

## MINUTES

### Regular Board Meeting

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m.  
Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre**

Trustees:	Luz del Rosario	Chair
	Thomas Thomas	Vice-Chair
	Brea Corbet	Trustee
	Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi	Trustee
	Darryl D'Souza	Trustee
	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee
	Mario Pascucci	Trustee
	Stefano Pascucci	Trustee
	Anisha Thomas	Trustee
	Shawn Xaviour	Trustee
	Bailey Clyne	Indigenous Student Trustee
	Jia Sharma	Student Trustee
	Raheem White	Student Trustee
Regrets:	Herman Vilorio	Trustee
Staff:	Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.	Director of Education, Secretary to the Board
	Daniel Del Bianco	Associate Director, Corporate Services
	Max Vecchiarino	Associate Director, Instructional Services
	Dulcie Belchior	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Wayne Brunton	Superintendent, Equity and Indigenous Education
	Peter Cusumano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Brian Diogo	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Scott Keys	Superintendent, Financial Services
	Ivana MacIsaac	Chief Information Officer
	Richard Moriah	Acting Superintendent, Planning and Operations
	Laura Odo	Superintendent, Policy, Strategy, Research, Safe Schools
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services
	Drago Radic	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Adrian Scigliano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Stephanie Strong	Superintendent, Human Resources and Employee Relations
	Viviana Varano	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Kevin Wendling	Assistant Superintendent: Math Lead
	Margaret Beck	Counsel
	Bruce Campbell	General Manager, Communications and Community Relations
	Theresa Davis	General Manager, Human Resources
	Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education
	Carrie Salemi	General Manager, Finance
Recorder:	Cindy Child	Board and Committee Information Officer

**A. Routine Matters**

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Chair Luz del Rosario called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Thomas Thomas is attending virtually. Trustee Darryl D'Souza nominated Trustee Mario Pascucci as Acting Vice-Chair for the Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Mario Pascucci accepted the nomination.

2. Opening Prayer

Chair Luz del Rosario requested that we keep Pope Francis in our prayers.

Trustees Stefano Pascucci and Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi led the Opening Prayers.

3. Land Acknowledgment

The Chair recognized that the Land Acknowledgment was a video recording made by Indigenous student Rhaya Clyne, a recent graduate of Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB).

4. National Anthem

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

*Student Trustee Jia Sharma arrived at 7:09 p.m.*

5. Approval of Agenda

Taupe Sheet: distribution of speaking notes for Delegate 1 and 2, G1 Retirement letter for Principal Poerba, withdrawn H2 item 3, distributed H3 2025-2026 Modified School Year Calendar, and addition of L4a, L5a, L10c to L10g.

**Motion 1384 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Stefano Pascucci

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ADDITION OF G1, H3, L4a, L5a, AND L10c to L10g.**

**CARRIED**

**Motion 1385 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Shawn Xaviour

**Seconded by** Anisha Thomas

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

**CARRIED**

6. Declaration of Interest - Nil

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, January 28, 2025

**Motion 1386 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 28, 2025 BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

- a. Business Arising from the Minutes - Attached.

**B. Pastor's Remarks:** Video Presentation by Monsignor Shiels - Peace, The Jubilee Year

Chair Luz del Rosario asked Director Mazzorato to pass on our gratitude to Monsignor Shiels for his inspiring remarks.

Director Mazzorato recognized this is the first Regular Board Meeting for Peter Cusumano, Superintendent, Mississauga West Family of Schools and Max Vecchiarino, Associate Director, Instructional Services. She wished them well in their new roles.

**C. Awards and Presentations**

1. 2024 Dr. Arthur Wood Award - Recipient Principal Julie Lavalle

Director Mazzorato paid tribute to Julie Lavalle, Principal of St. Alfred Catholic Elementary School (CES). Principal Lavalle received the Dr. Arthur Wood Award for her efforts in promoting active school travel. She has led her school in championing the School Streets project, providing a safe space for students, and encouraging them to walk or bike home from school. Under Principal Lavalle's leadership, St. Alfred CES has continued to run a strong School Walking Routes program.

The assembly gave Principal Lavalle a round of applause and photos were taken with the Board of Trustees.

2. Wilde Wood School Safety Zone Award - Recipient Principal Tara Persad and St. Raphael CES

Director Mazzorato presented a certificate of appreciation to Principal Persad and her school community as one of the DPCDSB winners of the 2024 Wilde Wood School Safety Zone Award. St. Raphael CES promoted active school travel with student ambassadors and organized Kiss and Ride to keep traffic moving and to ensure student safety.

