

# Board Highlights

*On Monday, June 19, 2017, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board meeting.*

## R.S. McLaughlin's Musical Theatre



Four members of R.S. McLaughlin's musical theatre group delighted the audience with "I Know It's Today" and "Ballad of Farquaad" from Shrek The Musical. The group was led by musical directors Melanie Rockbrune and Tim Watson.

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 Grades 5 and 12 students.



## Director's Good News

Durham District School Board hosted the 15th annual Equity Conference which was attended by over 175 staff with keynote speaker Kim Radersma discussing how to acknowledge privilege and how to achieve equity for all.

We are honoured that our teaching staff at both the elementary and secondary levels as well as staff at the Education Centre organized the first ever Cypher Conference for Black Male Empowerment. This conference occurred May 24th and took place at Durham College for our black boys in grades 8 to 10. The conference was a huge success with just under 300 young men attending from 40 schools across our board. We were once again honoured to have Dwayne Morgan as the keynote speaker who did an excellent job engaging not only our boys, but all in attendance to succeed to the best of their abilities in spite of obstacles.

We are pleased to announce the launching of our new state-of-the-art Durham Hairstylist Academy located at GL Roberts CVI in Oshawa. The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the revitalized pathway to apprenticeship program took place May 16th, and welcomed future stylists to their newly renovated home.

We are thrilled to announce our students have been involved in wonderful work across the region to support their community and fellow citizens. At Westcreek Public School in Pickering, students, staff and community have hit their fundraising goal of \$10,000 for their *Me to We* project to build a school in Kenya. The project was first taken on by current grade 12 Dunbarton High School student Caitlin Abe Gokool when she was in grade 4 at Westcreek Public School in 2009.

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## Director's Good News *continued*

Donald A. Wilson Secondary School also held their 11th Relay for Life fundraiser May 26th to support the Canadian Cancer Society raising close to \$30,000.

We would also like to congratulate the entire Brooklin High School community as they raised over \$50,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society on May 26th.

As we celebrate June as National Aboriginal History Month, many schools have welcomed local Indigenous community members to highlight and honour the heritage, culture and outstanding achievements of Indigenous peoples. Carruthers Creek Public School was fortunate enough to host a member of the North American Indigenous group. Indigenous peoples' contributions and accomplishments are being recognized daily on announcements and through bulletin board displays. On June 10th, the Family Network attended the Aboriginal Celebration Day at Esplanade Park. We also shared in unveiling the new Tipi at Durham Forest on June 13th with local Metis Elder, Andre Bosse.

Our Special Education and Psychological Services are continuing collaboration with schools and other professional support services. Staff are undertaking implementation of programming changes from the Special Education Review including the introduction of new special education classes encompassing our School Support Program and Self-Regulation Program.

Our Leadership Development Department is committed to its goal to identify, support and promote the leadership capacity of all DDSB employees. With its focus on creating a pool of exceptional future principals and vice principals, the Aspiring Leaders program has offered a variety of sessions. Over 60 educators have joined our pool of aspiring leaders from last year.

We are also committed to supporting and developing inclusive leadership. Working with the Equity Department, the Racialized and Aboriginal Leadership Program series promotes and prepares our racialized staff to network and make connections to leadership and career planning.

A student at Colonel JE Farewell Public School has been recognized by Autism Ontario with an Autism Ontario Ally Award. This year's winner is grade 7 student Damen Martin. On behalf of the board, I would like to congratulate Damen for exemplifying the qualities of a Junior Advocate with his daily commitment to spend time knowing that his reward would be reciprocated in smiles, giggles and love.

Congratulations to our staff and students at O'Neill CVI in Oshawa for being recognized by Global Television's *Make a Difference* segment on their Innovative Classroom spaces earlier this month. Our classroom was highlighted for the creative ways in helping students to focus in class by allowing them to self-regulate as they learn.

## DDSB Art Contest

Awards were presented to the winners in the first Durham District School Board Art Contest. The Contest was launched to celebrate the incredible artistic talents of our students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and to provide the medium of art for student voice in defining who we are in the DDSB.

