



*From Your Catholic School Trustee Sharon Hobin, BA, Bed.
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Our DPCDSB **Mission**: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.

Our DPCDSB **Vision**: Changing the world through Catholic education.

The virtue for the month of April is LOVE. God wants us to serve and to see the goodness in everyone we meet. Love is not just an emotion it is also a decision. Love involves a deliberate choice to give and to serve others even though the service may go unnoticed and unappreciated. Love guides the practice of our Catholic faith and is embedded throughout our Catholic education.

Student Trustees – Leadership in Catholic education is a sacred calling. On Thursday, February 25, 2021, the election of Student Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year took place via a zoom meeting hosted by DPCDSB. Congratulations to Dea Sokoli (St Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Secondary School) and Leroy Onuoha (Cardinal Leger Catholic Secondary School)! We look forward to working with you and supporting efforts to elevate student voice. We are grateful for the contributions that our current Student Trustees Alejandro Garcia Polo and Heather Fernandes have made to Catholic education and we wish you much success in your future endeavours! The new student trustees will be sworn in August 2021.

Parent Engagement Opportunity - Mississauga South is hosting a Parent Engagement Evening along with CCCSC on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:30 for all parents. We will welcome Ms. Mante Molepo, an anti-racism consultant and award-winning community leader and speaker. The topic is “THEY ARE NOT TOO LITTLE FOR BIG CONVERSATIONS: TALKING TO OUR CHILDREN ABOUT RACE AND RACISM” I encourage you to attend. Your schools will have this information.

OSSLT Update – The Ministry of Education and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) have provided school boards with a field test, or pilot, for the 2020-2021 school year. This field test is not mandatory and individual boards have been given the autonomy to make the decision as to whether to administer the test this year. **In consultation with our Secondary Principals, DPCDSB will not be participating in this year’s field test.** Schools may continue to decide to participate in the Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics as this assessment does not impact graduation requirements. Please reach out to your school’s principal should you have any questions.

2021-2022 Budget – On April 8, Trustees, Principals, Catholic School Council Chairs and Treasurers will participate in DPCDSB’s Budget Engagement prior to the CCCSC members meeting. A recorded 2021-2022 Budget Presentation will be released to all DPCDSB staff, schools, Catholic School Councils, and parents/guardians. A ThoughtExchange® question/survey will be released with the presentation and an invitation for all stakeholders to participate and provide feedback.

Schools that may be planning to hold a virtual Catholic School Council meeting during the month of April will be invited to watch the presentation and participate via the ThoughtExchange® platform. School Administrators will be providing parents/guardians with more information on this year's Public Budget Consultation process for their school communities.

Federal Government COVID Funding: As I visit Catholic School Councils and in my last newsletter I try to update parents about the funding that we have received and how it has been applied to our schools. In August 2020, the federal government announced the Safe Return to Class Fund, with an initial phase of \$381 million provided to Ontario. On February 1, 2021, the Minister of Education announced the second phase of Federal investments provided under the Safe Return to Class Fund, an additional \$381 million. This funding is focused on priorities to support the learning, technology needs and health and safety of students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. **Please see this report below with summaries of all the provincial and federal funding to date:**

Funding Announcements – August 2020 to December 2020
Presented at December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Announcement	Description	Funding (in \$millions)
Grants for Student Needs (GSN)	Technology related costs	\$ 0.54
Grants for Student Needs (GSN)	Mental Health supports to foster continued learning and well-being of students	0.20
		\$ 0.74
Investments to Support School Reopening	Temporary custodial staff	1.90
Investments to Support School Reopening	Health & safety training for O/T and casual education workers	0.35
Investments to Support School Reopening	Supports for students with special education needs	0.28
Investments to Support School Reopening	Support mental health needs of students	0.21
Investments to Support School Reopening	Support for student transportation – enhanced cleaning and PPE for drivers	0.40
Investments to Support School Reopening	Enhanced cleaning supplies	0.15
		\$ 3.29
Additional Guidance Memorandum	Remote learning – support for administration	0.53
Additional Guidance Memorandum	Additional funding for teaching staff	0.59
Additional Guidance Memorandum	Air Quality and HVAC Ventilation	1.70
		\$ 2.82
Federal Funding Announcement	Non-permanent teachers and supply teachers	2.25
Federal Funding Announcement	Support for additional hiring of staff, leasing of community-based space	3.39
Federal Funding Announcement	Health & safety measures for transportation	0.51
Federal Funding Announcement	Funding to hire principals and school administration supports for virtual schools	1.19
Federal Funding Announcement	Special education and mental health supports	0.30
		\$ 7.64
High Priority Areas	Support for classroom staff and remote learning supports	\$ 2.89
CVRIS – COVID19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream	Infrastructure investments – application based	TBD
Total Provincial and Federal Funds		\$ 17.38

New Funding Announcement – February 1, 2021

Announcement	Description	Funding (in \$millions)
Federal Funding Announcement	Health and safety costs such as additional staffing and PPE (Board funded or transportation related)	\$ 2.50
Federal Funding Announcement	Optimize air quality and ventilation in schools.	1.70
Federal Funding Announcement	Support safe and secure student transportation	0.10
Federal Funding Announcement	Devices to support students in remote learning	3.00
Federal Funding Announcement	Summer learning opportunities - support learning gaps and improve math and reading programs, special education and mental health programming and supports for underserved students	TBD
Federal Funding Announcement	Improved online learning, including digital course content and technological supports	TBD
Federal Funding Announcement	Support mental health and implementation of the new School Mental Health Ontario Action Kit	TBD
Federal Funding Announcement	Focused funding for equity initiatives, such as supporting Black, racialized students, indigenous students and students with special education needs	TBD
Funds Directed External – Not to School Boards		
Federal Funding Announcement	\$33M - Funds set aside for expanded testing and additional supports for high priority areas	
Federal Funding Announcement	Funding for Kids Help Phone	
Federal Funding Announcement	\$10M – To Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services - Support Student Nutrition Program to reach remote learners	
Total New Federal Funding		\$ 7.30

Access to POD	Up to 15% for COVID related expenditures <i>Available if in-year deficit exceeds 1% of operating revenues</i>	0.89
Accumulated Surplus	Additional 1%	8.90
Total Available Funds (Provincial, Federal and Accumulated Surplus)		\$ 34.47

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FUNDING BY EXPENSE CATEGORY

Expense Category	Description	Expenditure (in \$millions)
Technology	Devices and remote learning	\$ 3.54
Custodial staff	Contract positions	1.90
Transportation	Health and safety, PPE, cleaning supplies	1.01
Special Education and Mental Health		0.99
Virtual Schools		1.72
Teaching Staff and Occasional Supply		2.84
Training and PD		0.35
Air Quality and Ventilation		3.40
PPE, enhanced cleaning		0.15
Local Board Decision	Funding provided for COVID-19 related expenses – local decisions – such as additional staffing, technology, H&S, PPE, etc. <i>*DPCDSB has utilized a significant portion for investment in technology</i>	8.78
Total Provincial and Federal Funding by Category		\$ 24.68
Accumulated Surplus	For COVID-19 related expenses	8.90
Access to POD	For COVID-19 related expenses	0.89
Total Funding by Category		\$ 34.47

Enrolment Report – At the Board of Trustees Administration and Finance Committee Meeting in February, an overview was provided with student enrolment trends in DPCDSB over the 20-year period from 2010 to 2030. This data is being used to inform the development of DPCDSB’s LTFMP (Long Term Facilities Management Plan) and the development of any future capital priorities list requested by the Ministry of Education. Overall, DPCDSB is expected to experience a net enrolment decline of approximately -7.47% over the next ten years. During that time, the elementary panel is projected to decline by approximately -6.80% and the secondary panel by -8.47%.

There are still areas within the board that are experiencing some enrolment growth. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on school enrolments throughout the province. An enrolment decline of 2,413 students over the last year can be attributed to many factors, including admission and demission of students, families moving out of the jurisdiction of DPCDSB and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Mississauga’s new residential development continues to decrease as there are fewer large developments anticipated. Only 37% of new development units in the Region of Peel are allocated to the City of Mississauga: 75% of the new units will be high density, which historically does not yield a large number of Catholic students. Therefore, enrolment is expected to decline approximately- 8.66% at the elementary panel and -15.26% at the secondary panel over the next ten years.

The LTFMP reflects enrolment changes through the recommendation of new pupil places either through new schools or additions to schools, realignment of school boundaries, program changes and pupil accommodation reviews once new Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) Guidelines are released by the Ministry of Education.

Settlement Services – DPCDSB offers Settlement Services in all schools across the board. Currently, there are 15 settlement workers from five agencies, connected to our elementary and secondary schools. The Settlement Services team reflects the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of DPCDSB newcomer families. The program supports newcomer families to integrate into their local school and community.

The Newcomer Assessment and Reception Centre (NRAC) assesses between 1000 - 1500 newcomer students every year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the number of newcomers entering our country and DPCDSB, settlement services have continued. By the end of February 2021, 208 secondary students and 52 elementary students have been assessed through NRAC. The work continues to address technology needs for newcomer students such as obtaining devices, internet connection and set-up, accessing the digital learning platforms and uploading their work.

Newcomer students remain vulnerable due to their developing English skills, limited opportunities to interact with peers, as well as technical and financial limitations. The settlement workers are currently supporting the mental and emotional wellbeing of newcomer students by offering various virtual extra-curricular/after-school activities, including opportunities for virtual socialization, collaboration when working on homework and participation in special events.

Easter – “He is Risen!” Easter also called Resurrection Sunday or Pascha is one of the most important days in the Christian faith commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead according to the New Testament. The Easter Triduum or Paschal Triduum starts on the evening of Maundy Thursday with the last supper continuing on through Good Friday and the crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ into Holy Saturday and ending with prayers on the evening of Easter Sunday. Our churches will have posted

all of the times for Easter Masses and services with limited attendance on their web sites. Our schools will be closed from Good Friday to and including Easter Monday. In our schools we are blessed to be able to pray, discern and contemplate that Jesus died for us and to celebrate His rising from the dead. I wish all of you a very blessed and peaceful Easter. Please look after each other and be safe.

May the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.