

BREA CORBET

TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people.” - Colossians 3:23

November 2021

This month’s virtue of Conscience is a reminder to welcome Christ into our minds and our hearts through the love with share with others.

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.

Policies Review – All policies in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) undergo an initiation process approved by the Board of Trustees. The process includes trustee input, followed by consultation with various community stakeholders (internal and external) depending on the nature of the policy. The Education Act requires school boards to develop and maintain policies and organizational structures that promote the goals set out in their Multi-Year Strategic Plan and encourage pupils to pursue their educational goals.

There are 28 policies that are recommended to be initiated for review and/or development and two policies that are recommended for rescission. The chart below identifies those policies for the 2021-2022 school year.

Policies for Review	
0.00	Procedural By-Law
1.00	Overall Governance: Mission, Vision, Multi-Year Strategic Plan, By-Laws, and Policies
1.20	Advertising Materials
1.50	Associations – Membership
1.72	Central Committee for Catholic School Councils
1.76	Chaplaincy Leaders
2.10	Approval and Use of Learning Materials
2.25	Experiential Learning Programs Including Co-Operative Education and Work Experiences
4.74	Legal Expense Insurance Coverage
4.75	Network Use and Security
5.20	Student Insurance
6.70	Signing Authority
7.14	Opening and/or Closing Exercises
8.04	Partnership and Business Arrangements
8.12	Personal Electronic Devices (PED) on School Premises
8.13	Sweatshop Free Uniform Purchasing
8.24	Advertising Expenditures
8.50	Budget Development Process
9.01	Catholic Code of Conduct
9.02	Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Intervention
9.03	Progressive Discipline
9.04	Delegation of Authority
9.05	Community Planning and Partnerships
13.00	Electronic Communication – Anti-Spam Policy
20.00	Fees for Learning Materials and Activities
22.00	Communication Policy re: Construction and Renovation Projects
25.00	Students Using PEDs on Board Premises and/or at Board Sanctioned Events for Educational Purposes
New Policy	
NEW	Remote Work
Policies for Rescission	
5.02	Public Access to Curriculum Support Materials
6.53	Child in Need of Protection, Duty to Report

Peel Public Health Update - As of October 25, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., capacity limits in various Ontario settings including restaurants, bars, indoor sports and recreational facilities, gaming establishments, indoor meeting and event spaces, and some outdoor settings were lifted as part of Ontario's Plan to Safely Reopen Ontario and Manage COVID-19 for the Long-Term. The removal of capacity limits **does not apply** to schools. More information is available on the DPCDSB website: [School Information and Updates \(dpcdsb.org\)](https://dpcdsb.org/School-Information-and-Updates)

Mask Requirements on School Property – Effective immediately, DPCDSB requires all staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors be masked while on school property during morning arrival (drop-off) and afternoon dismissal (pick-up) times. Based on discussions with our local public health authorities, as well as the difficulty to maintain physical distancing with the increased congregation of individuals in close proximity to one another, the mixing of cohorts and the increased risk of transmission of COVID-19, this additional safety layer will help protect, not only our more vulnerable younger unvaccinated students, but indeed all who are present during these daily dropoff/pick-up activities. Please see the Community Information Bulletin sent to DPCDSB families on October 27, 2021. [COMMUNITY BULLETIN Masking During Drop Off and Pick up and Increased Capacity Oct 27 2021 FINAL.pdf \(dpcdsb.org\)](https://dpcdsb.org/COMMUNITY-BULLETIN-Masking-During-Drop-Off-and-Pick-up-and-Increased-Capacity-Oct-27-2021-FINAL.pdf)

Courtesy Ridership – Peel Public Health has provided updated communication regarding courtesy ridership on their website and additional information is contained in the *COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance for schools (2021-2022)* advising the operation of school buses at less capacity, where possible. *“To reduce the risk of transmission, courtesy ridership programs should not be permitted for the 2021-2022 school year. In line with the [Ministry of Education's direction](#), this prevention measure reduces the risk of COVID-19 within school bus cohorts by allowing for students to be seated in a manner that maximizes physical distancing.”* For more information please visit: <https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/schools/guidance/#transport>

Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Testing - Our regional public health authority, Peel Public Health, has indicated they are in ongoing discussions with the province regarding rapid antigen testing in schools. DPCDSB continues to work with our local public health units, as well as the Ministry of Education, as they move to implement the program in our schools. DPCDSB is currently participating in a Ministry-initiated pilot project with respect to PCR testing in 19 of our secondary schools. More information will be forthcoming to parents/guardians and students.

COVID-19 Advisory – As per the direction from our local public health units, DPCDSB automatically dismisses entire classrooms anytime there is a reported positive exposure, where the person is identified as being in school during their period of communicability (POC). In elementary schools, each positive exposure typically results in one class being dismissed. In secondary schools, each positive exposure typically results in two classes being dismissed. These classes continue to operate remotely online during the time that students are required to self-isolate as a result of COVID-19 exposure. For current case information, please refer to the DPCDSB [COVID Advisory webpage](#).

