



*From Your Catholic School Trustee Sharon Hobin, BA, Bed.
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Go now, lead the people to the place of which I told you." - Exodus 32:34

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.

June 2021

The virtue of the month of June is **FAIRNESS**. God wants us to treat each person as we would like to be treated. We must be open minded and act in a just and fair way. Fairness allows us to treat others with mercy and compassion -- to feel and act with and for another person.

Sacred Heart of Jesus – Now, more than ever, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is committed to sharing the message of connection, love and compassion as exemplified through the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Accordingly, June is dedicated and devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. His Eminence Cardinal Collins recently released his pastoral letter *“Heart to Heart”*, which he mentioned during the May 5 provincial Catholic Education Week Mass, *“I firmly believe that to give us the guidance and strength required to fulfill our mission as disciples of Jesus more effectively, in a world so much in need of His love, we also need to rediscover a treasure, central to our life in Christ, that is hidden in plain sight in our Catholic spiritual heritage. It seems ever more clear to me that, especially in these days, we would all do well to focus intently on the symbol of the compassionate love of Christ: The Sacred Heart of Jesus.”* [See link to full document here.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccinations – As of May 20, children aged 12-17 yrs. old and their family members, who live, work, or attend school in the Region of Peel, are eligible to register for an appointment to receive an initial Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination. A second dose will be administered in August. We are pleased that youth aged 12+ will be in a position to be fully vaccinated prior to the start of the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. Some DPCDSB schools are among the region’s clinic locations being used as pop up vaccination sites. Peel Public Health, in partnership with our school board, is developing and managing this vaccination strategy.

2021-2022 School Year – Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, school boards have been required to be responsive and adaptive to meet the needs of our students and their families. On May 4, the Ministry of Education released its *B07 Memo: Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year*, which provided direction to school boards regarding requirements for returning to school in September. The Ministry’s memo indicates that full guidance on 2021-2022 health and safety measures will be communicated to school boards during the summer. This will include requirements such as masking, hand hygiene, cohorting for clubs and other extracurriculars, screening, as well as the designation of school boards that would need to open with an adapted secondary school delivery model in September. [For more information.](#)

September School Reopening – The options for learning for the upcoming DPCDSB 2021-2022 school year were shared with parents/guardians through a Community Information Bulletin dated May 19, 2021. DPCDSB will be surveying parents/guardians in early August regarding intention to attend remote-only. Please refer to the DPCDSB website www.dpcdsb.org and select the tab “School Updates and Information” for [more details](#).

Grants for Student Needs (GSN) – On May 4, the Ministry of Education announced the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding. The GSN’s are the only major source that we have to fund our annual operating budget. Major updates in the GSN for 2021-2022 include COVID-19 supports, transfers into GSN from Priorities and Partnerships Funds (PPF) and investments to reflect the third and final year of central labour agreements. The 2021-2022 total provincial GSN investment is approximately \$25.6 billion. Our finance staff is analyzing how these grants will affect the mandate by the Ministry that boards present a balanced budget. This latest investment does include funding for mental health supports. This support is crucial to enable the continued learning and well-being of students as well as funding for technology embedded in the GSN. [Learn more](#).

The Ministry has committed \$85.5 million provincially to support learning recovery and renewal. The investment is intended to support programs during the summer months that will focus on student mental health and well-being, supports for early reading and math, and the re-engagement of students.

DPCDSB Budget Development Process – The Ministry will continue to provide temporary ongoing COVID-19 funding supports at amounts similar to this current year, however school boards are expected to budget for only half the funds to start the 2021-2022 year. This enables DPCDSB to start the new school year with additional staffing in place to address physical distancing and the provision of enhanced cleaning and health & safety protocols that were effectively in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Ministry has also advised school boards to be conservative in planning for the 2021-2022 school year, given the significant province-wide enrolment decline boards have experienced in the current year. An enrolment decline has an immediate and significant impact on total GSN funding, given that over 70% of GSN grants are enrolment driven. DPCDSB will continue to develop the 2021-2022 budget aligned with the recent GSN documents. A cautious approach will be taken to ensure any developments, as they relate to COVID-19 and the continuity of Catholic learning can be managed. We hope to provide as much stability for students and families, while ensuring flexibility to respond to the uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants – Our DPCDSB Board of Trustees continues to advocate for funding to support parent engagement to benefit families in our schools. We have put forth the following resolution to the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association (OCSTA): *“OCSTA advocate on behalf of Catholic School Councils to increase the PRO Grant funding to support Catholic School Councils in providing community engagement activities, outreach programs and opportunities to keep families informed and active in their children’s education experience.”*

The DPCDSB Resolution was approved at the May 1, 2021 Annual General Meeting of OCSTA and has formed part of the key advocacy priorities for OCSTA to the Ministry of Education over the past two years. We are pleased that, in the recent Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Priorities and Program Funding (PPF) announcements, the Ministry of Education has doubled the funding for PRO Grants through the PPF to \$2.47 million from \$1.25 million last year.