Photos were taken with the Board of Trustees and Principal Persad, and the assembly gave a round of applause.

3. Wilde Wood School Safety Zone Award - Recipient Principal Kelly-Ann Marsi and St. Margaret of Scotland CES

Director Mazzorato presented a certificate of appreciation to Principal Marsi and her school community as one of the DPCDSB winners of the 2024 Wilde Wood School Safety Zone Award. St. Margaret of Scotland CES engaged in the School Walking Routes Program to promote active travel, enrolled students in pedestrian and bike safety education through Peel Children's Safety Village and demonstrated commitment to promoting active and safe school travel.

The assembly gave Principal Marsi a round of applause and photos were taken with the Board of Trustees.

#### **D. Delegations**

1. Emily Vajda - Pride Flag

1. Trustee Brea Corbet: Thank you for sharing your delegation and also for the important work that you did as a student at your secondary school running the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). The GSA not only ensures our 2SLGBTQIA+ students have a strong inclusive network at school, but it also fosters an environment that enables their peers to support them as allies. Why did you feel it was important to run the GSA in your school?

Delegate Emily Vajda: I saw students bullied and needed to stand up with and for these students. They should not feel small and forgotten. We provided support to members that did not have family or peer support in the queer community.

2. Trustee Brea Corbet: We know in order to succeed academically; we need to nurture and care for student well-being.

Delegate Emily Vajda: The simple gesture of flying or displaying the Pride flag shows that they are seen and safe. Educators and students need to stop harmful language and bullying of students and help ensure that schools are a safe and inclusive environment.

Trustees Questions to Staff:

1. Trustee Brea Corbet: Do all secondary schools have GSAs?

Director Mazzorato: The vast majority of secondary schools have a GSA. If a school does not have a GSA, students should ask that a group be formed, a dedicated staff member would need to facilitate. We do not have any GSAs at the elementary level, it could be created in the same manner but would only be available for Grade 7 and 8 students due to curriculum parameters.

2. Dawn Krol - Pride Flag

Trustees Questions to Staff:

1. Trustee Brea Corbet: Can staff provide an update on initiating the 2SLGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee? Will we solicit parents/guardians to participate?

Director Mazzorato: We have requested staff interest and will begin as soon as possible. We are working on the constitution of the committee and parent/guardian participation will be discussed.

2. Trustee Brea Corbet: What do the changes to Policy 8.06: Flag Protocol mean for the display of student artwork that may contain a flag in their work?

Director Mazzorato: Student artwork is acceptable, but the artwork may not be displayed on bulletin boards. We have reviewed the curriculum and there are no obstacles created by not flying flags.

3. Trustee Brea Corbet: If we are saying to students through their inquiry based activities and curriculum related classwork that *"you can draw a flag, but you can't display this drawing unless it is only the Canadian flag or provincial/territories flags or the DP flag"* then I'm concerned the implementation of this policy is over reaching and interferes with a student's right to personal expression. Our school communities are diverse and have a beautiful cultural mosaic that creates a sense of belonging for our students. Limitations on the display of student art and work have a negative impact on students to express their creativity, heritage and individuality. I would like to request that staff reconsider the implications of this policy. When this policy comes up for review again, we need to define what is a flag so we have more clarity.

Director Mazzorato: We are not censoring student work; we are operationalizing a policy. Teachers make choices of what to display on bulletin boards or in their classrooms, some artwork or school work is displayed, however not all work is displayed.

4. Student Trustee Raheem White: If there is a cultural day and a student wears clothing that has a flag on it, is that acceptable?

Director Mazzorato: There is nothing in the dress code that prohibits flags from being displayed on clothing.

#### **E. Reports from Trustees for Receipt**

##### **1. Regular Reports**

- a. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Report

##### **Motion 1387 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Shawn Xaviour

**Seconded by** Bruno Iannicca

**MOTION THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE WRITE A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS TO OCSTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NICK MILANETTI ON HIS RETIREMENT AND TO THANK HIM FOR ALWAYS CHAMPIONING DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD.**

Trustee Mario Pascucci: On March 13, the Large Urban School Boards Committee will meet to prepare for the OCSTA Annual General Meeting in April.

