



# York Catholic District School Board

## 2022-2023 Year in Review



**Elizabeth Crowe**  
Aurora, King,  
Whitchurch-Stouffville



**Theresa McNicol**  
East Gwillimbury,  
Georgina, Newmarket



**Carol Cotton**  
Markham,  
Area 1, Wards 1,2,3,6



**Frank S.D. Alexander**  
Markham,  
Area 2, Wards 4,5,7,8



**Maria Iafate**  
Richmond Hill



**Joseph DiMeo**  
Richmond Hill



**Angela Saggese**  
Vaughan,  
Area 1, Ward 1



**Michaela Barbieri**  
Vaughan,  
Area 2, Ward 2



**Angela Grella**  
Vaughan,  
Area 3, Wards 3,4,5



**Jennifer Wigston**  
Vaughan,  
Area 3, Wards 3,4,5



**Anthea Peta-Dragos**  
Senior Student Trustee



**Jonah James**  
Junior Student Trustee

The York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) enjoyed a tremendous year together – together in the classroom, together at school events and together in the celebration of our faith. This year the YCDSB had the opportunity to catch up on many important celebrations that were missed during the pandemic, including eight Milestone Anniversaries for schools that opened 10, 25 or 50 years ago. The Catholic Education Week theme was particularly timely: “We Are Many. We Are One.” It was an important reminder that the beautiful diversity of our YCDSB community is best celebrated when we are together.

During this school year, the Board of Trustees said goodbye to four retiring Trustees and thanked them for their service: Rose Cantisano, Dino Giulliani, Maria Marchese and Dominic Mazzotta. The Board also welcomed four new members of the team: Michaela Barbieri, Joseph DiMeo, Angela Grella and Angela Saggese.

### Integration of Our Catholic Faith

Catholics are called to live the Gospel mission through faith and good works for others. The YCDSB takes this mission very seriously. Here are just a few of the many ways that the YCDSB lived our faith this school year:

- Bishop Boissonneau celebrated our first-ever Board-wide Lenten Mass, which was live-streamed into every classroom in the YCDSB.
- Dushani Selvakumar from Father Michael McGivney CA was named Catholic Teacher of the Year by the Catholic Teachers’ Guild of Toronto.
- All YCDSB schools supported ShareLife and 23 of the top 50 fundraising schools in the Archdiocese of Toronto come from the YCDSB.
- The Board received the Terry Fox Milestone Award for raising \$4.5 million for cancer research since we began fundraising for the Terry Fox Foundation.
- With the help of YCPIC and other community partners, backpacks were purchased and filled with school supplies for Ukrainian students who joined the YCDSB after fleeing from their war-ravaged country.

### Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement

The YCDSB continued to be a provincial leader in academic achievement. We are very proud of all our students and staff for constantly striving to do their very best as they work toward achieving their Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

- The YCDSB continued to outperform provincial averages in all categories of the EQAO and the OSSLT.
- Graduation rates continued to increase and remain among the highest in Ontario with 97.5% of YCDSB students graduating secondary school in five years.
- There was an excellent response to the pandemic literacy catch-up tutoring support program with 9,902 YCDSB students receiving some extra help in this school year alone.
- Interest in the STREAM Centres of Excellence continued to grow with 525 elementary classes visiting a STREAM Centre in 2022-2023 alone.

### Effective Use of Our Resources

Budgets are challenging for school boards across the province and the YCDSB is committed to using every dollar to its fullest potential. Prudent resource management enables the YCDSB to provide the best education possible for our students, and successes in this area include:

- The YCDSB produced a new Multi-Year Strategic Plan that will guide us into 2028.
- We renewed collective agreements with CUPE Locals 1571, 2331, 2331-02 and 5476
- There was an almost 40 per cent increase in budget survey responses in 2023 over 2022.
- A task force was created to help staff manage absenteeism in order to improve well-being and alleviate cost pressures.

### Engaging Our Communities

Collaborating with students, families, staff, parishes and community partners is central to the work of the YCDSB. It is through an ongoing conversation between parents and the YCDSB that we can ensure that student needs are being met.

- The YCDSB’s Twitter account surpassed 35,000 followers and the YCDSB launched an Instagram account
- We have continued our tradition of Exit Surveys for those moving onto secondary school or graduating from secondary school; administered another round of School Climate Survey; administered our first-ever Mental Health survey for students and staff.
- We celebrated the accomplishments of six YCDSB Distinguished Alumni who have made amazing contributions to our world: Andi Petrillo, Andrew Nembhard, Daniele Rossi, Jim Anderson, John Calarco and Maria-Rosa La Neve.
- A fresh new website frontpage was designed and it will be implemented this summer.

