



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

## **Regular Board Meeting – Open Session Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board – North Boardroom  
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, ON, L1J 7C4  
March 27, 2023 at 7:30 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, M. O'Neill, M. O'Reilly, R. Rodriguez,  
P. Sorhaitz, D. Stargratt, K. Stevenson, J. Wilson, G. Winn

### **Senior Managers Present**

T. Long, J. McVeigh, R. Tawembe

\* *Attended virtually*

#### 1. Opening

Chair Forster opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

##### 1.1. Motion to Move In Camera

#### **Motion:**

B2023-03-27-01 - Motion to Move In Camera

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board meeting move into In Camera session."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by M. Hall.  
CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

##### 1.2. Memorials and Prayer

Student Trustee Nwaoha offered the opening prayer.

1.3. Land Acknowledgement

Cassandra E., a student from St. John Bosco Catholic School acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.4. Canadian Anthem

Performance by St. John Bosco Catholic School choir.

1.5. Roll Call and Apologies

All trustees were present. Trustees De Souza and Emanuel attended virtually.

1.6. Call to Order

Chair Forster called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1.7. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-02 – Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the Monday, March 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting as provided."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by K. Beatty.

CARRIED

1.8. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

1.8.1. Regular Board Meeting held February 27, 2023

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-03 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the February 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.

CARRIED

1.8.2. Policy Meeting held March 6, 2023

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-04 – Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open session of the March 6, 2023, Policy Meeting."

Motion moved by M. Hall and motion seconded by J. McCafferty.

CARRIED

1.9. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Items of Information

2.1. Announcements

2.1.1. Announcements from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting

Vice Chair Ste. Marie read the following announcements:

**Retirements**

Andrew Salmers, Monsignor Paul Dwyer C.H.S., effective June 30, 2023

Colleen Costello, St. John Bosco C.S., effective April 30, 2023

Kimberley Howlett, Virtual Elementary School, effective March 31, 2023

Lucie Leveque, St. Kateri Tekakwitha C.S., effective June 30, 2023

Marian Chopik, St. John the Evangelist C.S., effective June 30, 2023

Mario Griscti, St. Theresa C.S., effective June 30, 2023

Melissa Collins, Monsignor Philip Coffey C.S., effective March 31, 2023

Michelle Flynn, Archbishop Denis O'Connor C.H.S., effective June 30, 2023

Robert LeBlanc, Father Leo J. Austin C.S.S., effective June 30, 2023

Teresa Fras-Wachon, St. John Bosco C.S., effective June 30, 2023

Terry Rudkins, Father Leo J. Austin C.S.S., effective June 30, 2023

Wilma Young, St. John the Evangelist C.S., effective June 30, 2023

2.1.2. Appointments and Transfers

None.

2.2. Notices of Motions

None.

2.3. Presentations

2.3.1. Information and Communications Technology Strategic Goals

- Ronald Rodriguez, Chief Information Officer, Paulette Wilson-Chambers, Project Manager, ERP, Jason Adams, Manager, Infrastructure Solutions and Chris Skelton, Supervisor, Network and Cyber Security provided an update to the Board of Trustees on initiatives currently taking place in Information and Communications Technology Services.

- Highlights from their presentation include:
  - Implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
    - Human Resources
    - Payroll
    - Finance
  - Multi-Year Technology Plan
    - 2:1 technology ratio (two students per device)
  - System-wide Cyber Security improvements
- Staff responded to questions from Trustees.

#### 2.3.2. Durham Student Transportation Services Update

- Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education, and Kelly Mechoulan, DSTS Chief Administrative Officer, provided a presentation on Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS).
- Highlights from their presentation include:
  - Bus drive shortage
  - Bus service in remote and rural areas including service on dead-end roads
  - Durham Region Transit Bus Passes
- Trustee Damianopoulos asked if we could make a motion to develop a communication plan to inform parents about areas of concern and what is being done. Director Barill reminded Trustees that DSTS has its own governance board. She indicated that the Chair and Director could bring it for discussion at the next DSTS governance meeting and provide a subsequent update to the Board of Trustees.

