



Board Highlights

On Monday, March 21, 2016, the Durham District School Board held its regular Board meeting.

Outstanding Student Performances from Bolton C. Falby and Terry Fox Public Schools

The Voices of Falby Step Team from Bolton C. Falby Public School started the board meeting off on an energetic note with an enthusiastic performance. The audience was then treated to a moving vocal performance from Terry Fox Public School's Glee Club. Terry Fox Public School's Step Dance Team then performed a number from their Black History Month presentation for an appreciative audience.

With thanks to Teachers Andrea James of Bolton C. Falby PS, Yvette Spinks-Hinds and Melissa Agnew from Terry Fox PS.

Thank you to family, friends and fans for joining and attending the board meeting to support the students in their outstanding performances.

Director's Good News

Luigia Ayotte, Interim Director of Education highlighted Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School's recent History Fair on the theme of Our Greatest Canadian. The event ignited learning about our country's history.

This year's history fair had a special focus after Grade 8 student, Midhat Naeems, demonstrated great initiative and sent a letter that inspired the Canadian War Museum to arrange a special visit of a two-century-old tunic worn by General Isaac Brock.

The Fair included the students' displays featuring the Canadian they believed to be Canada's greatest. Students also welcomed Mrs. Alexander, widow of the late Lincoln Alexander, as well as veterans from The Royal Canadian Legion, to their Fair.

Interim Director thanked all of the event organizers and especially, the Canadian War Museum for making this incredible effort for our students as it certainly had an impact on the young historians of Dr. Roberta Bondar Public School.

The Interim Director also highlighted the "And Still We Rise" student leadership conference, held at the Education Centre. This was the sixth annual conference hosted by the Durham Black Educators' Network (DBEN), supported and sponsored by the Durham District School Board.

This year's conference focussed on **Cultivating Courageous Change** and featured a day of speaker presentations and workshops for DDSB students. The conference was designed to motivate students to become agents for social change.

The conference ignites leadership in students by supporting 'And Still We Rise' student ambassadors in organizing and running the event.

Interim Director Ayotte offered her congratulations to the student ambassadors and all of the people involved in making this year's conference a huge success.

Recently, students from Anderson CVI and Henry Street High School competed in the much anticipated Rivalry Week where students vie for bragging rights to be the Rivalry Week School of the Year.

Interim Director Ayotte shared that Rivalry Week started in 2009. Since that time, students and school teams have come together to show tremendous pride and school spirit with the goal of being crowned Rivalry Week champions. Anderson CVI and Henry Street HS competed in girls' volleyball, boys' basketball and boys' hockey, in friendly, but competitive match-ups.

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Director's Good News *continued*

This year's hockey game was played at the GM Centre and included students from the respective feeder schools in the excitement.

This year, Henry Street High School took the trophy home.

The Interim Director congratulated both schools for a fun and fiercely fought Rivalry Week. You can see the highlights from Rivalry Week in a video posted on the DDSB's website, www.ddsb.ca.

Upcoming Events:

The upcoming DDSB Parents as Partners Symposium will ignite learning and help parents inspire the best out of their children. The symposium will give families an opportunity to engage with community partners and listen to keynote speaker Dr. Karyn Gordon, as she speaks about inspiring and motivating children and teens.



The poster for the Parents as Partners Symposium 2015-16 features a colorful geometric design at the top. Below it, there are several photos of families and children. The text on the poster includes: "How can I motivate and inspire my kids to reach their potential?", "Parents as Partners SYMPOSIUM 2015-16", "PARENTS AS PARTNERS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND 'DURHAM FAMILIES IGNITE LEARNING'", "Saturday, April 2, 2016", "8:30 to 11:30 a.m.", "Chris Hadfield Public School, 1915 Cummer Circle West, Brooklin", "KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. KARYN GORDON BRINGS HER MESSAGE OF INSPIRING, MOTIVATING, AND CONNECTING WITH OUR KIDS AND TEENS", "8:30 a.m. Community partners, professionals", "8:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker Dr. Karyn Gordon", "8:30 to 11:30 a.m. One of seven workshop choices", "Workshop choices will be available on the day of the symposium. Special educational resources and challenges", "Partnering student performance by", "Dr. Karyn Gordon", "Dr. Karyn Gordon, President of the", "Durham Region Board of Education", "Dr. Karyn Gordon", "Also featuring special activities from participating schools", "There is no need to attend the symposium; registration is only required if child care is needed. To register for free child care, please contact Michelle Chavakis at 905-666-6500 or michelle.chavakis@ddsb.ca or visit www.ddsb.ca", "PARENTS AS PARTNERS", "DDSB", "Ignite Learning"

The Parents as Partners Symposium 2016 will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Chris Hadfield Public School in Brooklin starting at 8:30 am. Conference details can be found at www.ddsb.ca

Durham District School Board Launches 'One in Four: Fund the Need' Campaign



The DDSB's Board of Trustees tonight launched its **Fund the Need** campaign to highlight that **One in Four** or 15,000 students taught by the DDSB has special needs, but the funding required to meet those needs is not keeping pace. **Fund the Need** is a public awareness campaign highlighting the challenge facing the DDSB.

The funding gap is growing and impacts the services provided to more than 15,000 of our most vulnerable students and their families. The DDSB's Trustees are deeply concerned about the critical importance of funding the need and this is why they have undertaken this public awareness campaign.

Students with special needs are those who require support services because they have one or more needs related to developmental, physical, mental health, cognitive and/or behavioral challenges.

The number of students with special needs is growing. Adding to the challenge, student needs are more complex requiring increased resources and programming. For example, the number of students with very high needs requiring assistance by more than two adults, has tripled.

To learn more about the DDSB's **Fund the Need** campaign and how you can help, visit the DDSB's website at www.ddsb.ca.

Motions

- That an Ad Hoc Committee be formed for the purpose of commencing the Director's Search; and That the Chair of the Board, Chairs the Ad Hoc Committee.
- That Darlene Forbes become the Learning Disabilities Association of Durham Region's representative on the DDSB's Special Education Advisory Committee.

The [Quarterly Construction Report report](#) detailing current construction and major projects progress is now available on the DDSB website.

Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2016
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

Student Senate Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2016
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm

Board Meeting

Monday, April 18, 2016
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

