



Board Highlights

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

Anderson CVI

DDSB trustees enjoyed listening to the beautiful harmonies of the Anderson Collegiate & Vocational Institute school choir. Curtis Hunter, Choir Director, led his 20 students to perform 'A Sunday Kind of Love', 'Old Fox Wassil' and 'One Song' at the November 20th monthly Board meeting. Their performance prompted a loud applause from the appreciative audience.



Anderson CVI Choir members demonstrate their beautiful harmonies while singing 'Old Fox Wassil' at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees.

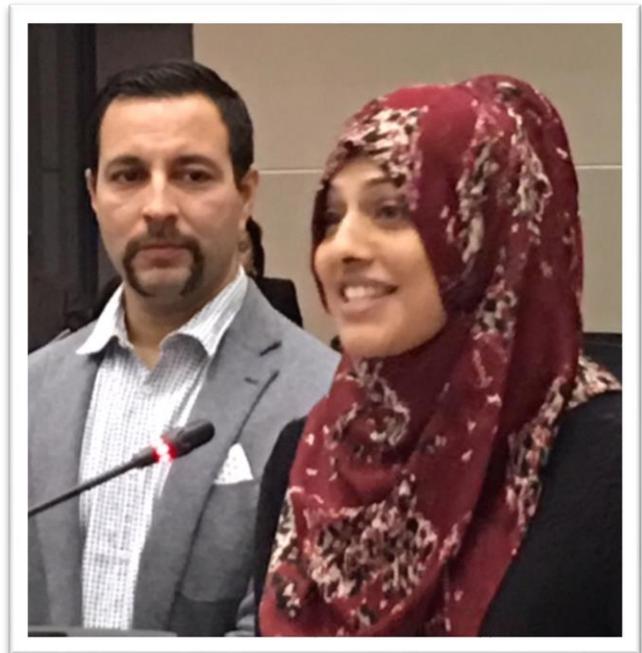
Equitable Practices

Trustees were presented with three examples where Durham District School Board (DDSB) schools are practicing equity to ensure ALL learners are engaged and that the community is activated to support that engagement.

Equitable Practices *continued*

Bellwood Public School – A Taste of Bellwood

Thread of Inclusive Design: Engaging Parent, Family and Community



Bellwood PS parent Asma Munshi says her three children don't need to hide their culture, rather it is celebrated at Bellwood.

Building upon their successful Curriculum Night, Bellwood Public School students and staff organized a community cultural potluck supported by community partners. It was designed as an experience to learn about the many cultures of Bellwood by 'breaking bread' as a community and setting the foundation for the school year on trust and respect for all.

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Equitable Practices *continued*

Port Perry High School – Gold Collar Worker and Women in Trades Pathway

Thread of Inclusive Design: Designing Instruction and Professional Learning

Students and staff at Port Perry High School began a process to strategically build knowledge and challenge stereotypes through their work in examining different pathways. The *Gold Collar Worker Pathway* project involved reaching out to their elementary feeder schools through interactive sessions and innovative skilled trade simulations in the grade 8 classrooms. They also designed a grade 10 credit course supporting *Women in the Trades* that gave students experiential and responsive training in all areas of the trades to prepare them for entry into the *Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program* (OYAP).

G.L. Roberts CVI – Re-visioning Student Achievement and Engagement

Thread of Inclusive Design: Analyzing Data

Staff is developing a deeper understanding of the Conditions of Learning that are required for their students to succeed. They have embraced Paul Gorski's eight strategies for *Reaching & Teaching Students in Poverty* and engage in a restorative approach with students and families to set a foundation for their leadership, instructional practice, teaching, learning and discipline.

The key expected outcome of the practices at each of these schools is improved proportional representation in student achievement, performance, and engagement indicators.

Early Years – Update

The Early Years initiative began in 2009 and has evolved to become a leading opportunity to support our youngest learners and their families.

Early Years has the following major components:

1. Kindergarten: inquiry play-based purposeful learning program for 4 and 5 years of age
2. Child Care Centres in schools: qualified, licensed child care operators provide care for 4 to 5 years of age (Kindergarten) and 6 to 12 years of age (Grades 1 to 6)
3. Before and After School Child Care Programs: qualified, licensed child care operators
4. Early Years Child and Family Centres in Schools (Hubs): community agencies/partners offer free programs focused on healthy childhood

Early Years – Update *continued*

growth, development and early literacy programs for infants to 6 years and their families/caregivers

5. After School Recreation Programs – skill building: community agencies/partners offer affordable after school recreation programs for 6 to 12 years of age and 13 to 18 years of age
6. Child Care Summer Programs: qualified, licensed child care operators, community agencies/partners offer a variety of summer child care programs/camps in Durham District School Board schools
7. School Readiness Programs:
 - a. 'School's Cool' – nationally renowned school readiness program to address the lack of school readiness in children entering Kindergarten. Free, 24-session summer program is designed for 3 to 5 years of age using developmentally appropriate curriculum that is play-based and outcome-focused. Students identified by schools and our Early Years Child and Family Centres (Hubs) as needing additional support entering Junior Kindergarten, are referred to the program.
 - b. K is for Kindergarten: Free, 8-session program designed to help families and children transition to Kindergarten. Children participate in an emergent curriculum environment focusing on play-based activities that build social skills, early math skills, fine and gross motor skills, and language and literacy development.
 - c. Stepping Stones: Free program is for children who will be eligible for Kindergarten next September, and their parents/caregivers. Younger siblings are welcome too.

