



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Regular Board Meeting – Open Session Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board – North Boardroom
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, ON, L1J 7C4
January 22, 2024, at 7:30 PM EST

Trustees Present

M. Forster (Chair)

Trustees K. Beatty, R. De Souza, J. Emanuel, M. Hall, J. McCafferty, M. Ste. Marie

Trustee Regrets

R. Damianopoulos (Vice Chair)

Student Trustees Present

M. Esan, A. Walsh

Director of Education Present

T. Barill

Senior Administration Present

K. Akomolafe, S. Grieve, M. Hammond, M. O'Neill, P. Sorhaitz, K. Stevenson, J. Wilson,
G. Winn

Senior Managers Present

T. Long, F. Pileggi, R. Tawembe

1. Opening

1.1. Call to Order

Chair Forster called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

1.2. Motion to Move In Camera

Motion:

B2024-01-22-01 - Motion to Move In Camera

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board meeting move into In Camera session."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. De Souza.

CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

1.3. Memorials and Prayer

Student Trustee Walsh offered the opening prayer.

1.4. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Forster offered the following land acknowledgement:

“We here in the Durham Region respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island. We are grateful to live, work, and pray on this land. We are committed to walking the path together toward the full realization of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”

1.5. Canadian Anthem

Pre-recorded performance by St. John XXIII Catholic School.

1.6. Roll Call and Apologies

Vice Chair Damianopoulos sent regrets.

1.7. Approval of the Agenda

Motion:

B2024-01-22-02 – Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the Monday, January 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as provided."

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by R. De Souza.

CARRIED

1.8. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

1.8.1. Regular Board Meeting held December 18, 2023

Motion:

B2024-01-22-03 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the December 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by J. Emanuel and motion seconded by K. Beatty.

CARRIED

1.9. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Items of Information

2.1. Announcements

2.1.1. Announcements from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting

Chair Forster read the following announcement:

Retirement – Effective January 31, 2024

Mark Bulat, St. Mary Catholic Secondary School

2.1.2. Appointments and Transfers

Secondary Vice Principal Appointment – Effective February 1, 2024

- Lori Paterson appointed to Vice Principal of Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School from teacher at Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School.

Vice Principal Transfer – Effective February 1, 2024

- Jennifer Brown, Vice Principal, transferred from Monsignor John Pereyma Catholic Secondary School to St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic School.

2.2. Notices of Motion

None.

2.3. Presentations

2.3.1. Safe and Caring Schools – School Safety

- Paula Sorhaitz, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on Safety and well-being in our Durham Catholic school communities.
- Highlights from her presentation include:
 - Student and Staff Safety – Overview
 - Proactive Measures: School Safety
 - The Three Rs: Reaching the Learning Brain
 - The Regulated Classroom
 - Safe and Caring Schools, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Weeks
 - Administrator Training
 - Safety-Related Staff Training
- Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

2.3.2. 2024 Black History Month

- Kayode Akomolafe, Human Rights and Equity Advisor presented on 2024 Black History Month initiatives to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Akomolafe shared that during the month of February, the DCDSB, like many organizations across the country, celebrates Black History Month.
- Highlights from his presentation include:

- Acknowledging and celebrating the contributions, culture, history, and achievements of Black students, staff, families, and communities every day.
- To increase representation, participation, and belonging for Black employees, the Black Heritage and Excellence Celebration Committee organizes staff-led and staff-focused events that highlight the contributions of Black Canadians.
- The board will continue working to further the relationship with the Black community through the DCDSB Anti-Black Racism & Black Excellence Advisory Committee, community-based organizations, Black professional organizations and other organizations that work to dismantle anti-Black racism and address other forms of discrimination experienced by Black students, staff, and families. The DCDSB Equity Invitational Learning Series is one of the ways the board collaborates with the community towards dismantling anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination in education.
- Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

2.4. Delegations

None.

