



# Board Highlights

*On Monday, December 5, 2016, the Durham District School Board held its Annual Elections Board meeting.*

## Beautiful Vocals from the O'Neill CVI Chamber Choir

A very special thank you to teacher Erin Collins and the O'Neill Chamber Choir. The choir opened the Board meeting with O Canada followed by three songs: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Loch Lomond and Holly Jolly Christmas to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

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.

## Superintendent John Bowyer Announces Retirement

Superintendent of Education John Bowyer will be retiring in March 2017 following a 33-year career in education. For 29 of those years, John has worked for the Durham District School Board. He has been a Superintendent for the last 12 years.

## Director's Good News

In this season of giving it is heart-warming to mention some of the outstanding and generous works of some of our schools and students. Pickering High School student clubs recently organized the annual [We Scare Hunger Food Drive](#) on November 7th collecting canned foods to donate to the community. Students had a goal of 10,000 items, but in the end were so successful they collected over 13,000 items.

Director Millar reported Blair Ridge Public School students, with the help of the Optimist Club of Brooklin, also [organized a drive](#) to support Feed the Need Durham with non-perishable food items and online donations.

## Director's Good News *continued*

DDSB elementary students are combatting drinking and driving this holiday season with the help of the Durham Region Police Service's [Elementary Holiday Bag Program](#). The Elementary Holiday Bag Program distributes blank brown paper bags to schools who then had their students decorate the bags to warn of the dangers of impaired driving. More than 4,750 students from 16 schools decorated a bag, which the LCBO will distribute for use at local outlets this holiday season. Customers will see their purchases wrapped in these powerful messages created by our students and think twice about getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking. The program was launched November 22nd at C.E. Broughton Public School.

On November 25th students attended our second annual [Geo Day conference engaging young minds](#) in the discovery and adventure of geography. Geo Day is organized by our Durham Geography Teachers' Association and included presentations and discussion on sustainability, management, geospatial technologies, energy production, local food production and waste.

On November 28th, Programs K-12 hosted a return [visit from Dr. Marian Small](#), a prominent national and international mathematics educator and sought after math instructor as she shared with teachers her latest collection of 1000+ open-ended questions for unleashing student math success. Dr. Small presented to 170 teachers who attended the workshop and over 115 who logged in to attend via Adobe Connect. Dr. Small is a former professor and Dean of Education at the University of New Brunswick who has authored or co-authored more than 85 math books and resources. At the conclusion of Dr. Small's workshop, she gave schools in attendance two copies of her presentation resources.

## Director's Good News *continued*

Director Millar reported as of last week, we have completed our [Community Voice Reflection](#) Session overseen by Justice Donald McLeod. Community Voice Sessions enabled us to receive feedback from students, parents, staff and community members of the African, Caribbean and black diaspora by giving community members an opportunity to share their voice for sustainable change. The goal of these sessions was to ensure the Durham District School Board is aware of, and responsive to the needs of the students, families and community in which we serve. Justice Donald McLeod shared his findings and will be providing a report that will come back to trustees.

Director Millar attended Durham Connect where community leaders [met to sign the official agreement](#). Durham Connect exists to improve individual lives and find system efficiencies by applying a risk mitigation lens to human service delivery in our community. The purpose of Durham Connect is to provide strategic and expert direction regarding opportunities to mobilize community resources providing health, social services, education, and justice related services in Durham region.

Ajax H.S. started a connection with the Love Music Initiative to [introduce and engage students](#) in an after-school program involving arts, leadership, and connections. The Love Music Initiative is a multi-disciplinary and alternative education program using Hip Hop, contemporary music and popular culture as a backdrop for learning about civic engagement, history and advocacy that aims to build cultural competency and empower youth with self-awareness, self-esteem, positive self-identity, values and literacy.

Students at Ajax High School are using an inclusivity lens, to continue to [support Transgender Awareness](#). Students showed their support as allies by signing their name on a display in the main foyer of the school. The initiative was led by the school's Gay Straight Alliance club.