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Leadership Development

The DDSB Leadership department is making great strides to ensure successful hiring of future aspiring leaders. It is because a number of current principals and vice principals will be eligible for retirement by 2020 that the department has delivered the Aspiring Leaders Program to over 155 individuals.

Other highlights include:

- 30 aspiring leaders attended the inaugural Racialized and Indigenous School Leaders Network. Four of those aspiring leaders are currently moving through the Fall Vice Principal and Principal Promotion Process.
- Over 100 mentors and mentees participated in our mentorship program for newly appointed leaders
- 180 administrators participated in the Administrator Growth Track Series offered through our partnership with Rotman School of Management – University of Toronto. Participants noted the importance and relevance of the training to the work they lead in schools

The DDSB's comprehensive approach to leadership development uses high leverage strategies to grow and enhance the leadership skills of our school leaders and is vital to our continued success in achieving our operational goal to "identify, support and promote leaders' capacity in the DDSB."

Through continued use of data and feedback, we will remain focused on our intentional and precise planning to implement effective promotion, professional learning, and resource development, which will support leaders at all levels.

Traumatic Response Policy and Procedure

The Traumatic Response Policy and Procedure were presented to trustees as a Notice of Motion and will go to January board for recommendation for approval by trustees. The policy and procedure support other resources including, but not limited to, the Police/School Board Protocol, the 911 Emergency Flip Chart, Dealing with Traumatic Events: Crisis and Loss and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

Addition of Investigations Procedure to DDSB Policy 4107, Equity & Inclusion in Education

Trustees received a staff report outlining the addition of an investigations procedure to that outlines the steps for investigating allegations of a breach against the Ontario Human Rights Code. The procedure will ensure equity by providing a mechanism to address, minimize and ultimately remove barriers to maintaining safe and inclusive environments for working and learning.

When properly applied, it is anticipated that perceptual data will reveal increasing evidence of public confidence in the DDSB's commitment to ensuring equity and inclusion and that diversity is valued, protected and promoted within the system.

Former Florence M. Heard Public School site to be sold by DDSB

Trustees were informed that the former Florence M. Heard PS site, which was declared surplus in November 2015, will be sold. Under the process to sell the property, a 180-day period commences during which the Board must offer the property at Fair Market Value to the following bodies, in order:

French Public, French Catholic, and English Catholic school boards; Section 23 Agencies; Consolidated Municipal Service Managers; local English and French language colleges and universities; Children's Mental Health Lead Agencies; Local Health Integration Networks; Board of Health; Province of Ontario; local municipality, in this case Town of Whitby; the local upper-tier municipality, in this case the Region of Durham; Indigenous Organizations; and the federal government.

Should none of these organizations declare their intent to purchase the site in the time frame, the property would then be offered for sale on the open market.

The 180 days will commence on November 21, 2017 and will end on May 21, 2018. In keeping with the terms of the process, official letters will be sent to the organizations listed above.

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Air Conditioning Status and Future Projects

The Durham District School Board plans to have air conditioned spaces within all its schools, such as library and office areas, which would allow students to rotate through the spaces for cooling. Within each area, it is the goal to have one or two fully air conditioned elementary schools and secondary schools, which would become the designated school for pupils that have medical needs that require them to be accommodated in cooled spaces. This would allow any student with medical needs to access all areas of the school: library, gym, washrooms, along with all classrooms.

The board's 3-year plan would see 5 schools converted to full air conditioning and 22 schools converted to partial air conditioning. For details, you can view the report [here](#).

Director's Good News

On Wednesday, October 18th, the Durham Youth Drug Awareness Committee held their annual The Leader in Me: Awareness to Action Student Conference. Over 130 students attended the day which included guest speakers and breakout sessions on substance abuse. At the end of the day, school teams worked to develop a health promotion campaign. Committee members included the Durham District School Board, Durham Catholic District School Board, Durham Region Health Department, Pinewood Centre for Addictions, Lakeridge Health and Carea Community Health Centre.

