

## MINUTES

### Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Trustees:	Sharon Hobin	Chair
	Thomas Thomas	Vice Chair
	Brea Corbet	Trustee
	Anna da Silva	Trustee
	Darryl D'Souza	Trustee
	Luz del Rosario	Trustee
	Frank Di Cosola	Trustee
	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee
	Mario Pascucci	Trustee
	Stefano Pascucci	Trustee
	Shawn Xaviour	Trustee
	Heather Fernandes	Student Trustee
	Alejandro Garcia Polo	Student Trustee
Staff:	Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.	Director of Education, Secretary to the Board
	David Amaral	Associate Director, Instructional Services
	Daniel Del Bianco	Associate Director, Corporate Services
	Julie Cherepacha	Executive Superintendent, Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
	Wayne Brunton	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Deborah Finegan-Downey	Superintendent Special Education and Learning Services
	Silvana Gos	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Brian Hester	Superintendent, Financial Services
	Jodi Kuran	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Martine Lewis	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Cairine MacDonald	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Tammy-Lynne Peel	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Les Storey	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Stephanie Strong	Superintendent, Human Resources and Employee Relations
	Mathew Thomas	Superintendent, Planning and Operations
	Max Vecchiarino	Superintendent, Policy, Strategy and Global Learning
	Margaret Beck	Counsel
	Richard Smith	Chief Information Officer
	Bruce Campbell	General Manager, Communications and Community Relations
	Theresa Davis	General Manager, Human Resources
	Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education
	Richard Moriah	General Manager, Physical Plant Facilities
Recorder:	Cindy Child	Board and Committee Information Officer

**A. Routine Matters**

1. Call to Order and Attendance  
Chair Sharon Hobin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory  
Chair Sharon Hobin acknowledged the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
3. National Anthem
4. Opening Prayer  
Chair Sharon Hobin led the Opening Prayer.
5. Approval of Agenda  
Distributed H 1 supporting documents

**Motion 266 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Mario Pascucci

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ADDITION OF IN CAMERA ITEM M 4 VERBAL REPORT, PERSONNEL MATTER.**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 267 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Darryl D'Souza

**Seconded by** Luz del Rosario

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED, AS AMENDED.**

**CARRIED**

- a. Approval of Calendar Items - Nil
6. Declaration of Interest - Nil
7. Approval of Minutes, Regular Board Meeting, October 27, 2020

**Motion 268 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Stefano Pascucci

**Seconded by** Thomas Thomas

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, OCTOBER 27, 2020, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

- a. Business Arising from the Minutes - Nil

**B. Pastor's Remarks - Video Presentation by Monsignor Joseph Shiels**

The complete system of education for our students and teachers includes the gift of faith. As Trustees we have a tremendous responsibility of making sure that faith teaching is a living and integral part of our Catholic school system. Faithfulness brings trust and that trust demands our faithfulness. The church today, more than ever needs faithful Catholics, women and men who truly believe in the teachings of the church given to us by Jesus. Active faith is a daily journey in our schools.

Cardinal Collins spoke these words at DPCDSB 50th anniversary, helping students grow in discipleship is the ultimate purpose of Catholic schools. Other schools prepare students for what lies on the other side of graduation. Our schools also prepare students for that, as well as the ultimate exam, when we give the Lord an account of our life.

Loving God thank you for your unfailing love for me, your blessings and goodness.  
Thank you for your faithfulness to guide me and see me during these times of uncertainty.  
For lifting me up and setting me on high.  
Thank you for scripture that comforts and reminds me of your promises, plan and provision.  
Thank you for taking away my fears and worries,  
the what ifs and reminding me that my help comes from you.  
Help me be a good steward and sow wisely.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior  
Amen

