

**BREA CORBET**

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



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*"I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me." - Matthew 25:35*

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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.

**October 2023**

This month's virtue of EMPATHY reminds us of the dignity of all persons, and the ability to recognize it in others. As part of our Catholic identity, we believe the cross is the ultimate sign of compassion and forgiveness. Empathy for ourselves and each other is integral to supporting our students to learn, develop, and grow together in Christ.

**Treasury Report Update** – Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 41/10 Board Borrowing, Investing and Other Financial Matters, under the Education Act, requires a school board to bring forward investment information to the Board of Trustees. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, DPCDSB continued to borrow money to meet operating expenditure obligations. DPCDSB has borrowing resolutions for operating and capital needs approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Facilities Renewal Project Updates** – Each year, based on available school renewal funding from the Ministry of Education, DPCDSB's Facilities Department undertakes various projects to keep schools in a state of good repair and ensure that all school facilities are well-positioned to support healthy and safe learning and working environments. Based on the most recent estimate, conducted in 2020 by a third-party firm contracted by the Ministry of Education, DPCDSB had a 5-year school renewal backlog of approximately \$345 million. However, it would be reasonable to estimate that the current 5-year school renewal backlog, based on the aging of facilities, is actually higher. For context, the Ministry of Education has allocated almost \$33 million in funding for the 2023-2024 school year to DPCDSB to address school renewal needs through the School Renewal Allocation (\$9.7 million) and the School Condition Improvement Grant (\$23.2 million). The renewal funding that DPCDSB receives on an annual basis represents less than 10% of the estimated 5-year school renewal backlog.

Since 2020, a marked increase in the cost of projects due to higher prices for equipment and materials, as well as longer supply chain lead times, combined with the limited time available to undertake major renewal projects when schools are unoccupied, some projects have been deferred to Fall 2023 or Summer 2024. Additional information about the work to address school renewal needs, such as the criteria incorporated into the determination of the prioritization of projects, was included in the *Long-Term Facilities Master Plan – Facilities (LTFMP) Update* report which was presented at the May 2, 2023 Board of Trustees' - Administration and Finance Committee Meeting.

Following is the *2023 Facility Renewal Plan* scheduled for Mississauga North Schools. More information is available in Appendix A of the September 12, 2023 Board of Trustees' Administration and Finance Committee Meeting.

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**DPCDSB Board of Trustees' Meetings**

For all DPCDSB Board and Committee agendas, please visit the [Board and Committee Meeting webpage](#).

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School	Project Scope	Ward	Funding Source	Project Status
Divine Mercy CES	Air Handling Unit & Exhaust Fan Replacement	9	SCI	Completed
Divine Mercy CES	Kindergarten Renewal	9, 8, 11	SRA	Completed
Divine Mercy CES	Paving Renewal	9, 8, 11	SCI	Completed
Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS	Air Handling Unit/Exhaust Fan Replacement and Roof Replacement	9, 10	SCI	In progress
St. Aloysius Gonzaga CSS	Synchronous Clocks	9, 8, 11	SRA	Pending for tender (designed)
St. Bernard of Clairvaux CES	New Exterior Sign	10	SRA	In progress
St. Elizabeth Seton CES	Kindergarten Renewal	9	SRA	Completed
St. Faustina CES	Building Automation System (BAS) Replacement	10	SCI	Completed
St. Faustina CES	New Exterior Sign	10	SRA	In progress
St. Faustina CES	Field Restoration and Others	10	SRA	In progress
St. Gabriel Adult Education Ctr.	Exterior Door Upgrades		SRA	In progress
St. John of the Cross CES	Air Handling Unit & Exhaust Fan Replacement	9	SCI	Completed
St. Simon Stock CES	Building Automation System (BAS) Replacement	10	SCI	Completed
St. Simon Stock CES	Boiler Replacement	10	SCI	Pending for tender (designed)
St. Simon Stock CES	Kindergarten Renewal	10	SRA	Completed
St. Simon Stock CES	Paving Renewal	10	SCI	Completed

**Chipmunk App** – Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) continues to pilot the new transportation tool, Chipmunk School Bus Tracking App this fall with select schools that participated in last spring’s pilot program. Chipmunk utilizes GPS (Global Positioning System) data transmitted from the school bus to display the real-time location and travel direction of your child(ren)’s bus on a “live map” and provides parents/guardians with a dynamic estimated time of arrival (ETA) to your child’s bus stop. The goal is to continue to improve the user experience and enhance the application towards a full roll out of the Chipmunk App later this year. More information is available on the Chipmunk support page website: [www.stopr.ca/chipmunk](http://www.stopr.ca/chipmunk)

**Courtesy Ridership** – Last year, STOPR launched an effective pilot program to implement courtesy transportation requests one week earlier than in previous years. In the trial, schools were able to approve and identify courtesy students in the third week of September; a week earlier than usual. STOPR was then able to assign courtesy students to buses, where possible, beginning one week later. STOPR has advised that it will be implementing this new schedule annually moving forward.

**Secondary Student Activity Fees** – The collection of the activity fees, while considered optional, is important to schools because it provides the funds to achieve many of the activities/events that are cherished by students/families, including yearbooks, special event days and helps to support students/families that are in need.

A workgroup was established in June, 2023 to start discussions on reviewing the Activity Fee process and to re-imagine the path forward. This workgroup has started to analyze components of the Activity Fee structure and to consider concerns that have been raised by students and parents/guardians. The Activity Fees established by schools for this 2023-24 school year will remain as is, as the collection of those fees started in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. Any proposed changes recommended by the workgroup will relate to the 2024-2025 year.