Many students across the DDSB in Grades 7 and 8 took the opportunity on Friday, October 20th to attend our annual Student Voice Conference. Students discussed relevant equity and inclusion issues from their perspectives and collaborated with peers to create an action plan to address these issues. Our conference started with keynote speakers and teen activists, Nivaal and Maryam Rehman, who shared their journey as social activists and inspired students to use their voices to implement change. This conference is a kick-starter helping students develop leadership skills through collaboration and activism and provide them with a platform to share their perspectives and lead change at their schools.

On October 24th at J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate, students and staff wore purple to acknowledge Child Abuse Prevention Month. We would like to congratulate the Durham Children's Aid Society for acknowledging the 25th anniversary of the Purple Ribbon. The Purple Ribbon has become a symbol for

Children's Aid Societies across Canada and began here in Durham in 1992.

Superintendent Mark Fisher led a delegation from Strong Districts schools in Texas on a tour of several DDSB schools. Superintendent Fisher, and Director Millar spoke with the delegation responding to queries on best practices at the DDSB.

This year, for Treaties Education Week our Indigenous Education Department organized "Truth and Reconciliation: Implementing the Calls to Action" conference with keynote speaker Dr. Niigaanwewidam Sinclair, son of Murray Sinclair. Administrators and teachers were invited to attend a full-day of learning alongside Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Many of our elementary and secondary schools also participated in Treaties Education Week to understand and recognize the historical significance of treaties in the establishment of the province of Ontario.

Earlier this month, students from Cartwright Central Public School in Blackstock participated in Global Read Aloud, an interactive exercise where guest readers such as Trustee Carolyn Morton and Director Millar were invited to read to students as they connect online with other students in our board and abroad. Teacher Ryan Tyndale used Global Read Aloud to connect his Grades 4/5 class through Skype, to students in North Carolina, Maine, Iowa, Virginia, northern Saskatchewan and DDSB's Clara Hughes Public School as they connected through lessons using one book a week.

All DDSB schools honoured Remembrance Day with ceremonies in their schools. At the Education Centre, Jason Guy introduced his brother Kevin Guy, a retired veteran bombardier, who gave a moving speech about his time serving our country. Both Jason and Kevin are DDSB employees.

Congratulations to Lord Elgin Public School as they celebrated 75 years in the community of Ajax. On Friday, October 20th, the school celebrated with a community breakfast and a morning of learning as parents and children engaged in a variety of school activities. In the evening, alumni and former staff attended and exchanged stories and memories as they reminisced and looked at pictures and artefacts from the past.

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Director's Good News *continued*

On November 13th, Scott Central Public School celebrated 50 years of learning in the community of Sandford. The school anniversary celebrated the generations of students, parents and teachers that passed through the school over the last 50 years. Congratulations to both Scott Central Public School and Lord Elgin Public School.

In order to better support schools and other departments in the board, the Human Resource Services' Recruitment Team has reorganized to align with the family of schools model. Administrators and managers will now have one point of contact, a recruitment consultant – formally known as a hiring officer for day-to-day recruitment questions for all employee groups. The Equitable Recruitment Framework has now been given to all administrators.

Grade 11 student Brianna Mills, from Ajax High School, is moving forward to the second round of candidates in the selection process for the Prime Minister's Youth Council. This national level council enables youth to provide non-partisan advice to the Prime Minister on national issues that impact youth today and tomorrow. This young woman has been involved in a number of leadership activities, both locally at her school and also in the broader provincial community. We are certainly proud of her accomplishments and are championing her efforts to have a seat at the table.

On November 20-24 students across the DDSB are participating in Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Elementary students at Cadarackque Public School in Ajax have independently produced a video to show fellow students the impact of bullying and the value of being an ally for support.

Upcoming Events / Dates of Significance

November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 20	National Child Day
November 20-24	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 22	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Conference
November 23	SEAC Meeting
November 25	Holodomor Memorial Day
November 25	Int. Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
November 28	Mental Health and Wellness Ad Hoc Committee
November 30	Mawlid al-Nabi

Upcoming Events / Dates of Significance

December 1	World Aids Day
December 2	Int. Day for the Abolition of Slavery
December 3	Advent First Sunday / Int. Day of Disabled Persons
December 4	Standing Committee / Board Election
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 12	Hanukkah begins
December 22	Last Day of Classes
December 24	Christmas Eve / Last Day of Advent
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanzaa begins
Dec. 25-Jan 5	December/January Vacation
January 1	New Year's Day
January 5	Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji
January 6	Epiphany / Orthodox Christmas Eve
January 7	Orthodox Christmas Day / Nativity of Christ
January 8	Standing Committee Meeting
January 15	Martin Luther King Day / Kindergarten Registration Opens
January 16-18	Grade 9 EQAO
January 19	PA Day (Elementary Schools)
January 21	Lincoln Alexander Day

Annual Board Election and Committee Meetings

Student Senate Meeting

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

Standing Committee/Board Election Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2017
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