- b. Student Voice Report

Indigenous Student Trustee Bailey Clyne and Student Trustees Jia Sharma (North) and Raheem White (South) introduced themselves. Indigenous Student Trustee Bailey Clyne spoke in Anishinaabemowin.

At the beginning of February, we hosted a virtual student trustee information session. Approximately 35 students attended. During the information meeting we explained the role of the student trustee and described the position. We shared specifics about the time commitment, duties, and opportunities that come with the student trustee position. It was an opportunity to answer a variety of questions from interested candidates. We look forward to hosting our Student Trustee Elections on

February 28, for the North and South Student Trustees here at the Catholic Education Centre (CEC).

Our next student senate meeting will occur on the same day as our elections, February 28, as our Senators are voting members. We have worked alongside the Well-Being working group to formulate a report for the Mental Health Advisory Committee, which outlined the Senate's past initiatives and school-wide activities. For example, anti-bullying week, well-being slides over Winter Break, and Bell Let's Talk Day. We look forward to meeting with our senators and collaborating on future initiatives.

Many schools ran Bell Let's Talk initiatives and mental health activities. We are very proud to say most of our schools are engaging in Black History Month (BHM) Celebrations, with the final event being a BHM showcase at most of our schools this week. Our chaplaincy programs have all begun planning for Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten season.

As for student concerns, once again, our senators raised concerns regarding washroom conditions, their frequent closures, and the restrictive nature of the recently revised flag policy.

c. Good News Report

*Chair Luz del Rosario passed the chair to Acting Vice-Chair Mario Pascucci.*

**Trustee Luz del Rosario**

**Mississauga Wards 6 & 11**

**St. Marcellinus Catholic Secondary School (CSS)**

Grade 10 student, Anaya Joseph, was selected to play for the Under 17 and Under 20 Guyana Women's National Football Team respectively, to compete in qualifiers with the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football. The qualifiers determine the countries that will eventually move on to compete in the World Cup. Anaya scored her first and second international goals. The team did not move forward but had an excellent showing against some tough competitors. In February 2025, Anaya was called up to play for the Under 20 Guyana Women's National Football Team to compete in The Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) qualifiers again. She is incredibly humbled by these opportunities to play soccer and represent nationally on an international stage. She is grateful to the St. Marcellinus CSS staff, coaches and community for all their support, and hopes to continue making them proud.

**St. Marcellinus CSS – Black History Month**

The Black Student Alliance (BSA) held a Showcase and Fashion Show for Black History Month. There was a variety of fashions from different countries i.e., Nigeria, Congo and Jamaica. Congratulations to the BSA team, including Student Trustee Raheem White as he was one of the organizers of this wonderfully diverse celebration.

*Chair Luz del Rosario resumed the chair.*

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

1. Receipt of the Minutes of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting, November 12, 2024
  1. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Referred to page 45, question 2 regarding his previous concern on declining enrolment and possible marketing plans.

Director Mazzorato advised that information will be provided in Issues & Events.

2. Receipt of the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting, November 12, 2024
3. Receipt of the Minutes of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Meeting, December 5, 2024

*Trustee Stefano Pascucci left the meeting at 7:57 and returned at 8:01 pm.*

4. Receipt of the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, January 22, 2025

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

1. Retirement - N. Poerba, Principal

Director Mazzorato paid tribute to Natalie Poerba as she begins her retirement on April 1, 2025, after 27 years of service to DPCDSB and Catholic education. Natalie began her teaching career at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic Secondary School (CSS) in 1998.

Natalie answered the call to leadership and was promoted to vice-principal at St. Francis of Assisi CES in 2012 and continued at St. Bernard of Clairvaux CES and St. Teresa of Avila CES.

Natalie embraced the position of principal at Holy Spirit CES, St. Catherine of Siena CES and St. Louis CES. As a principal she is thankful for the kindness and unwavering support she received from both the staff and the community. Serving these communities has been a true honor, and the joyful smiles of the children will forever hold a special place in Natalie's heart.

As Natalie embarks on a well-deserved retirement, we extend our deepest thanks and heartfelt appreciation for her contributions to education. May this new chapter be filled with joy, relaxation, and the fulfillment of all the dreams and aspirations of retirement.

