



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

Inaugural Board Meeting – Open Session Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board – North Boardroom
November 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM EST

Trustees Present

M. Forster (Chair), M. Ste. Marie (Vice Chair)

Trustees K. Beatty, R. Damianopoulos, R. De Souza, J. Emanuel, M. Hall, J. McCafferty

Student Trustees Present

M. Esan

S. Nwaoha

Director of Education Present

T. Barill

Senior Administration Present

K. Akomolafe, S. Grieve, M. Hammond, S. Lee-Fernandes, M. O'Neill, R. Rodriguez,
P. Sorhaitz, D. Stargratt, K. Stevenson, J. Wilson, G. Winn

1. Opening

1.1. Memorials and Prayer

Director Barill offered the opening prayer keeping in mind all special intentions.

1.2. Land Acknowledgement

Director Barill acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.3. Canadian Anthem - St. John Paul II Catholic School

The choir from St. John Paul II Catholic School sang "O Canada."

1.4. Roll Call and Apologies

All trustees were present.

2. Welcome

Director Barill welcomed Father Keith Callaghan, Trustees, Student Trustees, staff and representatives from all employee groups and all other guests to the meeting.

3. Reading the Returns of the Elections

Having received official confirmation of the electoral returns from each of the electoral areas, Director Barill duly noted that the following were elected as Trustees of the Durham Catholic District School Board in the municipal elections held on October 24, 2022:

For the Town of Ajax

Monique Forster and Marisa Hall - elected

For the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge

Richard Damianopoulos - elected

For the City of Oshawa

Kim Beatty and Morgan Ste. Marie - elected

For the City of Pickering

Jim McCafferty - elected

For the Town of Whitby

Robert De Souza and Janelle Emanuel - elected

4. Declaration and Oath of Trustee

Director Barill administered the Declaration and Oath of Allegiance individually to each Trustee.

5. Confidentiality Agreement

Trustees signed a Confidentiality Agreement which was witnessed by Director Barill.

6. Declaration that the Board is Legally Constituted

Director Barill confirmed that each member of the Board had made the declaration and taken the oath. She declared the Board to be legally constituted and that it has jurisdiction as prescribed by legislation and the Working By-Laws of the Durham Catholic District School Board.

7. Comments from Chief Executive Officer

Director Barill offered her comments as follows:

As Chief Executive Officer- Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer of the Durham Catholic District School Board, on behalf of the Senior Administrative Team, all staff, students and families in our Catholic Community, I offer congratulations to each of you.

The words of solidarity and commitment you have spoken in taking your oath of office demonstrate your deep commitment to Catholic education and your

promise of guardianship, stewardship and advocacy for each and every student in the Durham Catholic District School Board.

It is a special time to become a Catholic school trustee. This year, our spiritual theme, "Listening with the Ear of the Heart" comes from the words of Pope Francis, who reminds us that listening is central to our faith. Through deep listening, we can expand our knowledge and understanding of the experiences of others which supports a culture of respect for human rights, equity, diversity, inclusion, and Indigenous education.

As system leaders, we witness first-hand the gift of Catholic education, and we are blessed to have our trustees advocating on a local and provincial level, for our families and ratepayers who believe in our unique faith-filled system.

Renewing the Promise: A Pastoral Letter on Catholic Education released by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, provides the following direction to Catholic school trustees:

"You are entrusted with the profound responsibility of stewardship of the mission of Catholic education. Let the Gospel of Jesus guide your policies and your governance of our Catholic school districts, for in his Gospel the Church discovers truth, goodness, and beauty."

May these words, remain in your hearts throughout your term as Catholic school trustees.

Here in Durham Catholic, we are approaching the final month of the *Discovery 2023 Renewing the Vision Strategic Plan*, which was launched in 2019 and has guided our actions for the past three years.

