

2020-21 Report to the Community

Mission

To inspire and empower learning for life.

Vision

A community of learners achieving full potential.

Introduction

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, the education system in Ontario continued to face challenges and disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, SCDSB staff, through the leadership of the Board of Trustees, senior team, administrators and managers, were able to deliver on our commitment to provide safe, inclusive and caring learning environments for all students. Staff sought out creative and innovative practices for engaging students in learning, and our students were resilient and adaptable when required to move from in-person to online remote learning.

In the Director's Annual Report, we share the accomplishments of our students and staff and celebrate the many highlights from the 2020-21 school year. Throughout the report are examples of Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Well-being, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Community, which form the four pillars of the [SCDSB's Strategic Priorities](#).

By the numbers

- 87 elementary schools **note that two elementary schools are Grade 7-8 only (Elmvale District High School and Stayner Collegiate Institute)*
- 15 secondary schools
- 7 Learning Centres
- 37,274 elementary students
- 16,075 secondary students
- 5-year grad rate is 85%
- \$655 million balanced budget

Excellence in teaching and learning

SCDSB completes implementation of elementary music program

In 2018, the SCDSB Board of Trustees approved a three-year program to implement music instruction in all elementary schools. In preparing for implementation, the SCDSB completed a board-wide review of existing elementary music programs, school-by-school instrument inventories, surveyed school staff to appreciate and understand staff professional capacity and developed instructional resources to ensure consistency of experiences and outcomes across the board.

As of September 2020, all 88 elementary schools (including Elmvale District High School and Stayner Collegiate Institute) in the SCDSB are fully involved in the elementary music program, which provides students (Grades 1 to 8) with access to high-quality music instruction and experiences while at school. During the 2021-21 school year, the SCDSB saw the increased use of digital music resources, tools, applications and platforms (e.g. MusicplaysOnline.com) to support learning music. The increased use of digital tools, in addition to the commitment and creativity of educators, has provided SCDSB students the opportunity to successfully access their learning of music, regardless of whether they are learning in-person or remotely through Learn@Home.

Music education in elementary schools continues to be a priority for the SCDSB, and we are confident in our ability to deliver a sustainable, high quality, effective and equitable elementary music program across the entire system for years to come.

Georgian Bay District Secondary School brought fairy tales to life through virtual theatre performance

In 2020-21, the SCDSB, along with school boards across Ontario, adapted to support public education while in the midst of a pandemic. Students and staff embraced a new way of learning and engaging with each other and our communities.

Living, learning, working and teaching in a pandemic presented challenges and required students and staff to adapt, grow and innovate in order to continue with extracurricular activities such as music and drama. As an example, in March 2020, a cast of over two dozen students presented 'The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon: Stay-at-Home Version', a madcap retelling of popular fairy tales by Don Zolidis. Students rehearsed for several months and used two livestreaming platforms to facilitate the production. The virtual performances were broadcasted through YouTube with audience members watching one of three live shows.

Celebrating and promoting careers in the skilled trades

The SCDSB is a leader in skilled trades and technological education, and is dedicated to the promotion of skilled trades and technologies as a viable, first-choice career option for our youth. The SCDSB celebrated careers and opportunities in the skilled trades with a Skilled Trades and Technologies Month in May 2021. Throughout the month, elementary and secondary schools were invited to showcase their students' work in areas ranging from construction technology to hairstyling and aesthetics to technological design.

The celebrations also featured an interactive virtual session for parents/guardians and students to learn more about career options in the skilled trades, presented in partnership by the SCDSB and Job Talks.

In November 2020, David Fitt, Technological Education Itinerant Resource Teacher for the SCDSB, was presented with the Ontario Council for Technology Education (OCTE)

Excellence in Teaching award. The award recognizes technological education teachers from across the province who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to technological education through the delivery of creative and engaging programs, active involvement and leadership roles, professional development and life-long learning.

SCDSB educators receive Prime Minister's awards

In October 2020, two SCDSB educators were honoured with Prime Minister's awards for excellence.

Kim Posluns, a designated early childhood educator (DECE) from Maple Grove Public School, received the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education have honoured outstanding early childhood educators since 2002. Recipients are honoured for their leadership, exemplary early childhood education practices, and their commitment to help build the foundation children need to make the best possible start in life.

Mark Gaynik, teacher at Nantyr Shores Secondary School, received a Certificate of Achievement as part of the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence have honoured exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines since 1994. Recipients are honoured for their leadership, exemplary teaching practices and their commitment to help the next generation gain the knowledge and skills they need for future success in a world inspired by ideas and driven by innovation.

Summaries of Kim Poslun and Mark Gaynik's nominations, including some classroom strategies and outstanding achievements, were shared on the Government of Canada's website.

Well-being

Fostering positive mental health and well-being with Feelin' Good February series

In February 2021 the SCDSB, in partnership with the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), invited members of the community to participate in Feelin' Good February. The virtual workshop series provided participants with the opportunity to connect with SCDSB staff and community partners to learn how they can foster positive mental health and well-being for themselves and others.

The four session series was developed based on feedback received from parents/guardians through the PIC and focused on identified areas of interest such as well-being, digital citizenship/online safety, yoga and music. All four sessions were streamed live and made available on the SCDSB website.

Continued commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability

The SCDSB is dedicated to environmental programs and practices that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability. During the 2020-21 school year, the SCDSB continued to support school communities in addressing and supporting environmental stewardship and sustainability in daily school operations and practices in the areas of environmental education, EcoSchools, school ground greening, energy conservation, waste diversion, and water conservation.

