

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



Michelle  
AMBROSE

Hello, my name is Michelle Ambrose, and I am running for Durham District School Board Trustee because I believe strong schools are built when students are supported, educators are empowered, and families are heard.

As a parent who has navigated the process of securing additional educational support for my child, I understand the importance of timely resources, early intervention, and strong partnerships between families and schools. This experience has made advocating for special education and diverse learners a priority for me.

I will also champion teachers, educational assistants, and education workers by advocating for the resources, tools, and meaningful consultation they need to create strong classrooms.

Through my community work with children, I help young people develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork, creativity, and practical life skills. I believe education should provide strong academics while also preparing students for life and multiple pathways to success.

As Trustee, I will advocate for safe and

welcoming schools, stronger parent and student voices, responsible use of resources, and transparent, accountable leadership.

My commitment is simple: Every Student Seen. **Every Family Heard. Every Opportunity to Succeed.**

info@voteAmbrose.ca  
VoteAmbrose.ca  
IG: MichelleforTrustee  
(416) 880-2363



Jason  
ARSENEAULT

Our Parents and Students Need to Come First

As a Whitby resident, father of four, football and dance dad, and Social Services professional, my priority as a school board trustee will be to put parents and students first. Every student deserves a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, confidence, and resilience, along with practical learning opportunities that prepare them for success in school and beyond.

I will advocate for students to build the skills, motivation, and resilience they

need to thrive. Identifying where support is needed and ensuring every child has access to positive guidance, and meaningful opportunities.

I focus on being a strong advocate for young men. Too many boys struggle with engagement, confidence, and academic progress in school. We need to understand why and respond in ways that help them succeed, while continuing to support all students. Supporting young men does not mean leaving anyone behind.

Parents know their children best. Trustees

should make major decisions affecting students only after meaningful consultation with families. I will work to strengthen communication among families, students, educators, and the school board.

**My commitment** is simple: to listen to families, support students, and serve as a steady, constructive voice for our community.

Whitbytrustee@gmail.com  
416-788-4664



Rob  
DIAMOND

This is my first time running for DDSB Trustee.

I believe my work as a school board trustee will include:

First, community representative to advocate public interest in school matters.

Secondly, communicate back & forth between the DDSB and feedback from the public.

Thirdly, to be aware of and support current policies, procedures and guidelines.

Fourth, planning for student improvements.

Fifth, to interact by attending and participating at meetings and then provide consultation. Be current with DDSB short term and long-term targets, objectives, policies and initiatives.

Sixth, stakeholder engagement by consulting with parents and community members.

Personal information

I have lived in Whitby since 1998 and I retired in 2020. I have volunteered in Durham to help children learn springboard diving.

My mother was a high school teacher. I greatly appreciated her efforts to assist

children with learning. I believe that I can help by advocating for children and parents.

My education includes, Mechanical Engineering Technology diploma, computer certificate, teaching and training adults' certificate, project management certification and many computer courses.

I would like your support to be a DDSB Trustee.

Contact email:  
Robdiamond2026@gmail.com



Kim  
DOWNEY

Kim Downey: Candidate for Whitby Trustee with Durham District School Board

With experience as a teacher and a parent of two, I wish to lend my experience and knowledge to the role of trustee with a "back to basics" focus. Building strong fundamentals in reading, writing and arithmetic is critical in an ever-changing world. As a former newspaper reporter, I gained experience in asking questions, hearing both sides of an issue and ensuring

fairness and transparency, which would be my goals. In addition, I would regularly consult with staff, parents and students, especially with regard to increasing special education supports, always with the view to putting the needs of students first.

As the daughter of West Indian immigrants, I have a strong belief in the power of publicly-funded education to improve lives and by extension, add value to communities and society in general. As a

proud Canadian, I served for several years in the Canadian Military's Naval Reserves, where I gained a greater appreciation of the importance of citizen participation in the institutions that protect and develop our success as a nation. My hope is to do my part to make our good educational institution even better as a trustee with the Durham District School Board.

Address: Constance Drive, Whitby  
Contact: 333downey@gmail.com



Will  
ELLIS

Vote Will Ellis for DDSB TRUSTEE, Whitby - Connecting Education & the Community!

I'm proud to put my name forward as a candidate for DDSB Trustee in Whitby, and I'm asking for your support. I believe our schools are strongest when students, families, educators and the broader community work together toward a shared goal: giving every student the opportunity to succeed.

My Commitment to Everyone:

Mental Health for Students — From Awareness to Access  
I will advocate for meaningful access to

mental-health resources and services, while supporting greater awareness so students know where and how to seek help when they need it.

Back to Basics — Preparing Students for Real Life

I will work to expand awareness of career pathways with strong long-term opportunities, including the skilled trades, healthcare, technology and careers less vulnerable to automation and AI. Students should graduate understanding the options available to them.

Budget Openness & Accountability  
I will push for clearer, more accessible

information about board finances and priorities, helping families understand how public dollars are being allocated and ensuring decisions remain focused on student success.

I'm running because our students deserve every opportunity to succeed—and our community deserves a trustee who listens, connects and works to make a difference.

E: Willard.Ellis@gmail.com  
D: 905-626-7243  
S: @voteforWillEllis

DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE CANDIDATES



Manas  
KHANNA

As a Whitby parent, technology leader and accessibility advocate, I am running for Durham District School Board Trustee because students need strong foundations, inclusive support and preparation for a rapidly changing future.

