

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
August 26, 2008



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

E-Learning Program Providing Options and Success

Superintendent of Education, Jane McMillan, and E-Learning Coordinator, Marion Letts, provided an update on the E-Learning program to the Board of Trustees.

The program has seen significant growth since its introduction in 2001 when it leased programs and server space. Now, more than 400 students take part each year.

Ms. Letts said it's about offering options to students. "We may have only five students at each secondary school who want to enroll in a law course. By combining all those students through E-Learning, we create a full class with a dedicated teacher."

E-Learning is also an integral part of the Board's summer school program. More than 150 credits were earned this past summer allowing students to graduate with their class, advance to an academic level course, or salvage a lost credit.

New software, provided in part by the Ministry of Education, allows the program to evolve further.

"Teachers can meet with students face-to-face over a secure connection to provide guidance and instruction," said Ms. Letts. "We look forward to continuing to develop the program to provide more of our students with even more opportunities for success."

New Trans Fat Regulations Introduced

New trans fat regulations for school boards go into effect on September 1, 2008.

Trans fats are typically found in products prepared with partially hydrogenated oil, which promotes a longer shelf life. Health concerns include a link to heart disease, and the elevation of so-called *bad* cholesterol.

Under the new regulations, boards must ensure that the trans fat content of a vegetable oil or margarine offered either for sale, or as an ingredient in a product for sale, does not exceed two per cent of the total fat content. For products other than vegetable oil or margarine, trans fats must not exceed five per cent.

"We are working with our cafeteria providers and our schools to make sure that we meet or exceed these regulations," said Superintendent of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence.

A few special days are allowed where regulations may be relaxed for special events such as hot dog days. However, senior administration, schools, and Catholic School Councils will make every effort to meet the regulations on these days as well.

The CDSBEO believes good health leads to healthy learning. Students learn about healthy choices and the Board works with cafeteria providers to earn "Eat Smart" certifications for healthy food offerings in our schools.

Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children & Youth

CDSBEO has joined a national coalition of organizations who endorse the Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth. This initiative was developed and is being facilitated by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).

Dr. Donaleen Hawes, Superintendent of Education, identified that, "Research indicates that there are no benefits to physical punishment of children and youth, and evidence shows that such treatment only poses risk to their development".

The Board of Trustees has pledged support and assistance to CHEO in their efforts to build public awareness and with the development of universal parenting education to develop alternative and positive approaches to discipline.

Catholic Student Trustee Sworn In

St. Michael CHS Grade 12 Student, Rebecca McEvoy, was sworn in as the Catholic Student Trustee for the 2008-2009 school year.

In her new role, Rebecca will represent the student body of close to 15,000 students across the Board and lead the CDSBEO Student Senate which is made up of representatives from the CDSBEO secondary schools.

For more information, please visit www.cdsbeo.on.ca, and click on "Latest News" at the top of the page.

Meetings / Events

Sept 2 First Day of School
Sept 3 Special Education Advisory Committee, Kemptville Board Office

7:00 pm

Next Board Meeting:
September 16, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Kemptville
Board Office

For more information contact CDSBEO Communications at **613-258-7757** or **1-800-443-4562**, ext. 206.
Visit us online at www.cdsbeo.on.ca for news from our schools, program information and much more.

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