

# School board backs the guy with the shopping cart

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SooToday Staff



Joe Roberts seen pushing his modified shopping cart in support of Push for Change. Photo supplied.

Thinking globally, acting locally – Algoma District School Board tackles the issue of youth homelessness

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NEWS RELEASE

ALGOMA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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At Algoma District School Board's Regular Board meeting held on Tuesday night, a number of Trustees, Senior Administration and staff members were sporting their favorite hockey jerseys.

This wasn't just for fun – in fact they had to pay for the privilege of dressing-down! It is all for a good cause with proceeds going locally to Sault Ste Marie's youth shelter Pauline's Place and nationally to the Push for Change campaign.

Algoma District School Board (ADSB), along with the local Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and a large number of community partners, is pleased to be part of the Push for Change Campaign to end youth homelessness being

championed by Joe Roberts. Roberts, a former homeless youth and now successful CEO and entrepreneur, is pushing a shopping cart across Canada on a 9,000 kilometre, 517-day trek to raise awareness about youth homelessness.

Several ADSB schools have joined Joe for portions of his walk and have hosted him as he has done public presentations, sharing his personal story of time spent on the streets of Vancouver and his comeback, after deciding to reach out for support from family and community services.

Students from Central Algoma Secondary School welcomed Joe last Thursday (Jan. 26). The Desbarats stop was Day #271 and marked 5025 kilometres traveled to date.

On January 31, Joe was in Echo Bay and students from Echo Bay Public School joined him for a walk to the school from Township Office. Joe participated in a presentation followed by a meet and greet.

He will do the same again at Mountain View Public School on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. Joe will return again on Friday, Feb. 10, visiting ADSB local high schools and reminding his audiences that “anything is possible”.

From 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon (Feb. 1), the public are invited to attend a free outdoor public event on Gore Street where Joe will speak and again share his story.

He is being welcomed by more than two dozen community organizations who are helping to raise funds for the national Push for Change campaign.

A Cart Wars challenge will be a highlight of the afternoon on Wednesday. Competitors sponsored a shopping cart for \$200 and will now have to race the cart through an obstacle course on Gore Street! Of the funds raised locally, 50 per cent will stay in the community, benefiting Pauline’s Place – the city’s local youth, women and families’ shelter – while the other 50 per cent will go to [The Upstream Project](#), Push for Change's school-based youth homeless prevention model.

Equally important, 100 per cent of donated items such as personal hygiene, socks, hats and mitts will go to Pauline’s Place.

To that end, Algoma District School Board has put a challenge out to all of our schools and within the Education Centre we are literally filling a shopping cart with items most needed by Pauline’s Place.

For more information on Push for Change go to [www.thepushforchange.com](http://www.thepushforchange.com) .

To keep updated on local Sault Ste. Marie events follow on Facebook and Twitter @changesault.

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