**Motion 269 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Mario Pascucci

**Seconded by** Brea Corbet

**THAT THE PASTOR'S REMARKS, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**C. Awards and Presentation**

1. ShareLife Plaque Appreciation - Presenter M. Penafiel

Michael Penafiel, ShareLife Coordinator, School and Employee Campaigns for the Archdiocese of Toronto thanked trustees, students, staff and Catholic School Councils of DPCDSB for continued support of ShareLife. In 2019-2020 DPCDSB schools raised \$159,000 during the pandemic, which is an enormous accomplishment. The employee campaign also raised more than \$45,000. This year DPCDSB schools have begun work to support ShareLife and the employee campaign was just launched. The 2020 Fall Elementary ShareLife Poster Contest kick off by the Archdiocese has 450 schools participating this year. Last year the winner was Julian from St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School in Bolton. Congratulations DPCDSB for your generous and ongoing support of ShareLife.

**Motion 270 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Thomas Thomas

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE PRESENTATION, SHARELIFE PLAQUE APPRECIATION, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**D. Delegations - Nil**

**E. Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

1. Regular Reports - Nil
2. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Report - Trustee Luz del Rosario

All OCSTA members are invited to attend *An Advent Evening of Reflection* with His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, on Wednesday, December 9 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. This virtual event is part of OCSTA's 90th Anniversary Speaker Series designed for OCSTA members to support, inspire and inform Catholic school board leaders, especially during these challenging times. There is no charge for this event, but advance registration is required.

Trustee Sharon Hobin is part of the political advocacy committee of OCSTA. The committee just met to review resolutions received.

Information has been sent to trustees for the January OCSTA conference. Please let Doreen Bachle, Administrative Assistant, Director's Office know if you wish to register. The OCSTA AGM will most likely be held virtually and details will be forthcoming.

As a member of the Budget and Human Resources (HR) Committee, I wish to report that the 2019-2020 Transfer Payment Agreements (TPA) and GSN Funding, final audited results were submitted to the Ministry of Education. The audit was completed on the labour side of OCSTA and came back in compliance. The fees for the year were expended and as it was a bargaining year OCSTA was able to access a TPA of \$367,000 for bargaining expenses that were covered by the government.

OCSTA Labour Operations Audit will begin shortly and I will update trustees after our January 21 meeting of the Budget and HR Committee.

OCSTA receives a TPA to administer the various Employee Life and Health Trusts, Dan Duszczyszyn from OCSTA oversees that TPA.

Provincial Principal and Vice Principal contract discussions started on November 17. OCSTA has begun working on the Terms and Conditions with our Principals and Vice Principals along with the Crown, dates have been set. All 29 Catholic school boards have given permission for OCSTA to bargain on our behalf centrally with our Principals and Vice Principals. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

OCSTA continues its discussions with the Ministry of Education, Minister Lecce and MPPs on subjects important to our Catholic boards. Trustee Hobin and I will continue our commitment to share all information with our trustees in a timely manner.

**Motion 271 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Shawn Xaviour

**Seconded by** Bruno Iannicca

**THAT THE REPORT, ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

3. Student Voice - Video Presentation of the Student Senate - Student Trustees Heather Fernandes and Alejandro Garcia Polo

Thank you for watching our Introductory Video of our Student Senate. We held our first Senate Meeting on October 28 via Zoom. At the meeting we went over the official roles and responsibilities of Student Voice representatives.

We have a Student Senate meeting tomorrow, November 25. We have chosen our Faith and Secretary senate members. At the meeting, each student voice representative will present a monthly report of their school's accomplishments. We are still in the planning stages of the seminars we would like to host with Senate.

On November 20 we attended a Mental Health board meeting alongside two senate members. We spoke about how our students are feeling regarding their mental health and we plan to present this to Student Senate and receive some feedback about how the board can best help.

**Motion 272 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Luz del Rosario

**Seconded by** Stefano Pascucci

**THAT THE STUDENT VOICE REPORT AND VIDEO PRESENTATION, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

4. Good News Items - Nil
5. Chair's Year End Address to the Board

*Chair Sharon Hobin passed the Chair to Vice Chair Thomas Thomas.*

Good evening. It is a Dufferin-Peel tradition that the Chair provides year-end remarks to the Board of Trustees and I am pleased to share a few thoughts with you tonight.

In 1992, Queen Elizabeth, in her annual Christmas address, called the past year, a particularly challenging one for the Royal Family, *Annus Horribilis*. Well, Your Majesty, I think we can top you with the year we've had.

I am sure that you will remember that the first few months of the 2019-20 school year started with a series of job actions including strikes. Before long, we were swept up into the COVID-19 pandemic. We watched as cases mounted in other parts of the world and our world slowly began to turn upside down.

In March, we transitioned into a full system closure entering the realm of remote learning. Even then, we thought that it would only be for a few weeks. We were wrong. We were also introduced to the world of Zoom and Teams, conducting business electronically and virtually, including our board and committee meetings.

In May we all scrambled to produce videos for school graduation celebrations. I can recall the optimism at the time that the pandemic would run its course, and things would open and return to normal in the fall. We hoped sincerely for autumn graduations for our students.

Summer initially offered a brief respite, but that normally restful time turned incredibly busy as we prepared for continuity of Catholic Learning in fully remote and in class learning modes. As it became apparent that COVID was not leaving us anytime soon, staff implemented a massive “all hands-on deck” effort to get ready for a return to school in September. The board continued to meet many times over the summer to discuss plans which eventually had to be reviewed by the Ministry of Education.

As we all know, COVID did anything but flatten and in Peel Region, we sit smack dab in the middle of one of the biggest hot spots in the entire country with dozens of cases weekly in our schools involving students and staff. And now we, again, are in a lockdown but with schools open. While the great majority of positive school cases are not acquired in schools, it does have a major impact on us as we are required to send home entire classes to help contain the spread of the virus. This has put pressure on us to maintain safe supervision of students who remain in school as well as those who are home in isolation.

Earlier this month, we underwent a major reorganization as we switched to a hybrid learning mode at the elementary level. On the first day of implementation of this new learning mode, we experienced a cut fibre optics cable somewhere in the community resulting in temporary loss of internet access across the system. Unbelievable!

Positive COVID cases continue to rise in our community and in our schools putting tremendous pressure on the system. And yet to say that the past year was a disaster would not be a fair statement. I say that because amid all the turmoil, pressure, and stress, you also did not have to look far to find examples of system resiliency on the part of both staff and students.

During Catholic Education Week we saw amazing examples of students sharing what their Catholic faith and education meant to them. These were shared broadly on social media channels and made us very proud. They gave us comfort.

We saw and continue to see examples of staff innovation in teaching remotely and in class, as well as an incredible number of hours put in to help us configure and implement Catholic Continuity of Learning during the closure periods and throughout the new school year.

Thank you to all our employees in Dufferin-Peel who despite hardships and incredible challenges, are committed to providing our students a meaningful Catholic education. Thank you to all our parents/guardians who are supporting their children during this unprecedented time. Thank you for your understanding. A special thanks to all our superintendents, managers and our executive team who have worked tirelessly without respite.

We, DPCDSB are resilient, we are tough, and we are adaptable.

I am proud to say that one of the historical characteristics of the Dufferin-Peel Board of Trustees is the ability to overcome differences and work together for a common goal. My colleagues and friends, it has been a pleasure and an honour to serve our community with you. I have never taken your trust in me as your Chair for granted and never will.

I have said it before, but it is worth repeating. Each trustee on this board has worked so hard on behalf of our communities, for the benefit of our students and our families. Each trustee on this board is an outstanding Catholic leader.

We celebrate our schools, students, and staff wherever we go. We must never tire of spreading the good news of Catholic education. I have every confidence in you ... in us ... the trustees of Dufferin-Peel, supported by our Director Mazzorato and her senior management team. Every confidence that we will continue to meet our current challenges and those that lie ahead. That we will meet and exceed the expectations of our community, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

My fellow trustees, thank you for your support of me over the past year.

May God continue to guide us in the work we do, and may we always look to Him for wisdom, strength, and guidance. And may the good Lord hold you in the palm of His hand.

Thank you.

*Chair Sharon Hobin resumed the Chair.*

**Motion 273 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Anna da Silva

**THAT THE CHAIR'S YEAR END ADDRESS TO THE BOARD, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**F. Updates/Information/Reports from Committees for Receipt**

1. Minutes of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting, October 6, 2020

**Motion 274 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Brea Corbet

**Seconded by** Frank Di Cosola

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 6, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

2. Minutes of the Faith and Program Committee Meeting, October 13, 2020

**Motion 275 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Stefano Pascucci

**Seconded by** Mario Pascucci

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 13, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

3. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, October 14, 2020

**Motion 276 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Luz del Rosario

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 14, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

4. Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting, September 15, 2020

**Motion 277 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Anna da Silva

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

5. Minutes of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Meeting, September 10, 2020

**Motion 278 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Stefano Pascucci

**Seconded by** Shawn Xaviour

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, RE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

**G. Updates/Information/Reports from Administration for Receipt - Nil**

**H. Trustee/Committee/Administration Reports Requiring Action**

1. Motion from Audit Committee, November 10, 2020

**Motion 279 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Anna da Silva

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RELATED INFORMATION OF THE BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2020.**

**CARRIED**

2. Motions from the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee Meeting, November 17, 2020

**Motion 280 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD BY-LAW/POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT POLICIES FOR REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT 2020–2021, BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**



**Motion 281 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD BY-LAW/POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT REVISED POLICY 1.00: MISSION, VISION, MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN, BY-LAWS, AND POLICIES, BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 282 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD BY-LAW/POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT POLICY 00: PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION, POLICY 000: MISSION STATEMENT, AND POLICY 2.32 MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE CATHOLIC BOARD IMPROVEMENT LEARNING CYCLE, BE RESCINDED.**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 283 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD BY-LAW/POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT REVISED POLICY 12.00: EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 284 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD BY-LAW/POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT POLICY 24.00: ACCESS TO ELEMENTARY REGIONAL PROGRAMS OF CHOICE, BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 285 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD BY-LAW/POLICIES REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THAT NEW POLICY: STUDENT ATTENDANCE, BE APPROVED AND ADOPTED.**

**CARRIED**

- I. **Notices of Motion - Nil**
- J. **Additional Business – Nil**

## K. Questions Asked of, and by, Trustees

1. Trustee Luz del Rosario: Last week at a Catholic School Council (CSC) meeting I was advised that the devices that were purchased through the council were taken away. Did we deploy devices purchased by CSCs outside the school? Parents/Guardians have voiced their frustration that their children are going without a device that was purchased by their school community.  
Associate Director Del Bianco: Prior to September startup we were provided with Ministry guidelines that any student who required a device was to be provided a device. We did a parent/guardian survey and asked if we pivot to online did their child(ren) have access to a device. 12,000 responded to say they would require a device from the board. In calculating how many devices to deploy we counted all devices including devices acquired through Catholic School Councils. Some schools had no devices and others had many, we needed to borrow devices and distribute to those that had none. We left a base of 50 devices in every school to be used or deployed as required. We have 4700 more computers coming in. If a school needs more than 50 devices, perhaps several classes are closed due to COVID, we will deploy to students as needed. Any devices that we removed from a school will be repatriated back to the school, and if any are damaged or not returned from some reason, the board will replace the device(s).  
We understand that this is not ideal. We do not have a device for each student. We understand the frustration of parents/guardians. We are doing the best we can while addressing the needs of the system with what we have on hand. In total, we have purchased an additional 9,000 devices and with the EDWINS have deployed 27,000 devices. If a school needs more than 50 devices because of classroom closures, we will provide.
2. Trustee Luz del Rosario: If the Ministry says the schools are closing and we are pivoting to online what will we do since we do not have enough devices for each student, and how will students continue to learn?  
Director Mazzorato: To reiterate what Associate Director Del Bianco said, we do not have a device for each student. We have significantly overspent the funds provided for technology and have used the approved surplus funds to acquire more devices. We will not have enough devices for each student if we pivot to online only. The senior team is planning what we will do regarding bus cancellations or having to pivot to online. Educators are putting together packages for students who will not have access to a device. This is not ideal, but we are doing the best with the resources we have.
3. Trustee Luz del Rosario: What is the status of the approximately 2,000 devices that were not reconciled from the spring deployment?  
Associate Director Del Bianco: The returned devices have been redeployed to the system. Keep in mind that we need to deploy to all students, 3000 staff members, administration in the buildings, all educators in case we pivot to online, as well each school needs to hold a few for occasional teachers. Any devices not returned are being dealt with by our legal counsel.
4. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Please provide an update on the delegation last month regarding an issue a number of parents were concerned with what their children were learning etcetera and they said give us a call if you need access to Facebook. Can you give me an update on that scenario and what has happened since the board meeting?

Director Mazzorato: I recall that the question asked to the delegate was whether or not that the over 1,100 individuals who were part of the Facebook group were all parents of students who would be able to attend a Dufferin-Peel school, and the delegate confirmed and that a list would be provided. I also recall that the delegate said that if the trustees wished to access the Facebook page that they were welcome to do so. I did follow up with the delegate the day after the meeting on both items asked of the delegate, and I have not heard back from the delegate.

5. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Has any trustee received information that allows us to go into the Facebook page?

Director Mazzorato: I have not heard from any trustee that they were successful getting into the Facebook page.

6. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: I had a question through CSC, due to COVID other boards are recording and showing their board meetings on YouTube. As we are publicly funded can we do this?

Director Mazzorato: The Board of Trustees continues to comply regarding public access to the meetings.

Associate Director Del Bianco: In terms of our readiness to live stream, we are planning renovations to the board room that will improve the video and audio capabilities should trustees wish to do so. Presently we could only record through Zoom.

Director Mazzorato: We would need to ensure we are covered under all our policies and procedures.

Trustee Stefano Pascucci: Can we bring this to the next Board By-Law/Policies Committee?

Director Mazzorato: Yes, we can bring that forward.

7. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: How are we handling students' winter belongings such as indoor shoes and outdoor boots?

Director Mazzorato: All procedures are well informed by public health authorities as they have been very involved in developing the process for winter clothing. Without using cubbies and locker we are aware it is an inconvenience for parents/guardians and staff.

Associate Director Del Bianco: Last week public health developed processes and it has been communicated to all schools. To maintain physical distancing, we ask that student access to the coat hooks be staggered. Lockers are still not to be used. The process enforces wearing masks and physical distancing and should be very organized and orderly. Indoor shoes can be kept in the classroom.

8. Trustee Shawn Xaviour: I have had questions from parents/guardians regarding that some remote teachers are covering in class hybrid classes.

Director Mazzorato: There is a critical shortage of OTs. If we have exhausted all possibilities within the school this may occur. We look internally to all teachers that do not have a designated class: FSL, PT and Teacher Librarians. Ultimately health and safety and the supervision of our students comes first. Pre-COVID we were able to combine classes if needed, but now we must ensure the integrity of the cohorts. Our remote teachers at their home schools assist with supervision. When we have in class students who require supervision we

may, as a last effort pull a remote teacher to cover. Vice-principals and principals have also had to cover classes.

9. Trustee Brea Corbet: My question is do secondary students have the flexibility to attend online on any given day? And maybe more specifically are students able to transition between hybrid in-school learning and Hybrid online remote learning and vice versa on an as needed basis?

