



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

# Budget Process and Consultation Update

Presented to: Finance Committee  
April 17, 2023

# Agenda

- Where are we in the Budget Process?
- Budget Consultation
- Next Steps

# Original Budget Process



# Amended Budget Process



# Budget Consultation

Completed to date:

- 4 separate thought exchanges were made available to all stakeholders on the budget and strategic priorities
- 3 live sessions on the above exchanges were held with Board Central Staff, Student Senators, Principals and Vice-Principals
- Delegations to the Finance Committee on April 17<sup>th</sup>
- Invitation for written submissions to [Finance@dcdsb.ca](mailto:Finance@dcdsb.ca)

# Participation on Individual Priority Exchanges

Category	% of Participation
Parent/Guardian/Caregiver	18%
Student	1%
Staff	70%
Parish/Community/Other	11%
Total	100%

# Supporting Faith and Well-Being

Share your thoughts about how we can work together to make sure that all students have access to and receive support for their faith development, mental health and well-being?



71  
Participants



53  
Thoughts



642  
Ratings

# Supporting Faith and Well-Being Continued



- Re-evaluate our model of inclusion. Students that require extensive support are not getting it. 4.1 ★★★★★ (19 👤)
- Provide timely access to supports (e.g., social work, multi-disciplinary teams, etc.) 4.0 ★★★★★ (19 👤)
- Students need to feel supported by as many entities as possible during these challenging times. The home/school/parish axis has become critical. Mental health, isolation and loneliness, self esteem impinged on by social media platforms make this support a non-negotiable in education today. 4.0 ★★★★★ (16 👤)



# Advancing Human Rights & Equity

What are your thoughts on how we can work together to ensure that the voices of our diverse communities are heard and respected, and that disparities are addressed to cultivate a safe and equitable learning environment for all students?



120  
Participants



80  
Thoughts



1,913  
Ratings

# Advancing Human Rights & Equity Continued



Celebrating nationalities throughout the year Sharing different cultures

4.3 ★★★★★ (30 👤)  
 Ranked #1 of 80

Diverse community members need to be a part of our system at every level. So students can see our diverse community working together and that they can see role models within our system

4.3 ★★★★★ (30 👤)  
 Ranked #2 of 80

Ensure our diverse communities are represented in various roles within our schools & systems. This will help to give a voice to those who currently may not feel seen or heard within our systems.

4.3 ★★★★★ (29 👤)  
 Ranked #3 of 80

# Improving Student Learning

What are your thoughts on how we can work together to engage students in meaningful interactions, connections and experiential learning opportunities that meet the needs of our diverse student population?



63  
Participants



78  
Thoughts



808  
Ratings

# Improving Student Learning Continued



Often experiential opportunities requires financial support If exploring experiential opportunities offsite bussing is very expensive	4.0	★★★★☆	(12 👤)
More professional development opportunities	3.9	★★★★☆	(12 👤)
Provide opportunities for multi-formats of assessments in class Provide opportunities for credits for community service and activities	3.9	★★★★☆	(12 👤)

# School Based Thoughtexchange

As a school, what do you feel we are doing well, and what do you think we can do to improve in any of the following areas:  
Supporting Faith & Well-Being, Advancing Human Rights & Equity and Improving Student Learning?

# Participation in the School Based Exchange



713

Participants



414

Thoughts



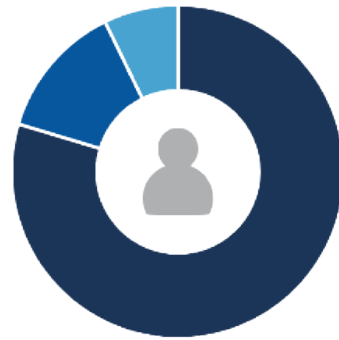
9,996


Ratings

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# Participation by Category – School Based Exchange

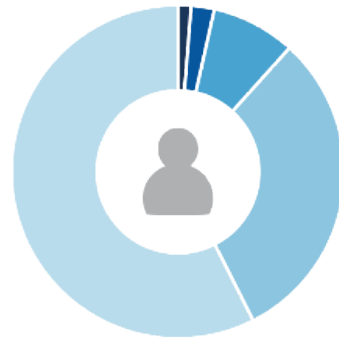
What category best describes you?




