

## **MINUTES**

### **Organizational Meeting of the Board**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Call**

**A. Call to Order by the Secretary of the Board - Director Mazzorato**

At 7:00 p.m. the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Marianne Mazzorato, called the meeting to order. Director Mazzorato welcomed all in attendance to the Organizational Board Meeting.

**B. Acknowledgement of First Nation Sacred Territory - Director Mazzorato**

Director Mazzorato acknowledged the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

**C. National Anthem**

**D. Opening Prayer**

Director Mazzorato led the opening prayer.

**E. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - Nil**

**F. Approval of the Agenda - Director Mazzorato**

**Motion 288 (20-12-01)**

**Moved By** Thomas Thomas

**Seconded By** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

**G. Director's Address to the Board - Director Mazzorato**

Members of the Board of Trustees, staff, and guests. Similar to the chair's address to the board at the November board meeting, it is a Dufferin-Peel tradition that the Director address the board at its annual Organizational Meeting.

We are now in the first week of Advent where we, as a community of believers, anticipate the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Christ, is the heart of Christian faith, and shapes the heart of the Catholic education we in this Board provide to students entrusted in our care.

Advent encourages us to reflect on the contrast between our daily routine and the unexpected coming of the Lord.

Pope Francis invites us to reflect on the Gospel that encourages us “to open our horizons” to further dimensions, giving meaning even to everyday occurrences.

During this time of waiting, our Holy Father invites us to reflect and be mindful that, “we are called to enlarge the horizons of our hearts, to be surprised by the life that is presented each day with its newness.”

Next week, I will be delivering the Director’s Annual Report to the Community which will outline how we collectively strived to meet the goals of the Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). This school year represented the first year of the board of trustees’ new MYSP 2019-2023. And the formal release of the revised mission and new vision for DPCDSB: “Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life” and “Changing the world through Catholic education.”

The 2019-2020 school year has been extraordinary. It has been a year defined by the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in unprecedented upheaval, not just within our schools and school system, but in every aspect of our lives. Throughout the year, we continued to adjust and adapt to the changing landscape and, while our root goals and mission did not change, the impact on how we worked to achieve these goals was significant.

While there is so much work that has been done this past year, I do want to take a moment to address our ongoing work in equity and inclusion. As a Catholic institution, faith is the cornerstone and foundation of the work of the DPCDSB, and equity and inclusion are the cornerstone of our Catholic faith. One cannot exist without the other. The dignity of the person is a fundamental principle in both the Catholic faith and Human Rights. As such, we in Catholic Education are in the unique position of being able to uphold and center equity from both a legal and moral call to action. To identify, address and eliminate barriers we understand that this work needs to take place at all levels of the organization. DPCDSB has made a commitment to ensure that all stakeholders contribute and participate in this equity journey. Our commitment to equity and inclusive education remains steadfast. The work ensures that each person’s dignity regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, orientation etc. is never affronted. When we create those conditions, we have environments where all staff and students can work, learn, achieve, and thrive.

It has been said that life can only be understood fully in reverse but must be lived going forwards. We make decisions and take actions based on the information we know at a given point in time and on the best assumptions available at the time.

And so, it is that during this global pandemic, it has not been business as usual.

From the sudden pivot last March to working remotely to the return to school in September to today where we are trying to keep our education system running in the middle of one of the most heavily impacted COVID-19 hot spots in the country, our resolve, our resilience, our morale has been challenged.

From an operational perspective and, more importantly, from a human perspective, there are days when we feel we have reached a precarious precipice and the weariness brought on by the pandemic seems etched permanently on our faces. And yet amid crisis, stress, and immense pressure, we see examples of resilience and are inspired daily by the human spirit of our Dufferin-Peel community. The Catholic Education Week theme of *Igniting Hope* could not have

been more profound during these unprecedented times. We see examples of creative and responsive teaching, flexibility, and adaptability on the part of educators and students alike.

In this regard, I must take a moment to commend the incredible efforts of DPCDSB educators, administrators, managers, trustees, and support staff. We know that you are doing your best and we are ever so grateful for your continued commitment to bringing a sense of calm and hope to the students in our care.

Despite the challenges, there must also be optimism. As a faith community, we must always rely on our Lord to sustain us in the face of uncertainty.

We hope and pray that things will improve, and they will. The book of Hebrews tells us that, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Together, we will get through this.