If elected, I will focus on four priorities. First, future-ready education: strengthening literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, digital citizenship and responsible AI literacy while protecting privacy and the central role of educators. Second, strengths-based accessibility: ensuring student planning

recognizes abilities, measurable growth, independence and future pathways alongside essential accommodations. Third, transparent outcomes: making it easier for residents to understand board goals, investments, student results and progress. Fourth, responsible growth and resources: examining enrolment, school capacity, special-education services and budgets using current evidence and clearly explaining important trade-offs.

My family has firsthand experience navigating special education, IEPs,

assessments and learning supports. That experience motivates me to ask informed questions without blaming educators or treating one family's experience as representative of every student.

I will listen to students, families, educators and residents; bring community concerns to the board; and work with fellow trustees to pursue practical, evidence-led improvements.

Email: [hello@manasforddsb.ca](mailto:hello@manasforddsb.ca)  
Website: <https://manasforddsb.ca>



Sri  
MYLAVARAPU

My name is Sri Mylavarapu (pronounced "shree"). I'm running for Durham District School Board Trustee with a clear goal: to make DDSB schools F.U.T.U.R.E.-Ready and prepare every student to succeed, adapt, and flourish in a changing world.

My colleague Lynda Yardley and I believe schools must do more than help students graduate. They must provide strong academic foundations, practical skills, support systems, and safe learning environments students need for life.

F.U.T.U.R.E.-Ready Schools means:

F — Foundations First: Strengthen

math, science, literacy, STEM, and critical thinking so every student masters essential skills.

U — Urgent Support for Students: Identify learning gaps earlier and improve support for special education and mental health needs.

T — Technology & Trades for Tomorrow: Expand skilled trades, apprenticeships, technology, AI readiness, and hands-on learning opportunities.

U — United Support for Teachers & Families: Give teachers better tools and resources while ensuring parents are

respected partners in their children's education.

R — Real-World Readiness: Expand financial literacy, career planning, entrepreneurship, and workplace skills.

E — Excellence for Every Student: Build safe, respectful schools with clear expectations and zero tolerance for bullying and hate.

If you agree with the above then I urge you to vote for Lynda and Sri as your DDSB trustees.



Kimberley  
PINEAU

My name is Kim Pineau, and I'm excited to announce my candidacy for DDSB Trustee in our vibrant community. When I explored the role of a DDSB Trustee, one phrase really struck me: "School board trustees are community leaders." This role carries the responsibility to serve all families in the community—not just neighbors or friends, but EVERY family. I believe it's essential to balance the needs of our students, the school board, and our community partners in a positive and effective way, a value I

hold both personally and professionally. With over 20 years of leadership in the pharmaceutical industry and extensive experience in school and community volunteering, my platform focuses on student well-being, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and continuous improvement—all while ensuring we have fun! My passion for education drives me, and together, we can further support all families in this wonderful town.

Email: [kim.pineau@gmail.com](mailto:kim.pineau@gmail.com)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/kimpineau-ddsbrtrustee-2026/home>

Social Media: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kim-pineau/>



Christopher  
PRICE

My name is Christopher Price and I am running for the position of School Trustee for the Durham District School Board in the Town of Whitby. My wife has lived in Durham Region for her entire life and I have lived here since 2000. We have two children who both attended DDSB elementary and secondary schools. I have been a police officer for the past 26 years. During my career I have been a

Detective Constable in the Internet Child Exploitation Unit and spent years as a High School Resource Officer. As your Trustee, my goal is to work in collaboration with the other Board members to ensure that the schools within the DDSB are a safe place for your children, the teachers, and the administrators. I will bring the unique knowledge I have to my role as trustee so your children are protected both online

and in real life. I will ensure reading, writing and mathematical skills are a priority so all students are able to achieve success and independence and become contributing members of our community."

Email: [christopherpricetrustee@gmail.com](mailto:christopherpricetrustee@gmail.com)



Lynda  
YARDLEY

As a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and Whitby resident who raised two sons in DDSB schools, I bring a practical, no-nonsense approach to governance. I am running for School Board Trustee alongside Sri Mylavarapu to focus on what parents value most. Having listened to hundreds of parents, teachers, and taxpayers at their doors since May, we've heard clear concerns about declining academic achievement, classroom disruptions, and a disregard for the parental voice.

My platform addresses the core issues our community faces by:

- **Prioritizing Academic Achievement:** Advocating for a strong foundation in literacy, math, science, and critical thinking so students graduate prepared for their future.
- **Advocating for Respectful Classrooms where Teachers Teach:** Championing a safe and respectful classroom where students can learn. Ensuring teachers are supported by educational assistants.
- **Championing Real Parent Voice and Accountability:** Listening to families and asking the tough questions to ensure the school board remains fully accountable to the public.

• **Ensuring Responsible Stewardship of Your Tax Dollars:** Making sure every dollar of our tax-funded \$1.1 Billion annual budget is directed squarely where it belongs—on students, teachers, and classrooms.

Our kids are our greatest investment. Vote for Lynda and Sri as your Whitby DDSB Trustee team!

My contact information:  
email: [lynda@lyndayardley.com](mailto:lynda@lyndayardley.com)  
Website: <https://lyndayardley.com/>