

BREA CORBET

TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10

"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for." - Jeremiah 29:11



Our DPCDSB **Mission**: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body and soul to the fullness of life.

Our DPCDSB **Vision**: Changing the world through Catholic education.

January 2021

A New Year brings renewed opportunities to reflect, to learn and to live more like Christ. May we open wide the doors of this New Year to Him, to *nurture the future we hope for* in our schools, in our homes and in our hearts.

On December 21, 2020 the Government of Ontario announced that the province will enter into a period of public health restrictions for twenty-eight days, effective December 26, 2020. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education has mandated remote-only learning for elementary students (with the exception of students in self-contained special education classes) from January 4 to 8, 2021, with students returning to hybrid or remote learning on January 11. Secondary students, excluding students enrolled in self-contained special education classrooms, will learn remotely from January 4 and will return to in-person/hybrid learning on January 25, 2021.

Prior to the Christmas break, students were advised to take all learning materials home with them. School offices reopen on January 4, 2021, and office staff will be available to answer any of your questions and to deploy any remaining devices to students who may need them. Please note that there are currently not enough devices in the DPCDSB's inventory to ensure that each student has their own device. Parents can contact their school principal directly beginning January 4, should their child(ren) require a device. School principals will advise if there are any remaining devices to be deployed. For more information, please visit www.dpcdsb.org and refer to the Community Information Bulletin sent to families on December 28, 2020. Details can be found on the DPCDSB website - [COVID Advisory Reporting webpage](#).

DPCDSB Director's Annual Report – At the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting, DPCDSB trustees received a fulsome 2019-2020 DPCDSB Director's Annual Report. This report outlines the goals of the DPCDSB Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) and how we, as a system, strived to meet the goals of that plan. The MYSP 2019-2023 has five core values that frame the essence of our work as a Catholic learning community: **Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust**. This past school year was the first year of implementation of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan which was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2019. This plan, around which much of this report is focused, essentially directs all that we do as a Catholic school board. Throughout the year, we continued to adjust and adapt to the changing landscape. While our root goals and mission did not change, the impact on how we worked to achieve these goals was significant. For more information, please visit www.dpcdsb.org.

COVID-19 Funding and Budget – At the June 18, 2019 Regular Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a compliant 2019-2020 Operating and Capital budget of just over \$1.0 billion. At the August 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting, a report on the return to school COVID-19 related costs was presented to the Board of Trustees. Since that time, additional provincial and federal funding initiatives have been announced for school boards to enhance the safe operations of schools during the pandemic. Staff finalized the enrolments and reporting required for the Revised Estimates submission in December, which was presented at the December 15, 2020 Special Board Meeting.

In total, over \$17 million in additional provincial and federal funding has been allocated to DPCDSB. The funding announcements were made between August 4 and November 26, 2020. The most significant cost pressures for DPCDSB resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are aligned with the requirement to facilitate learning for students both in class and remote online. These include the hiring of additional educators, investment in technology devices and enhanced internet capabilities, enhanced cleaning and sanitization and the safe transportation of students.

In the hybrid model of learning, all classes have been established to allow for physical distancing measures to be adhered to should all hybrid learning students decide to attend in person on any given day. The priority given to this has resulted in lower class sizes, due to actual classroom size limitations and additional teaching staff positions across the system. For the first quadmester of secondary schools, additional staff were hired to address the significant increase of students opting for remote online only as the school year began.

To fully support both the hybrid and remote learning modes, significant investments in technology have been made and additional procurement is ongoing. DPCDSB has deployed over 27,000 devices to students and staff, inclusive of the Edwin computers. By January 2021, we are expecting the delivery of another 5,000 devices that will be distributed across the system to help meet the needs of each school and facilitate remote learning for dismissed classes as a result of COVID-19. Although the goal would be to have a device-per-student ratio, unfortunately, the reality is that funding limitations do not allow for that. Financial expenditures to support student learning include: chromebooks and laptops, accessories such as webcams and microphones, internet connectivity devices, enhanced Wi-Fi and broadband capacity in schools and facilities and investments in learning management systems (LMS).

The reopening of schools for 2020-2021 year, within the COVID-19 pandemic environment, has had a significant impact on our enrolment. This includes full day kindergarten attendance, reduced growth in anticipated areas and homeschooling. The actual enrolment reporting data indicates a loss of approximately 1,700 students over the original projections. This would have significantly impacted the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), reducing funding by approximately \$17 million. However, on November 27, 2020, the *Grants for Student Needs Funding Stabilization* announcement hopes to mitigate the financial impact of this unexpected enrolment decrease and ensures ongoing supports and programming for students. This was good news for most school boards in the province of Ontario.