As we continue our Advent journey towards Christmas, I want to take a moment to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Board of Trustees for your support and leadership. Despite the challenges you faced this past year, your commitment to strong governance and parent engagement and representation remained resolute. It continues to be a privilege and pleasure to work to achieve the goals you have for this Board.

I truly believe we are one of the leading school boards in this province and this is in no small part due to the dedication, commitment, passion and sense of duty that you bring to the table, both individually and collectively. You each may have your individual interests and that is because you each represent different strands of our community. Yet, you also represent the community in its entirety and you have demonstrated, time and time again, often in difficult circumstances, that it is the board as a collective that makes decisions and that you, as individual trustees have the courage and strength to stand behind those decisions. This collective approach is fundamental to the concept of a Catholic community.

To His Eminence, Cardinal Collins, His Excellency Bishop Boissonneau, our parish priests, and Monsignor Shiels – thank you for your spiritual and moral guidance.

To my colleagues on Executive Council, Associate Director of Instructional Services, David Amaral, Associate Director of Corporate Services, Daniel Del Bianco and Executive Superintendent of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Julie Cherepacha for your support and leadership, our senior management team, school and board administrators, faculty and support staff. Thank you for your exceptional leadership.

To our support staff, who hold a variety of roles throughout this board, who go about their work to ensure our facilities are safe and clean, contribute to our children's education and well-being, and procure the human and learning resources for our educators. Each and every member of the Dufferin-Peel team who work so hard each day to make sure our students receive the best Catholic education we can provide. Thank you.

I would also acknowledge and thank our local Unions, Associations, and provincial associations for the work they do to advocate for those they represent. Our community partners and our public health partners. Last but not least, I thank our parents and guardians for entrusting your children to us each day and for your patience and sticking with us during this time of great uncertainty.

It is my honour and privilege to work with you.

I feel blessed and comforted knowing that whatever challenges we will face in the days, weeks, and months to come, we will respond for the common good, grounded in our faith, to meet those challenges.

Thank you and may God bless you.

**Motion 289 (20-12-01)**

**Moved By** Luz del Rosario

**Seconded By** Shawn Xaviour

**THAT THE DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**H. Election of the Chair of the Board in Accordance with the By-Law - Director Mazzorato**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Associate Director of Instructional Services, David Amaral, Associate Director of Corporate Services, Daniel Del Bianco and Executive Superintendent of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Julie Cherepacha were appointed scrutineers.

Nominations for the Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board of Trustees were opened by the Secretary of the Board, Director Mazzorato.

Trustee Sharon Hobin was nominated by Trustee Bruno Iannicca. Trustee Sharon Hobin accepted the nomination.

Trustee Mario Pascucci was nominated by Trustee Darryl D'Souza. Trustee Mario Pascucci accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Secretary of the Board, Director Mazzorato, requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

**Motion 290 (20-12-01)**

**Moved by** Anna da Silva

**Seconded by** Shawn Xaviour

**MOTION TO DESTROY THE POLLING.**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Sharon Hobin was elected and assumed the Chair to conduct the remainder of the proceedings.

Chair Sharon Hobin thanked Trustee Mario Pascucci for putting his name forward for chair. This is a board that believes strongly in leadership and that each of our trustees should have an opportunity to be Chair of this board.

**I. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Board**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Chair Sharon Hobin called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board of Trustees.

Trustee Luz del Rosario was nominated by Trustee Darryl D'Souza. Trustee Luz del Rosario accepted the nomination.

Trustee Brea Corbet was nominated by Trustee Stefano Pascucci. Trustee Brea Corbet accepted the nomination.

Trustee Thomas Thomas was nominated by Trustee Shawn Xaviour. Trustee Thomas Thomas accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair of the Board, Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

**Motion 291 (20-12-01)**

**Moved by Bruno Iannicca**

**Seconded by Stefano Pascucci**

**MOTION TO DESTROY THE POLLING.**

**CARRIED**

The voting was conducted with all three nominees. The result was not a clear majority as required by procedural by-law. The nominee with the lowest number of votes was eliminated.

A second vote was taken with nominees Trustee Luz del Rosario and Trustee Thomas Thomas. The second round of voting resulted in the election of Trustee Luz del Rosario as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Vice-Chair Luz del Rosario thanked Trustee Darryl D'Souza for his nomination.

