



# Board Highlights

*On Monday, January 23, 2017, the Durham District School Board held its regular scheduled Board meeting.*

## Highbush PS Showcases Songs from the Show 'Les Miserables'

A very special thank you to music teacher Patricia Castanos Fernandez and Highbush PS's Grades 4-8 chorus. The chorus opened the Board meeting with O Canada followed by three songs: Prologue, Castle on a Cloud, and Little People. Prologue opens the show 'Les Miserables' and outlines the grueling and hopeless lives of French prisoners. Castle on a Cloud speaks of little Cosette's longing for a better life. Little People is a catchy tune which reminds adults that children are people too!

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.

## Relocation of Village Union PS

The Board approved the following recommendations:

1. That Village Union PS, with its current boundary, be relocated into former Oshawa Central CI, effective September 2017.
2. That students (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7) and their siblings (families) currently transported to Village Union PS, but identified as walkers to the former OCCI location, be grandfathered transportation to the new Village Union PS location (former OCCI), as long as the families reside at their current address.
3. That the current Village Union PS Principal and Vice-Principal transition to the new Village Union PS location (former OCCI) for September 2017 to provide for stability for students.

4. That Village Union PS be allocated a full-time Vice-Principal, for a period of one year commencing September 2017, to meet the transition needs of Village Union PS students.
5. That Village Union PS be allocated one-time funding in the amount of \$15,000 to assist in the transition and celebration of Village Union PS.

## Modified Accommodation Review – Township of Brock – Beaverton PS and Thorah Central PS

The following recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the February 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting:

- Build a new 303 Ministry Rate Capacity\* (340 On the Ground Capacity)\*\* school (Unnamed Beaverton-Thorah Elementary PS) on the Beaverton PS site pending Ministry of Education approval and funding.'
- Once approval and funding received Board Staff will provide and establish timelines for process:
  - Depending on timing of Ministry of Education funding approvals it is estimated that it could take approximately two years for Unnamed Beaverton-Thorah Elementary PS to be constructed and open.

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## Modified Accommodation

### Review continued

- Beaverton PS and Thorah Central PS will continue to adhere to current boundaries until Unnamed Beaverton-Thorah Elementary PS completed, and a new school year commences.
- Beaverton PS and Thorah Central PS will close and consolidate into new Unnamed Beaverton-Thorah Elementary PS once the school is completed and open.

\*Ministry Rated Capacity is set by the Ministry of Education. Music classrooms are not loaded and Special Education classrooms are loaded by 9.

\*\*On the Ground Capacity reflects the actual use of the classroom space and can fluctuate yearly based upon use.

## Regional Bell Time Review

The Board approved the following recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees authorize Staff to commence a Board wide community consultation to adjust bell times as contemplated in Appendix B, and report the outcome of the consultation in March 2017.

## Community Voice, Equity and Diversity Strategic Plan

The Board approved the following:

That the Durham District School Board:

- a) Accept and review the Community Voice Consultation Report completed by Justice Donald McLeod on the results of the Community Voice sessions; and
- b) Establish an Equity and Diversity Steering Committee to review the report and the recommendations.

## Annual Operating Plan

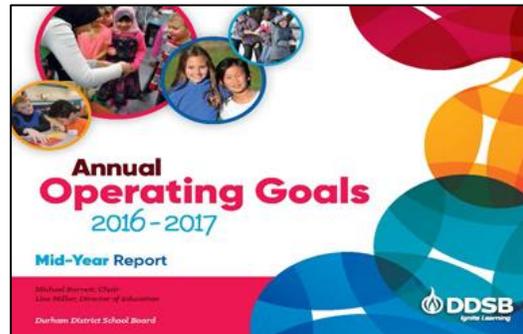
The Board received the Annual Operating Plan – Mid-Year Update report from Director of Education Lisa Millar. The four core areas and goals are:

1. Increase Student Achievement – Student Success, Achievement and Well-Being
2. Advance Inspired Leadership – Leadership Development and Succession Planning

## Annual Operating Plan *continued*

3. Ensuring Equity – Embracing Diversity and Celebrating Equity
4. Collectively Engage the Community – Community Engagement, Families and Educational Partners

[View the report here.](#)



## Director's Good News

In November members of the board congratulated students and staff from Terry Fox Public School for winning the “Harmony School of the Year Award.” These students along with staff and parents recently picked up their award recognizing their exemplary achievements in going above and beyond training to promote diversity, equity and inclusivity in both their schools and their communities.

