

AUDIENCE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DPCDSB BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 2025

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) strives to ensure a safe and respectful environment for students, parents/guardians, trustees, staff, media and community members in attendance at public board and committee meetings.

In alignment with this goal, the following Audience Code of Conduct has been developed to promote and honour public attendance for observance purposes, while allowing the Board of Trustees to conduct its business in a safe and respectful environment. The Audience Code of Conduct for Public Meetings will be enforced by security officers, board personnel and police (if required).

Adhering to the Audience Code of Conduct ensures that school board meetings remain focused, respectful, and conducive to productive discussions about matters important to our educational community.

- i. **RIGHT TO SEARCH:** Security staff is authorized to exercise discretion to request the inspection of any bag, briefcase, backpack, purse, or any other item brought onto DPCDSB property to ensure a safe environment.
- ii. **AUDIENCE'S ROLE:** The audience's role is to observe the proceedings. Refrain from engaging in conversations that may distract from the meeting.
- iii. **DESIGNATED AUDIENCE AREA:** Audience members must remain in the designated audience area. Do not encroach upon or enter the boardroom meeting space.
- iv. **NO SIGNAGE:** Placards, banners, posters or any form of signage are prohibited. Anyone with such articles will be asked to remove them from the premises.
- v. **NO PERSONAL RECORDING DEVICES:** Meetings are livestreamed through the DPCDSB's YouTube channel and are recorded by the DPCDSB for purposes of the livestream and for security purposes. Those in attendance at meetings are prohibited from using their own recording devices.
- vi. **EXPECTATIONS OF AUDIENCE:** Audience members are expected to maintain a demeanor of respect towards all individuals present, including board members, staff, and fellow audience members. Threats, intimidating language and/or behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in criminal charges. Refrain from disruptive behavior, including applause or comments during discussions as well as heckling, booing, or any behavior that may create a hostile or disruptive environment. Disruptions of the meeting will not be tolerated and may result in a request to leave the meeting, a recess of meeting proceedings or transition to online observance only.

Violations of this Code of Conduct will not be tolerated and may result in a person being directed to leave, restricting/prohibiting attendance at future meetings and/or all DPCDSB properties, or being subject to criminal charges depending on the nature of the conduct.