In June 2021, 18 SCDSB schools were awarded Ontario EcoSchools certifications for the 2020-21 school year. Each elementary, secondary and alternative secondary school that

participated in the program went above and beyond, adapting to the challenges of this school year in order to achieve certification.

Community

SCDSB schools earn Opeha Healthy Schools certification

Students and staff at 17 SCDSB schools earned Healthy Schools certifications from Opeha for the 2020-21 school year, more than 25 percent of the certifications earned throughout the province.

The Healthy Schools certification program recognizes and celebrates school communities for promoting and enhancing the health and well-being of students, school staff and the broader community. Participating schools complete the Six-Step Healthy Schools Process, which aligns with the Ministry of Education's Foundations for a Healthy School resource. Through a point-based system, schools plan their Healthy Schools process over the course of the school year, outlining the steps needed to achieve certification and apply to be certified as a gold, silver or bronze.

SCDSB receives capital funding for expansion at Lake Simcoe Public School

In October 2020, the Ministry of Education announced that the SCDSB would receive capital funding for an addition at Lake Simcoe Public School. This addition was included on the SCDSB's list of its top ten capital priorities.

The announcement included an addition of 190 new elementary student spaces to Lake Simcoe Public School, along with two new child care rooms with an estimated construction value of \$5.4 million.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

First-ever student and workforce censuses undertaken to help identify opportunities to support and increase equity and inclusion

The SCDSB is committed to identifying and removing barriers within our system to ensure that all students and staff are offered supportive, inclusive and respectful learning and working environments. To support these efforts, during the 2020-21 school year, the SCDSB conducted its first student and workforce censuses.

More than 3,700 staff completed the workforce census, while 51 percent (or 26,978 students) participated in the student census. Fifty-two percent of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 had a parent/guardian participate in the census on their behalf, while 50 percent of students in Grades 7 - 12 participated in the census themselves.

The census results clearly show the rich diversity present across the SCDSB, with students and staff representing a variety of abilities, ethnic backgrounds, races, religions/creeds, gender identities and sexual orientations.

Information gathered through both the student census and online consultation will help inform future decisions related to equity, diversity and inclusion and the necessary next steps in this important area.

Graduation coaches support Black students and their families

In February 2021, the SCDSB launched a pilot project, hiring two graduation coaches with lived Black experience to provide supports to Black students and their families. The goal of the project was to help each student achieve credits, graduate and successfully transition into their chosen post-secondary pathway. The graduation coaches are serving at Nantyr

Shores Secondary School and Bradford District High School, and are supporting the engagement, well-being and academic achievement of our Black students by developing and maintaining supportive and trusting relationships.

Strengthening staff understanding of Indigenous Canada and Reconciliation through professional development

The SCDSB is committed to supporting our students and staff in developing a greater understanding of the history, culture and contributions of Indigenous peoples. In 2021, all Education Centre staff, centrally assigned teachers and administrators and maintenance and custodial staff participated in *4 Seasons of Reconciliation*, an online professional development course created and delivered by First Nations University of Canada. By the end of the 2021-22 school year, all SCDSB staff will have completed the training.

The course provides comprehensive, customized anti-racism education in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

Inclusive recreation programs go virtual to support students with ASD

The SCDSB offers a variety of inclusive social and recreational programs for students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The programs focus on using recreation, music and play to support social skills development.

In 2020-21, in order to continue to offer these supports, the SCDSB and its partners adapted the programs to a virtual environment. In addition, the program offerings were expanded to meet the needs of more students. For example, a five-week Coding and Robotics Club was offered as an opportunity for students diagnosed with ASD to engage in social interactions and build friendships through a shared interest.

2020-21 Senior Administrative Team

During the 2020-21 school year, the SCDSB senior leadership team experienced change in the form of retirements and shifts in portfolio responsibilities.

After 34 years in education, Steve Blake, Director of Education for the SCDSB, announced his retirement, effective July 31, 2021.

At the June 16, 2021, Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees passed a motion appointing John Dance, Associate Director/Superintendent of Human Resource Services, to the position of Interim Director, effective Aug. 1, 2021.

Director of Education

Steve Blake

Associate Director

John Dance, Associate Director and Superintendent of Human Resource Services

Superintendents of Education

Stuart Finlayson

Michael Giffen

Daryl Halliday

Dean Maltby

Hanne Nielsen (until Dec. 2020)

Douglas Paul

John Playford (beginning Jan. 2021)

Chris Samis

Charlene Scime (beginning Feb. 2021)

Dawn Stephens

Superintendent of Business & Facility Services

Brian Jeffs

Chief Information Officer

Rick DeFoe (until Jan. 2021)

Learn more about our [senior administration](#).

Board of Trustees (2018-22)

Donna Armstrong - Innisfil

Peter Beacock - Oro-Medonte and Springwater

Sarah Beitz - New Tecumseth

Tyler Boswell - Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay and Tiny

Debbie Connors – Bradford West Gwillimbury

Jodi Lloyd (Chairperson) – Orillia, Ramara and Severn

Beth Mouratidis - Barrie, Wards 4, 5, 6

Robert North (Vice-chairperson) - Adjala-Tosorontio, Clearview, CFB Borden and Essa

David O'Brien - Barrie, Wards 1, 2, 3

Paula Jade (P.J.) Sandy - Representing First Nation Communities

Tanya Snell - Collingwood and Wasaga Beach

Lisa-Marie Wilson - Barrie, Wards 7, 8, 9, 10

Learn more about [our trustees](#).

2020-21 Student Trustees

Fisher Monahan - Stayner Collegiate Institute

Cassandra McMahon - Bear Creek Secondary School

Zainab Jafri - Eastview Secondary School