## Administrative Transfers and Promotions

The following transfers, effective February 1, 2017 unless otherwise noted:

### Transfers Vice-Principal Elementary

- a) Chris VanderMeer, Vice-Principal, Eagle Ridge P.S., to Vice-Principal, E.B. Phin P.S., effective January 1, 2017

- b) Ryan Pittman, Vice-Principal, Applecroft P.S., to Vice-Principal, Eagle Ridge P.S., effective January 1, 2017

### Transfer to Acting Vice-Principal Elementary

- a) Pia Teini, Acting Vice-Principal, E.B. Phin P.S., to Acting Vice-Principal, Applecroft P.S., effective January 1, 2017
- b) Janet Robinson, Teacher, Terry Fox P.S., to Acting Vice-Principal, Dr. Roberta Bondar P.S., effective January 1, 2017

### Transfers Vice-Principal Secondary

- a) Andrew Lue, Vice-Principal, Donald A. Wilson S.S. to Vice-Principal, Dunbarton H.S.
- b) Alyson van Beinum, Vice-Principal, Port Perry H.S. to Vice-Principal, Pine Ridge S.S.
- c) Julie MacKenzie, Vice-Principal, Dunbarton H.S. to Vice-Principal, Port Perry H.S.
- d) Jackie Leacock, Vice-Principal, Henry Street H.S., to Vice-Principal, Ajax H.S.
- e) Jean-Louis Poulin, Vice-Principal, Pickering H.S. to Vice-Principal, Henry Street H.S.
- f) Janet Cairns, Vice-Principal, Ajax H.S. to Vice-Principal, Donald A. Wilson S.S.
- g) David Sasseville, Vice-Principal, Pine Ridge S.S. to Vice-Principal, Durham Alternative S.S.

### Transfers Acting Vice-Principal Secondary

- a) Shaundell Parris, Teacher, Pickering H.S., to Acting Vice-Principal, Pickering H.S.



It is recommended that the following be promoted, effective February 1, 2017:

Vice-Principal Promotions Secondary  
(Placed from the Short List)

- a) Janet White, Teacher, Pickering H.S., to Vice-Principal, R.S. McLaughlin C.V.I.
- b) Erin Oliver, Program Facilitator, Education Centre, to Vice-Principal, Uxbridge S.S.

## Chair's Annual Report 2016

Michael Barrett, Chair of the Durham District School Board, presented his annual report for 2016.

DDSB Chair Michael Barrett says there is one word to describe the past year at the Durham District School Board: it is "change".

Whether being viewed from a broader provincial perspective where there are constant changes in both direction and intent or illustrated in personnel, policy or process, change has been constant within the education field in 2015 to 2016 and it too has its impact in each board, and indeed, within each school.

Barrett described his report as being less about "the reflection of a single individual but a reflection of all of us, as a board. Whether a trustee, a member of staff here at the Board office or within our schools, all of us take a similar goal oriented initiative to serve our students and our community. It is taking the actions of many and synthesizing it into our forward looking pathway."

Barrett outlined the need for the Board to continue to strive to reach out to all communities; to insure that "we listen and act on the needs.

"As a board we serve many communities; we not only serve those that vote, but we also serve those who do not. We have many community members:

- Our students, both current and future
- Our parents, both current and future
- Our communities, both current and future
- Our staff, both current and future.

"We have experienced much change in 2015:

- We have experienced a change in our Board's leadership – with the secondment of Martyn Beckett to the Ministry of Education, interim

Director Luigia Ayotte and the appointment of Lisa Millar as our Director; there is impact, and change

- We have also experienced change in our senior leadership team and the welcoming of many new faces into our Board and into positions of responsibility
- We continue to have the Durham Board recognized as a leader in many initiatives; and we should be proud of the contributions of our broader community to educational leadership."

Barrett emphasized the need for continued advocacy:

"We need to advocate for an inclusive system where all feel welcome, valued and heard. We need to advocate for our First Nations communities so healing can overcome generations of ill prepared actions.

"We need to speak for those who are most vulnerable; for those that come to school hungry, ill prepared, ill equipped and marginalized. We need to press and push that equality of funding and equity of opportunity are available for all our students and families who experience greater need and support.

"We need to advocate for change in transparency, engagement and involvement at all levels of government; that our provincial leaders recognize that needs are not satisfied by words; that cash savings result in greater community needs; and that a heavy handed approach results in escalating unmet needs.

"We need to continue to advocate for engagement, partnership and inclusivity for all who work, contribute and give of their talent, time and passion. No one contributor is greater than the lofty and important goal of an equitable education opportunity."

