



Board Highlights

On Monday, September 21, 2015, the Durham District School Board held its regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Port Perry High School Duet Entertains!

Special thanks to two very talented students, Hayden Kerry and Julia Romano from Port Perry High School, for starting the meeting off on a high note! The highly talented duo provided a lively and wonderful performance for an appreciative and impressed audience. Thank you for sharing your time and considerable talents!

Bruce Mather Award

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.



This year's winner of the Bruce Mather Award is Adam Reynolds, a teacher at Glen Street PS. Adam as described by his nominator(s) demonstrates excellence in the

classroom, listening attentively and responding to the unique needs of his students in a respectful, caring and supportive manner. He is a deserving recipient of the Bruce Mather Award. Congratulations Adam!

(Left to right) Oshawa Trustee Larry Jacula, Adam Reynolds, Vice Chair Donna Edwards and Oshawa Trustee Linda Stone presented the award to Teacher Adam Reynolds.

Director's Good News

Director Beckett thanked everyone for all their hard work over the summer to make our schools and our programs ready for students. School may have been out, but the work certainly continued.

This September saw the Durham District School Board open a brand new elementary school, Michaëlle Jean Public School in Ajax and Durham's newest secondary school, Brooklin High School in Whitby. Work continued through the Labour Day weekend to ensure students were in their new school on the first day.

The Director thanked Canada's Snowbirds team for once again performing a fly past over Captain Michael VandenBos Public School in Whitby. He also mentioned that we have been so fortunate each year since the school opened to have this unique and exciting tradition of a fly past on the first day of school.

The school was named after a former Snowbirds pilot, Captain Michael VandenBos, who grew up in Whitby and was killed in a routine training mission near Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan in 1998.

Director Beckett thanked the entire VandenBos school community for this annual event. To read more about this and other recent events, visit www.ddsb.ca.

In keeping with our focus on positive mental health and student well-being, the DDSB has partnered with Durham's Children and Youth Planning Network. On September 10th, the group recognized World Suicide Prevention Day to raise awareness for staff, students and parents of the launch of ['Be Safe,' a suicide prevention app](#).

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The Director explained that program 'Be Safe', is a smart phone specific app linking users and those who may be contemplating suicide to community specific mental health and addiction resources available locally.

The promotion of this app is one of many DDSB initiatives which support the goals of the DDSB Mental Health and Addictions Strategy which identifies the links of influence for positive mental health.

You can find more information on '[Be Safe](#)' at www.ddsb.ca or www.mindyourmind.ca.

Director Beckett congratulated the students and staff at Highbush Public School's Eco Club on recently celebrating a Sustainable Neighbourhoods Program win. The Eco Club at Highbush PS has been working with the City of Pickering for the past six months on a community enhancement project valued up to \$10,000 as part of their winning efforts in last year's program. More about this outstanding community project can be found on the [DDSB's website](#).

The Director highlighted that the DDSB is now celebrating '[Safety Week, September 21-24](#)'. This year, 'Safety Week' events include activities focused on educating both elementary and secondary students as well as school staff. Safety events are planned at Cartwright Central Public School in Blackstock, Norman G. Powers Public School in Oshawa and Pickering High School in Ajax. The week also includes an open house featuring community partners in local fire services, police, public health and youth services among others to provide education and awareness on safety practices and procedures.

Motions

- That the [Parent Involvement Committee](#) (PIC) membership be approved.
- That the Durham District School Board of Trustees approve the revised regulation #1330: Partnerships, Facility Partnerships, Sponsorships and Donations, provided as Appendix 1.
- That the Board approve the [Operational Goals](#) for the 2015-2016 school year.
- That the Bell Time Procedure be approved effective immediately.

Quarterly Construction Report

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

Upcoming Event:

Saturday, October 24th, 2015 the DDSB will be hosting '[Rising Above the Challenge of Poverty Symposium](#)' which is open to all members of the education community. The symposium will take place at the Education Centre and feature national speakers addressing teaching, students in poverty and strategies to erase the gaps in opportunities due to poverty.

More information about this and other events can be found on the [DDSB's website](#).

Regular Board and Committee Meetings

Standing Committee Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2015 – 7:00 pm
Public Session

Board Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2015 – 7:00 pm
Public Session

Student Senate Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2015 – 4:15 pm – 6:00 pm



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