%		Answer
80%	(530)	■ Parent/Guardian/Caregiver
13%	(87)	■ Student
7%	(44)	■ Other

# Supporting Faith & Well-Being

How important to you is Supporting Faith & Well-Being of our students?




%		Answer
1%	(9)	■ Not important
2%	(13)	■ Somewhat important
8%	(47)	■ Neutral
31%	(189)	■ Important
58%	(361)	■ Very important



# Advancing Human Rights & Equity

How important to you is Advancing Human Rights & Equity?




%		Answer
3%	(20)	■ Not important
4%	(22)	■ Somewhat important
7%	(44)	■ Neutral
27%	(163)	■ Important
59%	(358)	■ Very important

# Improving Student Learning



How important to you is Improving Student Learning?







%		Answer
1%	(3)	■ Not important
0%	(2)	■ Somewhat important
2%	(12)	■ Neutral
13%	(78)	■ Important
84%	(512)	■ Very important



# Key Thoughts

**I would like to see communication from the teachers if my child is falling behind or if they have any concerns before a report card time. I would like to have the chance to help my child succeed. I don't like the only communication being a report card.** 4.5  (30 )  
Ranked #1 of 414

**There needs to be more supports in place for when students are having difficulty. Not just pushing them along. This is important so they end up with a proper education.** 4.4  (39 )  
Ranked #2 of 414

**Continue to emphasize kindness towards and value in other people's lives, and who we are.** 4.4  (26 )  
Ranked #3 of 414

# Key Thoughts – Mental Health and Social Emotional Well-Being

**Faith and student well-being is very important. It is important that the child feels safe, welcomed and encouraged. It is important because that will lead to student success and the drive to do well**

4.2  (39 )



**I think more needs to be done regarding bullying. Both physical and verbal. If staff hear another child being spoken to inappropriately by peers they should call out the kids. Often the ones being bullied don't complain. This leads to anxiety over going to school.**



4.2  (37 )



**Overall wellness activities** Teaching the children about mental health and well being is important

4.2  (32 )

# Key Thoughts – Student Engagement

**Strong staff who really care about the students. Kids know when they are being invested in** 4.2  (25 )

**Teachers that care about their students. Teachers that check in with students when they see changes in their academics, demeanour and appearance. Students need to feel connected at school as they spend the majority of their day at school. They need to feel that others care and notice them.** 4.1  (27 )

**I like the fact that the school says prayer in the morning and before lunch. That is a great practice for Faith and well being. I believe prayer is important as it helps enhance our relationship with God.** 4.1  (26 )

# Pre-Budget Consultation: Provincial Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs



The Committee heard from a variety of education stakeholders about the ongoing challenges for learning recovery in Ontario schools. A common theme was the need for increased mental health supports for students and teachers. Witnesses also spoke about the importance of enhancing supports for students with special needs, students who do not speak English as a first language, as well as Black and Indigenous students to address inequities and improve education outcomes.

Standing Committee on Finance And Economic Affairs



# Comments from Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association



The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association spoke about the importance of investing in learning recovery in the classroom, stating that COVID-19 magnified issues of student mental health and well-being, especially for equity deserving students.

Standing Committee on Finance And Economic Affairs





# Comments from Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association



The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association asked for a multi-year funding strategy for learning recovery, faith formation, and student mental health programs and services to address COVID-19 impacts, and additional funding for operational costs associated with virtual, board-operated, online learning programs.

Standing Committee on Finance And Economic Affairs



# Next Steps

- Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Financial Package – still outstanding
- Staffing and Enrolment Processes (ongoing)
- Registrations (ongoing)
- Senior Administration – continued planning and review of priorities
- Move May 15, 2023 Finance Committee meeting to May 29, 2023 due to delay in GSN
- Board of Trustees – Final draft for approval in June

# Questions