**J. Remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Board, Luz del Rosario**

Thank you madame Chair. Thank you, my fellow trustees, and colleagues, for the opportunity to work with you and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. I will continue to work hard alongside our Chair Sharon Hobin and the Board of Trustees to advocate and conduct our duties. It has been a very hard year for all of us. I will work with all of you to support all the plans we have been working on and to support our school community.

*Chair Sharon Hobin passed the chair to Vice-Chair Luz del Rosario.*

**K. Remarks from the Chair of the Board, Sharon Hobin**

Thank you to all of you for placing your trust in me as Chair of the DPCDSB for 2020-2021. This is a smart, caring Board of Trustees who do face a lot of challenges and opportunities. Using the experience of the past, research, knowledge, and faith and that we are supported by a very talented and caring staff. We care about the whole child and care about their physical, mental, and spiritual education. We do not waiver and are always placing our students in the centre of our existence. We move forward knowing that we are facing tremendous challenges and opportunities but also knowing that we are supported by our faith. I welcome Trustee Luz del Rosario as Vice-Chair and I wish you congratulations. I ask God to bless all of us as we enter the Advent Season eager to welcome our Lord at Christmas. A friend sent us, all board members, an email today, a beautiful message from Pope Francis about speaking to the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, and it was shared that the Pope spoke about the act of *hope*. Pope Francis said the goal of this educational announcement grounded in the network of human and open relationships is to ensure everyone has access to a quality education constant with the dignity of the human person and our common vocation to fraternity. It is time to look to the future with courage and hope bringing the sustained conviction that education bears within itself a seed of hope. The hope of peace and justice, the hope of beauty and goodness, the hope of social harmony. Once again thank you very much for your support. I promise to work hard and respect all your decisions as we move forward. Thank you.

*Chair Sharon Hobin resumed the Chair.*

**L. Election of the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee - Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Darryl D'Souza was nominated by Trustee Shawn Xaviour. Trustee Darryl D'Souza accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Darryl D'Souza was acclaimed the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

**M. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee - Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Stefano Pascucci was nominated by Trustee Darryl D'Souza. Trustee Stefano Pascucci accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Stefano Pascucci was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

Trustee Stefano Pascucci thanked Trustee Darryl D'Souza for his nomination.

**N. Election of the Chair of the Faith and Program Committee – Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Chair of the Faith and Program Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Shawn Xaviour was nominated by Trustee Stefano Pascucci. Trustee Shawn Xaviour accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Shawn Xaviour was acclaimed the Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

**O. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee – Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Anna da Silva was nominated by Trustee Darryl D'Souza. Trustee Anna da Silva accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Anna da Silva was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

**P. Election of the Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Committee – Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Brea Corbet was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Brea Corbet accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Brea Corbet was acclaimed the Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Committee.

**Q. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Committee – Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board’s Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Frank Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee Darryl D'Souza. Trustee Frank Di Cosola accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Frank Di Cosola was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Committee.

Trustee Frank Di Cosola thanked Trustee Darryl D'Souza for the nomination.

**R. Election of the Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee - Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board’s Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca was nominated by Trustee Thomas Thomas. Trustee Bruno Iannicca accepted the nomination.

Trustee Anna da Silva was nominated by Trustee Brea Corbet. Trustee Anna da Silva declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Bruno Iannicca was acclaimed the Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee.

**S. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee - Chair Sharon Hobin**

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board’s Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee were opened by Chair Sharon Hobin.

Trustee Mario Pascucci was nominated by Trustee Thomas Thomas. Trustee Mario Pascucci accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair Sharon Hobin requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

Trustee Mario Pascucci was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee.

Trustee Mario Pascucci thanked Chair Sharon Hobin and Trustee Thomas Thomas for his nomination.



**T. Closing Remarks from the Chair of the Board**

Chair of the Board, Sharon Hobin commented on the tough year ahead and shared that she looks forward to working with all trustees and staff, and that together we are a great team. Director Mazzorato has been such a stalwart in helping us get through these tough times. Chair Sharon Hobin congratulated all nominations and the chairs, and vice chairs of committees. We will move forward as a team as we always have.

**U. Adjournment**

**Motion 292 (20-12-01)**

**Moved By** Shawn Xaviour

**Seconded By** Luz del Rosario

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:12 P.M.**

**CARRIED**