



Board Highlights

On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board meeting.

Sinclair Secondary School Jazz Band Fills the room with Good Times!



A very special thank you to the department of Arts Head, Susan Selby and the Sinclair SS Jazz band for *Let The Good Times Roll* featuring Sabrina Ownsworth on Alto Sax.

Tango for Jam Jam featuring Sabrina Ownsworth on Alto Sax and *Sing, Sing, Sing* featuring Sabrina Ownsworth on Alto Sax and Foster McAfee on percussion.

Thank you for sharing your time and to family, friends and fans for attending the board meeting to support the students in their outstanding performance.

Celebrating Canada 150 — We Are DDSB!

DDSB Chair Michael Barrett continued the monthly Canada 150 – We Are DDSB initiative by introducing a video featuring high school students explaining why they are proud to be students at the DDSB.



Director's Good News

Over the last two weeks students from almost every DDSB secondary school travelled to France to take part in the 100th anniversary commemoration of the battle of Vimy Ridge. Our students were one of the largest contingents of students at the commemoration representing 1 out of every 20 students from Canada for the ceremonies. Over 600 DDSB students participated in the memorial ceremonies of a battle etched in history and a defining moment of our Canadian identity.

In addition, our very own Vimy Ridge Public School in Ajax hosted their own ceremonies for students, families and community also commemorating the 100th anniversary of the great battle.

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Director's Good News *continued*

Our Parent Involvement and Community Engagement team once again held a successful Parents as Partners Symposium on Saturday, April 8th. This year's symposium was held at Brooklin High School. We welcomed one of Google Canada's Directors of Engineering, Derek Phillips as our Keynote speaker to share some of the exciting and innovative projects he has been involved in and the importance of STEM and STEAM as the path to cutting edge careers in research and industry, and what skills companies such as Google are looking for when hiring new grads.

As we continue to grow as a school board and constructively engage our diverse communities, we would like announce the igniting of a new endeavor started by our very own DDSB administrative staff. The Durham Muslim Educators' Network held their launch event April 6th with goals to grow and provide a supportive network of educators and allies who will collectively work together to empower one another to identify and address areas of need in the system as they apply to equity and inclusion. The group will also be working in partnership with the DDSB to create and sustain safe spaces for all students, staff, parents, and community members who identify as Muslim. We are happy to see our staff advancing inspired leadership within the DDSB.

On April 6th 100 Co-op, Tech Ed and Guidance teachers as well as 30 grades 7 and 8 young women attended the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades symposium with presentations from an ironworker/tradeswomen advocate, the Durham Workforce Authority, Centennial College, Durham College, UOIT and others. Our board partnered with the Durham Catholic District School Board to put on a fantastic event here at the Education Centre. Anderson CVI student Olivia Starkie was recognized by local media for her skills and victories at welding competitions locally and regionally. Olivia, who is currently pursuing her passion for welding through OYAP at Durham College, spoke with up to 30 young girls and staff from the DDSB who also attended the event to learn more about careers in trades.

On April 5th grade 10 students and their families from GL Roberts CVI in Oshawa were invited to an information session during which all grade 10 students were provided with a Chromebook. Students have been using these devices both at home and at school to have access to real world information and digital

tools supporting communication, collaboration and creativity. Teaching staff at GL Roberts also engaged in a full day of teaching regarding leveraging digital technologies through Chromebooks in a 1:1 environment. Training centred on supporting student

learning through feedback, accessing digital resources to deepen learning, and supporting student learning needs through advanced technology.

On Saturday, March 25th at Forest View Public School our elementary female students from grades 6-8 took the opportunity to be exposed to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Participating students and parents received help from our grades 11 and 12 female students who took part to facilitate workshops in partnership with contributing STEM organizations. Participants had their questions answered by guests from the University of Waterloo Engineering and Science, UOIT Engineering and Science, Durham College, IBM, the Institute for Quantum Computing, Let's Talk Science and Boreal Scientific.

On Wednesday, April 5th our Special Education and Safe Schools departments held the fourth annual ADHD Expo appropriately titled "Be Aware, Be Amazing, Be an Ally!" DDSB staff, students and volunteers partnered with community agencies to deliver an evening designed to increase awareness, build advocacy skills and share strategies for living an amazing life with ADHD. Many of our schools across the system also recognized Autism Awareness. Schools at both the secondary and elementary levels shared the good work they are doing to show support for fellow students with autism.

We were once again pleased to honour students at our 32nd annual Student Recognition Night at Eastdale CVI. On April 11th, we celebrated the achievements of exceptional students across our system who have made a lasting impact on their school community beyond academics. Students from Brock High School in Cannington to Maxwell Heights in Oshawa to Dunbarton in Pickering were acknowledged for achievements such as working with a disability, excelling in sports, advocating for themselves and others and overcoming challenges well beyond what a teenager should have to experience. Each student received a plaque and was recognized on stage in honour of their achievements.

Grade 10 students Maryam and Nivaal from Sinclair Secondary School are doing great work in supporting education and equality for girls around the world. Maryam and Nivaal recently interviewed Nobel Peace prizewinner Malala Yousafzai and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as part of the Malala Foundation's #GirlPowerTrip.

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Responsive Balanced Mathematics

Program

Trustees learned more about the components of a Responsive Balanced Mathematics program and why it is important for student engagement, achievement and well-being.

Valley View Public School has successfully implemented the components of the DDSB Renewed Math Strategy Kindergarten to Grade 12 anchor chart. The administrators, teachers, educational assistants and early childhood educators have all worked together to create a responsive, balanced and engaging math learning environment for both students and educators.

A student's math learning journey at Valley View PS begins with a variety of diagnostics to determine each student's readiness to learn, identify learning gaps and misconceptions and then the intervention to close the gap. This becomes the teachers' Faces on the Data, which changes throughout the year based on each student's progress.

The Valley View PS students are confident mathematicians and perform well on classroom assessments and provincial tests both at the elementary and secondary levels, which indicates that their math learning is engaging, transferrable and sustainable. Additionally, teacher practice has shifted with teachers now measuring the impact of their instruction for the purpose of informing their practice. Teaching and learning is engaging and ongoing. Teachers, students and parents have seen that success in mathematics is attainable and with this success comes confidence and well-being.

Annex Building: Dunbarton High School

Trustees agreed to rescind a previous motion to relocate the programs currently accommodated in leased space on Bayly Street Pickering, into the Dunbarton Annex building for September 2017, which in turn, relocates Dunbarton HS pupils back into the Dunbarton HS building. Instead, trustees agreed to direct staff to provide a report with further analysis regarding the Annex building in the fall of 2017.

Filling the Trustee Vacancy

Trustees decided not to hold a by-election to fill the vacant trustee position created by the sad passing of Trustee Larry Jacula. The cost of such a by-election is estimated to be \$40,000.

Trustees decided to establish an Appointment Committee, which must have quorum of the Board, with the authority to interview and appoint. The vacancy must be filled within 90 days after the office becomes vacant.

Equitable Recruitment Policy

Trustees approved the Equitable Recruitment policy that ensures that equitable access and practices are reflected in the DDSB's policies and programs to create an inclusive environment where all stakeholders have a sense of belonging. There are three key goals in the policy: Reducing Barriers, Leadership and Implementation, and Equitable Hiring Delivery.

Upcoming Events

- **May 1 – 6** – Education Week
- **May 1 – 6** – Children's Mental Health Week
- **May 1 – 6** – Racing Against Drugs Durham Week
- **May 9** – Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
- **May 19** – Equity Conference
- **May 24** – Cypher, Black Male Empowerment Conference

Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Student Senate Meeting

Monday, May 1, 2017
4:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, May 1, 2017
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Monday, May 15, 2017
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

