

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
March 3, 2009



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Continuing Education

The Winter/Spring session of Continuing Education began on February 10, 2009, with six programs running in four locations throughout the Board. Superintendents of Education, Marg Shea-Lawrence and Jane McMillan, and Coordinator of Community Use of Schools and Continuing Education, Kevin Dionne, provided an update for Trustees.

Approximately 150 students are enrolled in the six programs. Among the courses being offered are the following: Personal Support Worker, Repertoire Music, Evening Cooperative Education, and Woodworking. Many students are reaching ahead to gain an additional credit toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This year, the program expanded to include sites at St. Thomas Aquinas CHS in Russell and St. Michael CHS in Kemptville.

Mr. Dionne told the Board, "A highlight of the fall Continuing Education class was the graduation of twenty four students from the Personal Support Worker program in Cornwall. I am happy to report that many of these graduates are now in the world of work. They are working in local hospitals, long term care facilities, seniors' residences and private homes. That is a true measure of the success of this program."

The Board is currently looking to expand the Personal Support Worker program to Smiths Falls and Gananoque.

An update was also given on the Board's Summer School Credit Program, which

serves students throughout the jurisdiction of the Board. Mrs. McMillan told Trustees, "The program is now entirely an online offering. This allows the student to take part in summer employment, and to travel with their families, while they earn their credits."

Other benefits to e-learning are that students have more options when it comes to course selection, there is no minimum number of students to form a class, and transportation is not an issue for students. Last summer more students earned e-learning credits than ever before and the Board anticipates further enrolment growth for 2009.

Student Success Update

CDSBEO Supervising Principal of Student Success, Sheila Farris, presented an update on the Board's Student Success Program. The Program's goal is to meet the learning needs of each and every student. Through a variety of new and enhanced learning opportunities, all students are supported as they travel down the path to become Catholic School Graduates.

Mrs. Farris focused on the expansion of the Specialist High Skills Major pilot program within the Board's Secondary schools. The Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM) is a highly regarded specialized program that supports students to focus their learning within a specific economic sector.

Each SHSM program has specific required courses leading to apprenticeship training, college,

university or the workforce. They also have major courses that provide sector-specific knowledge and skills, and other required courses from the Ontario Curriculum. "In addition, students receive sector-specific certifications and training giving them an advantage as they move forward," said Mrs. Farris.

Students job shadow and participate in a cooperative education component. Once they have completed all the requirements, they earn a special SHSM OSSD.

The CDSBEO is currently offering five sectors and nine SHSM programs across the Board. They are the following: Construction (Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place), Environment (St. Michael CHS, Kemptville and St. Thomas Aquinas CHS, Russell), Transportation (St. Joseph's CSS, Cornwall and St. Francis Xavier CHS, Hammond), Health and Wellness (St. John CHS, Perth and Notre Dame CHS, Carleton Place), and Arts and Culture (Holy Trinity CSS, Cornwall and St. Mary CHS, Brockville.)

Mrs. Farris told Trustees that plans to expand the current offerings and apply to run even more programs including Business, and Hospitality are underway. "This program continues to evolve as we respond to the needs of the individual students and to the needs of the specific sector," said Mrs. Farris.

The CDSBEO first piloted the SHSM program in the 2007-08 school year. Those students will graduate in June 2010. "Overall it has been a true success story for our students," concluded Mrs. Farris.

March 16-20, 2009 - March Break

March 25, 2009 - Special Education Advisory Committee

April 10, 2009 - Good Friday **April 13, 2009** - Easter Monday

Next Board Meeting

March 24, 2009

Kemptville Board Office
7:00 p.m.

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.

Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario: Box 2222, 2755 Highway 43, Kemptville Ontario, K0G 1J0