



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the Board Meeting  
held November 15, 2011

### Dramatic Results: Assistive Technology in the Classroom

Assistive Technology in the classroom is benefiting all students, and providing dramatic results for students with special education needs.

Superintendent of School Effectiveness, Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Coordinator of Special Education, Dawn Fewer, and Coordinator of Assistive Technology, Matt Hubbard, provided for Trustees a hands-on demonstration of the technology being used.

The Board's Special Education Department has implemented an extensive Assistive Technology training plan, which focuses on increasing capacity through modeling, co-planning, and teaching within the schools. Through the initiative, students and staff requiring Assistive Technology are receiving the support they need to achieve academic success.

Students' ability to access curriculum and to communicate effectively is critical for the success of our exceptional learners. Assistive technology and adaptive equipment provide the tools for students at all grade levels to acquire and process information, to empower students to succeed, and to demonstrate their learning.

The Board has focused on embedded Assistive Technology to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. Students have been using interactive white boards, ELMO digital projectors, and tablet computers, among other forms of technology, to help achieve success. Computers with voice recognition software help students to write, while text readers help to access print. Specific programs are also being used by students to help organize and convey thinking.

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland stated, "The Special Education Department's commitment to this initiative has been paramount in realizing the vision, *what is necessary for some, is good for all*, and in the successful results that have been shared by our schools. We look forward to improved results for all learners thanks to the programs and support implementation."

### A Special Learning Environment for Full-day Kindergarten

The CDSBEO's youngest learners are going to start their Catholic education in a state of the art learning environment, thanks to funding for full day Kindergarten programs.

Associate Director of Education, Gordon Greffe, Manager of Plant

and Maintenance, Bernie Kehoe, and Special Project Coordinator, Craig McDonald, outlined for Trustees what the new classrooms will contain, and what it will mean for student success.

The CDSBEO's Plant and Maintenance Department has a mandate to provide students with the best possible learning environment in which to receive their Catholic education. Their goal is to provide consistency across our Board by standardizing Kindergarten classrooms.

Each room will be about 250 square feet larger than a typical classroom and will share common design features such as: a large instructional area with natural daylight, an in-class bathroom, a large work area for arts and crafts, a large storage closet, 30 cubbies and coat lockers for students, and a student work centre wired for computers and internet access.

The first schools to receive the renovations will be Sacred Heart Catholic School in Lanark, St. James Catholic School in Smiths Falls, St. John Catholic School in Perth, and St. Peter Catholic School in Cornwall.

Construction on the new rooms will be complete to welcome students in September 2012.

#### Upcoming Dates/Events:

November 30, 2011 - SEAC, Kemptville Board Office, 7 p.m.  
December 20, 2011 - Board Meeting  
December 26, 2011 - January 6, 2012—Christmas Break

Contact  
1-800-443-4562  
or 613-258-7757  
for more  
information.



**Annual  
Board Meeting:**  
December 6, 2011  
Kemptville Board Office  
7:00 p.m.