To win this award Terry Fox Public School partnered with Harmony to run a two day “Social Change Makers Leadership” conference for intermediate students and a half-day staff workshop. The additional resource and support of the Harmony movement were a perfect complement to the student leadership and staff and community engagement initiatives happening at Terry Fox.

In early December our elementary students found ways to put their energies in the environment to good use with our Elementary Eco Summit. Our grades 5-8 students representing approximately 40 schools across the DDSB found ways to utilize traditional Indigenous teachings, created mixed media projects using eco-friendly materials, built a bee hotel to attract native bees, discovered ways to use outdoor spaces for classroom learning, created food gardens, and learned to understand watersheds and their functionality to turn their environmental passion into action.

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## Director's Good News *continued*

Director Millar reported the Perimeter Institute's Innovation 150 Power of Ideas Tour currently travelling across the country as part of the nationwide Innovation150 celebrations marking Canada's 150th anniversary made its first stop at a DDSB secondary school.

Pine Ridge Secondary School in Pickering was proud to provide a venue on December 6th and 7th where a hands-on experience fostering curiosity and a better understanding of how science works could take place for feeder schools in both Pickering and Ajax. The exhibit and presentation helped to kick off the nationwide tour celebrating Canada's innovative past and igniting our future.

The DDSB was the first school board to proclaim January each year as Tamil Heritage Month. As a result, the DDSB supported the Tamil community by partnering with the Durham Tamil Association to celebrate Tamil Heritage Month at Nottingham P.S. in Ajax.

Festivities highlighted the language, culture and food of the Tamil Community and some of the reading resources that can be implemented into the school curriculum were showcased at the event. Some of our students also played an integral role participating in a fashion show and sharing what they learned about the Tamil community.

On Sunday, January 15th at the Ajax Community Centre, the Durham Multi-faith World Religion Day in collaboration with the Town of Ajax held its 11th annual celebration of World Religion Day. At display spaces, visitors viewed exhibits, shared thoughts and literature about participating faiths. Each year a theme is adopted around which short talks and performances take place in the plenary session. This year's theme was "Building Bridges for Unity." The DDSB equity department and community engagement team were happy to help support this event as we have done for the last number of years.

Director Millar announced that our Operations and Leadership Development organized and participated in Leadership Growth Track Series professional learning sessions for both school administrators and our MPA group of managers, professionals and administrative staff.

On January 9th the Program Services Department hosted our annual Durham Library Conference. The annual conference is an opportunity for our Teacher-Librarians to participate in professional learning that relates to current trends and teachings for school library learning commons. The theme of this year's

conference was "Libraries 2017 - Celebrating Our Success."

Professional Development workshops at this conference focused on the fundamental philosophies of Together for Learning that emphasizes the value of: equitable access to resources, the creation of learning partnerships, embedding technology in learning and the creation of both physical and virtual learning spaces.

Our Keynote Speaker was Teresa Toten. Teresa is a Canadian, Young Adult author. She is currently a Red Maple nominated author on the Ontario Library Association's Forest of Reading Program.

Dr. Stuart Shanker from York University along with members of the Self-Regulation Steering Committee presented two workshops to 225 educators across the DDSB on Self-Regulation. Dr. Shanker discussed current research and provided staff with strategies to help support students in their own well-being to accomplish academic achievement.

On December 15th our Special Education Resource Teachers and Special Education Heads from across the DDSB participated in professional learning related specifically to supporting students with learning disabilities.

The session was structured to provide SERTs with information and skills to support similar professional learning for their school teams in support of students and the Renewed Math Strategy.

Our elementary SERTs focused on supporting students with special needs in Kindergarten and alignment of Individual Education Plans with the revised curriculum. Secondary Special Education Heads continued their professional learning specific to Integrated Transition Planning and preparation for adult pathways beyond secondary for students with special needs.

Director Millar congratulated Uxbridge Secondary School student Josh Morrison. Josh recently raised \$106,155 for Habitat for Humanity to make a big difference for one family, who will have a new home thanks to his charitable efforts. The positive difference in Josh's story is that he started his fundraising four years ago when he was 11 and raised the funds through a penny drive. Congratulations Josh on showing how perseverance can make a difference and build a home and support those in need.

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## Upcoming Events

- International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust – January 27
- Chinese New Year – January 28
- French Immersion Parent Information Night – February 2
- PA Day Friday - February 17
- Family Day – February 20
- World Justice Day – February 20
- Pink Shirt Day – February 22

## Regular Board and Committee Meetings

### Student Senate Meeting

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

### Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2017  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 21, 2017  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