Six art pieces, representing what it means to be a DDSB student, were selected. The artwork, capturing the ideas of diversity, equity and inclusiveness, will be on display from mid-September 2017 until mid-May 2018. One winning art piece from the following categories were chosen as follows:

- **Kindergarten:**  
Ms. Hargreaves' Kindergarten Class  
– Westney Heights PS
- **Grades 1 – 3:**  
Ms. James' Grade 2 Class  
– Dr. S.J. Phillips PS
- **Grades 4 – 6:**  
Mme. Abou-Heif's Grades 5/6 Class  
– Meadowcrest PS
- **Grades 7 – 8:**  
Ms. Lehmkuhl's Grades 7/8 Class  
– Ormiston PS
- **Grades 9 – 10:**  
Madison Hutton, Grade 9 student  
– G.L. Roberts CVI
- **Grades 11 – 12:**  
Grade 11 Art Class  
– Uxbridge SS

A silent auction will be held in the spring of 2018 and proceeds will be used to support DDSB poverty initiatives.

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## 2017 Chairperson's Scholarship

Eastdale CVI student Samuel Keane is the recipient of the 2017 Chairperson's Scholarship for being the embodiment of an ideal student. He is passionate about school, his community and his life in general. Sam, who has Cerebral Palsy, was confined to a wheelchair, but he took it upon himself to be a vital part of several teams. Sam encourages others and has helped with student tours and has been a mentor for others.



*Pictured is Eastdale CVI student Samuel Kean receiving the 2017 Chairperson's Scholarship. Presenting him with the prestigious award are members of the DDSB Trustees' Selection Committee - (l-r) Chairperson of the Board, Michael Barrett - Trustee, City of Oshawa; Trustee Carolyn Morton - Township of Scugog; Samuel Keane; Trustee Christine Winters-Feret - Town of Whitby; Trustee Paul Crawford - City of Pickering; and Trustee Linda Stone - City of Oshawa.*

## Lim Cole Wins National Award



*High School Physics teacher Lisa Lim Cole (centre) was presented the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP) 2017 CAP Award for Excellence in Teaching High School Physics (Ontario) for her up-to-date pedagogical skills and for her superb leadership with teachers all over Ontario. Lisa was formally recognized at the June 19 DDSB Board meeting by Chairperson Michael Barrett (left) and Director of Education Lisa Millar (right).*

## "Our Voice" Pilot Project

In a unique partnership with music industry members, secondary students of the Afro-Diasporic community had an opportunity to be mentored by and guided by professional musicians/artists. Students participated in eight sessions with their mentors, with the final session taking place at the Chalet Recording Studio where they had their work professionally recorded.

Students from Ajax High School, J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate and Maxwell Heights Secondary School participated.

Some of the positive outcomes included motivating and engaging students in the arts while encouraging academic pathways to success; professionally recording a CD with a finished product of their individual and collective work that captured their voice and their story; and performing their work for their family and friends to celebrate each individual's learning journey.

## Student Trustee Recognition

The DDSB's three student trustees attended their final meeting June 19 and were recognized for bringing the student voice to board meetings:



The DDSB's three outgoing student trustees were formally recognized by Board Chairperson Michael Barrett (right) and Board Vice Chairperson Chris Braney (left). The student trustees (l-r) are Avery Jackman, Kofi Richter and Kevin Zheng.

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## Cadarackque Students Produce Winning “We Stand for Canada” Video

The Grades 5/6 students at Cadarackque Public School have won the CIBC We Stand for Canada Competition for their exciting video production. The competition was coordinated by CIBC, CBC and Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada and was designed to encourage students to learn about, and celebrate the great country we live in – Canada.

The 29 students planned the structure of the video, developed the script, organized filming, and coordinated the production.

Through class activities, students learned about the rights and responsibilities of Canadians, Canada’s role on the world stage, the qualities of a good citizen, and some famous Canadians who meet these criteria.

A school-wide celebration and formal assembly is scheduled for June 28 with the Immigration and Refugee Minister, Ahmed Hussen and a surprise celebrity visitor.