2.5. Student Trustees Report

The Student Trustees provided the following report:

- Intro (Aoife): Student councils had a successful month in December running their art showcases and semi formals, ending the year 2023 on a happy note! Our school communities have been having a great start to the new year, and with upcoming exams, it has been a busy month for all. We are wishing the best of luck for students with their exams.
- Senate (Aoife): At our Senate meeting (Jan 15) we had a productive and educational meeting with Dr. Clark and the Intergenerational Hub, who came and gave us a presentation on their plans for an upcoming Career Panel event happening at our board for black students. The Senate will be assisting the Intergenerational Hub with spreading the word about this event and attracting student interest. Our Senators plus presidents also had the opportunity to ask Dr. Clark questions, and he was more than willing to answer them, engaging in meaningful discussions with the senators. Our Communications subcommittee has also put out our December Senate star post, as well as a post giving students tips for their upcoming exams. Our Student Senate hopes to host a Student

Voices Forum in Early April as well as visits to seven elementary schools all in hopes to help build awareness of Senate, spark initiatives for students to bring back to their schools, give students tools to successfully carry out initiatives, tools for leadership and learn how senate can improve our advocacy.

- OSTA-AECO (Moyin): Typically, OSTA-AECO holds an annual board councils conference in February. However, since the restructuring of the organization, seeing as there are no longer board councils, this conference is now called the Education Action Conference (EAC). I am a member of the Education and Curriculum Advocacy Interest Group which focuses on the improvement of education for the interests of student success in Ontario. Our objective is to target 21st-century learning, while creating an inclusive and vibrant space for learning, with the success of Ontario students in mind. As a group, our goal is to create equitable education that will allow students to attain knowledge and reach their full potential. I am also a member of the Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity advocacy interest group which works to improve the quality of school environments for all students, regardless of who they are and where they come from. We advocate for accepting spaces within Ontario's schools and promote the concept of amplifying the voices of those with lived experiences.
- Closing (Moyin): With exam season at the door and semester two in sight students are excited for the second half of the school year and all that it brings. As a Senate, we are excited for a return to normalcy and progression in student leadership and advocacy with our Student Voices Forum as well as elementary school visits. The Student Senate, Aoife, and I are excited for the second half of the semester and all that it brings.

2.6. Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation

Received for information.

2.7. Minutes and/or reports from Committee Meetings

The minutes and/or reports from Committee meetings were received for information. Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions.

2.7.1. Special Education Advisory Committee – January 9, 2024

2.7.2. Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee – January 11, 2024

2.8. Staff Reports (for information)

The following staff reports were received for information. Staff responded to questions from Trustees as they arose.

- 2.8.1. Trustee and Student Trustee Attendance – January to December 2023
- 2.8.2. Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) Annual Report
- 2.8.3. Safe and Caring Schools – School Safety
- 2.8.4. 2024 Black History Month

3. Items for Decision

3.1. Consideration of Motions for which previous notices has been given.

3.1.1. Ad hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

Motion:

B2024-01-22-04 – Ad hoc Committee for Enhancing the Use of Public Transit

“Whereas, since the 1960’s until 2014, the bussing of the majority of high school students to and from Durham schools was handled efficiently by the municipal transit agencies through the use of bus tickets/passes; the municipal operators were Ajax-Pickering Transit, Whitby Transit, Oshawa Transit and Clarington Transit, later amalgamated into Durham Region Transit (DRT) in 2006;

Whereas, in 2014, Durham Region Transit raised the cost of the monthly bus pass significantly and the school boards assumed responsibility for transporting eligible high school students on yellow school buses through its consortium Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS);

Whereas, for the last few years, pre- and post-pandemic, school bus operators across Ontario have had difficulty finding and retaining a sufficient number of school bus drivers;

Whereas many transit agencies in the province (Toronto, York Region, Ottawa, Kingston) have a high percentage of high school students using public transit to travel to and from school, and more boards and transit agencies are considering similar arrangements;

<https://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/school-bus-routes/oc-transpo-public-transit-information/#:~:text=OC%20Transpo%20is%20a%20convenient,be%20issued%20to%20eligible%20students.>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/tvdsb-to-consider-free-transit-passes-for-high-school-students-1.7018273>

