

Board Highlights

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

On Monday, April 16, 2018, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board meeting.

O'Neill C.V.I.



Students from O'Neill C.V.I. are pictured here performing O Canada at the top of Sulphur Mountain in Banff, AB.

Principal and Vice-Principal Performance Appraisal

Director of Education Lisa Millar presented the amendments to O. Reg. 234/10 – Principal and Vice-Principal Performance Appraisal (PPA) taking effect on September 1st, 2018. One of the changes is that principals and vice-principals are required to “uphold the principles of equity and human rights.” This will help us to understand and uncover student achievement and well-being barriers within their schools.

As a part of the Annual Growth Plan, principals and vice-principals need to identify personal professional development areas of leadership competencies.

The adjustments to the PPA work in tandem with Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan, school and board improvement planning, identity-based data collection, and school and classroom practices which will help to identify systemic biases.

Collaboration is Key

Superintendent Anne Marie Laginski and Superintendent

Silvia Peterson reported on the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being and the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being. Administrators were asked for feedback and the plans relied on principal voices to ensure collaboration to reach the common goal of improving student success.

The plans are rooted with the board’s values, goals and priorities in mind. They illustrate a road map for strategies and tactics to improve student and well-being.

Commitment to Creativity

Superintendent Margaret Lazarus reported on Igniting Creativity Through Authentic Real-Life Learning. Research shows that it is better to learn through experience, known as authentic learning. This type of learning happens when students explore real-world topics, problems and projects that are relevant to them. Meadowcrest PS strongly believes that this method teaches the students problem-solving skills and builds confidence. It is a great way for students and teachers to learn together and encourages student engagement.

Meadowcrest PS used a few of these activities to maintain student interest and to allow students to access learning at their level.

- TED Talks
- Vlogs
- Math Escape Room Scenario
- Cross-curricular perspective projects not limited to a single subject
- Polished products – tasks that lead to the creation of a product

These methods have allowed Meadowcrest PS intermediate teachers to ensure that their students are creative-thinkers, problem-solvers, and are adaptable when a new situation arises.

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

Superintendent Jim Markovski and Stacey Lepine-Fisher, Senior Manager, Early Years/Poverty Strategy submitted a report to provide Trustees with information on the initiatives implemented to support and address EDI vulnerabilities. The following sub-domains were examined:

- Physical Health and Well-Being
- Social Competence
- Emotional Maturity
- Language and Cognitive Development
- Communications Skills and General Knowledge

The EDI results frame the challenges that families, schools and communities face in supporting their children's development. The data is used to inform the work being done across the board. The data helps increase general awareness of children's development and the needs of children and families within their community as a whole or within a specific neighbourhood.

This report was provided for information.

Recommendations and Information Items

The board approved the following recommendations:

Revision of Regulation #3318 – Public Concerns

To bring forward a proposed revision to Regulation #3318 – Public Concerns that align with the current needs of the Durham District School Board. This proposal is for Trustee discussion and input prior to going to Notice of Motion at the May 2018 Board meeting.

It was recommended that the board review the draft Policy, Regulation and Procedure relating to Public Concerns, as attached, in order for input prior to going to Notice of Motion at the May 2018 board meeting.

Update on Incident Reporting and Data Analysis

This report provided Trustees with an update on the DDSB processes and challenges for reporting incidents associated with incidents of aggression and workplace violence.

It was recommended that this report be provided to Trustees for information.

Update: Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework 2017-18

The purpose of this report is to provide Trustees with an update on the implementation of Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework 2017-18.

This report was presented for information. Trustees are invited to participate in the public session presentation May 24, 2018.

Director's Good News



Click on the 'Director's Good News' image to watch the Director, Lisa Millar deliver good news to the Board on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Student Senate Meeting

Monday, May 7, 2018
4:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, May 7, 2018
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2018
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

