

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From the meeting of:
February 3, 2009



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

School-Generated Funds

The Board received an update on adopted practices for schools concerning the reporting of School-Generated Funds as mandated by the Ministry of Education based on recommendations from the Public Sector Accounting Board.

School-Generated Funds are funds generated at the school-level for such things as athletic fees, school trips and cafeterias.

During the 2004-2005 school year, all school boards in Ontario adopted a revised accounting standard for financial reporting. This revised accounting standard broadened the financial information that must be included in the annual Financial Statements of the Board. One of the areas impacted is the reporting of School-Generated Funds.

The Board has developed a School-Generated Funds Guideline and purchased software for each school to make the transition to the new system as seamless as possible. The software addresses and standardizes internal controls and reporting requirements for all schools.

The Board also conducts audits of a certain number of schools annually

and then uses the data collected to adapt the Guidelines to assist schools. The next step in the process is to add more schools to the audit process and increase best practice sharing amongst our schools.

The goal is to develop our Guidelines in a manner that is clear and concise and will facilitate reporting and accountability for all schools.

A Natural Habitat in an Urban Environment

Superintendent of Education, Dr. Donaleen Hawes, and St. Gregory Principal, David McGahey, presented the details of the school and community's plan for the 9 acres of school-owned lot adjacent to St. Gregory Catholic School.

"We have a vision of using the vacant school land, including the brush lot, for educational purposes," said Mr. McGahey. "Our Catholic school community wishes to use the land for learning."

The school conducted open discussions with community groups regarding the use and availability of the land. "We have met with members from our school, Notre Dame Catholic High School, St. Mary

Catholic School, town council representatives, the Urban Forestry Committee, the local horticultural society and Algonquin College, to name but a few," said Mr. McGahey. "Our partners are excited about the possibilities."

This project would see the land maintained as a completely natural habitat in an urban environment. "Our vision includes a butterfly garden, walking trails and the maintenance of a sustainable wooded area as natural places for enjoyment and education for all schools in our community and for the greater enjoyment of the community itself," said Mr. McGahey.

One of the proposed partnerships would see a permanent structure built by students enrolled in Notre Dame CHS's Specialist High Skills Major - Construction Program. "We would eventually like to see students from all over coming to the habitat on school trips," said Mr. McGahey.

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, stated, "This is an exciting project. I look forward to seeing how this all unfolds. It will be great if our schools can access these grounds for retreats and outstanding learning opportunities."

February 11, 2009 - Bravo Breakfast - Kemptville and Surrounding Regions

February 18, 2009 - Bravo Breakfast - Prescott and Russell Counties

February 26, 2009 - Bravo Breakfast - Perth and Surrounding Regions

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.

Next Board Meeting:

February 17, 2009
Kemptville Board Office
7:00 p.m.

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