## Transfers and Promotions

*The following transfers were approved effective July 1, 2017:*

### Transfer — Elementary Vice Principal

- a) Jennifer Alls, Vice Principal, Bellwood P.S., to Vice Principal, Sir J.A. Macdonald P.S.
- b) Tanya Hawthorne, Vice Principal, Sir J.A. Macdonald P.S., to Vice Principal, William Dunbar P.S.
- c) Julie Mereweather, Vice Principal, Uxbridge P.S., to Vice Principal, Dr. S.J. Phillips P.S.

### Transfer — Elementary Principal

- a) Diane Cotterill, Principal, Maple Ridge P.S., to Principal, Frenchman’s Bay P.S.
- b) Linda Ford-DeCunha, Principal, Coronation P.S., to Education Officer, K-6
- c) Candace Ramdial, Principal, Applecroft P.S., to Principal, Maple Ridge P.S.

### Transfer — Secondary Vice Principal

- a) Eugenie Samara, Vice Principal, Currently on Leave, to Vice Principal, Maxwell Heights S.S.

### Transfer — Secondary Principal

- a) David Sasseville, remains as Principal, Durham Continuing Education

## TRANSFERS — ACTING

### Elementary Acting Vice Principal

- a) Deborah Keeler, Program Facilitator, to Acting Vice Principal, Sunderland P.S.
- b) Charmaine Fernandes, Teacher, Cadarackque P.S., to Acting Vice Principal, Fallingbrook P.S.
- c) Elaine Warburton, Teacher, Glengrove P.S., to Acting Vice Principal, Romeo Dallaire P.S.
- d) Paul Khajuria, Special Education Facilitator, to Acting Vice Principal, Bellwood P.S.
- e) Colin O’Connor, Program Facilitator, to Acting Vice Principal, Uxbridge P.S.
- f) Tina Mandal, Teacher, David Bouchard P.S., to Acting Vice Principal, Coronation P.S.

### Elementary Acting Elementary Principal

- a) Kim Joseph, Vice Principal, Dr. S.J. Phillips P.S., to Acting Principal, Fallingbrook P.S.
- b) Ryan Pittman, Vice Principal, Eagle Ridge P.S., to Acting Principal, Applecroft P.S.
- c) Joshua Raycroft, Vice Principal, Romeo Dallaire P.S., to Acting Principal, Coronation P.S.

## PROMOTIONS

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*The following promotions were approved effective July 1, 2017 unless otherwise noted:*

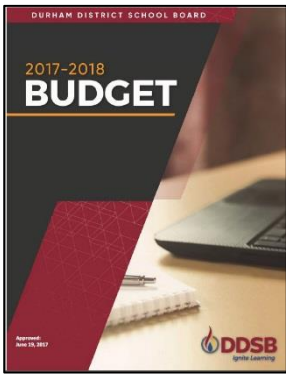
**Promotion — Elementary Vice Principal** (Placed from the Short List)

- a) Chrystal Marolt, Program Facilitator, to Vice Principal, R.H. Cornish P.S., effective June 12, 2017

**Promotion — Secondary Principal** (Placed from the Short List)

- a) James Klodnicki, Vice Principal, Maxwell Heights S.S., to Principal, Brock H.S.

## DDSB Board of Trustees Approves Balanced Budget



Members of the DDSB Board of Trustees have approved the 2017-2018 budget and it is compliant with Ministry of Education balanced-budget requirements and allocates available resources to support Ignite Learning, the Board's Strategic Plan. The 2017-2018 budget includes and Operating Budget of \$760.9 million and a Capital

Budget of \$111.5 million for a total budget of \$872.4 million.

Enrolment is the foundation for the determination of revenue and expenditure. The total enrolment projected for the 2017-2018 school year is 69,903. This includes 48,735 elementary students and 21,168 secondary students. These projections are based on input from registrations, historic trends and staff analysis.