Whereas DSTS continues to maximize the efficiency of its system using the resources it has, in the fall of 2021, Durham District School Board (DDSB) and Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) sought an expanded relationship between DRT and

DSTS. A public delegation was made to the Transit Executive Committee of Durham Region on December 8, 2021, with the intention of explaining the benefits of transit passes for high school students; negotiating a lower rate for DRT passes currently purchased by DSTS; and a strategy to have more high school students given monthly DRT transit passes;

Appendix A. DCDSB presentation at a Virtual Public Meeting by Morgan Ste. Marie, Chair (pages 1-6 focused on current DRT passes) and Declan Amaral, Student Trustee (pages 7-13, benefits of public transit, student perspective).

Appendix B. DDSB presentation transcript by Carolyn Morton, Chair, (focused on expanded use of public transit for high school students);

Whereas, in the months after this delegation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Region, the Boards and DSTS that “establishes shared principles to guide on-going collaboration” and this MOU was made public on June 8, 2022;

Page 38: <https://calendar.durham.ca/default/Detail/2022-06-08-1330-Transit-Executive-Committee-Meeting/fe6254eb-dde9-4e6b-9d5b-aea90122854e>

Whereas, the Durham Region Transit Service Strategy 2022-2025 references identified opportunities to increase the percent of high school students using transit from 9% to 42%;

Page 13: <https://www.durhamregiontransit.com/en/about-us/resources/The-Route-Ahead-ACCESSIBLE.pdf>

Be it resolved that an ad hoc committee of Staff and no less than 3 Trustees be created to lay out an engagement strategy that advances the shared principles of the Memorandum of Understanding, including “enhancing the use of public transit by youth, including secondary school students, within a fiscally responsible framework” with our transportation partners, transit agencies and other levels of government.

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and motion seconded by K. Beatty.
CARRIED

3.2. Motions to be read in Open Session from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of January 22, 2024

Motion:

B2024-01-22-05 – Motions Deemed Read

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Motions as deemed read from the In Camera session of the January 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by J. Emanuel and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie.
CARRIED

3.3. Business arising from previous meetings

Update from the December 18, 2023, Continuing Education presentation:

- The Amadeusz program is not currently being offered to incarcerated females but Continuing Education will continue to seek opportunities to expand these programs.

Trustee Beatty left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

3.4. Staff Reports (for decision)

3.4.1. Financial Reporting

Motion:

B2024-01-22-06 – Financial Reporting

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Schedule of Financial Reports to the Board of Trustees as outlined in this report."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. De Souza. CARRIED

4. Other Business

4.1. Board Communications – received for information

4.1.1. Correspondence from Superior-Greenstone District School Board

4.1.2. Correspondence from Halton Catholic District School Board

4.2. Director's Report

Director Barill provided the following report:

- As Catholic educators and leaders, we wrap up the month of January with our secondary students in our prayers as we wish them a successful completion of their first semester.
- A reminder to Elementary students that First Term Report Cards will be sent home on February 12.
- We also want to welcome families who have registered their children for French Immersion or the Regional Arts & Media Program for a September 2024 start.
- Our Kindergarten registration is now open, and students must be turning four years of age by December 31, 2024 to register. Visit dcdsb.ca/Kindergarten for more information and to register

online. As always, we continue to welcome new registrations throughout the year.

- I want to thank Mr. Akomolafe, Human Rights & Equity Advisor, and the Anti-Black Racism and Black Excellence Committee and the Black Heritage and Excellence Celebration Committee for their work on the Equity Invitational Learning Series. The second session in the series featured Allison Hector-Alexander who explored the role that allyship can play in promoting successful outcomes for Black students. Thank you to everyone who participated and joined us for an evening of learning.
- At Durham Catholic, we are blessed to have wonderful Indigenous community partners and team. Last week, our Indigenous Education Circle reviewed and provided feedback on our Board Action Plan which will be submitted to the Ministry of Education. We are proud of the work that has been done and hope to continue to expand and develop our Indigenous Education initiatives as we move forward. I would like to highlight the Big Drum Social being hosted by Durham Community Health Center (formerly CAREA) on Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at 115 Grassmere Avenue, Oshawa. The event will include children’s activities, and Indigenous vendors – all are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- As we heard from Mr. Akomolafe earlier this evening, Durham Catholic looks forward to celebrating Black History Month in February. We look forward to liturgies, initiatives and events for staff, students and families throughout February. We continue to focus on moving beyond celebrating Black excellence during Black History Month to acknowledging and celebrating the contributions, culture, history, and achievements of Black students, staff, families, and communities every day.
- As we prepare for our Lenten journeys, we note that this year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th (Valentine's Day). Our schools will work to arrange schedules for that week to ensure the respectful recognition of Ash Wednesday. May our students, staff, and families have a peaceful retreat during the season of Lent in anticipation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- In closing, I wish our families a wonderful month ahead, and a joyous Family Day on Monday, February 19.

4.3. Chair’s Report

Chair Forster provided the following report:

- I want to express my appreciation to my fellow trustees who were able to attend with me the 2024 Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association Seminar last week. This year’s theme was Catholic Trustees: Stewards of the Promise. I am grateful for our shared

commitment to capacity building and lifelong learning. We are focused on serving the best interests of our students and our Durham Catholic community.

- We are pleased to confirm that the new addition at St. Anne Catholic School in Oshawa opened on Monday, January 8, 2024, and students and staff are now using the new classrooms. As you know, over the past year, a new wing was built at St. Anne Catholic School creating an additional 184 student spaces, through the support of a \$4.8 million investment from the Ontario Government. The addition of eight new classrooms at the school provides much needed student spaces in north Oshawa, where we have seen extraordinary growth over the past few years. We express our sincere thanks and congratulations to Superintendent Grieve and the Facilities Services team for their work on this project.
- We continue to focus on the mental health and well-being of our students, staff and community at DCDSB. On January 24, we will recognize Bell Let's Talk Day, to encourage students, staff and families to open up conversation about mental health in order to lessen the stigma and build understanding, so that much needed supports can be accessed by those in need. We want to make sure that our students are aware and can access the mental health supports which are always available. We hope to foster the type of environments where our students are able to reach out to any trusted adult who can support them and assist them with connecting with the help that they need. Students, parents and families unsure about where to go or who to talk to, can always seek support through the [DCDSB Social Work Access Line](#). There are also resources available on our website.
- I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank our psychology staff, including our board Psychologist, Psychological Associates, Psychometrists, and Board Certified Behaviour Analysts. Please join us in recognizing Durham Catholic psychology staff on February 5th, when we celebrate Psychology Staff Appreciation Day.
- The fifth annual National Catholic Health Care Week will take place from February 4-10. This celebration then leads us into The World Day of the Sick on February 11, which is a Catholic day of observance established by Pope John Paul II to encourage prayers and reflection about those who are ill and for all those who care for them. This year's National Catholic Health Care Week theme is Building Bridges, which speaks to the gift of Catholic health as a sign of hope in the world and offers each person in their journey to care for themselves or others some words of blessing and hope.
- We are entering Awards season here at Durham Catholic and are currently inviting nominations for the Reverend John Markle Home-

School Communications Award and for the Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award. Details will be available on our website this week.

Trustee Beatty returned at 9:29 p.m. She then left the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

- 4.4. Trustee Questions
None.

Motion to Move In Camera (9:33 p.m.)

Motion:

B2024-01-22-07 – Motion to Move In Camera

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board move into In Camera session.”

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by R. De Souza. CARRIED

Resumption of Open Session (9:52 p.m.)

- 4.5. Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

B2024-01-22-08 – Adjournment

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, January 22, 2024.”

Motion moved by R. De Souza and motion seconded by J. Emanuel.
CARRIED

- 4.6. Closing Prayer

A closing prayer was offered by Student Trustee Esan.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Monique Forster, Chair of the Board
Durham Catholic District School Board

Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead