

**BREA CORBET**  
**TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10**

*"Be not afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!" – St John Paul II*



January, 2020

This month's virtue of SELF-CONTROL helps us develop loving habits and respond lovingly to others. A New Year brings us renewed opportunities to reflect, to learn and to live more like Christ. May we open wide the doors of this New Year to Him, in our schools, in our homes and in our hearts.

- **Organizational Meeting** – At the December 3, 2019 Organizational Meeting of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), trustees acclaimed Sharon Hobin (Trustee - Mississauga Wards 2 and 8) as Chair of the Board. Also acclaimed was Thomas Thomas (Trustee - Mississauga Ward 5) as Vice-Chair of the Board. Congratulations to our elected trustees as they continue into the next year in their leadership roles. I had the honour of accepting the nomination to serve as Chair of the DPCDSB's Administration and Finance Committee for 2020.
- **Regular Board Meeting** – At the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting, trustees received a fulsome 2018-2019 DPCDSB Director's Annual Report. The report outlines the goals of the DPCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and how we, as a system, strived to meet the goals of that plan, as well as the Ministry of Education's goals related to equity and inclusivity, over the past year. Please visit [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org) for more information.
- **Revised Budget** – At the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting, trustees approved the Revised 2019-2020 Operating Budget of \$970.8 million and Capital Budget of \$90.1 million. Despite having filed a balanced budget position at original estimates in June 2019, the DPCDSB is now projecting a deficit position for 2019-2020 revised estimates. This requires the use of accumulated surplus to balance; \$4.6 million for operating needs and \$1.3 million for Public Sector Accounting (PSAB) reporting requirements.

The contributing factor to having a deficit budget was student enrolments below projections in both the elementary and secondary panels. The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding model is heavily contingent on enrolment and therefore, changes in enrolment can have a significant impact on total revenues for school boards. A report on enrolment in the DPCDSB will come forward to the Board of Trustees in the new year.

Revised Estimates reporting is required by the Ministry of Education and it is intended to incorporate changes in actual enrolment, staffing, additional Program and Partnership Fund (PPF) grants and changes following the audited year end. The filing date with the Ministry of Education was December 13, 2019.

- **NASA Project** – DPCDSB has embraced a new partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), exploring Indigenous knowledge in mathematical and scientific concepts. This innovative and collaborative initiative with NASA includes the Navajo Nation, the University of Ontario – Institute of Technology, the University of Western Ontario, The Mathematics Network and Indigenous Communities from New Zealand. The project builds on the premise that Indigenous knowledge can, and should, be viewed as a valuable contributor in supporting our understanding of our world and in our abilities to engage students in learning. An exciting example of this integrated approach is in understanding of mechanics of building rockets and exploring the elements of aerodynamics of the bow and arrow. These concepts relate to the force momentum and trajectory applied to the science of rocketry. We look forward to the new heights this project will take in DPCDSB.

- **DPCDSB Mental Health Well-being Strategy Update** – “When the well-being of children and students is supported, we are meeting the conditions needed to help them learn, grow and develop a positive sense of self.” – Ontario’s Well-being Strategy for Education

Fundamental to supporting all students in achieving their full potential, student mental health and well-being is integral to the work at DPCDSB. It is articulated within the core principles of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2019-2023. The work of the Board of Trustees deeply embeds student mental health and well-being into our Catholic education community, by focusing on meeting the needs of all learners, so that all students THRIVE. The focus on mental health and well-being is echoed in our Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC), which leads us to “Renew the Promise”. It is also reflected in our Mental Health and Well-being Guiding Framework Update. It aligns with our Catholic faith and our calling to support the dignity of every person. Its vision is thriving Catholic school communities, where mental health and well-being are prioritized and nurtured, in support of the sacredness and dignity of all.

Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, we will continue this work through our Action Plan, informed by data sources including our Catholic Community, Culture and Caring (CCCC) Survey and the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The Action Plan is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO), using evidence-based approaches. We need to continue to work systematically and intentionally to build and broaden the intensive work in teaching, equity and access.

### **1. Teaching for Mental Health and Well-being**

Through a social-emotional (SEL) inventory, we are enhancing our ability to grow and deliver quality SEL programs that align with student needs at all grade levels. Based on the Ontario School Counsellor’s Association (OSCA) 2018 survey (which identified training on skills connected to mental health and wellness as a top priority for both the elementary and secondary setting), we are continuing to provide professional learning for staff, related to mental health and well-being. We offer safeTALK and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) so that every school is prepared to respond to students at risk. We are engaging in collaborative work with our community partners (e.g. Project Now and Youth Suicide Prevention Peel).

### **2. Equity for Mental Health and Well-being**

DPCDSB promotes a culture where all students and staff know and feel they are valued, accepted and made in the image and likeness of God. We continue to invite and respond to student voice through multiple entry points (e.g. Student Senate, Youth Empowering Students for Mental Health YES4MH). This year, our Student Senate has also created a mental health and well-being committee that is championing student priorities, including stigma reduction, self-care and stress-management. Professional learning for staff ensures the mental health supports and services offered to students are culturally sensitive.

### **3. Access to Mental Health and Well-being**

We continue to work to ensure in-school supports are visible and accessible. We are also drafting resources for students to assist them in identifying who is immediately available to help in their schools. We continue to make signs and symptoms of mental health concerns part of professional learning for educators, so they are well positioned to identify students in need of support and help along a pathway to care. We are also preparing a guide to assist administrators in identifying various in-school mental health and well-being supports available to them, including our new mental health workers in schools. We have created a resource to support members of our school communities who are bereaved. This may be part of a broader update to our Tragic Events Response Team (TERT), to help us serve in the love of Christ and remain rooted in the context of our Catholic faith and Catholic community. [The Guiding Framework](#) is available on the DPCDSB website.

- **Director's Year-end Message** – “Throughout 2019, we celebrated a 50 year legacy of excellence in Catholic education with events and activities across the system. We give thanks to God for the awesome privilege we have to be part of this legacy. May God continue to bless us and all we serve, as we continue to deliver on our promise that extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.” – Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D. Director of Education

- **Chair's Year-end Message** – “As we visit schools and attend meetings and events in our communities, we see firsthand the great things that takes place in our schools; things we must never take for granted. I am so very proud of this board's commitment to student success and well-being, equity, diversity and inclusion and stewardship of resources. And finally thank you to our parents and guardians for choosing Catholic education for your children. It is my hope that your experiences in our system have been positive ones as we strive to work with you, in the words of Pope Francis, within a ‘constructive collaboration for the good of children and young people’.” – Sharon Hobin, Chair of the Board of Trustees

I invite you to follow me on my social media platforms. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. And, as always, thank you for choosing Catholic education for your child(ren).

***Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,***

**Trustee Brea Corbet**

Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Chair – Administration and Finance Committee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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