**H. Updates/Information/Reports from Administration Requiring Action**

1. Motions Recommended by the Audit Committee, February 4, 2025

**Motion 1388 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Bruno Iannicca

**Seconded by** Stefano Pascucci

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2025.**

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DELOITTE LLP, CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS, AS EXTERNAL AUDITORS TO DPCDSB FOR THE THREE-YEAR TERM STARTING WITH THE MARCH 31, 2025 SPECIFIED PROCEDURES REPORT AND EXPIRING WITH THE AUGUST 31, 2027 YEAR-END AUDIT.**

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE RIAT TWO-YEAR AUDIT PLAN 2022-23 AND 2023-24 BE AMENDED TO CANCEL THE IT ASSETS: SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT ENGAGEMENT.**

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE REGIONAL INTERNAL AUDIT TEAM (RIAT) AUDIT PLAN FOR 2024-2025 AND 2025-2026.**

**CARRIED**

2. Motions Recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee, February 4, 2025

**Motion 1390 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Darryl D'Souza

**Seconded by** Anisha Thomas

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE 2025.**

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.**

**CARRIED**

3. 2025-2026 Modified School Year Calendar

*Trustee Shawn Xaviour left the meeting at 8:03 and returned at 8:07 P.M.*

Director Mazzorato clarified that the September 15 Reorganization Day will be an additional cost for DPCDSB of approximately \$75,000. The date does not align with our coterminous board, they are not able to have the reorganization date until later in the month. Having the reorganization day earlier is easier on students and their well-being.

**Motion 1389 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Thomas Thomas

**Seconded by** Brea Corbet

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE 2025-2026 MODIFIED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.**

**CARRIED**

**I. Additional Business - Nil**

1. Notices of Motion

**J. Questions Asked by Trustees**

1. Trustee Brea Corbet: School parking lots have large piles of snow taking up space and blocking parking spaces for parents/guardians due to the recent snowfalls. The provincial election is on



Thursday and some schools are voting locations. Are contractors able to continue with snow removal efforts?

Acting Superintendent Moriah: We have advised all contractors to continue with snow removal daily at all schools. Facility Managers are working with our contractors to ensure they are working to clear Kiss N Ride lanes, salting, clearing parking lots, and leveling the snow piles. The election sites have been prioritized for this work.

2. Trustee Brea Corbet: There are also problems with snow blocking sidewalks and blocking driveways on city property, can staff collaborate with the city to improve this situation?

Acting Superintendent Moriah: We continue to engage and will send a reminder with our municipal partners .

3. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: At a recent Catholic School Council (CSC) meeting a question was asked if we have bereavement retreats for students who have lost loved ones.

Director Mazzorato: Bereavement retreats are specifically done by schools as needed in a variety of ways. Chaplains would deal with requests at the secondary level and at the elementary level Child and Youth Workers (CYW) and Social Workers would conduct as required. We can raise this on the Director's webcast.

4. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: In our cosmetology classes do we have session on how women of colour manage their needs i.e., colour choices for make-up or variety of hair textures?

Director Mazzorato: We have in the past provided in-services for students and staff regarding the needs of multi-ethnic care and supported classrooms with diverse resources.

5. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: We have raised this in the past, can we look at having secondary schools share Graduation locations? If three or more schools could book a venue, they could share the cost by staggering the Graduation times i.e., 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. This would decrease costs substantially.

Director Mazzorato: We have looked at this in the past. We can raise the possibility again with secondary administrators and ensure that the Central Committee for Catholic Schools (CCCSC) is consulted.

6. Trustee Stefano Pascucci suggested that the elementary schools work with secondary schools to use the secondary facilities to host elementary Graduations. He noted that air conditioning needs to be functioning after hours if a Graduation is scheduled.

7. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Can staff explain what occurs if a primary or junior student wishes to take home a device, is this permitted as they do not have a dedicated device?

Director Mazzorato: There is no policy to prevent students from taking home a computer. The teacher and/or administrator would manage the request.

8. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Do we have competitions for students with special needs?

Superintendent Papaloni: We have local events at schools and we also have students participating in the Special Olympics. We can provide information in Issues & Events on opportunities.

9. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff provide information on how many students participate in the Special Olympics?

Superintendent Papaloni: We can provide information in Issues & Events on opportunities.

10. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Is there an International Film Festival for DPCDSB?

Director Mazzorato: We can take that back for review.

11. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Do representatives from the secondary BSA groups visit elementary schools to promote their group and encourage participation?

Director Mazzorato: This has been done by some schools; we can remind administrators on the Director's webcast.