We are gratified to reflect upon the successful attainment of the strategic goals and priorities from that plan. In spite of the many challenges faced during the pandemic and the provincial labour negotiations, both before and after the onset of COVID-19, our staff continue to dedicate themselves in service of our students:

- As a Catholic School System, keeping our faith central during times of need is essential, we are inspired by the many creative ways that our schools, chaplains, faith ambassadors and parishes collaborated and continued to support the faith formation of our students through the celebration of system faith activities, school Masses, Liturgies, and prayer services.
- Since August, there has been an increased focus on staff training and education on Human Rights and Equity. Training will continue throughout the school year as part of our commitment to advancing human rights and equity.
- In keeping with our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, the board continues to embrace the opportunity to listen and reflect on the voices

and experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people during National Treaties Recognition Week (November 6-12), Louis Riel Day (November 16) and “Rock your Mocs” Week (November 13- 19). Authentically marking these important days and weeks of recognition help to build understanding as we walk the path together.

- In September, students started the new Grade 12 Indigenous Studies Course at all DCDSB secondary schools, and the Indigenous Education team continue to provide ‘Learning on the Land’ for elementary and secondary students.
- The de-streaming of Grade 9 Math courses and the continued de-streaming of Grade 9 science.
- Continued focus on providing students with experiential learning opportunities, access to and awareness of the skilled trades courses and programming, Specialist High Skill Major (SHSM) courses and STEM learning for elementary and secondary students.
- In October, the board created an Outdoor Education/Learning space here at the board office.
- The board engaged families on two Boundary Reviews – The Archbishop Denis O’Connor and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary Schools Boundary Review and Brooklin Regular English Track Study.
- Staff continue to work on the new Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School to be built in north Oshawa.
- Mental health and well-being continue to be a priority for students and staff. Our schools’ SOS and Mental Health clubs are actively engaging students on wellness strategies and initiatives; this school year staff will launch a new multi-year Mental Health Strategy; the staff wellness committee launched a Mind, Body, Spirit Room Campaign, and increased promotion of our Family Services Employee Assistance Program.
- This week staff and students are recognizing Bullying Prevention and Intervention Week. Schools are having discussion on creating safe and positive learning environments for all students because everyone has the right to feel safe. On Friday, November 25, the board will launch the School Climate Survey. The Ministry of Education requires all school boards across the province to complete a School Climate Survey every two years. Students in Grades 4 to 12 will complete the survey in class. Parents, guardians, and staff are also asked to complete the voluntary, anonymous, and confidential survey. The survey questions are available to view in advance at dcdsb.ca.
- Tomorrow, the board’s Intranet Working Committee will launch the new myDCDSB intranet which will greatly improve internal communications and become a hub for internal resources, information, tools, and apps.

There are many other wonderful initiatives which have been celebrated and highlighted and I would like to thank our dedicated staff:

- classroom teachers, consultants, resource teachers
- educational assistants

- early childhood educators
- custodians
- secretaries
- principals
- vice-principals
- support staff
- managers
- student services staff, and
- Senior Administrative Team.

Collectively through their dedication and service to our students, our Catholic school communities continue to build safe and welcoming learning environments by demonstrating our values of respect, reconciliation, love, hope, charity, and faith.

We look forward to the launch of our new strategic plan *Inspire 2026*. This new plan includes new mission, vision, values statements that were developed through extensive consultation with our community. It will focus on Supporting Faith and Well-Being, Advancing Human Rights and Equity and Improving Student Learning by prioritizing the critical processes of listening, learning, and living in faith.

As we make our way to Advent, and a time of renewal – I hope you will find time for quiet reflection and prayer as we await the coming of the Lord. I extend my personal gratitude to our trustees as entrusted stewards of Catholic education, and to each of you for your services, commitment, and dedication to the Durham Catholic District School Board. God Bless.

8. Presentation of the Gavel to Outgoing Chair

Director Barill presented the gavel to outgoing Chair Ste. Marie and thanked him for his leadership this past year.

9. Election for Chair of the Board

9.1. Nominations

Director Barill advised that the appointed Returning Officers for the elections were Superintendent Scott Grieve and Chief Financial Officer Marie Hammond.

The Director opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for the period November 21, 2022 to November 15, 2023.

Nominee	Moved by	Seconded by	Will to Stand?
M. Forster	R. Damianopoulos	J. McCafferty	Yes

Director Barill then called three times for further nominations. Nominations were then declared closed.

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-01 - Close Nominations

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board close nominations for the position of Chair of the Board for the period November 21, 2022 to November 15, 2023".

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. De Souza.
CARRIED

Trustee Forster was acclaimed as Chair of the Board.

9.2. Destruction of Ballots

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-02 - Destruction of Ballots

"THAT the ballots cast for the election of the Chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board be destroyed."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. De Souza.
CARRIED

9.3. Acceptance speech by Chair of the Board

Chair Forster extended thanks to her colleagues for their nomination. She noted that in the past thirty years, her desire to serve our Catholic community has only deepened. She welcomes the opportunity in her role as Chair, to continue to work in the best interests of students, families, and staff; to ensure their voices are heard.

10. Election for Vice Chair of the Board - Chair of the Board

10.1. Nominations

Chair Forster opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board for the period November 21, 2022 to November 15, 2023.

Nominee	Moved by	Seconded by	Willing to Stand?
R. Damianopoulos	J. McCafferty	R. Damianopoulos	Yes
M. Ste. Marie	R. De Souza	M. Ste. Marie	Yes

Chair Forster then called three times for further nominations. Nominations were then declared closed.

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-03 - Close Nominations

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board close nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Board for the period November 21, 2022 to November 15, 2023".

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie.
CARRIED

10.2. Candidates' comments

Trustee Damianopoulos and Trustee Ste. Marie, nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Board, gave their speeches.

10.3. Voting for Board Vice Chair

Returning Officers Grieve and Hammond, distributed a ballot to each Trustee. Following completion of ballots by each Trustee, the ballots were given to the Director, who read the following results:

Trustee	Voted For
K. Beatty	R. Damianopoulos
R. Damianopoulos	R. Damianopoulos
R. De Souza	M. Ste. Marie
J. Emanuel	M. Ste. Marie
M. Forster	R. Damianopoulos
M. Hall	M. Ste. Marie
J. McCafferty	R. Damianopoulos
M. Ste. Marie	M. Ste. Marie

R. Damianopoulos - 4 votes; M. Ste. Marie - 4 votes

With the votes divided equally between Trustee Damianopoulos and Trustee Ste. Marie, as per General Working By-Law Section 2.5(i), candidates would draw lots to fill the position. The Director invited Father Keith Callaghan to decide if the short or long straw would fill the position. He decided that the short straw would determine the position of Vice Chair. Trustee Ste. Marie drew the shorter straw and filled the position of Vice Chair of the Board.

10.4. Destruction of Ballots

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-04 - Destruction of Ballots

"THAT the ballots cast for the election of the Vice Chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board be destroyed."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by R. De Souza.
CARRIED

10.5. Acceptance speech by Vice Chair of the Board

Vice Chair Ste. Marie thanked fellow trustees for their support. He said he looks forward to working with the new and returning trustees in the years ahead and strengthen relationships with families, community groups, employee groups and local and provincial elected officials.

11. Approval of Business Section of the Agenda

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-05 - Approval of Business Section of the Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the business section of the Inaugural Board Meeting agenda."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by J. Emanuel. CARRIED

12. Business

12.1. Approval of Signing Officers of the Board

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-06 - Approval of Signing Officers of the Board

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve that the Signing Officers of the Board shall be two (2) in number as follows:

- one (1) of either the Chair of the Board or the Vice Chair of the Board; and
- one (1) of either the Secretary/Treasurer (Director of Education) or the Senior Business Official (Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services)."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by R. De Souza. CARRIED

12.2. Re-Appointment of External Auditor

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-07 - Re-Appointment of External Auditor

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board re-appoint Baker Tilly KDN LLP as external auditors for the period of November 15, 2022 to November 30, 2023."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by J. McCafferty. CARRIED

12.3. Official Results 2022 Municipal Elections

Report received for information.

13. Information and Announcements

Agenda items 13.1 to 13.5 were provided for information

13.1. General Working By-Law - Article 2 Sections 2.1 - 2.7

13.2. Commissioning of Catholic Trustees

13.3. Declaration and Oath

13.4. Confidentiality Agreement

13.5. Board Chairs 1969 - 2022

14. Adjournment

Motion:

IB2022-11-21-08 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Inaugural Board Meeting of Monday, November 21, 2022.

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos.

CARRIED

15. Closing Prayer

Chair Forster offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Monique Forster, Chair of the Board
Durham Catholic District School Board

Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead