



<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>BOARD POLICY</u>	
BOARD POLICY NUMBER:	P-0015
SUBJECT:	Opening Exercises in Schools and at Formal Meetings
REFERENCE:	Education Act, R.S.O. 1990 c. E.2
EFFECTIVE/REVISED DATE:	October 25, 2022

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4:10*

1. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is committed to supporting its mission and vision statements by recognizing country, God, and land at meetings of the Board of Trustees, including its Committees, formal meetings led by DPCDSB staff and school opening exercises. As such, the purpose of this Policy is to enable DPCDSB to take appropriate action to ensure all such meetings and school opening exercises follow a consistent order.
2. At the beginning of each of the following meetings or exercises, as the case may be, the order of tribute shall be as follows:
 - 2.1 Board of Trustees and School Opening Exercises:
 - 2.1.1 Prayer
 - 2.1.2 Land Acknowledgment
 - 2.1.3 Singing of O Canada
 - 2.2 Committees of the Board of Trustees and formal meetings led by DPCDSB Staff:
 - 2.2.1 Prayer
 - 2.2.2 Land Acknowledgment
3. References:
 - 3.1 Section 304 of the *Education Act*, R.S. O. 1990 c. E.2 (*Education Act*) requires that school opening or closing exercises include the singing of O Canada.
 - 3.2 *Education Act*, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 298: *Operations of Schools – General* adds that school opening and closing exercises may also include, among other things, prayers and secular writings. The order of these items is not mandated by legislation, and therefore is mandated by this Policy.
 - 3.3 Participation in any of the exercises outlined in this Policy shall be in accordance with the *Education Act* and the rights afforded by the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, R.S.O., 1990, c. H.19.

3.4 Legislative references in this Policy include such legislation as may be amended or replaced.