#### 2.3.3. Trustee Code of Conduct

- Tracy Barill, Director of Education, provided an overview of the Trustee Code of Conduct. In the fall of 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan which includes a new Board Mission Statement. The Trustee Code of Conduct has been revised to update the Mission Statement.
- The Code of Conduct outlines the expectations of Trustee conduct with respect to:
  - Catholic Faith, Community and Culture
  - Integrity and Dignity of Office
  - Civil Behaviour
  - Complying with Legislation
  - Upholding Decisions
  - Avoidance of Personal Advantage and Conflict of Interest

- Perceived or Potential Conflict of Interest
- When Interest is Not a Conflict
- Lobbying
- Respect for Confidentiality
- Respect for Board Resources
- The Code of Conduct also outlines procedures for:
  - Enforcement of the Code of Conduct
  - Response to a Finding of Breach
  - Reconsideration
  - Reversal
  - Confirmation
  - Meeting in Camera
- Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions.

A short recess was called by Chair Forster at 9:02 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:07 p.m. with all trustees in attendance.

2.4. Delegations

None.

2.5. Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation

Received for information.

2.6. Minutes and/or reports from Committee meetings

The minutes and/or reports from Committee meetings were received for information. Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions.

2.6.1. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – March 7, 2023

2.6.2. Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – March 9, 2023

2.7. Staff Reports (for information)

The following staff reports were received for information. The Director and staff responded to questions from the Trustees.

2.7.1. Board Advisory Groups

2.7.2. Revised Schedule of Presentations 2022-2023

3. Items for Decision

3.1. Consideration of Motions for which previous notice has been given

None.

3.2. Motions to be read in Open Session from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of March 27, 2023

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-05 – Motions Deemed Read

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Motions as deemed read from the In Camera session of the March 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by M. Hall.  
CARRIED

3.3. Business arising from previous meetings

None.

3.4. Staff Reports (for decision)

3.4.1. 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-06 – 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the calendars recommended by staff for the 2023-2024 School Year (Appendix 1) for elementary and secondary schools, subject to final approval by the Ministry of Education."

Motion moved by K. Beatty and motion seconded by M. Ste. Marie.  
CARRIED

3.4.2. Trustee Code of Conduct

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-07 – Trustee Code of Conduct

"THAT in accordance with Regulation 246/18 the Durham Catholic District School Board confirm the revised Trustee Code of Conduct as referenced in section 6.3 and contained in the Supplementary Documents of the General Working By-Law Number 2021 (Rev. Oct. 25, 2022)."

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and motion seconded by K. Beatty.  
CARRIED

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-08 – Trustee Code of Conduct

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board make available the revised Trustee Code of Conduct to the public on the Durham Catholic District School Board website.

Motion moved by M. Ste. Marie and motion seconded by K. Beatty.  
CARRIED

3.4.3. Out of Province Travel

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-09 – Out of Province Travel

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the request of members of the Board and the Director’s designate at the Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association Annual General Meeting and Conference scheduled June 1-3, 2023, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.”

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by M. Hall. CARRIED

3.4.4. Out of Province Travel

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-10 – Out of Province Travel

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the attendance of up to six members at the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) – Annual General Meeting and Conference scheduled for July 5-7, 2023, in Victoria, British Columbia.”

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

4. Other Business

4.1. Board Communications

Correspondence received for information.

4.1.1. Correspondence from the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)

4.2. Director's Report

Director Barill provided the following report:

- Welcome back to Superintendent Mariah O’Reilly who has returned to the DCDSB Senior Administrative Team on an interim basis from now until the end of June. With the recent departure of Superintendent Lee-Fernandes, the Senior Admin Team has had to re-organize portfolio responsibilities. Superintendent O’Reilly’s willingness to step in temporarily has provided additional time for the Senior Team to determine a longer-term re-organization as we work through the budget process for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Ministry Updates**

- The Ontario Government released its budget last week. School Boards continue to await detailed information from the Ministry of Education

regarding funding for the coming school year. Overall, the provincial budget made limited mention of Education, noting that “the next steps in the government’s Plan to Catch up will focus on helping students develop skills in math and reading and preparing them for jobs of the future.”

- Early Reading Enhancements - \$25 million over two years to provide support for students in senior kindergarten to Grade 2. Students will be assessed twice a year for their reading skills using evidence-based screening tools. The government plans to work with school boards to establish a consistent set of recommended screening tools.
- Targeted Math Supports - additional \$12.6 million investment over two years, to double the number of school math coaches who will be responsible for implementing early intervention strategies and providing other math-related supports for students at targeted schools across the province.
- Preparing More Students for the Jobs of the Future will involve creating stronger links between classroom learning and good-paying careers. Over three years, the government is investing \$6.2 million in targeted supports for students with disabilities to pursue cooperative education opportunities.
- Continued Curriculum Updates will focus on life and job skills by revising curriculum in language; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and skilled trades. This includes a new Computer Studies and revised Technological Education curriculum, beginning with the implementation of a new Grade 10 course in September 2023 and revised Grade 9 and 10 courses to be offered in September 2024.
- To help parents support their children’s learning through supports such as tutoring, learning supplies and equipment, the government launched a \$365 million investment for Catch Up Payments, offering parents \$200 per child or \$250 per child with special education needs. These payments provide direct financial support to parents that can be used to help their child’s education.
- Teaching Financial Literacy \$6.8 million over three years will be invested to support practical, hands-on experiences for students to further their financial literacy learning and growth. Ontario will also release self-directed learning modules on financial literacy that help Grade 9 and 10 students prepare for their transition to postsecondary education or the workforce after high school.
- Providing Parents Choice and Making Child Care More Affordable. It is important to note that childcare funds and money paid directly to parents/guardians is included under the auspices of Education.



### **System Events**

- On Monday, March 6, DCDSB recognized Black Mental Health Day by hosting an event titled *Not Just Surviving: Centering Black Mental Health*. The keynote speakers were Dionne Sinclair, Vice President of Clinical Operations & Chief Nursing Executive at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), and Maryanne Oketch, Winner of Season 42 of Survivor. Both speakers centred around the importance of seeking connections with people to support their mental health and wellness. A special thank you to our Black Mental Health Day committee and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School for hosting the event. We also want to recognize our community partners, Taibu Community Health Centre, Durham Family and Cultural Centre and the Women's Multicultural Resource and Counselling Centre of Durham, and thank all of the student performers, student technical directors, and student creators for their participation.
- DCDSB has partnered with Licensed to Learn (L2L), which is a program that creates peer tutoring and leadership development opportunities for students. Peer tutoring is a proven approach to learning where peer-tutors work with other students to help them overcome challenges they may be facing in and outside the classroom. This is the first year of our partnership with Licensed to Learn, and we have 11 elementary schools and five secondary schools that are receiving training. Training includes an introduction to differentiated learning, learning styles, multiple intelligences, and growth mindset. By the end of the training, all L2L Tutors are responsible for offering a minimum of 10 hours of tutoring. Students who complete the training earn certification from L2L and have developed transferrable skills.
- On March 24 we completed our community engagement for the 2023-2024 DCDSB budget and goals. Families, students, staff and the community submitted feedback, and we are reviewing the ideas and feedback we received. We look forward to sharing the feedback and how this is informing our 2023-2024 budget and goals with our community shortly.
- Best wishes to students who are receiving First Reconciliation, First Communion, and the sacrament of Confirmation over the next few months. Thank you to our Parishes for their partnership in supporting the faith journey of our students and families.

### **Upcoming Events**

- March 31, 2023, is Indigenous Languages Day. The Indigenous Education team has put together resources to support Indigenous language learning, and it has been sent to all DCDSB families via newsletter in March. As part of our commitment to reconciliation, and in working with the Indigenous Education Circle and community

partners, we have translated the land acknowledgement we use in our schools and offices into Anishinaabemowin. We want to thank Maani (Mary) Taylor and Anne Taylor from Curve Lake First Nation for translating and recording the translation of the land acknowledgement. Miigwich.

- Applications for Project SEARCH Durham Region are open until Monday, April 3. Project SEARCH is an internationally successful 10-month transition-to-work program for young adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities. The objective is to secure competitive and meaningful employment for persons with disabilities after high school. During their final year of high school, students will be fully immersed with a host business site, gaining employment skills through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on career training. To learn more or to apply, visit [dcdsb.ca/ProjectSearch](https://dcdsb.ca/ProjectSearch).

As we continue our Lenten journey, we look toward Holy Week which is always a special time in our Catholic learning community, when we gather in prayer to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. Our schools and workplaces will be engaged in meaningful spiritual traditions throughout the week. During these most holy days, it is our hope that the hearts of those in our Catholic learning community are filled with hope, peace and renewal. With the next Board meeting happening at the end of April, Director Barill took the opportunity to wish all members of our community a blessed and joyous Easter.

#### 4.3. Chair's Report

Chair Forster provided the following report:

- Thank you to this evening's presenters for sharing updates on ICT Strategic Goals, Durham Student Transportation Services Updates, and the Trustee Code of Conduct. Thank you to all in attendance and in particular, the students, teachers and parents/guardians of St. John Bosco Catholic School for bringing their wonderful choir to the Boardroom.

#### **Recognition**

- On Saturday, March 25, 2023, Director Barill and myself were in attendance for the Mass of Installation for Archbishop Francis Leo at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. We congratulate His Grace Archbishop Francis Leo, our new Shepherd and servant Leader. May he enjoy many years of good health as he carries out his sacred apostolic ministry with wisdom, charity, and courage.
- On March 7, approximately 350 guests, including DCDSB students, families and staff, came together at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery for Kaleidoscope, a celebration of the 2023 Student Art Exhibit. Mayor of the City of Oshawa, Dan Carter, and Regional Chair and

Chief Executive Officer for The Regional Municipality of Durham, John Henry, came together along with Trustee Beatty and Senior Administration to celebrate the over 100 student artists who have their artwork displayed at The Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

- On Wednesday, March 8, I was joined by Trustee McCafferty and members of the DCDSB senior administration at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School. We welcomed Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development Monte McNaughton, and other distinguished partners and guests for an announcement. The Government of Ontario announced programming and funding to help students enter the skilled trades faster. A special thank you to our distinguished guests, partners, and St. Mary Catholic Secondary School for hosting this announcement.
- World Down Syndrome Day was on March 21. This day is dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down Syndrome. This year, Down Syndrome International has selected the theme 'With Us, Not For Us' as a reminder to the entire community that people with Down syndrome need to be a part of the work being done to secure them the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. Our schools celebrated by wearing colourful, fun socks, as they engaged in learning more about Down Syndrome.

#### **Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Updates**

- This year, the Durham Catholic District School Board will be co-hosting the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Annual General Meeting in Toronto from April 27-29. The theme for this year is 'Journeying Together in Faith'. Our staff have been working diligently in collaboration with OCSTA on the planning of many of the liturgical elements. Chair Forster and fellow DCDSB trustees are looking forward to welcoming other fellow trustees from other Boards from across the province, as we network and share in our ongoing efforts to support and strengthen Catholic education.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- World Autism Day takes place on April 2. This year marks the 15th annual World Autism Awareness Day, which aims to focus on providing opportunities to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, fostering worldwide support. The DCDSB recognizes World Autism Day, which aims to build a world where all people with autism can reach their full potential.
- On April 18, the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee will be hosting the Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Awards. Individual members of our community will be honoured and recognized for their contributions to their school communities. We

look forward to celebrating all our parent, guardian and community volunteers for volunteering their precious time for the benefit of our school communities.