Chair Barrett underscored the importance of recognizing and supporting those amongst us who face incredible personal challenges and struggles. "Although we are seen as a monolithic, intrusive structure, we are made up of individuals who have families, dreams and aspirations. Our hearts go to those who face some of the most difficult times.

"I am proud to be able to be a Trustee for the Durham District School Board.

"I am proud to work alongside my fellow Trustees; for your gifts, your passion and your advocacy.

I am proud that we continue to move forward, focussed on the needs of our students, and our communities."



## Annual Trustee Election Results for 2016-2017

The Board of Trustees hold internal elections for its Chair, Vice Chair, Vice Chair of Standing Committee, Chair of Education Finance and committee representatives annually.

- Oshawa Trustee Michael Barrett was acclaimed as Chair of the Durham District School Board
- Pickering Trustee Chris Braney was voted Vice Chair of the Board
- Ajax Trustee (Wards 3&4) Donna Edwards was acclaimed as the Vice Chair of Standing Committee
- Ajax Trustee (Wards 1 & 2) Patrice Barnes was voted Chair of Education Finance Committee

### Committees

#### Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Town of Ajax (Wards 3 & 4) Trustee Donna Edwards and Oshawa Trustee Linda Stone

#### Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Town of Ajax (Wards 1 & 2) Trustee Patrice Barnes  
Oshawa Trustee Linda Stone

#### Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

Whitby Trustee Kimberly Zeppleri  
Whitby Trustee (Alternate) Christine Winters

#### Audit Committee

Townships of Brock & Uxbridge Trustee Elinor Hansen  
Oshawa Trustee Larry Jacula  
Oshawa Trustee Linda Stone

#### Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)

Township of Scugog Trustee Carolyn Morton  
Oshawa Trustee Linda Stone

#### Code of Conduct Committee

Town of Ajax (Wards 3 & 4) Trustee Donna Edwards  
Oshawa Trustee Larry Jacula

The complete list of [Board Committees, Alternates and Trustee Representatives](#) is posted to the DDSB's website in the Trustees Roles and Responsibilities section.

## Season Greetings from the Administrative Team

In a few weeks the DDSB will have a two week winter break.

During this holiday season, our diverse community celebrates many rich traditions steeped in the diversity of cultures and communities that comprise our region and school district.

While there are many cultures and traditions that represent the DDSB, we all have the opportunity to celebrate a common element and that is our traditions of celebrating and spending time with family.

So as the holiday season approaches, let's take time to remember those families in the DDSB that are experiencing hardships such as poverty and remember to reach out and support them as the holidays and celebrations bring additional hardships for them.

Let's take a moment to remember our families and students who are experiencing mental health issues while this season brings the beauty of lights, colours, decorations, music, food and festive activities – this time of year can be extremely stressful for those who experience mental health or emotional challenges.

Let us also take a moment to remember our students, staff and families who are experiencing health issues and especially those who face critical health challenges at this time. This holiday takes on a new and significant meaning for these families.

As 2016 comes to a close, it is time for us to reflect on the past year and assess, as leaders, our impact and influence on the system, our programs, and the impact we made to improve the DDSB.

It is also a time to plan, prepare and dream about the possibilities of 2017.

Let 2017 be a year where we unite and work in unison to evolve and create an incredible DDSB that is a national if not world leader in education.

On behalf of the senior team, we would like to thank and recognize Chair Barrett and Vice Chair Morton for their leadership and support.

The senior team is blessed to work with a dedicated group of trustees who work tirelessly for DDSB students, staff and families. Thank you to trustees.



## Season's Greetings

[On behalf of the senior team, at the last Board meeting of 2016, we would like to wish students, staff, families and the community a happy, healthy holiday season.](#)

## Watch the Video



## Regular Board and Committee Meetings

### Student Senate Meeting

December 5, 2016  
4:15 pm — 6:00 p.m.

### Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2017  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2017  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



## Upcoming Events

- December 24 – January 1: Hanukkah
- December 25: Christmas
- December 26 – January 1: Kwanzaa
- December 26 – January 6:  
December/January School Break
- January 15: Durham Multi-Faith World  
Religion Day
- January 17-19: Grade Nine EQAO  
Assessment
- January 17: Kindergarten  
Pre-Registration at all  
Elementary schools
- January 18: Tamil Heritage Month  
Celebrations at Nottingham PS