



Board Highlights

On Monday, March 23, 2015, the Durham District School Board held its regular Board Meeting.

Altona Forest Entertains!

Altona Forest Public School's intermediate band started the meeting off on a high note. Led by Director Andrew Tyas, the talented group of 24 students played two pieces for an appreciative audience. Thanks to the students for sharing their talents and to the families and fans who came out to support.

Vice Principal New Unnamed Imagination Public School

Conor Jinkinson, Vice-Principal at, Westney Heights PS will be transferred to Vice-Principal, Unnamed Imagination Public School effective July 1, 2015.

Director's Good News

Director Beckett highlighted the recently held "And Still We Rise" student leadership conference, held at the Education Centre. This fifth annual conference hosted by the Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN) supported and sponsored by the Durham District School Board (DDSB).

This year, the conference theme was: Cultivating Courageous Change. Conference organizers developed a day designed to motivate the 150 DDSB students in attendance to give back to their communities while maximizing their potential, and planning for future pathways.

Keynote speaker was Trey Anthony. Trey is known for the ground-breaking and award-winning television and theatrical production 'da Kink in My Hair'. She is the first black Canadian woman to write and produce a television show on a major prime time Canadian network among many other accomplishments.

Director's Good News *cont.*

The Director thanked the conference organizers and speakers for their efforts to both welcome and inspire our students.

The Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN) is currently celebrating 10 years. DBEN's focus is on implementing leadership and curriculum development initiatives focused on a video about the event is now available on the [DDSB website](#).

Director Beckett mentioned a recent initiative called the 21st Century Math Classroom, now available on our staff portal. This initiative supports the DDSB's focus on numeracy by providing teaching staff from kindergarten through grade 12 with a comprehensive resource. Staff can find resources, links, videos and ideas all in one section on the staff portal. The Director thanked the programs team and the many educators involved in developing this important resource focussed on helping to improve student achievement in numeracy and to Ignite Learning.

With [Earth Hour](#) coming up at the end of the week, the Director took the opportunity to focus on some of the ongoing environmental initiatives at the DDSB. In particular, the Highbush Public School EcoClub, the winner of this year's \$10,000 grant to improve local greenspaces in Pickering. The group won 'Best Group Effort' at a recent celebration event, recognizing the City's 2014 Celebrating Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program.

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Director's Good News *cont.*

The Highbush PS EcoClub, a student/teacher group of 11, will now work with the City on a community enhancement project.

This group undertook a broad and diverse group of initiatives such as a tree planting and vegetable garden building event, litter cleanups, nature hikes, and environmental workshops.

The Director congratulated the students and staff at Highbush PS for their award and also for inspiring leadership and community engagement.

Upcoming Events

The Director took the opportunity to remind everyone of an upcoming event – the [Advanced Technology Parent Training Evening](#).

The event is geared toward helping adults to assist their child with reading, writing and organization.

This technology training evening will highlight software such as Kurzweil, SpeakQ/WordQ and MS OneNote.

The event will take place on Monday, March 30th at Pickering High School from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m

In order to register for this session, please contact your school Special Education Resource Teacher.

More information can be found on our website at www.ddsb.ca

Motions

- That Kathy Kedy be the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) representative and Dorata Simpson be the alternate representative for Voice for Hearing Impaired Children.
- That revisions to Policy and Regulation #5550 — Student Dress Code be approved.

Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Standing Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 7:00 pm
Public Session

Board Meeting

Monday, April 20, 2015 – 7:00 pm
Public Session

Student Senate Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

