POLICY

Communications & Community Engagement (COM)

P COM 03

Title: **Definitely Durham Policy**
Adopted: February 19, 2014
Effective: February 19, 2014
Amended/Reviewed: November 12, 2026

1.0 RATIONALE

Through the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame, the Durham District School Board (DDSB) celebrates excellence by recognizing former students for their extraordinary achievements at the local, national or global level and/or significant contributions to the Durham community. This recognition highlights the value of public education and provides positive role models for current students.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish a fair, consistent and inclusive framework for recognizing former DDSB students through the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame, honouring outstanding achievements and extraordinary contributions to Durham communities while encouraging participation across the diverse communities served by the DDSB.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

a. **Definitely Durham** – The DDSB Hall of Fame established to recognize and celebrate former students' outstanding achievements or extraordinary contributions to Durham communities.
b. **Former Student** – An individual who previously attended a school operated by the DDSB and who is no longer enrolled as a DDSB student.
c. **Inductee** – A nominee selected for recognition in the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame in accordance with this Policy and its supporting Procedure.
d. **Nominee** – A former student who has been nominated for recognition in the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame.
e. **Selection Committee** – The committee established by the Chief Executive Officer under the Definitely Durham Policy to select inductees to the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The **Board of Trustees** is responsible for:

- Approving and reviewing the Definitely Durham Policy.

The **Chair of the Board** is responsible for:

- Designating two Trustees, at the request of the Chief Executive Officer, to

serve on the Selection Committee.

The **Chief Executive Officer** is responsible for:

- Ensuring the implementation of this policy;
- Exercising the authority delegated under this policy to select inductees, through the Selection Committee;
- Assigning a supervisory officer to serve on the Selection Committee; and
- Establishing and maintaining procedures to support the administration of Definitely Durham, including the operation of the Selection Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer may delegate operational responsibilities to appropriate staff as required.

The **Parent Involvement Committee** is responsible for:

- Recommending a parent representative to serve on the Selection Committee.

5.0 APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This policy governs the nomination, selection and recognition of former DDSB students through the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame. It applies to Board staff, Trustees and Selection Committee members involved in the administration of Definitely Durham.

6.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The DDSB is committed to celebrating excellence through the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame by recognizing former students for their outstanding achievements or extraordinary contributions to Durham communities.

The nomination and selection process shall be fair, transparent and inclusive. The DDSB shall encourage nominations from across its diverse communities through broad outreach and an accessible nomination process. Recognition activities shall also be accessible. Nominees shall be assessed against the published selection criteria. Selection Committee deliberations and the identities of nominees who are not selected shall remain confidential.

7.0 POLICY DIRECTIVES

7.1 The DDSB shall recognize new inductees to the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame every two years, provided nominees meeting the criteria are identified.

7.2 Eligibility requirements and selection criteria shall be established in the Definitely Durham Procedure and made publicly available when nominations open.

7.3 Selection criteria shall provide for recognition of outstanding achievement or extraordinary contributions to Durham communities. Nominees shall demonstrate integrity and conduct that reflects positively on the DDSB and its communities, and serve as positive role models for students.

7.4 The nomination and selection process shall uphold Indigenous rights, human rights,

equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, and shall be conducted in a fair, transparent and inclusive manner, consistent with applicable legislation and DDSB policies and procedures.

7.5 The Board delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to select inductees to the Definitely Durham Hall of Fame. The Chief Executive Officer shall exercise this authority through a Selection Committee. Where the Selection Committee cannot reach consensus, the Chief Executive Officer shall make the final selection decision, having considered the Committee's views**.**

7.6 The Selection Committee shall be composed of the Chief Executive Officer, one supervisory officer assigned by the Chief Executive Officer, two Trustees designated by the Chair of the Board, and one parent representative recommended by the Parent Involvement Committee. Additional operating rules shall be set out in the Definitely Durham Procedure.

7.7 Subject to section 7.7, selection decisions are final. Selection Committee deliberations, and the identity of nominees who are not selected, are confidential.

7.8 The Chief Executive Officer may rescind an induction where information comes to light after selection showing that the inductee did not meet the selection criteria at the time of induction, the nomination contained materially inaccurate information, or subsequent conduct is inconsistent with the integrity and role-model expectations established in section 7.3.

7.9 Selection Committee members shall disclose actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and withdraw from consideration of affected nominations, in accordance with the Definitely Durham Procedure.

7.10 Personal information collected through Definitely Durham shall be collected, used, disclosed and retained in accordance with applicable privacy legislation and DDSB policies and procedures.

8.0 EVALUATION

The Chief Executive Officer shall monitor the implementation of this policy and evaluate the Definitely Durham program following each recognition cycle to assess its effectiveness in meeting the policy's objective.

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with the Board's established policy review cycle, or earlier as required. The Chief Executive Officer shall report relevant evaluation findings and any recommended policy amendments to the Board as part of that review.

9.0 COMMUNICATION

This policy and information about the Definitely Durham program, including the nomination process, shall be made publicly available through the Board's website and other appropriate communication channels.

10.0 APPENDICES

N/A

11.0 REFERENCES

- Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2
- Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56
- Ontario Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.19
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11
- Definitely Durham Procedure (PR COM 03-01)