

# Board Highlights

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

On Tuesday, May 19, 2020, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board Meeting in a virtual online format. To view the streamed broadcast of the Board Meeting in its entirety click [here](#).

## DDSB Students Perform Virtual O' Canada



Students throughout the DDSB contributed to a mash-up of O' Canada for the May 19, 2020 Virtual Board Meeting.

## Ministry Memorandums and Information Update



Acting Director of Education Norah Marsh discusses Ministry of Education memorandums.

Acting Director of Education Norah Marsh presented content from a number of Ministry of Education memos to DDSB staff. Notice was received Tuesday, May 19 that schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year. We are anticipating a future memo on distance learning, and enhanced summer learning programs. Information with

regards to the release of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) from the Ministry of Education has yet to be received.

## Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy: Support for Distance Learning Update



### Shifting from Attendance → Engagement

Equity Department staff Camille Alli and Merrill Mathews present on Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy Implementation and Support for Distance Learning.

Superintendent Mohamed Hamid introduced Equity Department staff Merrill Mathews, and Camille Alli. The presentation provided the Board of Trustees with an update of the implementation of Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy (CRRP) system strategy and the integration of CRRP in Distance Learning Spaces.

As the Equity Department begins to support the findings of engagement data during Distance Learning, CRRP continues to be the underpinning framework that supports what Inclusive spaces can look, sound, and feel like. This work with schools has sought to deepen and expand critical consciousness beyond strictly academic engagement, and move into the realms of the social and intellectual involvement.

## DDSB Good News from the System



Click on the image to watch the Good News that was presented to the Board on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, narrated by Pickering High School students Eeman and James

## Recommendations and Information Items

The Board approved the following recommendations:

- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting February 18, 2020
- Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 20, 2020
- Report: Standing Committee Meetings of May 4, 2020
- Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of May 4, 2020

The following Information Items were brought forward:

### Policy: Student Dress Code

This report provided the Board of Trustees with the proposed revisions to the Student Dress Code policy. As a part of the regular policy review cycle, the Student Dress Code policy was scheduled to be revised in 2020.

Each school in the DDSB is responsible for establishing and annually reviewing a Dress Code for students that promotes a safe and respectful environment for teaching and learning. The Dress Code shall comply with the Ontario Education Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Durham District School Board's Guidelines and Procedures for the Accommodation of Religious Requirements, Practices and Observances.

### Update #4 on School Closures

This report provided an update to the Board of Trustees on school closures and subsequent related activities for the period of May 4, 2020 to May 15, 2020:

- Ministry of Education announced that schools will remain closed for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year
- We anticipate memos from the Ministry of Education providing further direction during the month of June

### Mental Health and Well-Being

The mental health and well-being of students, families and staff continues to be the main priority of the district's approach during school closures. Over the last two weeks, the number of families seeking support for mental health services has increased.

## Identification Placement Review Committee Process

Individual Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) decisions confirm a student's exceptionality(ies) and placement. Annual reviews set the foundations for the school year ahead including identifying a student's strengths to be leveraged and areas of need. As such, they are an important component of a child's educational journey.

Approximately 9% of the IPRC meetings for the 2020-2021 school year had commenced prior to school closures. At that time, further meetings were paused to review virtual platforms for compliance with privacy legislation. The district is now ready to proceed and staff look forward to connecting with families in these meetings.

## Elementary Principles of Distance Learning

During the first week of May, we provided elementary educators with the resource Principles to Inform Distance Learning Practice for Elementary. The document articulates the principles of sound assessment during this extenuating time and provides references to inform current practice.

## Elementary Thoughtexchange

On May 8, 2020 the district launched a Thoughtexchange to seek input from families whose children are in grades K-8.

Over 3,000 participants shared their feedback about Distance Learning through this Thoughtexchange. The district is in the process of analyzing this data more closely to provide further insight to elementary educators to help inform practice and our supports as a system.

## Secondary Student Thoughtexchange

On April 29, 2020 we launched a Thoughtexchange in which DDSB secondary school students were invited to participate.

Over 3,400 secondary students shared their ideas about Distance Learning. We are in the process of sharing the thoughts of these students with educators to assist in program planning. Participants accounted for 16% of the total secondary student population and we are also encouraging educators to continue to seek student voice within their own classes.

## Educator Professional Practice Survey

On May 11, 2020 a pedagogical practice survey was circulated to Early Childhood Educators and Teachers to better understand the variety of strategies they are using in their virtual classrooms. We had over 2,500 participants who identified a variety of pedagogical strategies being used to meet the needs of learners. Most were using Google Classroom as their primary platform for regular communication.

## Recommendations and Information Items con't

### Collection of Personal Belongings from Schools

In anticipation of some lessening of COVID-19 restrictions, Facility Services is developing a plan to allow for the potential collection of personal belongings from schools by students and families. The plan will be shared with Durham Public Health to ensure that all necessary safety precautions are met. Trustees should expect more information on this in the near future.

### Voluntary Re-Deployment of Staff

The Ministry of Education released a memo on May 11, 2020 in relation to the voluntary redeployment of staff to help address staffing shortages in other sectors, such as hospitals, long-term care homes, and other residential congregated care settings. The DDSB created a local supportive framework to assist, should staff be interested in volunteering for this opportunity. The framework was distributed the week of May 19, 2020.

### Construction Projects

Following the provincial announcement on May 8, 2020 to allow construction activity to continue, school construction projects were scheduled to resume. Facilities Department staff are now working with the various consultants and contractors to restart this work.

## Regular Board and Committee Meetings

### Virtual Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, June 1, 2020

Public Session — 7:00 pm

### Virtual Board Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2020

Public Session — 7:00 pm



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