Director Mazzorato: Yes, that is the benefit of hybrid.

10. Trustee Brea Corbet: are students being marked absent if they were supposed to attend school, even if they log on remotely from home and attend their class virtually instead?

Director Mazzorato: Whether a student attends remotely or in person, they should not be logged absent.

11. Trustee Brea Corbet: If a student is not able to attend class physically, but logs on to participate virtually, can you confirm it will not negatively affect the student's attendance records? Is this "absence" being recorded on their report card or just tracked for contact tracing purposes?

Associate Director Amaral: Through ICT we are working to streamline the attendance verification system. The student will not be marked absent, but it will trigger a call for safe arrival if we have not received a parent call to confirm that the child is online and not in class. The absence will not show up on the report card.

Unfortunately, an individual school sent home a communication, not from the system, and we are correcting that and will recommunicate to that school community. We will follow up with schools tomorrow to support any misunderstanding.

12. Trustee Brea Corbet: Understanding the physical absence from the building must be reported by the parent to the school. And it is important for contact tracing. This could be additional calls for secretaries to field. Is the call to school necessary if the teacher notes that the student is doing online hybrid that day? They would be able to see and talk to them to confirm their attendance virtually.

Director Mazzorato: We agree it is more work, but we do have an obligation regarding student safety and to ensure the parents/guardians know how their child attended school.

13. Trustee Ann da Silva: Are we following a process to communicate COVID cases to trustees as cases occur in our schools?

Director Mazzorato: We are following our communication process ensuring trustees are being apprised regularly and in a timely manner of all COVID cases. We do not have control over social media or parents/guardians sharing information before we have a chance to work through the public health authorities.

Associate Director Del Bianco: If there is a specific school scenario you would like the communication traced; we are able to do so.

General Manager Campbell: We receive information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are updating the COVID Advisory information each morning. Trustees are provided the information as we receive and update our numbers. If it is the will of the trustees to receive each standard letter that is issued, we can do so. The number of cases posted on the COVID Advisory page is current and is a rolling number. Once a case is resolved and the student returns to school, they

are removed from the tally. Updating each morning, using the previous day's number of cases, is the most accurate way to capture COVID cases.

14. Trustee Anna da Silva: Parents/Guardians are asking for more information; can we provide the link for the DPCDSB COVID Advisory page?  
General Manager Campbell: If there is a case in a school and the public health authorities deem a class must isolate, parents/guardians of students in the class receive a letter with the date to be tested and the date to return to school. There is another letter that goes to the whole school community that indicates that the public health authorities have closed a class. We will ensure that the link to the DPCDSB COVID Advisory page is included in that letter.
15. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: To be proactive to the issue of closing schools if necessary, and that we do not have enough devices for everyone, should we notify parents?  
Director Mazzorato: Now that the hybrid has been established, administrators are requesting information from parents/guardians to ascertain the needs. Educators are putting together packages for those students who may not be able to access devices to assist with continuity of learning. As we develop plans we will continue to communicate to parents/guardians. The closure period was significantly different. The Ministry had reduced the requirement for each student to be online. If there are three kids in a family and there was only one device during school closure, children could share, and the family would manage. Presently, each student is expected to be fully engaged for the full day, therefore they cannot share a device.
16. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: If the Ministry expects that then they will need to provide the funds.  
Director Mazzorato: We continue to advocate for the students and the parents/guardians of the DPCDSB. Most recently, last week we have identified to the Ministry that we do not have enough devices. Other boards have also advocated for increased technology. As a COVID hotspot area with high cases, we were provided additional funds and have spent significantly more of our budget on devices. There is no way given our situation, and the other boards, to financially provide a device for each student. I continue to advocate for increased technology.
17. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: I would like to ensure that our special needs students are looked after.  
Superintendent Finegan-Downey: Our special needs technology is in good shape. We ordered additional technology foreseeing the needs and have a plan to order more through SEA funds if required.
18. Trustee Frank Di Cosola: If Before and After School Programs are using our classrooms before the start of the day how are we preventing the spread of germs?  
Associate Director Del Bianco: First step is we try to accommodate with space that is not used by a classroom teacher following the program so that cleaning and sanitizing can occur easily. Where that is not possible, because of physical limitations, we have granted space in classrooms that are being used during the day. We have staff disinfect and clean before the teacher uses her/his classroom. The programs are also using a minimum of their own materials and resources to help minimize cleaning required.
19. Trustee Frank Di Cosola: To reduce the risk of cross contamination, is it possible to remind staff that they are not to arrive to their classroom early or stay after school in order to give the custodians time to clean between the program and class?

Associate Director Del Bianco: We will reinforce the message with staff tomorrow during the Director's webinar and send out a reminder.

20. Trustee Frank Di Cosola: Has all the technology that teachers requested arrived?

Associate Director Del Bianco: All orders have been placed and we have received some items such as the webcams. Keep in mind that we ordered at the same time as every other board ordered, with a high demand right across North America.

21. Trustee Luz del Rosario: I have had parents ask why virtual teachers cannot work from home?

Director Mazzorato: The facilities at the school enhance the learning experience: white boards, black boards, science labs, etcetera. We require our remote teachers to assist with supervision during recess and lunch time. With the significant decline of OTs schools need the extra hands for supervision. Remote teachers are in a classroom by themselves for most of the day.

22. Trustee Luz del Rosario: Do we have any teachers on leave that would be able to teach from home given the opportunity?

Director Mazzorato: We do not have any individuals teaching from home.

Superintendent Strong: Through Health Promotion and Wellness we have assisted the needs of staff on work accommodation and have accommodated with locations that are suitable.

23. Trustee Luz del Rosario: Our coterminous board allows teachers to work from home? Perhaps this is a reason we are not getting more teachers.

Director Mazzorato: I cannot speak to what is happening in the coterminous board. We have had challenges in assigning teachers during reorganization. Prior to the reorganization we were not able to provide PT, FSL and now we are trying to provide all classes with PT and FSL. The challenge is that we have significant issues regarding OTs and permanent teachers taking leaves of absence. We require supervision assistance and that is why they are in the schools.

24. Trustee Luz del Rosario: What is the process of distributing devices to in class and remote students?

Associate Director Del Bianco: The strategy is changing as the public health authorities have refined and managed outbreaks. Over the summer the priority order was all staff, all secondary students, all elementary virtual only and then in person students. Now we have come to learn that a case or two in the school will close only a class or two. Not deploying devices to everyone rather using the public health authorities guidelines as the strategy; deploy to cover the classes for time needed and then pull the devices back. The process is now that if you are in class and require a device to go online you will check it out like going to the library. This will avoid us deploying a device to a student who may not go fully remote online.

25. Trustee Brea Corbet: Is it possible to provide a hybrid status?

Director Mazzorato: We are pleased that staff stepped up to the challenge. Staff will bring more information as we collect and assess. Anecdotally, elementary principals have indicated that more students are attending in person and we do know that for the most part, parents do want their children in class. The flexibility has been helpful as COVID numbers have increased. As significant numbers of teachers are going on leave and continue to request leaves, we are dealing with that issue and trying to settle the system down, recognizing that there have been disruptions felt by parents/guardians and our students. We acknowledge and congratulate the

work being done by our Well-Being and Mental Health team who are reaching out to staff and students with a focus on their well-being during these challenging times.

Associate Director Amaral: Reports from family of schools superintendents and principals is that most classes are running with ten to 20 percent of students learning remotely and the rest are in class. The resilience of our teachers is admirable and the collaboration between teachers is fabulous. The human spirit is inspiring as they have adapted and risen to the challenge.

Associate Director Del Bianco: We are well positioned and have not received too many hotspots or dead zone issues. ICT has increased staff, both in the field and on the help desk.

Trustee Brea Corbet: Thank you, that update is very helpful. I too have heard both positive success stories (and to quote Trustee Iannicca) some opportunities to work through the challenges. I am hopeful it can only get better from here. We are certainly grateful to our senior team, amazing educators, our engaged parents and of course our beautiful students, as we navigate this together.

26. Student Trustee Alejandro Garcia Polo: Is it possible to add the student trustees to the daily communication sent to elected trustees regarding COVID cases?

Director Mazzorato: Yes, we can do that.

27. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: I have had a parent call concerning appropriate prayers before students eat their lunch. Is there a standard prayer that teachers are to use?

Director Mazzorato: We can follow up with that specific school following the meeting.

28. Trustee Brea Corbet: To follow up with Trustee Darryl D'Souza's concern, is there a policy regarding prayers?

Director Mazzorato: It is important and our expectation that our faith is prominent throughout the day. We will remind staff of the importance of prayer and to take opportunities throughout the day for appropriate prayers.

29. Trustee Anna da Silva: Is it possible to advise how many teachers are on leave and on what kind of leave they are on?

Superintendent Strong: There are several types of leaves: general leave of absence, medical, those supported through the Employment Standard Act (ESA), short-term-medical, daily, and long term disability leaves.

*Chair Sharon Hobin passed the Chair to Thomas Thomas.*

30. Trustee Sharon Hobin: Has communication regarding bus cancellations gone out to the system?

Director Mazzorato: Yes, the weekend before November 16.

31. Trustee Sharon Hobin: Did staff receive this as well as our parents/guardians?

General Manager Campbell: Yes, the communication went out to all staff.

32. Trustee Sharon Hobin: Is it possible to audit schools to ensure students are using coat hooks and not the back of their chairs for their winter coats? It would be inappropriate for students to

hang their wet winter coats on their seats. During the webinar could we ask if there are cases where hooks were taken down and not replaced?

Associate Director Del Bianco: Some coat hooks are in the class and others are in the hallways. Teachers are organizing students to maintain physical distancing while hanging their coats on the hooks. We will ensure any hooks taken down are put back up.

33. Trustee Sharon Hobin: Please advise timeline for all tech to be received by educators?

Associate Director Del Bianco: The webcams with built in mics arrived first. We have just received a shipment last Friday and expect that in the next three or four weeks more to arrive. Executive Superintendent Cherepacha: Supply and demand has been an issue across the province. We anticipate all orders, including extension cords, USB ports, tripods, etc. will arrive early December.

Associate Director Del Bianco: Please keep in mind that as educators become more comfortable and efficient, they may request additional technology throughout the year, and additional orders can be placed at any time.

*Chair Sharon Hobin resumed the Chair.*

**L. Declared Interest Items - Nil**

**M. In Camera Session**

**Motion 286 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Mario Pascucci

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING BE ADJOURNED AND THE TRUSTEES IMMEDIATELY CONVENE AN IN CAMERA AND AN IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN RESPECT OF APPROVAL OF IN CAMERA MINUTES AND A PERSONNEL MATTER.**

**CARRIED**

**N. Report from In Camera**

Approval of In Camera Minutes and a Personnel Matter

**Motion 287 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Stefano Pascucci

**Seconded by** Luz del Rosario

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEIVE THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA AND AN IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING, APPROVAL OF IN CAMERA MINUTES AND A PERSONNEL MATTER, AND RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS SET OUT THEREIN.**

**CARRIED**



**O. Future Meetings**

December 1, 2020 (Organizational Board Meeting)  
December 8, 2020  
January 26, 2021  
February 23, 2021  
March 23, 2021  
April 27, 2021  
May 25, 2021  
June 15, 2021

**P. Adjournment**

**Motion 288 (20-11-24)**

**Moved by** Brea Corbet

**Seconded by** Shawn Xaviour

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 11:29 P.M.**

**CARRIED**