

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of
November 17, 2009
Held at

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School

Continuing Education and Community Use of Schools

Superintendent of Education, Marg Shealawrence, and Continuing Education and Community Use of Schools Coordinator, Kevin Dionne, presented an update on the Board's Continuing Education Program and on Community Use of Schools.

Continuing Education:

Continuing Education is defined as academic or interest courses reported on an evening register after the last bell of any given home school.

Courses offered include theatre production, music, evening E-Learning, family literacy programs, and woodworking.

Mr. Dionne highlighted the Personal Support Worker Program as one of the initiative's successes. "We currently have 41 students enrolled at two locations. They will earn 6 credits each and gain their PSW certification. These individuals will then be able to enter the workforce in an entry healthcare position. Our graduates often find positions before finishing the course and tell us how grateful they are for the opportunity to begin a new career."

Community Use of Schools:

Community use of schools encompasses academics, non profit, profit, artisans, charitable and church groups and the request to use Board facilities. Thirty-two schools reported community use of such facilities as gymnasiums, cafeterias and classrooms this past school year, which is an increase from the previous year. "We are very pleased to be building and

strengthening relationships with our community partners through this initiative," said Mr. Dionne.

E-Learning Update: Program's Evolution Leads to Student Success

Superintendent of Education, Jane McMillan, presented to Trustees an update on the Board's E-Learning program.

The program offers online education to secondary students. This allows students to take courses during the school year, which may or may not be available at their school, recover missed credits, or gain reach-ahead credits during the summer.

"E-Learning is our opportunity to broaden course options for students," said Mrs. McMillan. "Through the initiative we are able to offer similar course options in secondary schools across the Board regardless of school size or location."

E-Learning Cooperative Education is now being offered as well. Mrs. McMillan said, "This is a combination of E-Learning and work placement. In fact, several of our Specialist High Skills Major students used the summer session to help fulfill the cooperative education component of their respective programs."

Mrs. McMillan told Trustees that the program continues to evolve. This year, for the 2009 Summer Session, new features were added such as emails to parents that detail how they can track the progress of their child, and online tutoring. Checklists are being redesigned for students which will allow them to

balance their efforts between formative and summative work.

Adobe Connect, a program that facilitates virtual meetings between instructors and e-learners, has also been introduced to facilitate more teacher-learner contact.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Hosts Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees and Senior Administration travelled to Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School for the Board Meeting of November 17.

Mrs. Joanne Baker's Grade 3 class opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer under the direction of retired teacher, Mme. Marie Paquette Rivard.

Inspired by the book *The Best Part of Me*, Grade 4 students, Ben Lapierre, Ashley Bouwman, Alyssa Nuccio and Sam terHorst, described the best parts of their school.

Principal Patricia Dennison told the group that the school has a family atmosphere dedicated to each student's success while, Catholic School Council Chairperson, Kelly Fry, said that feeling extends well into the community, with strong parent support.

Board Chairperson, Ronald Eamer thanked Mrs. Dennison for her hospitality. "It is evident that the Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School Community is a close-knit group. I thank you for making us feel so welcome."

We walk in



good company!

Nov. 25, 2009 - Special Education Advisory Committee

Dec. 15, 2009 - Board Meeting

Dec. 21, 2009 - Jan. 1, 2010 - Christmas Break (offices closed)

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

Visit us online at www.cdsbeo.on.ca.

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Inaugural Board Meeting

December 1, 2009

Kemptville

Board Office

7:00 p.m.