COVID -19 Screening Tool – The Ministry of Education recently announced updates to the provincial screening tool for schools and childcare centres. The revised school and childcare screening tool can be found online at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. These updates include:

- **Symptoms** - Staff, students and children should stay home from school and childcare if they are unwell, even if they do not have symptoms associated with COVID-19 and monitor before returning to school.
- **Testing** - Rapid antigen tests are not for use with symptoms of COVID-19 or with high-risk close contacts.
- **Vaccination and Immunization Status** – Regarding vaccination status and COVID-19 case history questions, it clarifies that the individual could be vaccinated or had previously tested positive within the last 90 days.
- **Personal Health Information and Immunization Status** - The purpose of asking if an individual is fully vaccinated or was previously positive with COVID-19 in the past 90 days is for providing correct isolation requirements. A reminder has been added that no public health information is collected when individuals complete the screening tool.

- **International Travel** – The international travel question has been revised to provide better clarity about who can and cannot attend school after travelling. While unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are exempt from the Federal quarantine (if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine based on vaccination status), they cannot attend school or childcare for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements; travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or childcare.

Secondary School Lockers – Our Board of Trustees has advocated on behalf of secondary students, for the request to allow the use of lockers during the school day. Through collaborative conversations and consultations with Peel Public Health, and in alignment with our cautious reopening plan, DPCDSB will permit the use of lockers, while adhering to health and safety measures in an effort to minimize congregation of students. Secondary schools will be reintroducing the use of lockers effective Monday, November 1 and principals will be communicating this change to students.

Cafeteria Services – As DPCDSB schools began the 2021-2022 year, a cautious approach was taken on many fronts, including field trips, visitors, and cafeterias. A decision was made to phase-in the reopening of cafeterias, targeting those located in remote areas and/or have no other food retail options nearby for student access. Phase One schools opened on the first day of classes, September 7, 2021, and included Robert F. Hall, St. Michael, and Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary Schools.

Following a review of operations to-date, a plan has been established for the next two phases, which will target another six schools. Three (3) cafeterias will reopen during the week of October 25, 2021, and another three (3) will reopen by the end of November 2021. St. Joan of Arc CSS and Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS in Mississauga North are among this group of schools. Finance staff have been meeting regularly with our cafeteria services provider, Aramark, to ensure a progression of re-opening phases continues to take place during this year.

Free Menstrual Products in Schools – On October 8, 2021, the Minister of Education announced that the provincial government will distribute six million free menstrual products per year to school boards, under a new partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart, to improve access to menstrual products for students and address the issue of period poverty. According to a survey conducted by Plan International Canada, 63% of women and girls have regularly or occasionally missed an activity because of their period and concerns of not being able to access menstrual hygiene products or proper facilities. The report also noted that 34% of women and girls have had to sacrifice, regularly or occasionally, something else within their budget to afford menstrual products. Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, this supply of free menstrual products will be provided to all school boards. School boards will make decisions about the distribution of products based on local needs. [Ontario Launches Free Menstrual Products in Schools | Ontario Newsroom](#)

Curriculum – The DPCDSB supports the transparency and availability of making curriculum documents easily accessible to the public. DPCDSB Policy 5.02: Public Access to Curriculum Support Materials - has recently undergone a board review. At the October 2021 Bylaw and Policies Review Committee meeting, the Board of Trustees approved rescission of the policy, given the availability of all curriculum materials on the Ontario Ministry of Education website. The [Curriculum and Resources website](#) provides a modern and interactive way to access Ontario's curriculum and learning resources. Parents/guardians can find all curriculum documents of Kindergarten through to Grade 12, including the achievement charts providing guidelines for assessing students' work. For more information please visit: [Curriculum \(gov.on.ca\)](#)

Chaplaincy Leaders – Chaplaincy Leaders play an integral role in supporting DPCDSB secondary students to explore and nurture their faith. As a result, the DPCDSB supports one full-time Chaplaincy Leader in each of our secondary schools (where deemed reasonable and is subject to enrollment considerations). To ensure that DPCDSB Chaplaincy Leaders are appropriately equipped to support students in their faith formation experiences, Policy 1.76: Chaplaincy Leaders was updated at the October, 2021 Bylaw and Policies Review Committee meeting: [Board Meetings](#)

dpcdsb.org). Specifically, the policy has been updated to reflect that Chaplaincy Leaders must maintain the “Nihil Obstat” throughout their tenure as a Chaplaincy Leader.

ShareLife – Our Dufferin-Peel community once again distinguished itself among all the school boards within the Archdiocese of Toronto by leading the 2020-2021 ShareLife campaign. Our school board campaign raised \$114,115. Despite the closures of schools due to COVID-19, 100% of our schools contributed, supported, and participated in ShareLife activities. The school campaign is currently finding creative and innovative ways of supporting ShareLife at the school and board level, while adhering to the protocols established by Peel Public Health. Thank you to our parents/guardians, families, and staff for your ongoing commitment in responding to the call to “*Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together*”, recognizing that the need to support our local charities is even greater during this pandemic.

I invite you to follow me on my social media platforms. You are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

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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