

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
February 19, 2008



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

Smart Board Technology Showcased

Curriculum Consultant, Tammy Clune, demonstrated for Trustees some of the abilities of the interactive white board known as the Smart Board.

With a Smart Board, interactive lessons are projected on a board which is connected to a computer. This allows teachers to prepare and save lessons that can be used again, or even transferred to another school. "The lessons can also be called up for review periods, or can be printed for students who have missed a particular class," said Mrs. Clune.

Mrs. Clune demonstrated how the Smart Board can be used to help students read and write non-fiction.

"The board itself can be adapted for any subject," said Mrs. Clune. "We have teachers in our schools using it for a variety of subjects. There really is no limit to what can be done."

For the first time, teachers can do such things as animate graphs when teaching math classes.

There are also a number of Special Education applications for the technology.

Regional workshops and on-site training sessions have been provided to staff. This training is a collaborative effort of the Curriculum, Special Education, Student Success, and Information and Communication Technology Departments.

Catholic Student Trustee, James King, indicated that he has first-hand experience with the Smart Board in one of his classes. He applauded the initiative and said the Smart Board helps make lessons very interactive.

To date, approximately 70% of CDSBEO schools have at least one Smart Board.

M.I.S.A. Initiative Update

Superintendent of Education, Mark Musca, and M.I.S.A. (Managing Information for Student Achievement) Leader, Walter MacDonald, provided an update on the M.I.S.A. initiative for the Board of Trustees.

The M.I.S.A. program collects data to support evidence-informed decisions. The reporting of the data is carried out using *Paradigm Shift A+* software and will assist stakeholders in developing strategies that target specific needs

of families of schools, individual schools, and individual students.

"The initiative, now three years old, has seen many advances," said Mr. McDonald. "We are very pleased with the way things have gone, and in the direction we are currently headed."

Among the strides made since the program's inception are: all teachers now use the same report card generating software and the data warehouse has grown substantially.

Mr. McDonald told the Board that privacy is an important consideration throughout the process. As a result, student data is restricted to designated individuals.

Training will take place across the Board to ensure data analysis continues.

"We will continue to develop the M.I.S.A. program within our Board," said Mr. McDonald.

One future goal is to have the system integrated with Statistics Canada census data. This would allow the Board to view and consider socio-economic factors as well as develop strategies for success.

Meetings / Events

Mar. 3 Special Education Advisory Committee, Kemptville Board Office
Mar. 10 - 14 March Break

7:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting:

March 4, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Kemptville
Board Office

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