to our own unique monthly [DPCDSB Pilgrims of Hope Bulletins](#) which offer further exploration of the Jubilee Year celebrations and associated practices including pilgrimage, charity, reconciliation and indulgence.

The OCSTA CEW Elementary and Secondary Resource Kit will be released in the coming weeks. This kit provides teachers with a variety of resources to celebrate our call to be Pilgrims of Hope including read aloud titles with accompanying lessons and prayerful reflections on contemporary writings.

All CEW resources and educational materials may be found on the OCSTA website, www.goodnewsforall.ca.

Upcoming Events

Dufferin-Peel will host Jubilee Youth Day to celebrate our call to be *Pilgrims of Hope*. The event will bring together staff and students from across the system to celebrate this significant celebration in our Christian faith.

The annual CEW province wide Eucharistic celebration will take place on Wednesday, May 7. Details are forthcoming.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Jubilee Year is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the whole Catholic community to reflect together on the passage of time, and how Jesus continues to accompany and guide us as the years and centuries progress.

Pope Francis reminds us, "*The future has a name, and its name is Hope.*" As we prepare to journey together as *Pilgrims of Hope* across the DPCDSB, may hope fill our days as we continue to celebrate and uplift the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education in our schools, homes and parishes.

Prepared by: Julie Webster, Academic Coordinator, Religious Education and Faith Formation
Carmel Murphy, Superintendent, Program and Learning Services
Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D., Director of Education

Faith and Program Committee Meeting
March 4, 2025
MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS FOR 2024-2025
Multi Year Strategic Plan Values: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, Trust

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”

Proverbs 16:3

BACKGROUND

The 2024–2025 school year is approximately the halfway point of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board’s (DPCDSB) 2023–2027 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). Much progress has been made to support the five MYSP values since its inception in September 2023. This report provides an overview of the 2023-2027 MYSP’s development, operationalization to date through the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC) and local Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycles (CSILCs), and next steps.

DISCUSSION

MYSP (2023-2027) Development

DPCDSB began consultation work on the 2023-2027 MYSP in the fall of 2022. Staff in the Policy, Strategy, Research and Safe Schools Department provided MYSP Committee members (Trustees, Senior Management, representatives from the Principals and Vice Principals Association, other central office staff, and local clergy representatives) with a number of resources and data to support development of the 2023-2027 MYSP. These resources included: an environmental scan of global, national, provincial, and local trends in education and employment; review of CBILC Fact Sheets data supporting goal attainment progress (e.g., faith, academic achievement, equity, mental health, school climate, etc.); preliminary student and staff census findings; and data from other initiatives to support students and families.

Additionally, DPCDSB staff coordinated consultation with the MYSP Committee on updated MYSP logo and branding, as well as planned MYSP community consultation and monitoring as required by the Ministry of Education. The 2023-2027 MYSP retained the same values as its predecessor, based on the sense that Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust continue to form the foundation for Catholic education in DPCDSB. As the operational tool of the MYSP, the CBILC retained these five values. Minimal revisions were made to the CBILC goals, given that they continued to guide meaningful and important work to support each MYSP value.

Progress to Date

Recent Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment data indicated strong achievement in elementary literacy, despite slight declines since 2021-2022. In mathematics, gains occurred in primary math in 2023-2024; however, junior math and Grade 9 math demonstrated a continued decline. In response to the data and recognizing the Ministry of Education’s renewed focus on mathematics and literacy learning, DPCDSB has continued to support schools in both math and literacy.

To date, priority schools receiving dedicated mathematics support have shown promising gains which will be reviewed as the 2024-2025 school year progresses. Principals and teachers have reported an increase in confidence in supporting math programs through the use of various resources that have been developed and provided. The most recent student survey has shown an increase in overall student confidence in math compared to last year.

In compliance with the Ministry expectation to screen all students in year 2 Kindergarten, grade 1 and 2, over 835 staff have been trained to administer Acadience, a reading screener that identifies components of reading that students require proficiency in to be successful readers. Staff are now focusing on addressing gaps in reading skills identified by the screener. Preliminary results indicate that 80% of year 2 kindergarten students are performing at or above benchmark standards. In grade 1, 44% of students perform at or above benchmark and in grade 2, 65% of students are at or above benchmark. These results are informing the instructional practices and supports classroom teachers and program are putting into place to improve student achievement in literacy.

To further support this work among all schools, DPCDSB’s Director of Education has established four academic committees to guide DPCDSB’s curricular focus. These committees are led by Family of Schools Superintendents who work collaboratively with school administrators and include, as appropriate to school grade configuration: Primary Literacy Committee; Junior Mathematics Committee; Grade 9 Mathematics Committee; and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Committee (focusing on students who were not yet successful on the OSSLT).

In addition, the Director of Education has supported the development of Administrator Well-Being committees in each of the Families of Schools, in recognition of how school administrators continue to face increasing complex local challenges while navigating the intricacies of curriculum implementation. These committees work alongside DPCDSB’s ongoing support of local school priorities in terms of faith formation, equity and Indigenous education, and student mental health and well-being.

Looking Ahead - Spring 2025

DPCDSB staff in the Policy, Strategy, Research and Safe Schools Department are focusing on monitoring MYSP system progress and the co-ordination and publication of the 2025-2026 CBILC, Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism, and Student Achievement Plan (SAP) required by the Ministry of Education. Progress monitoring of the CBILC goals in each MYSP value involves collection of a variety of data based on student and staff feedback tools. In addition to standardized and local achievement data, upcoming student and staff surveys anticipated for this spring are listed in the table below. Data from these tools, as well as from other sources, will serve to populate the annual [CBILC Fact Sheets](#) that DPCDSB publishes on its public website.

Table 1: Surveys and Feedback Tools for Spring 2025

Data Collection Tool	MYSP Value(s) Supported	Notes
SO Monitoring Tool	All	Family of Schools Superintendents (SOs) use a common template for school visits to support learning, achievement, and well-being locally.
Catholic Community, Culture, and Caring	Respect, Thrive	The Education Act requires school boards to administer, at least once every two years, to students, parents and guardians, and staff an anonymous survey of school

(CCCC) School Climate Survey		climate. The CCCC School Climate Survey satisfies this requirement.
Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) Survey	Believe, Excel	The OCSGE Survey assesses student application of scripture, sacrament, and Catholic social teaching to daily life among students in Grades 8 and 12. This survey also contains the Ministry of Education Grades 8 and 12 Exit Surveys.
Mathematics and Literacy Attitudes and Practices Survey	Excel	The Mathematics and Literacy Attitudes and Practices Survey assesses student attitudes and approaches to learning in math and literacy in Grades 4 through 12.
Catholic Digital Citizenship Survey	Thrive	The Catholic Digital Citizenship Survey assesses student presence and communication, health protection, critical thinking and literacy, and avoidance of negative online behaviours in Grades 5, 7, and 10.

The CBILC goals, action steps, and data sources have remained stable since the previous MYSP, largely to ensure continuity. In the spring of 2025, in addition to progress monitoring for 2024-2025, DPCDSB staff will be undertaking a comprehensive review of the CBILC for 2025-2026. To ensure continued relevance, DPCDSB staff in the Policy, Strategy, Research and Safe Schools Department will consult with other departments and multiple stakeholders (i.e., CCCSC, SEAC, BCAC, IEC, Student Voice) to review the current CBILC goals and their underlying action steps, as well as how best these can be monitored for 2025-2026.

CONCLUSION

The 2024-2025 school year represents the approximate mid-point of the 2023-2027 MYSP. The values of the 2019-2023 MYSP have been maintained in the 2023-2027 MYSP for their resonance with DPCDSB’s aspirations for Catholic education. This school year has seen increased focus on and support for mathematics and primary literacy, as well as ongoing prioritization of faith formation, equity and Indigenous education, and student mental health and well-being. Looking ahead to the latter half of 2024-2025, DPCDSB staff are planning to review and update the CBILC goals, action steps, and data sources to support progress monitoring.

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Faith and Program Committee Meeting
March 4, 2025
<i>MOUNT PLEASANT #2 CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY – NAMING OF SCHOOL</i>
Multi-Year Strategic Plan Values: Believe, Respect, Trust

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
Matthew 18:20*

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board’s (DPCDSB) policy *P-8003 Naming of Schools, New and Amalgamated*, DPCDSB is required to select at least two names for the future Mount Pleasant #2 Catholic Elementary School. The anticipated opening date of the school is September 2025.

DISCUSSION

DPCDSB staff have adhered to Policy P-8003 regarding the naming of schools, which requires consultation with the Catholic community, the Catholic School Council, the local pastor, and the area Trustee. To fulfill this requirement, staff engaged the Mount Pleasant #2 community through an online survey. Additionally, they sought name suggestions from the local pastor and the Catholic School Council at St. Daniel Comboni CES, which serves the Mount Pleasant #2 community.

