

# Board Highlights

*On Monday, March 20, 2017, the Durham District School Board held its monthly Board meeting.*

## R.S. McLaughlin CVI's Jazz Band Rocks the House



A very special thank you to music teacher Tim Watson and his Jazz band who rocked the house with Vamonos, Watermelon Man, and Angel Eyes.

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.

## Moment of Silence – passing of Trustee Elinor Hansen

DDSB Chair Michael Barrett acknowledged the sudden passing of Trustee Elinor Hansen, Brock and Uxbridge Townships.

“Elinor was a highly valued and respected member of the Board of Trustees who will be remembered for her focus on students and for her compassion. Elinor will be sorely missed by trustees, students, staff and the Brock and Uxbridge communities she represented so passionately and effectively,” outlined Barrett.

## Supporting Student Success

Trustees received a presentation highlighting the focused and intentional work to close academic gaps, improve student outcomes and ensure sustainable

academic success. Although the work is taking place in all DDSB schools, the presentation highlighted the hard work and dedication by the administration and staff at Lord Elgin PS and J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate.

The work at those two schools demonstrates that these collaborative and intentional Faces on the Data and Student Success Meetings provide the necessary platform to build coherence of practice, and to leverage the knowledge and support necessary to close gaps for students with precise and personalized instruction.

## Celebrating Canada 150 — We Are DDSB!

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



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## Director's Good News

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> more students than ever before were involved in recognizing Pink Shirt Day across the DDSB. Students and staff could be seen sporting pink shirts and sharing messages of being kind to one another, and standing up to bullying.

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, West Lynde Public School hosted a successful Family Wellness Evening inviting students, families and community members to the school to learn more about some of the wellness initiatives and services available in the community. The school invited local speaker, Paralympian and humanitarian *Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt* to attend and speak with attendees around wellness, accessibility and inclusion for everyone. Tracy was born a 4-way amputee. She spoke with students at an assembly in the day and attended again in the evening to share with parents and community members her message of personal experience, courage, commitment and determination to challenge misconceptions about disability and to inspire achievement.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> our Equity Program continued progress on the Racialized and Aboriginal Leadership initiative for staff by continuing the conversation with Racialized and Aboriginal staff in seeking positions of leadership within the DDSB. Our Racialized and Aboriginal staff program helps to develop a critical race framework for understanding equity and inclusive issues, envision new forms of leadership and advocacy with a goal of encouraging Racialized and Aboriginal staff to feel more prepared and equipped to take on leadership roles within our Board.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the DDSB Education Centre once again hosted the annual *And Still We Rise* student leadership conference. All of our secondary schools had a presence at the annual conference, which aims to provide opportunities to successfully engage, promote and cultivate the vast leadership talents of our African Canadian secondary students. This year's message was *Cultivating Courageous Change - Redressing Oppression*, which was articulately addressed by former DDSB Maxwell Heights Secondary School student and current University of Toronto student Shailene Panylo. Her keynote addressed former peers to raise their awareness toward self-reflection and future opportunities.

Our teaching staff has also been hard at work as seventy-five elementary grades 4 to 8 teachers attended training on math and the inquiry process February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup> to focus on exploring digital information tools to ignite curiosity and develop rich questioning and wonder in the math classroom. Links were developed between our Library Learning Commons inquiry process and development of the

three-part math lesson. Participants were given numerous tools to use across all stages of math planning while encouraging the use of inquiry, student exploration and wonder. The workshops introduced tools such as: Curio streaming video, the provincial Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), the DDSB Library Learning Commons web environment, Office365, OneNote and various mobile, numeracy-based apps. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, DDSB schools participated in many activities to support International Women's Day. Over 600 secondary students from 16 DDSB secondary schools will attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Vimy Ridge next month. Our students will engage in a momentous occasion to mark the battle that came to symbolize Canada's coming of age as a nation. We wish our students well.

At Sherwood Public School in Oshawa, JK and SK classes have created a pen pal relationship with students in a Cree classroom who are helping them to answer questions on the Cree culture and to assist our students to learn to count to ten and the correct pronunciations in their rendition of 'O Canada.' We are excited to see the intersectionality of Igniting Learning through math and culturally responsive pedagogy.

## Definitely Durham Celebration Moves from November to February

Trustees approved moving the DDSB Hall of Fame honours, known as Definitely Durham, from November to February. Experience showed it was difficult for inductees to make themselves available for a November date given that notification was not usually possible until September. Therefore, the next celebration will be in February 2018 prior to the Board meeting.

## Use of the Dunbarton HS Annex

Trustees approved a new motion regarding the use of the Annex Building at Dunbarton High School. Trustees agreed to continue using the Bayly Street, Pickering location for alternate programs until future options unfold.

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## Filling the Trustee Vacancy on the DDSB

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

Instead, by special motion, 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.

## Quarterly Construction Report

The quarterly construction and major projects report was received as information and can be found on [DDSB's website](#).

## Upcoming Events

- **March 21** - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **March 23** - SEAC Committee
- **March 25** - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- **March 30** - Grade 10 OSSLT
- **April 2** - World Autism Day



- **April 10** - 12 Student Trustee Elections
- **April 13** - Land Based Language (AkinoomoshinIn)
- **April 22** - Durham Black Educators' Network And Still We Rise Elementary Edition

## Regular Board and Committee Meetings

### Student Senate Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2017  
4:15 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

### Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2017  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2017  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