**Secondary Cafeteria Services** – All 25 secondary school cafeterias were open for the first day of school. A few issues that occurred during the start-ups were addressed quickly and resolved. DPCDSB staff have been conducting on-site visits to ensure cafeteria services are being provided as expected and building engagement between all parties. Cafeteria providers will conduct a survey of students within this first year to measure customer’s (students and staff) opinions on menu selections, pricing, food quality, service, etc. In addition, cafeteria providers have been encouraged to gather real-time feedback by informal discussions and surveys of the student population. This will provide insight into the cafeteria services and menu items supported by the students and where there may be opportunities for improvement.

**Before and After School Based Childcare Programs** – Under the Education Act, school boards have direct responsibility for Extended Day Programs (Before and After School Programs) and school-age childcare programs and must deliver these services themselves or retain a third-party to deliver them on behalf of the board. These

licensed child care programs must operate on school days at all elementary schools where sufficient demand has been established. It is the DPCDSB policy that a third-party program be used to deliver all Extended Day and School-Aged Child Care Programs.

DPCDSB currently uses PLASP, YMCA and Family Day as the providers of almost all such school-based programs. While the vast majority of these programs are operating with adequate staffing levels, a few sites have reported challenges with recruiting and retaining staff. Providers have attempted to fill gaps by bringing in staff from other locations, however, at some sites, these have only been temporary solutions. Furthermore, while providers have typically been able to meet any additional demand for programs from students on waitlists, they are generally experiencing challenges in opening up additional classes due to the general labour market shortage.

DPCDSB staff continues to engage with all providers about their staffing challenges and the potential implications of not being able to meet the demand for services and the expectations of DPCDSB school communities and families. Further updates will be provided as required.

### Childcare Centre Updates

PLASP programs are licensed under the Ministry of Education with Registered Early Childhood Educators to engage children in play-based curriculum (HighScope).

- **Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School** - The scope of work for this project includes the conversion of six existing classrooms and one seminar room into childcare spaces (one infant room, one toddler room and two pre-school rooms). This project has been substantially completed. Occupancy was granted by the municipal building inspector on August 29, 2023. The childcare operator (PLASP) is in the process of obtaining licensing from the Ministry of Education to operate at this facility.
- **St Albert of Jerusalem Catholic Elementary School** – The childcare operator (PLASP) has announced the opening of a new Early Learning and Childcare Centre and will offer toddler and preschool programming on October 10, 2023. [Learn more](#).

**Professional Activities Days (PA Days)** – PA Days are designated for professional development for school board educators and staff, evaluation of student progress, consultation with parents/guardians, curriculum and program evaluation and development. On July 28, 2023, the Ministry of Education introduced changes to Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days. The changes are intended to provide greater transparency to parents/guardians around the focus and delivery of all Professional Activity Days. DPCDSB will be providing families with more information pertaining to the PA Days throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

### Elementary PA Days

October 6, 2023:	New Language Curriculum 1-8   Student Mental Health and Well-being
November 24, 2023:	Mathematics and high impact instructional approaches   Anti-sex trafficking and Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention
January 22, 2024:	Student Assessment and Evaluation and Report Card Preparation
February 16, 2024:	Reporting to Parents
May 3, 2024*	(* <b>St. Sofia ONLY</b> ) Faith Development (note: staff and students will be observing Good Friday in the Byzantine Rite)
May, 17, 2024:	Indigenous-focused revisions to Social Studies, Grades 1-3   New learning on Holocaust Education in Social Studies, Grade 6   Continued professional learning in Mathematics, Science and Technology
June 10, 2024:	Student Assessment and Evaluation and Report Card Preparation

### Secondary PA Days

October 6, 2023	Grade 9 De-Streamed English Curriculum/Literacy Across the Curriculum   Student Mental Health and Well-being
November 24, 2023:	Mathematics and high impact instructional approaches   Anti-sex trafficking and Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention
February 1, 2024:	Transition Planning and Implementation – Curriculum and Assessment
May, 17, 2024:	De-Streamed Grade 9 English Curriculum   Grade 10 Computer Studies – Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World   Connections to Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship   Continued Professional Learning in Mathematics, Science and Technology
June 26, 27, 28 2024:	Transition Planning and Implementation – Curriculum and Assessment

**Flu Prevention** – Flu Prevention Week is held during the month of October. Some of the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to influenza (flu) and it may be difficult to tell the difference based on symptoms alone. You may need a COVID-19 test to help confirm a diagnosis. Together, we can help protect the health of our children and ensure healthier school environments. To prevent getting and/or spreading the flu, please remember:

- Flu shot vaccination is the best defense against the influenza virus.
- Keep children home when they are sick or showing flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Wash hands frequently. Cover your cough or sneeze. The flu can also spread up to six feet away.

For more information, please visit: [www.peelregion.ca/flu](http://www.peelregion.ca/flu) or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700, or you can call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 to speak with a Registered Nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Eden Food for Change** – Serving families in western Mississauga, Eden Food for Change is committed to increasing access to good food in a dignified manner, developing food skills to encourage healthy eating and empowering our community through education, outreach, and advocacy. The need for food donations continues in our community. Many of our local schools and parishes have upcoming Thanksgiving Food Drives. If you are able to donate non-perishable foods and other essential items, please visit [edenffc.org](http://edenffc.org) for most needed items or call 905-785-3651. Drop off locations are: 3185 Unity Drive, Unit 2 and 3051 Battleford Rd., Mississauga.

Thank you for your support!

Wishing our students, families, and staff a blessed time of worship and Thanksgiving with loved ones and friends.

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

*Brea Corbet*

**Trustee Brea Corbet**

DPCDSB Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

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