Policy P-8003 requires that at least two names be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval and submission to the Archdiocese of Toronto. Note that two names are presented for consideration, in alphabetical order:

*St. Joseph Vaz
St. Ruth*

Appendices 1 – 2 provide a brief biography of each of the proposed names.

CONCLUSION

DPCDSB plans to open the future Mount Pleasant #2 Catholic Elementary School in September 2025. Local parish and community consultation has yielded two potential school names, St. Joseph Vaz and St. Ruth, for consideration by Trustees and the Archdiocese of Toronto.

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION IS PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION:

1) THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO THE NAMES ST. JOSEPH VAZ AND ST. RUTH AS OPTIONS FOR THE NAMING OF MOUNT PLEASANT #2 CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

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APPENDIX 1: BIOGRAPHY OF ST. JOSEPH VAZ

Father Joseph Vaz was born on April 21, 1651, in India. When he grew up, his father sent him to a school at Benaulim to learn Latin as a preparation for his priestly studies. Joseph Vaz made such rapid progress in his studies that his father decided to send him to the city of Goa, to the Jesuit College of Saint Paul. After completing his studies with the Jesuits, Joseph Vaz entered the Academy of Saint Thomas Aquinas for his philosophical and theological studies. In 1676 he was ordained a priest.

Saint Joseph Vaz worked for religious freedom in Sri Lanka at the risk of his life and gained the protection of the Buddhist King of Kandy because of his deep dedication to people in need. He nursed and aided the abandoned victims of smallpox in Kandy, established a network of underground schools, chapels, and health clinics throughout the large island. In addition to his Oratory in Goa, he left 17 major Catholic Churches, 400 chapels, and 70,000 openly professing their Catholic faith. He translated into Singalese and Tamil, the local languages, various prayers and a catechism, thereby equipping them to withstand 150 years of persecution by Dutch colonial rulers. He totally engaged himself in deep meditation and prayer while also working to solve the real-life problems and difficult circumstances of the people. He is a saint who communed with Nature and wild elephants.

Saint Joseph Vaz served all the people, not just Catholics. His ancestors were Hindu and he kept his Indian heritage, language, and culture. His lifestyle was that of a true Indian Sannyasi. He studied with the Buddhist monks of Sri Lanka and taught Meditation to children. He won the lifelong love and protection of the Buddhist King of Kandy from Dutch colonial forces who persecuted Sri Lankan Catholics for political reasons. At one point of his life, he was rescued by the Muslim physician of the King. During a serious drought in his kingdom in 1694, the King, Vimaladharmasuriya, asked Buddhist monks to pray for rain but no rain came. Then he turned to Father Joseph Vaz and asked him to pray for rain. The saintly priest prayed and rain fell in abundance. This won him the admiration and respect of the Buddhist King who protected him and granted him freedom to preach.

In Kandy, Saint Joseph Vaz died of a fever before the age of sixty, on the 17th of January, 1711. During his last breath, he held a candle in his hand as was the custom. His eyes were fixed on the crucifix, and with his last breath, he uttered the one word, the one name, that had guided his entire life: Jesus. Joseph Vaz was beatified on the 21st of January, 1995 by Pope (now Saint) John Paul II in Colombo, Sri Lanka and canonized by Pope Francis on the 14th of January 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. His Feast day is January 16.

APPENDIX 2: BIOGRAPHY OF ST. RUTH

Ruth from the Old Testament is considered a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, even though she was venerated as a saint before the formal process existed in the Church. Ruth's status as a saint predates the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and she remains widely respected and admired for her faith and devotion to God. While Ruth's sainthood is more of a liturgical and moral recognition rather than a formal canonization, she is honored for her virtuous actions and faithfulness to God.

Ruth is venerated as a righteous and faithful figure, especially noted for her loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and her willingness to adopt the faith and people of Israel. In the Roman Catholic Church, she is often celebrated as a symbol of faith, love, and devotion. Her story is found in the 'Book of Ruth' in the Old Testament.

Ruth was a Moabite woman who committed herself to the Israelite people by an oath to her mother-in-law Naomi and became the great-grandmother of David by marriage to Boaz of Bethlehem. Thus, she is an ancestor in the messianic line that leads to Jesus (Mt 1:5). Despite her pagan origins, she demonstrated a remarkable willingness to forsake her previous life for a new beginning among God's chosen people. Ruth is often symbolically represented as a woman gleaning a well-harvested field of grain, symbolizing her humility, hard work, and reliance on God's provision.