- With April a few days away, our school communities will be celebrating Earth Month with a focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability. This year, our schools' eco-teams and Stewards of Sustainability Committee are working with Indigenous Education to build awareness and transformative changes to help our planet as we lead up to Earth Day on April 22. Since 1970, people around the world celebrate Earth Day by bringing awareness and support for environmental protection. Today over a billion people from 193 nations pledge to do what is necessary to conserve the environment and biodiversity.

#### **Holy Week**

- With the spring season upon us, our students and families will take time to pause and reflect on our faith as we celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. We will also turn our focus to Easter celebrations. It's a wonderful time of year, with warmer weather, Easter flowers and special traditions with our families. While it's easy to get caught up in the Easter Egg hunts and baskets full of goodies, we do so with a renewed faith in God in the resurrected life offered to us through Jesus, the Risen Christ. This is a wonderful time to share those special sentiments with our friends and family and even colleagues.

In closing, Chair Forster extended wishes that God's strength and Easter Spirit dwell in our hearts, homes, parishes and school communities and fill us with love and kindness as we are called to do.

#### **4.4. Student Trustees Report**

The Student Trustees provided the following report:

- Introduction (Sophie) – March has marked the official beginning of the spring season. During this month, we have seen the unity of school communities through our joint celebration of the Lenten season. In schools, students have participated in ecological sustainability initiatives, earthquake relief campaigns, awareness campaigns for down syndrome, art banquets, spring fair preparations and semi formals. The student senate is extremely excited about the months ahead and the many wonderful student engagement opportunities that will occur.
- Senate (Moyin) – Today at our senate meeting we had a presentation from the CFO Marie Hammond concerning the budget consultation process. Mrs. Hammond engaged the group in a thought exchange where we were able to answer how well we thought our schools were doing in striving to improve equity, student

well-being and student learning. We also discussed the importance of building school communities that are inclusive of all members of our community, especially students in the special education program. We talked about barriers and stereotypes that hinder the inclusion of members of our community and how to work towards more inclusive school communities across the board.

- Student Trustee Elections (Sophie) – Next month, the student senate will be holding elections for the next Student Trustee who will serve for the 2023-2025 school years. Moyin and I are so excited to begin the promotional process for the elections. Students in grade 10 are welcome to apply and more information regarding the requirements and forms will be made available soon by the school's administrative team. The election will be held on April 24 here at the board office. For any student seeking more information about the role and responsibilities of the Student Trustee position, please join the Student Trustee Info session on April 5th at 5pm via zoom webinar!
- OSTA-AECO (Sophie) – This month Moyin and I have been working with the Catholic Board Council of OSTA-AECO on preparations for Catholic Education week! We are very excited to give the board our updates on the event in May. Earlier this month I had the pleasure of attending a roundtable discussion with OPHEA, alongside my Equity and Inclusion Working Group Co-Chair. During the meeting, participants had rich and insightful conversations regarding inclusion in Intramural sports, the importance of healthy and safe conversations around diet and exercise, as well as how to promote physical education courses to young girls and women. I had a wonderful time representing student voice at the roundtable and hope actionable steps are taken to improving the health and physical education program in Ontario.
- Closing (Moyin) – The Senate looks forward to continuing these important discussions and making plans to act in our schools; we look forward to student trustee elections and patiently await the arrival of our new student trustee. Overall, the month of march has been successful, and we look forward to the many activities in April and wish all members of the Durham Catholic community a wonderful and blessed Easter.

#### 4.5. Trustee Questions

None.

4.6. Motion to Adjourn

**Motion:**

B2023-03-27-11 – Adjournment

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, March 27, 2023.”

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by K. Beatty.

CARRIED

4.5. Closing Prayer

Student Trustee Esan offered a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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

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Tracy Barill, Director of Education  
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead