

MINUTES

Organizational Meeting of the Board

**Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 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 Meeting of the Board.

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

The Director acknowledged and thanked Martina Ortiz-Luis, Kibwe Thomas and Sole Power Productions for permission to use their recorded version of the national anthem.

D. Opening Prayer and Remarks - His Excellency Bishop Ivan Camilleri

Director Mazzorato introduced His Excellency Bishop Ivan Camilleri who led us in the Opening Prayer followed by his remarks.

Bishop Camilleri recognized the hard work by Doctor Mazzorato, staff, and the Board of Trustees and acknowledged the hard work necessary to lead Catholic Education. His Excellency spoke of the act of accompaniment - to accompany all those in our care in their faith journey.

Director Mazzorato thanked Bishop Camilleri for addressing the Board of Trustees, the public and the assembly. I have been privileged to have the benefit of your wise and gentle accompaniment, and in receiving this guidance, you have broadly affected our Dufferin-Peel Catholic community.

E. Approval of the Agenda - Director Mazzorato

Motion 595 (21-12-07)

Moved By Thomas Thomas

Seconded By Anna da Silva

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

F. 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, and I am pleased to provide some brief remarks this evening.

We are now in the second week of Advent, a season where we, as a community of believers, anticipate the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 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, Pope Francis 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."

The Director's address has traditionally been an account of the many great things that the DPCDSB has accomplished over the past year, as well as significant events and activities. Regrettably, so many of our events and activities had to be cancelled or significantly modified due to the necessary restrictions imposed by the global pandemic.

Next week, I will be delivering the *Director's Annual Report* to the Community which will outline how we, as a school board, have strived to meet the goals of the Board of Trustees Multi-Year Strategic Plan, of which we are at the half-way point of implementing. This evening, however, I would like to highlight a few points from that report in advance as they will give you a better idea of the degree of work we were able to accomplish despite the pandemic conditions we operated within.

Our vocation as members of the Catholic community calls all individuals in the system to contribute to an environment that supports a responsive, equitable, inclusive, and caring culture of learning. This includes a specific focus on dismantling the impacts of colonialism, white supremacy, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, able-ism, and other oppressions. The DPCDSB is authentically and deliberately committed to addressing and dismantling all forms of oppression that impact students and staff. Our work is designed to identify and eliminate systemic biases and barriers that may impact students' well-being, learning, and achievement.

As a Catholic school board, DPCDSB seeks to uphold the human dignity of all and is committed to ensuring that students feel engaged and included in every aspect of school life. An intentional focus on dismantling anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, and other forms of oppression experienced by equity seeking groups has been one of our top priorities. We have a duty to fulfill our vocational call as Catholics by ensuring that all are welcomed, included, and valued. A detailed look at this work is outlined in my annual report which I will present at the Regular Board Meeting on December 14.

In May, DPCDSB staff and students celebrated Catholic Education Week, again in a virtual environment. With the closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DPCDSB asked staff, students, parents/guardians and alumni to share what they love about their Catholic school and how they nurture hope in their communities through posts, pictures, and videos as part of a Catholic Education Week social media campaign #DPCDSB_NurturingHope. This produced

incredible examples that were widely shared, again shining a positive light on our students and staff. The theme of *Nurturing Hope* could not have been more profound during these unprecedented times.

Planning and development of our 2020-2021 budget was reflective of the unique situation that the pandemic brought upon the education sector. Significant new pressures were placed on school boards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), bus transportation changes, reliance on technology, enhanced cleaning, and physical distancing requirements as well as the mental health and wellness of students and staff. Operational changes were rapidly enacted throughout the year to ensure continuity of student learning and business processes.

Enrolment levels across the province were also impacted by COVID. DPCDSB enrolment decreased by over 1,700 students compared to original 2020-2021 projections. This decrease had a significant impact on the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), however stabilization funding from the Ministry mitigated the financial impact of this unexpected drop in enrolment and ensured ongoing supports and programming for students.

In-year costs related to the Long-Term Disability (LTD) plan at DPCDSB increased exponentially and are forecasted to remain at these higher levels going forward. As a result, DPCDSB ended the fiscal 2020-2021 year in a deficit position. Many virtual and online opportunities were offered to ensure stakeholder input was a vital part of the development process.

A few short months ago, at the August Regular Board meeting, the Board of Trustees was presented with a compliant 2020-2021 Operating and Capital budget of just over \$1.0 billion.

Over the past year, we continued to evaluate enhanced and innovative technology solutions to support students and administrative staff in the delivery of education. This included the distribution, retrieval and inventory management of devices deployed to students and staff for both online and in-person learning. A new digital solution is in the process of being deployed to schools to support timely management of computer assets using the Integrated Library System (ILS). As well, computing devices with internet capability were purchased to support students that do not have access to the internet at home. Additionally, iMacs, Windows Desktops, Windows Laptops, Chromebooks, iPads, new Special Equipment Amount (SEA) were prepared and deployed to schools.

Our ICT staff has been working with industry specialists to improve the cyber-security practices within the school board. User Awareness Training for staff was completed in the summer of 2021. A series of additional strategies are currently being reviewed internally and will be rolled out in phases. We also participated in the Ministry's Broadband Modernization project designed to increase broadband services at schools. This project scheduled to be completed in December 2021, will enable student access to fair and equitable internet resources across the board.

We continue to plan towards implementing a new Student Information System (SIS) that facilitates student information flow and management. The new system allows a single view of student data and performance and is scheduled to go live in August 2022. Work began on the upgrade of our entire Wi-Fi infrastructure in elementary and secondary schools in 2020. The upgrade will facilitate Wi-Fi speed requirements to enable the proper virtual/hybrid learning experience for staff and students. This project is scheduled to be completed in December 2021.

Additionally, over the past year, remote learning and COVID-19 related school closures have highlighted the importance of technology to support student learning. In this regard, we have worked to provide students with the necessary resources to support their remote learning needs. To further support our student community, we worked with our vendor of record, to be able to receive exclusive academic discount pricing for computing devices with 3-year warranty and free shipping. As a result, parents, students, and staff have the opportunity to purchase computer devices for their personal home use at competitive pricing.

During the 2020-21 school year, we were also able to undertake several important school infrastructure projects that resulted in new and improved school spaces, as well as new childcare spaces in various schools.

These include the completion of a two-story, 17-classroom addition to Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary School (CES), and the completion of renovations to Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School (CSS) and St. Albert of Jerusalem CES for the construction of new childcare spaces.

Furthermore, renovations at St. Edith Stein CES began for the creation of new childcare spaces, and planning was started for the restoration and renovation of St. Leonard CES following a fire at that school in May 2020.

In addition to regular school renewal and maintenance programs undertaken at over 100 DPCDSB schools to keep them in a state of good repair, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario allocated special funding to DPCDSB towards various school infrastructure improvements to respond to challenges associated with COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) program resulted in DPCDSB receiving over \$24 million to fund almost 500 projects across many schools including ventilation and air quality improvements, the installation of air conditioning in schools with no or minimal air conditioning, the replacement of portables, new ICT network infrastructure technology, new water bottle filling stations and new handwash stations.

We also received \$3.4 million in special ventilation and air quality improvement funding from the Ministry of Education for the 2020-21 school year. This funding resulted in the upgrading of air filters in ventilation systems and an increase in the frequency in which filters are replaced to ensure maximum airflow in all schools. Furthermore, this funding resulted in the acquisition of over 1,800 portable HEPA filter units to clean the air in classrooms across many schools.

As I said, this amazing work across the system is captured in my Annual Report but I wanted to provide some insight this evening. And now, I want to take a moment to commend the efforts of our DPCDSB educators, administrators and support staff. Your incredible resiliency, dedication and commitment to this board and to Catholic education is so very much appreciated.

I would also express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Board of Trustees for your support and leadership. 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.

I would also take the opportunity to thank my colleagues on Executive Council: Associate Director of Instructional Services, David Amaral, Associate Director of Corporate, Daniel Del Bianco and Executive Superintendent of Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Julie Cherepacha for your support and leadership, our senior management team, Superintendents, General Managers school and board administrators, faculty and support staff, each and every member of the Dufferin-Peel team who work so hard each day to ensure our students receive the best Catholic education we can provide.

I would also acknowledge and thank our Unions and Associations for the work they do, our parish priests, Bishop Camilleri and Cardinal Collins for their spiritual and moral guidance and last, but not least, I thank our parents and guardians for entrusting your children to us each day. It is my honour and privilege to work with you.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

Motion 596 (21-12-07)

Moved By Thomas Thomas

Seconded By Mario Pascucci

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

CARRIED

G. 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.

The Director asked if there were any questions for the nominees. There being none, the Board of Trustees were moved into a private meeting room to vote by secret ballot.

The trustees returned to the assembly.

Director Mazzorato announced that Trustee Sharon Hobin has been elected the Chair of the Board.

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

Motion 597 (21-12-07)

Moved By Bruno Iannicca

Seconded By Anna da Silva

MOTION TO DESTROY THE POLLING.

CARRIED

H. 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 Thomas Thomas was nominated by Trustee Mario Pascucci. Trustee Thomas Thomas declined the nomination.

Trustee Luz del Rosario was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Luz del Rosario 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.

Trustee Luz del Rosario was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Board.

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

Vice-Chair Luz del Rosario thanked Trustee Anna da Silva for the nomination. She expressed gratitude to be able to work in strong collaboration and partnership with Chair Sharon Hobin in the coming year. This position demands attention to detail, attending and communicating information from meetings, and leading effective discussions in the absence of the chair – all of which I feel I have done well this year. Thank you to our Executive Council, Superintendents and staff for your support of the Board of Trustees, together we ensure that Dufferin-Peel is the best it can be for our students and their families. I look forward to the year ahead. Thank you for your support and confidence. God bless.

J. Remarks from the Chair of the Board, Sharon Hobin

Chair Sharon Hobin deferred her comments to the Closing Remarks.

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

Trustee Darryl D'Souza was nominated by Trustee Thomas Thomas. Trustee Darryl D'Souza declined the nomination.

Trustee Mario Pascucci was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Mario Pascucci 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 Stefano Pascucci was acclaimed the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

L. 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 Mario Pascucci was nominated by Trustee Bruno Iannicca. 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 Administration and Finance Committee.

M. 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 Frank Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Frank Di Cosola declined the nomination.

Trustee Shawn Xaviour was nominated by Trustee Frank Di Cosola. Trustee Shawn Xaviour accepted the nomination.

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

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

The Director advised that all trustees would be moved into a private meeting room to vote by secret ballot.

The trustees returned to the assembly.

Director Mazzorato announced that Trustee Shawn Xaviour has been elected the Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

N. 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 Darryl D’Souza was nominated by Trustee Stefano Pascucci. 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 Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

O. 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 Anna da Silva was nominated by Trustee Bruno Iannicca. Trustee Anna da Silva declined the nomination.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Bruno Iannicca declined the nomination.

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.

P. 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 Thomas Thomas was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Thomas Thomas 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 Thomas Thomas was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee.

Q. 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 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.

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

The Director advised that all trustees would be moved into a private meeting room to vote by secret ballot.

The trustees returned to the assembly.

Director Mazzorato announced that Trustee Bruno Iannicca has been elected the Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee.

R. Election of the Vice-Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee - Chair

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 Anna da Silva was nominated by Trustee Luz del Rosario. Trustee Anna da Silva declined the nomination.

Trustee Luz del Rosario was nominated by Trustee Anna da Silva. Trustee Luz del Rosario accepted the nomination.

Trustee Frank Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee Thomas Thomas. Trustee Frank Di Cosola 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 Luz del Rosario was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee.

S. Closing Remarks from the Chair of the Board, Sharon Hobin

Chair of the Board, Sharon Hobin congratulated all Chairs and Vice-Chairs who accepted and were elected or acclaimed this evening. Thank you to His Excellency Bishop Ivan Camilleri for joining us this evening,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Director, Marianne Mazzorato, our Associate Directors David Amaral and Daniel Del Bianco, and Executive Superintendent Cherepacha. Thank you to each of our Administrative Assistants for the work you do every day. Thanks, as well to our Superintendents who work hard on behalf of our schools and communities as well as the work they do with committees. Most importantly, thank you to our students and parents/guardians who attended this evening - you are the foundation of DPCDSB and the reason we are here and why we work hard every day for Catholic Education.

To my fellow trustees, thank you for your confidence in me. DPCDSB has a long history of defending Catholic education. We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, While we represent our ratepayers and our students, we keep in mind our bible teachings, Jesus, and our faith in Catholic Education as a whole. Thank you very much. God Bless.

T. Adjournment

Motion 598 (21-12-07)

Moved By Stefano Pascucci

Seconded By Mario Pascucci

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M.

CARRIED