

**Shawn Xaviour**

**TRUSTEE - BRAMPTON, WARDS 7, 8, 9 & 10**



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*"And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up."*

– Isaiah 49:11

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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.

### September 2023

As our Catholic school communities journey back to school, we are guided by this year's theme for Catholic Education Week: *We Are Called to Love*. More information is available on the [Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association \(OCSTA\) website](#).

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) continues to be rooted in our Catholic doctrine and inspired by the life, gospel values, and teachings of Jesus Christ. Our personal relationship with Christ calls us to become more like Him. We begin the 2023-2024 school year with the virtue of **FAITH**, which calls us to walk together, as we learn and grow, deepening our faith together.

DPCDSB is one of the largest and most diverse school boards in Ontario. We serve approximately 73,000 students and employ over 11,000 staff throughout the regions of Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, and Dufferin County. DPCDSB has grown from 23 founding Catholic schools to 151 schools (125 elementary and 26 secondary) in over fifty years. We work closely and in partnership with 46 churches and missions. We are blessed to have the collaboration of our priests, clergy, and Catholic church communities together with our students, families, and staff to enrich Catholic education and nurture the faith development of our children.

### Welcome Back

Our DPCDSB Board of Trustees, and staff at all levels of the organization, welcome our new and returning students and families. We are committed to providing and sustaining safe, caring, inclusive, and healthy Catholic school communities, in which every student can learn, grow, and succeed.

### Your DPCDSB Trustee in Brampton Wards 7, 8, 9 & 10

I am so pleased that you have chosen a Catholic education for your child(ren). As a past graduate of DPCDSB, I value and understand the importance of a quality Catholic education for your family. I will continue to represent you and your child(ren) on the Board of Trustees and knowing and understanding the school communities I represent is crucial to my involvement in the decision-making process. Our trustees work collaboratively with staff to ensure that any concerns from parents/guardians and students are addressed.

DPCDSB is overseen by a board of eleven (11) elected Catholic School Trustees. As your Catholic School Trustee for Wards 7, 8, 9 & 10 in Brampton I help to shape a vision for the board that is inclusive of the schools I serve and reflective of the input of parents, students, stakeholders and community members. Two student trustees are elected by their peers and sit with the board in a non-voting capacity. We welcome Kristen Balisi from St Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School and Nathan Nguyen from Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, who were elected by their peers for the 2023-2024 school year. This year, we will also welcome our first Indigenous Student Trustee, Bailey Clyne.

**Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.**

Your Catholic Trustees play a key leadership role in setting the strategic direction for our school board and supporting efforts to enhance student achievement and well-being. Together, we develop board policy, approve the corporate capital and operating budgets, develop the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), as well as promote and protect Catholic education.

**Catholic School Councils (CSCs)** – Communication between home, school and parish is enhanced with active parent involvement in our schools and CSCs. It's an opportunity to share important information and updates and contribute your voice in the local school decision making process.

It is the policy of DPCDSB that each school has a CSC, which is advisory in nature, and governed by the Ontario Education Act. CSCs are empowered to make recommendations, in accordance with Regulation 612/00 of the Education Act, to the school principal and the school board and serve to:

- Promote the mission, vision, and values of the board;
- Support the sacramental life and Catholic practices of the board;
- Promote and support co-operation and communication with the local parish and the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE);
- Be faithful to its' mission;
- Improve student well-being and achievement and;
- Enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

I encourage parents/guardians to attend your CSC meetings and to put your name forward to become a voting member of your council. All schools are advised to post their updated meeting minutes and agenda items on their school websites to ensure all members of our school communities can stay informed.

**Meetings of the Board of Trustees and Committees of the Board –**

Board and Committee meetings have returned in-person at the Catholic Education Centre, 40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga. Our school communities and external stakeholders are welcome to attend in-person or to watch online on the DPCDSB's YouTube channel DPCDSBVideos Board/Committee meetings are regularly scheduled for Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are available on the [board website](#).

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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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**Budget Update** – DPCDSB continues to operate under a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan with the Ministry of Education to address a significant expenditure concern related to a fully employer-paid Long Term Disability (LTD) benefit plan. The cost of the LTD has increased monumentally over the last three years and has created an accumulated deficit position. On June 20, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved the proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 year. DPCDSB is projecting an enrolment decline of 1.3% for the upcoming school year, which impacts both grant revenues and our staffing levels. As part of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) announcement, the Ministry of Education eliminated the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Funding, which amounted to \$10.4 million for DPCDSB and had supported over 100 staff positions.

**2023 - 2024 Math Achievement** – The Ministry of Education has selected priority elementary and secondary schools based on the most recent EQAO math assessment results. School Math Facilitators will work directly with students and teachers in each of the identified Grades 3, 6 and 9 classrooms. The Ministry aims to facilitate positive student achievement in math for the proposed schools.

**Ontario Language Curriculum** – The Ministry of Education has released a revised curriculum policy which replaces *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Language 2006* and was informed by the Ontario Human Rights Commission’s *Right to Read Inquiry Report*. Beginning in September 2023, all language programs for Grades 1 to 8 will be based on the expectations of the revised curriculum. For more information, visit the [Ministry of Education’s website](#).

**Cafeteria Updates** – Each DPCDSB secondary school will have full cafeteria services for the 2023-2024 school year. We have three (3) vendors that will service our secondary cafeterias: Just Catering, Aramark and Pina Foods, which were awarded on a zone-specific basis. All cafeterias will be open for the first day of classes. Ongoing and continuous improvement of our cafeteria services will be informed by feedback from secondary school staff and students.

**Get Ready Program** – The DPCDSB *Get Ready Program* was offered in August for students entering Grade 9 in September 2023. The emphasis on the program has been to offer equitable, differentiated, and hands-on activities based on the Grade 9 curriculum to support the transition of students from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Teachers chose activities to support their cohort after meeting their students and learning about their strengths and interests. Parents and students will have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding their experience via exit surveys at the end of the program to inform future planning.

**Graduates** – DPCDSB recognized our top Ontario Scholars for the 2022-2023 school year. To be an Ontario Scholar, students must achieve an average of 80% or higher on their top six Grade 12 courses. For the 2022-2023 school year, 3,867 DPCDSB graduates earned this distinction, while 7,090 DPCDSB graduates fulfilled the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. See the list of top Ontario Scholars from each DPCDSB Secondary School [here](#).

**School Year Calendar** – The DPCDSB 2023-2024 school year calendar is available on the board website. This includes school holidays, professional activity days (PA days) and examination days for secondary schools: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/Schools/School-Year-Calendar>

I am proud to be your DPCDSB Catholic School Trustee for Brampton Wards 7, 8, 9 & 10. Parents and guardians are always welcome to contact me regarding any system-level concerns or questions about publicly funded Catholic education. Additionally, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child(ren)’s teacher(s), school administration and/or school staff should you require more information pertaining your local Catholic school. You are also welcome to follow my social media platforms and the DPCDSB website for important updates.

Wishing our students, families and staff a successful year ahead for the 2023-2024 school year! May God bless you in your journey of learning and faith formation.

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

*Shawn Xaviour*

**Trustee Shawn Xaviour**

DPCDSB Trustee - Brampton, Wards 7, 8, 9 & 10

Chair - Administration and Finance Committee

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