*Trustee Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi left the meeting at 8:39 p.m. and returned at 8:47 p.m.*

12. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: At the Black History Month events there were exceptional speakers and presenters, how can they speak to more schools?

Director Mazzorato: External presenters are vetted and approved by the board process. They can begin the process by visiting the DPCDSB website. Principals access the approved list of presenters and share feedback from their experiences to their colleagues. We can make sure that the CCCSC committee is aware of the approved list of presenters.

*Trustee Shawn Xaviour left the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and returned at 8:47 p.m.*

13. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) has requested that when the board website is revised that all Special Education is under one tab.

Chief Information Officer MacIsaac: We are currently working on the website and note the request.

14. Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Is staff working on an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy?

Director Mazzorato: We can provide information in Issues & Events?

*Trustee Darryl D'Souza left the meeting at 8:43 pm and returned at 8:48 pm.*

15. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff provide an update on the lottery process that schools would need to complete to hold a raffle?

Counsel Beck: The City of Mississauga and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) are not willing to change the rules to allow the board to hold one license for all schools. We are going to assist schools to pilot the registration process. The Family of Schools superintendents have solicited interest from schools to pilot the registration process. We have one elementary and secondary school so far, tomorrow following Superintendents' Meetings we will have more schools ready to pilot the lottery process.

16. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff provide an update on the Financial Literacy course for our Grade 10 students?

Director Mazzorato: Students need to have a mark of 70% on Financial Literacy for graduation. The test is based on the accumulation of skills and knowledge from Grade 7 to 10. TVO has

developed modules to help students successfully pass the test. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) have in-serviced our Grade 9 teachers on Financial Literacy, and our Program and Learning Services department continues to highlight resources available to educators.

*Chair Luz del Rosario passed the chair to Acting Vice-Chair Mario Pascucci.*

17. Chair Luz del Rosario: Can Counsel Beck confirm if the lottery process is only for raffles, and not for bingo?

Counsel Beck: That is correct, we are piloting the process for schools to hold raffles.

*Chair Luz del Rosario resumed the chair.*

**K. Declared Interest Items - Nil**

**L. In Camera Meeting of the Committee of the Whole**

**Motion 1391 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Darryl D'Souza

**Seconded by** Brea Corbet

**THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MOVE INTO A CLOSED MEETING AS DISCUSSIONS WILL INVOLVE THE DISCLOSURE OF INTIMATE, PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OR COMMITTEE, OR AN EMPLOYEE.**

**CARRIED**

**M. Report from the In Camera Meeting of the Committee of the Whole**

Report: The Committee of the Whole Received In Camera Board Minutes from January 25, 2025 , and there were Questions Asked by Trustees of an In Camera Nature, Receipt of Administrative Appointments and Transfers Report and Private In Camera Verbal Report of Operational Items.

**Motion 1392 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi

**Seconded by** Darryl D'Souza

**THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE A LETTER TO THE MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CONCERNING INCREASED INCIDENCES OF UNSAFE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR.**

**CARRIED**

**N. Future Meetings**

March 25, 2025

April 29, 2025

May 27, 2025

June 17, 2025

**O. Adjournment**

**Motion 1393 (25-02-25)**

**Moved by** Thomas Thomas

**Seconded by** Shawn Xaviour

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 10:42 P.M.**

**CARRIED**



<b>F 1</b>	<b>Receipt of the A&amp;F Minutes of November 12, 2024</b>	
	Trustee Mario Pascucci: Referred to page 45, question 2 regarding his previous concern on declining enrolment and possible marketing plans.	As per the Minutes of the November 12, 2024 Administration and Finance Committee: <i>Annually we produce the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan (LTFMP) geared to enrolment information and the resulting trends. The good news is that the rate of decline is slowing, and stabilizing year-over-year.</i>
<b>J.</b>	<b>Questions Asked by Trustees</b>	
<b>Q 5</b>	Trustee Bruno Iannicca: We have brought this up in the past, can we look at having secondary schools share Graduation locations? If three or more schools could book a venue, they could share the cost by staggering the Graduation times i.e., 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. This would decrease costs substantially.	Item was shared at Director's Webcast and will be reviewed at Instructional Services Council, with a view to financial savings as possible.
<b>Q 8</b>	Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Do we have competitions for students with special needs?	See Appendix 1, which was provided in the Issues and Events on March 7, 2025.
<b>Q 9</b>	Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Can staff provide information on how many students participate in the Special Olympics?	See Appendix 1, which was provided in the Issues and Events on March 7, 2025.
<b>Q 14</b>	Trustee Darryl D'Souza: Is staff working on an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy?	Submission for I & E to be prepared and shared with Trustees.