Retrofitting/Renovating Schools - Our DPCDSB Board of Trustees has also put forth a Resolution to OCSTA with respect to increasing funding for Retrofitting/Renovating Schools stating, *“The Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association petition the Ministry of Education to provide stable, reliable multi-year funding to support school renewal, renovations and retrofits that will keep schools in a state of good repair and provide students and staff with environments to support 21st century learning.”*

This DPCDSB Resolution was also approved at the May 1 Annual General Meeting of OCSTA and been included in the Finance Briefs, Pre-Budget Submissions, and ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Education. OCSTA will continue to include this resolution in their 2021-2022 Finance Brief and Pre-Budget submission, as part of our advocacy efforts on this key priority to improve the funding to support retrofitting/renovating our Catholic schools.

Wellbeing – *“When the well-being of children and students is supported...we are meeting the conditions needed to help them learn, grow, and develop a positive sense of self.”* (Ontario’s Well-Being Strategy for Education).

Supporting well-being and mental health is integral to the work we do. It is also articulated clearly within the core principles in our Board of Trustees’ *Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2019-2023)*. DPCDSB has prioritized student and family well-being during the pandemic. Our approach has been based on promotion, prevention, and intervention initiatives. DPCDSB has trained staff on the implementation of mental health and well-being. We continue to offer students with significant mental health challenges access to more specific, targeted mental health interventions delivered by school-based support staff (i.e., mental health support workers, child and youth workers, psychology staff and social workers) either virtually or in-person with public health measures in place.

Last summer, our board launched its first telephone support line for students and tele-practice intervention to student and families, who needed additional support over the summer months. Our board will continue to provide mental health supports this summer to students and families. Watch for information links on the [main board webpage](#). See additional information below:

[Resources from School Mental Health Ontario for Parents and Families](#)
[Resources from School Mental Health Ontario for Students](#)

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) – The OSSLT will not be a requirement for graduating students in the 2021-2022 school year, however, the test will be administered to all Grade 10 and 11 students with an option to write in the fall or the spring. Successful completion of the OSSLT will be a graduating requirement for all students graduating in the 2022-2023 school year.

Volunteer Hours – The Community Involvement Graduation Requirement for secondary students will continue to be reduced from 40 hours to 20 hours for students graduating in the 2021-2022 school year.

Renewal Projects – Our Facilities Department will be undertaking various school renewal projects this year. In addition to those projects funded by the Ministry of Education through the School Condition Improvement and the School Renewal Allocation, DPCDSB has also benefitted from \$24.5 million in funding for additional school retrofits and upgrades through the federal COVID-19 Infrastructure Renewal Stream (CVRIS) funding. Because of the condition that all CVRIS-funded projects must be completed by December 31, 2021, the Facilities Department will prioritize these projects in 2021. While efforts will be

made to undertake renewal work where feasible this fall, the volume of work may result in some school renewal projects being deferred until 2022.

Update on Portable Air Scrubbers - DPCDSB has now deployed approximately 1,000 portable air scrubbers using the federal air quality/ventilation funding in August 2020 and February 2021. The deployment of scrubbers has focused on elementary schools whose ventilation systems have recirculating air systems (i.e., do not provide 100% fresh air intake) and portable classrooms system-wide that are currently in use by students. This includes the initial rollout of units to the 15 schools with either no or minimal air conditioning inside the building. The next phase of the rollout of scrubbers is currently underway. Approximately 200 additional units are on order. As there has been a tremendous demand for scrubbers across the province, there have been delays in receiving shipments. Facilities staff will continue to investigate opportunities to deploy additional units to schools prior to the end of this school year based on the amount of available funding and the assessment of school ventilation systems. Fifteen hundred air scrubbers have been purchased for \$1,940.00 with the help of Federal funding. HEPA filters must be changed at intervals to the amounts of \$150 to \$600 each.

2021 Graduating Class – I extend my most sincere congratulations to our DPCDSB graduates on reaching this milestone in your life. You have faced many new challenges and have had to adjust and adapt to very different learning environments throughout the pandemic. It is your hard work and determination that has brought you here today. May your faith in Jesus Christ help guide you and light the way. Wishing you every success in your future! Thank you to your parents for this most important support and to your teachers who have taught you these many years to bring you to this important time in your lives. May God continue to walk with you as you move on to Catholic secondary school or on to college, university, apprenticeship, or the world of work. Your future awaits!

Catholic School Councils – My sincere thanks to all of you who continue to attend council meetings even though virtually and to always put the students first. I have been so encouraged by your positive attitudes and your continued interest in bringing parent engagement activities to the parents and students' engagement through speakers and game nights with the students and their families. May God continue to bless your important work.

2021–2022 School Year Calendar – The first day of classes for Elementary and Secondary schools is Tuesday September 7, 2021. For more information, please visit: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/Schools/School-Year-Calendar>.

To our students, families, and staff. It is my hope that you are keeping well despite this most challenging time in all of our lives. Thank you for choosing a Dufferin-Peel Catholic education. It is my honour to serve our Mississauga South and Mississauga North DPCDSB school communities

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. You are encouraged to stay updated and informed on all communications sent from the DPCDSB over the summer months.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer break.

May the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.
