



*From Your Catholic School Trustee Sharon Hobin, BA, Bed.
Wards 2 & 8, Chair of the Board of Trustees*

Mobile: (905) 301-1210 | Email: Sharon.Hobin@dpcdsb.org

Website: www.dpcdsb.org | Twitter: @DPCDSBSchools | @TrusteeHobin

| YouTube: DPCDSBVideos

April 2022

This month, the virtue of LOVE helps us grow in love for God and love for one another. At Easter, we are reminded of Jesus' love in action. We are reminded of the great love that our Mother Mary had for her Son who was crucified and died on the cross. Love and sacrifice often go hand in hand. Love guides the practice of our Catholic faith and is embedded throughout our Catholic education. May your actions bring peace and love wherever you go.

Monsignor Shiels shared this message during the February 22 Regular Board Meeting: "No matter who you are, or where you are, or how mundane or tough your situation may seem, I believe you can illuminate your world. In fact, I believe this is the only way the world will ever be illuminated, one bright act of grace at a time, all the way to the river." - Elizabeth Gilbert

Prayer for Peace – As Catholics, we offer each other a sign of peace at the celebration of each mass. Our DPCDSB students will continue to be reminded of the significance of this part of the sacrament and encouraged to participate in acts of kindness towards each other. Many of our schools are involved in acts of charity to support the victims of war and the Program and Learning Services Department is collecting a record of these efforts. This focus on peace follows Pope Francis' appeal to pray for peace that he requested of us at the beginning of Lent.

School Raffles/Lotteries – Many of our schools and Catholic School Councils (CSC) are excited to be co-planning and running fundraising activities again. It is important to note that legislation requires that a license must be obtained in order for a school or a CSC to run a raffle, lottery, bingo or any such gaming event. In discussion with the Charity Gaming Department of the City of Mississauga, it was determined that each individual school would be required to apply, if interested in getting a license. We know that many schools like the idea of running a raffle or lottery, however the additional obligations involved make the process unmanageable for most. An alternative approach is to have a silent auction, which is allowed. Conducting or allowing a raffle at a school, without a license, would be unlawful under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Masking Mandates – With the recent lifting of health protocols by the province, school boards do not have the authority to impose restrictions or their own health measures that the Ministry has directed school boards to revoke. Further, school boards must revoke any current health measures that extended government direction, such as mandatory masking for kindergarten. Our board staff has consulted with our Regional Public Health Units who have advised that they will not be issuing any recommendations/mandates that are more restrictive than what the province has directed Boards of Education to adhere to. Throughout the pandemic, health

measures put in place were either directed by the province or our Regional Medical Officers of Health. Many staff and students continue to choose to wear masks while indoors at school and our board respects the choices of everyone. The DPCDSB has and will continue to follow their direction. Please be assured that the DPCDSB staff and trustees are committed to safe and healthy learning/work environments. Administrators will continue to report to school communities if a call is received from a parent that there a presumptive case of COVID-19 in the school.

Supply Chain Management Operations – This is a report that was presented to our Administration and Finance Committee on Tuesday, April 2. This report explains the parameters of supply chain management which is regulated by the province and must be followed by all fully publicly funded institutions and organizations. The full report can be found by checking our board web site: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>.

Some of the items covered in the report address: Supply Chain Management Overview; Supply Chain Objectives and Guiding Principles; Government Directives and Measures; Forms of Competitive Procurement; Procurement Lifecycle; Supply Chain Operations. Supply Chain operations effects all purchasing done by and within the board including Catholic School Councils.

The overview addresses all requirements for which all procurement of goods and services within the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) must operate. All dollars spent in DPCDSB are subject to Supply Chain procedures, including purchases supported by School Generated Funds (SGF) and Catholic School Council (CSC) funds. Public procurement staff must ensure the defensibility of their choice of winning bidder. The Government of Ontario provides a very thorough compliance framework for all government agencies and Broader Public Sector (BPS) organizations. Procurement Lifecycle: procurement of goods and services takes place in a continuous cycle, with continuous input and feedback from stakeholders.

Long Term Facilities Master Plan 2011-2031 – This report provides an overview of student enrolment trends in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) over the 20-year period from 2011 to 2031 that are being used to inform the development of DPCDSB's Long-Term Facilities Master Plan (LTFMP) and the development of the Capital Priorities submission requested by the Ministry of Education. The historic enrolment and future enrolment projections are presented by school and by Education Service Area from 2011-2031. The historic enrolments are based on October 31 actual enrolment data, and the projections are based on actual October 31, 2021 enrolment, as reported to the Ministry of Education.

Overall, DPCDSB is expected to experience a net enrolment decline of approximately -13.70% over the next ten years, which is comprised of a projected decline in the elementary panel of approximately 8.6% and a projected decline in the secondary panel – of 21.08%. While overall, DPCDSB shows enrolment decline, it is important to note that there are still areas within the board that are experiencing enrolment growth. The LTFMP reflects the enrolment changes through various recommendations for consideration, such as adding new pupil places either

through new schools or additions to schools, and balancing enrolment through the realignment of school boundaries, program changes and pupil accommodation reviews. This decline is being experienced by many GTA school boards. Reasons? People are moving out of the cities due to housing prices, virtual employment, job potential, challenges in large cities, birth rates etc.