The approved budget book can be seen here: <http://www.ddsb.ca/AboutUs/BudgetFinancialStatements/Pages/default.aspx>

## Equity Steering Committee

Trustees received an update on the establishment and progress of the DDSB Equity Steering Committee. The committee was formed to develop and launch implementation plans to address the recommendations from Justice Donald McLeod's Community Voices initiative. Key recommendations included:

### Equity Steering Committee

- Hire more racialized leaders & teachers for classrooms
- Include Afrocentric perspectives in classroom programs & extracurricular experiences
- Include Afrocentric advocacy for parents & families
- Engage Black students in extracurricular opportunities
- Collect data on race to monitor patterns around discipline & special education identification

The Steering Committee has formed six sub-committees to develop, implement and monitor plans that respond to the Community Voice recommendations. The six sub-committees are:

1. Diversity Measures for Success
2. Community Liaison Police Partnerships
3. Afrocentric Family Partnerships
4. Diversifying DDSB Staff & Leadership
5. Culturally Responsive and Relevant Programming: Engaging Racialized & Marginalized Students for a Bright Future
6. Professional Growth for Inclusion & Voice

**Various Action items were outlined:**

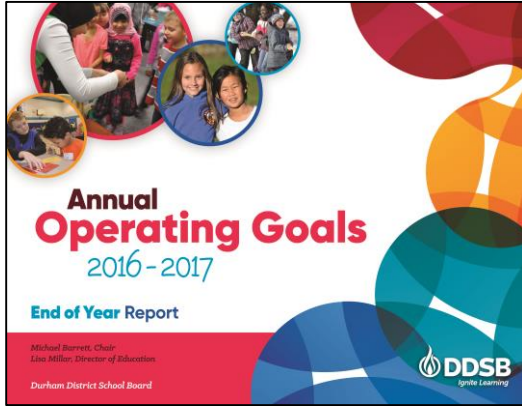
- Expanding the delivery of Black Studies as a credit course across the system
- Developing & launching an Equitable Recruitment Policy, Procedure & Framework to diversify the DDSB staff & attract & retain more racialized leaders, teachers & other staff cohorts
- Extending partnerships with community organizations to expand mentorship & coaching for more Black students to access effective pathways to graduation and post-secondary possibilities
- Establishing explicit equity goals as part of each school plan with targets for outcomes
- Extend professional development for staff teams to effectively shape & implement programming that will enable students to meet these targets
- Collaborating with the Director's office to establish a staff census to collect data on staff demographics

The work of the Steering Committee will be captured and communicated as part of the DDSB Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan to be launched in fall 2017.

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## Annual Operating Plan

Director Lisa Millar provided an end of year update regarding the Annual Operating Plan. According to a Ministry of Education directive, school districts must develop an Annual Operating Plan, which articulates the goals, aligned with the Board's multi-year plan, which the district intends to accomplish during the school year.



The annual operating goals are aligned with the three strategic directions of Durham Directions, the board's multi-year plan:

- Increase Student Achievement & Well-Being
- Constructively Engage the Community
- Advance Inspired Leadership

Department goals have been developed for each Superintendent of Education. Also, senior staff developed a template of the planned contribution of each portfolio to the achievement of the goals outlined in the annual plan.

Senior staff will continue to implement major initiatives and assess the impact of the initiatives on student achievement, evolving equity initiatives, building leadership capacity and system improvement.

[View the report here.](#)

## DDSB Welcome Back to Learning BBQ

DDSB will host its first 'Welcome Back to Learning BBQ' on Wednesday, August 30 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Education Centre courtyard.

The BBQ is designed to continue to positively engage parents, guardians and community partners, strengthen ties for collaboration, and support a successful start to the 2017-2018 school year for our students. The day will provide students and their

families an opportunity to interact with trustees, DDSB staff, and community agencies. There will be live entertainment and sports, and the chance to make positive connections and gain educational information. Community agencies will be on hand to fill student backpacks with donated school supplies. DDSB Facility Services staff will serve a delicious End of Summer BBQ.



To ensure equity in accessibility, free transportation will be provided with pick-ups at six locations across the school board.

## Upcoming Events

- **June 21 – National Aboriginal Day**
- **June 28 – Last Day of Secondary School Classes**
- **June 29 – P.A. Day, Secondary Schools Only**
- **June 29 – Last Day of Elementary School Classes**
- **June 30 – P.A. Day, All Schools**
- **July 5 – Summer School Starts**
- **August 14-24 – Summer Learning Institutes**
- **August 29 – Administrators' Day**
- **August 30 – Welcome Back to Learning BBQ**
- **September 5 – First Day of School**

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## Regular Board and Committee Meetings

### Student Senate Meeting

TBA

4:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

### Standing Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2017

Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

