

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:

**November 4, 2008**



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

### Financial Statements Released

Financial statements for the fiscal year of September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008 were presented to the Board of Trustees by Andrew Newman, partner with KPMG. Mr. Newman presented an unqualified Auditor's Report.

Associate Director of Education, Gordon Greffe, told Trustees the statements reflect a Board-wide effort to demonstrate effective financial monitoring over the last fiscal year. Mr. Greffe said that variables over the time period included an enrolment increase and the ability of the Transportation Department to effectively manage the costs of rising fuel prices through further route optimization. Board Managers and departments monitor finances in an effort to find efficiencies across the system.

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, said the collaborative budget effort focuses on an all-important end result. "It allows us to remain focused on delivering the best possible quality Catholic education to our students, while remaining fiscally responsible."

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, commended Mr. Greffe, his Department, and Senior Administration. "It is thanks to your efforts that our Board can continue to provide and develop original programs for our students, while continuing to upgrade and to build new facilities."

The CDSBEO will continue to disclose its financial position in a timely manner.

### Primary Assessment and Intervention

Superintendent of Education, Dr. Donaleen Hawes, presented the results of the programs developed to increase educational and professional assessments at the primary level, and improving the early literacy skills of at-risk primary students.

Dr. Hawes told the Board, "With funding from the Ministry of Education, in partnership with the Ontario Psychological Association, our Board has successfully collaborated with school teams in the creation of a three-tiered approach to primary assessment which allows for different levels of assessment and intervention depending upon the needs of the student."

Visual Assessment Portfolios enhance existing assessment knowledge and skills for teachers. It also allows teachers to take the results from these assessments and create effective instructional practices for individual students. "As a result, the number of primary students receiving assessments has increased dramatically, including students with less severe learning difficulties," added Dr. Hawes.

The Board's use of a Visual Assessment Portfolio has facilitated teachers' ability to identify learning strengths and needs of high-needs students, effectively group students for differentiated instruction, and link results to classroom programming.

Use of the Visual Assessment Portfolios

has also supported teachers' abilities to communicate the literacy achievement of high-needs students to parents and guardians.

Dr. Hawes concluded, "We will continue to support schools and encourage them to work as a team in collecting and reviewing student assessment information, developing intervention groupings, and implementing strategies based upon students' learning profiles."

### CDSBEO Remembers

With Remembrance Day next Tuesday, the Board took the opportunity offered by the Board meeting to remember those who have lost their lives during wars, and those who continue to fight for our freedom.

The St. Michael CHS choir sang "*Panis Angelicus*" under the direction of Damian McLaughlin. A group of students, directed by Mary Ellen Viau, presented a short dramatization of a poem.

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked the group for their efforts. "It is such a pleasure to see students, such as yourselves, show so much respect for our veterans. I thank you very much for this presentation."

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, agreed. "Your efforts are simply outstanding. It is an honour to have you here to share your talents with our Board of Trustees and Senior Administration. We remember those who have lost their lives, and you have given them the respect they justly deserve."

#### Meetings / Events

Nov. 19 Just-Us Youth Symposium, North Grenville Municipal Centre  
Nov. 28 Professional Activity Day

#### Next Board Meeting:

November 18, 2008  
St. Francis de Sales Catholic  
School, Smiths Falls,  
7:00 p.m.

For more information contact CDSBEO Communications at **613-258-7757** or **1-800-443-4562**, ext. 206.  
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