## 2023-2024 School Start-Up

### Elementary

- Elementary school offices open **Monday, August 28**.
- The first day of school for elementary students is **Tuesday, September 5**.

### Secondary

- Secondary school offices open on **Monday, August 21, 2023**.
- The office of St. Luke at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Learning Centre opens on **Monday, August 28**.
- Grade 9 Orientation Day is **Tuesday, September 5** (Grade 7 for Our Lady of the Lake CA).
- The first day of school for students in Grades 10-12 is **Wednesday, September 6** (Grades 8-12 for Our Lady of the Lake CA).
- Grade 7-9 orientation at St. Katharine Drexel CHS is **Tuesday, September 5**.
- Newcomer Orientation Week programs for secondary students who are new to Canada will take place in late August. For more info, please call 905-770-7040.

### Transportation

Over the course of the summer, adjustments are made to bus route schedules and/or bus route numbers to accommodate new students and/or new schools. Parents should confirm bus stop service times for September by visiting the STSYR website at: [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com), beginning Monday, August 21. Parents are advised to check STSYR again closer to September 4 to confirm stop and time details. For information on busing eligibility, frequently asked questions or to watch safety videos that teach children the rules for riding the school bus to help prepare them for September, please visit the STSYR website.

### Partners in Education

Collaboration between the home, school and parish provides a strong foundation for student success. We give special thanks to:

- Administrators, teachers and staff for their unwavering commitment to helping us achieve our mission and vision, and who encourage our students to become responsible citizens who integrate Catholic values into their daily lives;
- Our parishes for their continued support and ongoing spiritual guidance;
- Our employee group partners: CUPE Locals 1571/2331/2331-2/5476, OECTA, OSSTF and the Elementary and Secondary PVP Associations
- The York Catholic Parent Involvement Commitment (YCPIC) members whose hard work promoting parent engagement and involvement in our schools continue to help students succeed; and,
- The parents who volunteer their time on Catholic School Councils – your dedication to working with our schools and staff is sincerely appreciated.

### Supporting Our Catholic Schools

Each time you change your residence, you must declare yourself an English-separate school supporter/elector. To determine if you are currently an English-language Catholic separate board supporter/elector, check your property tax bill, contact the Municipal Property Assessment Office at 1-866-296-6722 or visit [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca). One can obtain an Application for Direction of School Support at your local school by calling our Admissions Office at 905-713-2711 ext. 12434 or by visiting [www.ycdsb.ca/admissions](http://www.ycdsb.ca/admissions).

### Policies

**New Policies:** Policy 108A School Artifacts and Archives; Policy 206 Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions.

**Updated Policies:** Policy 104 Participation in Meetings Using Electronic Means; Policy 105 Trustee Professional Development; Policy 107 Student Trustees; Policy 108B Central School Board Archival Collection; Policy 109 Records and Information Management; Policy 111 Trustee Services & Expenditures; Policy 114 Trustee Honorarium; Policy 118 Trustee Code of Conduct; Policy 207 Administration of Oral Medication to Elementary & Secondary Students; Policy 212 Concussions; Policy 309 Assessment and Evaluation of Student Achievement; Policy 315 Prayer - Our Gift from God; Policy 320 Regional French Immersion Program; Policy 401 Chaplaincy Teams; Policy 407 Police Record Checks - Board Employee; Policy 606 Catholic School Councils; Policy 608 Volunteers in Schools; Policy 611 Criminal Background Checks for Service Providers; Policy 616 Community Use of Schools; Policy 701 Access to School and Board Premises; Policy 802 Purchase, Lease and Rental of Goods and Services.

**For more information, please visit the Board website at [www.ycdsb.ca](http://www.ycdsb.ca)**

#### Mission Statement

With Jesus Christ as our model, we provide all students with a Catholic education rooted in equity, well-being and learning

#### Vision Statement

A recognized leader in Catholic education committed to inclusion, excellence and innovation that develops socially responsible global citizens

#### Core Values

Catholicity  
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Excellence  
Fiscal Responsibility  
Integrity  
Respect

#### Strategic Commitments

Catholic Faith  
Equity and Inclusion  
Student Achievement  
Well-Being