### Special Olympics in DPCDSB (2024-2025)

Students with differing abilities participate in a variety of specific events and competitions board wide. Events such as the ROPSSAA Track and Field Meet held at St. Marcellinus, seasonal social events such as Iona's Snowflake Dance, and Family of School's Elementary and Secondary Connection Events such as The Arts in Mississauga East and Shining Stars in Mississauga West and the Skills competition board wide held at St Augustine have components focused on students with differing abilities. While these events showcase the gifts and talents of students with differing abilities, students from across the system also participate in supporting these events.

In addition to these events our schools also participate in School Level Special Olympics which provide opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to excel in sports.

### Special Olympics in DPCDSB (2024-2025)

Over the past 50 years the Special Olympics has grown to become the world's largest movement dedicated to promoting respect, acceptance, inclusion and human dignity for people with intellectual disabilities through sport. Special Olympics welcomes all athletes with a wide range of abilities who have an intellectual disability from age 2 and up.

Athletes that participate in Special Olympics come from a wide range of ability levels, but in order to participate they must have an *intellectual disability*. Special Olympics athletes may also have a physical disability. The participant must be at least 8 years old and there is no upper age limit. Nearly one-third of the athletes are age 22 or older. Community clubs are also engaged in Special Olympics at all levels and schools can get involved by having students fill out participation forms.

Since January 2024, 8 elementary and secondary schools have participated in a virtual Special Olympic event/programs. System communication continues to be shared through the Special Education department to inform schools that school/class participation needs to adhere to GAP 525 for presentations (virtual or in person) and GAP 801 for sports excursions.

Last year, 200 students from 10 DPCDSB schools participated in various sports, including soccer, basketball, bocce, and track and field. Active DPCDSB Schools from March 2024-2025 include:

- St. Roch CSS – 20 Basketball, 10 Bocce 10, 14 Soccer Athletes
- St. Thomas Aquinas CSS - 16 Soccer, 18 Basketball, 17 Bocce Athletes
- St. Marcellinus CSS – 15 Bocce Athletes
- Iona CSS - 15 Bocce Athletes
- Philip Pocock CSS - 21 Soccer, 30 Bocce Athletes
- St. Joan of Arc CSS - 17 Soccer, 14 Basketball, 20 Bocce Athletes
- St. Aloysius Gonzaga CSS – 10 Floorball Athletes
- St. Martin CSS - 10 Bocce Athletes
- Notre Dame CSS - 5 Bocce Athletes
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS – 11 Soccer, 6 Basketball, 8 Bocce Athletes

Special Olympics staff report that the overall event numbers by sport show more than 300 participants to date (Basketball: 58, Soccer: 79, Bocce: 115 and Floorball: 82). In addition to athlete participation, DPCDSB hosted the Special Olympic Soccer at St. Joan of Arc CSS and Special Olympic Bocce at Philip Pocock CSS.

Last year, we are proud to share that 3 DPCDSB school teams qualified for provincials: Our Lady of Mount Carmel SS for Basketball, Philip Pocock CSS for Bocce & Track and St. Aloysius Gonzaga for Floorball. So far this year, two schools have qualified for provincials: St. Joan of Arc CSS for Soccer and Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS for Basketball.

Special Olympics also has a four-year Games cycle in both summer and winter sports, with local, regional, and national qualifying competitions building up to Special Olympics World Games. Last year, the Winter Games 2024 were hosted in Calgary. The 2025 World Winter Games are set for March 8-15, 2025, in Turin, Italy. More than 1,500 athletes from 100 delegations will compete in 8 sports in an international demonstration of inclusion, acceptance, and unity. Team Canada is represented by 90 athletes in five winter sports (alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, speed skating, snow shoeing). Highlights can be followed on Instagram (**SOTeamCanada25**). This year, the Provincial Summer Games will be hosted by the City of Brantford, welcoming 750 athletes from across Ontario starting July 10 until July 13. It will feature five diverse sporting events: softball, bocce, athletics, golf and soccer.

DPCDSB continues to promote Special Olympic programs and we are proud to cheer on our school, provincial and national teams as we celebrate the incredible athletic abilities and dedication of individuals with an intellectual disability as they reach their goals!