The enrolment projections are prepared using the Student Projection System (SPS) software. DPCDSB has been using this system for the last fifteen years. The analysis of the enrolment projections takes into consideration the following components:

- Historic October 31 enrolment by school, by grade, by program
- Historic retention rates by school, by grade, by program
- Feeder school retention analysis from elementary grade 8 to secondary grade 9, by program, including new students to the DPCDSB system
- Historic trends of birth data to the corresponding actual JK enrolment to determine potential number of JK students entering the system
- Anecdotal trends specific to each school community; for example, the addition of new programs in the area by the coterminous boards
- Residential development applications received through municipal circulation
- Student yields from projected residential development
- Municipal development forecast information from the Region of Peel and Dufferin County

In addition to the above criteria, given the unique situation caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, consideration was also given to the gradual return of kindergarten-aged students over time.

We are funded by per pupil so any drop in enrollment is a huge concern as expenses are not declining. In fact the cost to operate a school has grown. Consider the cost of fuel, electricity and maintenance as just a few examples. Another point is that there is a moratorium on closing schools so any kind of planning to consolidate schools to save funding has to be tabled.

For much more information from this report please check the agenda and reports for the Administration and Finance Committee at <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>.

Revised Curriculum – The Ministry of Education is introducing a new science and technology curriculum and de-streaming the Grade 9 science course for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Ontario's elementary science and technology curriculum was last updated in 2007 and the Grade 9 course was last updated in 2008. The new curriculum will be implemented in September 2022.

PPM 81 – On October 29, 2021, the provincial government announced that it would be revising Policy/Program Memorandum 81: Provision of health support services in school settings (PPM 81). The Ontario Catholic Schools' Trustees Association (OCSTA) continues to represent the voices of the 29 Catholic school boards including the DPCDSB Board of Trustees in the Ministry's roundtable discussion, on the key objectives of the review including:

- Strengthening evidence-based practices;
- Improving access to health, rehabilitation, and other community-based clinical services for students with special needs in schools; and
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities to address gaps in services.

OCSTA believes the adequate and equitable provision of health support services for our students is of critical importance, especially in the unprecedented context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DPCDSB strives to ensure that each of our students requiring health support services are done so in a timely, fair and consistent manner.

Child Care Agreement – On March 28, the provincial and federal governments signed a \$13.2 billion agreement to lower child care costs in Ontario to an average of \$10 per day by September 2025. “Many Catholic schools across this province are places where families depend on for before- and after-school child care for their children. Today’s important agreement will make child care options for families more accessible and sustainable,” said OCSTA President, Patrick Daly.

Community Use of Schools - Consistent with other changes across DPCDSB in response to improving public health conditions, DPCDSB will resume issuing permits to some community user groups effective Monday, April 4. The current plan is to issue permits initially only to youth not-for-profit groups, such as the Scouts, etc. Furthermore, only one permit group will be allowed to use a specific school on any day and permits will only be issued on weekday evenings. Staff will monitor the situation to ensure that community use of our school facilities does not interfere with the primary objective of keeping our facilities safe for our students and staff to use on a daily basis. Further decisions to allow additional community user groups will be made in response to the evolving pandemic situation.

Provincial Election – A provincial election is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 2. As in past elections, Elections Ontario has requested the use of DPCDSB schools as polling stations. At the time that DPCDSB was considering the request from Elections Ontario, the general health and safety protocols set out by Elections Ontario for voting did not align with DPCDSB’s health and safety protocols governing the operation of schools and allowing visitor access to school premises during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, consideration was given to changing the June elementary PA day to align with Election Day, similar to the process for the federal election in September 2021. **At the Faith and Program Committee Meeting on March 8, the Board of Trustees approved a revision to the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar for submission to the Ministry of Education. As a result, the Elementary PA Day scheduled for Monday, June 6 will be moved to Thursday, June 2.** At this time, we are working with Elections Ontario to see if secondary schools can be removed as polling stations.

The Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) has been engaged in discussions with the PC party, Liberals, NDPs and the Greens regarding their election platforms. OCSTA has shared the priorities for all Catholic school boards across the province as outlined in the Finance Brief and Pre-Budget submissions. OCSTA has identified the need for increased funding in key areas such as learning recovery, student and staff mental health, special education and student transportation. Parents/guardians and community members are always encouraged to contact their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) to share their priorities in Catholic education for their families, as the election platforms are being developed.

Let's Move, Mississauga – The goal of the “Let’s Move, Mississauga” campaign, which will run April 1-30, is to encourage residents to get outside and move, while following the rules of the road. For school families, the School Walking Routes program promotes active travel, such as walking or travelling by bike, wheelchair, or other mobility devices, to and from school. It is now part of the Vision Zero Action Plan as an approved action (action 91), and it helps the City reach its goal of zero fatal and serious collisions on the road.

Thank you to our school communities who, over the Lenten season have supported our Food Banks, raised funds for the people of Ukraine and ShareLife. Your donations will make a big difference in someone’s life. Thank you to our Chaplains for leading us in Lenten prayers and to our parish priests for celebrating Lenten Masses and liturgies. As ever, thank you to our administrators, teachers, support staff and Catholic School Councils who, despite huge challenges are delivery positive, quality education to our students.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Easter. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren).

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

As always, I invite you to follow me on social media platforms. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.