



# Board Highlights

*On Monday, September 19, 2016, the Durham District School Board held its regularly scheduled Board meeting.*

## Outstanding Student Performances from Dr. Robert Thornton Public School

A very special thanks to the 'Thornton Pop Rocks' led by director Andrew Watson who opened the Board meeting with O Canada followed by two of the band's song highlights "Hello" and "I Can't Feel My Face".

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

## Bruce Mather Award Presented

Bruce Mather served as the Director of Education from 1984-1989. When he retired, the then Durham Board of Education, established the Bruce Mather Award to recognize his service to education.

The prize is awarded annually to a staff member (or staff team) who has made an exceptional contribution to the growth of others. The monetary prize accompanying the award can be used to enhance the project or area being recognized.

Congratulations to teacher Nyla John currently at Pickering HS and formerly at Ajax HS who has worked tirelessly to activate staff awareness of culturally responsive practices, while igniting opportunities to activate student voices on being awarded the Bruce Mather Award. Ms. John provided space and resources to support student leaders in bringing their agenda forward, ultimately impacting the whole school community. A chapter of Breaking Barriers was introduced at Pickering HS with the group designing workshops being delivered to elementary schools Lincoln Alexander PS and Eagle Ridge PS.



*(l to r) Board Chairperson Michael Barrett, Vice Chairperson Carolyn Morton along with Director of Education Lisa Millar present Nyla John (third from left) with the Bruce Mather award.*

## Transfers and Promotions Announced

- Michelle Sigmann, SERT, Clara Hughes PS, to Acting Vice-Principal, Clara Hughes PS

## Director's Good News

Director Millar welcomed everyone back from summer break and thanked everyone for their ongoing hard work to make schools and programs ready for students.

Director Millar made special mention to Facilities Services for improving, repairing and replacing equipment in schools to aid in enhancing student learning.

*Continued on page 2*

## Director's Good News continued

This September the Durham District School Board opened two brand new elementary schools, Forest View Public School and Jeanne Sauvé Public School both located in Oshawa.

The DDSB community continues to be fortunate as Canada's Snowbirds were once again able to perform several fly pasts over Captain Michael VandenBos Public School in Whitby. This year we were honoured to have Captain Michael VandenBos' family attend the fly past to continue to lend support and appreciation for this continued tradition for the school, students and Snowbirds. Director Millar thanked the Snowbirds and the VandenBos school community for their annual support.

In continuing support for our First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) community Director Millar thanked the First Nations, Metis and Inuit education office for hosting the Summer Literacy Program for approximately 100 students. The Summer Literacy Program helps to close literacy gaps while increasing student and parent engagement and infusing First Nation, Metis and Inuit content and resources in student learning.

The Director also highlighted the continued summer learning for students in summer school and the 'Getting Ready for High School' programs across the board.

Staff attending Summer Learning Institutes for professional learning were acknowledged by Director Millar for their continued professional development in courses ranging from 'Preparing for STEM' to SafeTALK a program training participants to become suicide-alert helpers.

Director Millar also recognized the Early Learning department for offering the 'Schools Cool' program for the youngest learners to help close the literacy and numeracy gap.

Director Millar thanked principals, vice-principals and heads of math at both the elementary and secondary level who have been working on EQAO data analysis and training on data literacy focussing on improving student achievement overall and implementing Renewed Math strategy.

Director Millar introduced and explained the piloting and restructuring model for the new Family of Schools reorganizing how we support students, administrators and schools. This restructuring will organize school grouping centres and elementary schools around a secondary school and provide increased support to continue to focus on student achievement and well-being.

The Director highlighted the DDSB will be celebrating 'Safety Week' September 26-30. Events for this year's safety week include students and staff at schools participating in classroom discussions, assemblies, drills, and a variety of other safety-themed activities and events aimed at generating greater awareness about everyone's role when it comes to safety. During Safety Week students at Glengrove PS in Pickering will participate in a lunch hour lockdown drill in tandem with Durham Region Police Services. Later in the week DDSB secondary students and teachers will train on how to use AED and CPR life-saving devices. Director Millar also highlighted the upcoming Equity and Inclusive Education departments 'Diversity in the Community' for LGBTQ Parents and Children upcoming on Saturday, October 18.

## Quarterly Construction Report

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

## Motions

- That the Board of Trustees for the DDSB authorize the transfer of \$580,415 from the Specialized Equipment Amount to a reserve entitled Special Education

## Regular Board and Committee Meetings

### Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, October 3, 2016  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.

### Student Senate Meeting

TBA  
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm

### Board Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2016  
Public Session — 7:00 p.m.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