All provincial and federal funding has been used by DPCDSB. A portion of the additional 1% of accumulated surplus has already been committed, but not all to date has been used, as we have only worked through the first four months of the 2020-2021 school year. Many unknowns remain as to what COVID-19 needs will emerge, as we continue to the end of this fiscal year. The amount of funds that remain available to DPCDSB relates to our own accumulated surplus funds. They will be utilized as needed in the coming months. The DPCDSB Board of Trustees continue to raise the concerns of COVID-19 impacts and the significant costs involved with keeping schools open to the Ministry of Education. For more details please visit: [December 8, 2020 Board Meeting Agenda](#) on pages 70-75.

Investments in Infrastructure – During the 2019-20 school year, DPCDSB underwent three major capital projects: a two-story, 17-classroom addition to the all-girls regional school - Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary School, and renovation to the childcare spaces at St. Albert of Jerusalem Catholic Elementary School in Mississauga Ward 10, and Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School. Despite construction delays due to COVID-19, Holy Name of Mary C.S.S. is scheduled to reopen on January 4, 2021. In addition to the Capital Priorities and ongoing preventative maintenance programs, DPCDSB has completed a variety of school renewal interior, exterior and site projects in over 100 schools to ensure that these schools remain in a state of good repair.

Anti-Black Racism – DPCDSB is committed to addressing anti-Black racism in education. DPCDSB is in the process of developing a Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC working title) to advise and support DPCDSB as we work collectively to address anti-Black racism and fulfill our vocational call as Catholics by ensuring that all are welcomed, included and valued. As a system, we know that equity and inclusion are valuable contributors to overall student success and our faith-filled communities. We are committed to ensuring that all students are engaged and included in every aspect of school life. DPCDSB seeks to uphold the human dignity of all, as we are each created in the image and likeness of God.

The purpose of the Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC) is to support the achievement and well-being of Black students and staff within DPCDSB. The BCAC will provide a space where members of the DPCDSB community can come together to identify, address and work to collectively eliminate racism in education, thereby improving educational outcomes for our Black students. The BCAC will advise and support DPCDSB in actualizing the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC), the Province of Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan, and Ontario's Equity Action Plan. The council will consist of community representatives from various organizations and agencies, student representatives, parents/guardians, as well as DPCDSB staff.

The DPCDSB invites expression of interest from interested individuals across the DPCDSB community as it seeks to form a council that reflects the diversity of Black communities. Parents/guardians, students and community organizations who wish to be considered for representation on BCAC are required to complete the [BCAC Expression of Interest Form](#). Staff will be invited to attend as per established protocols (i.e., association membership). For more information please visit: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/news-archives/black-community-advisory-council->

Kindergarten Registration – Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year at DPCDSB schools will take place on January 11-15, 2021. The DPCDSB offers Kindergarten programming in 125 Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville. Parents/guardians can register online. Kindergarten registration is open to Catholic children and children of Catholic parents. Kindergarten students must be at least 4 years of age by December 31, 2021. Please refer to the DPCDSB [Register for School webpage](#) for accepted forms of documentation and submission process at www.dpcdsb.org.

The following documents are required to complete the Kindergarten registration process:

- Proof of age of the child
- Original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) or original baptismal certificate from a church in full communion with the Holy See of Rome.
- Immunization records
- Proof of Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status
- Proof of home address
- Proof of English Separate School Support

Chair's Year-end Message – “On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express my gratitude to our outstanding staff, under the leadership of Director Marianne Mazzorato, who embody the epitome of dedication and commitment to our mission as a Catholic educational organization. Under incredibly challenging pandemic conditions, I am also gratified that the vision of the Board of Trustees continues to be manifested across the system, as is evidenced by the outcomes outlined in the 2019-2020 Director's Annual Report. I am so very proud of this board's continued 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. While it is a challenging year, I am encouraged by the words of Pope Francis, *‘There is no cross, big or small, in our life which the Lord does not share with us.’* Blessings to all.”

- Chair Sharon Hobin - Trustee for Mississauga Wards 2 & 8

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). God bless.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Trustee Brea Corbet

DPCDSB Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Chair – Bylaw & Policies Review Committee

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