

**From the meeting held December 17, 2024**

## **CDSBEO Week 2024**

CDSBEO Week 2024 was held from October 7-11. Information about CDSBEO Week was presented to Trustees at the December 17 Board Meeting. Focused on the theme "Be God's Light – Pass It On!" each day of the week represented an element from the sub-themes: Community, Diversity, Student Voice, Belonging, and EveryOne. Daily activities included announcements, prayers, videos, challenges, and guided meditations. Schools creatively celebrated the themes with activities like craft projects, liturgies, community walks, and food drives. The aim was to encourage reflection on shared values, inclusiveness, student expression, safety, and the importance of every individual. The week emphasized the board's commitment to faith, kindness, and community-building.

## **Treaties Recognition Week**

Treaties Recognition Week, established in 2016, honours treaties and enhances understanding of treaty rights among students and residents. The Indigenous Education Team supported schools with various educational tools, including a two-row wampum bookmark by Mohawk artist Grace Point. Key activities to highlight the week included teaching grade 7-8 classes about Wampum Belts, visualizing local treaties land claims, and supporting the Akwesasne Mohawk Board of Education. The presentation highlighted the reciprocal educational approach, the introduction of a Mohawk Language course at St. Joseph's CSS in 2025-2026, and the efforts of Indigenous Student Success Mentor Allen Smoke. The emphasis for the week focused on fostering relationships, understanding treaty rights, and reconciliation, with an acknowledgment to retiring Indigenous Education Ministry Officer Romaine Mitchell, who has been a pillar and catalyst for Indigenous Education.

## **2024-2025 Revised Estimates**

The 2024-2025 Revised Estimates for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario were presented to Trustees at the December 17 Board Meeting. Highlights included a projected total revenue of \$232 million, primarily driven by increased enrolment and centrally negotiated labor rate benchmark adjustments. Total expenditures are estimated at \$232.8 million, resulting in an in-year accumulated deficit of \$585,618, largely due to HRIS software implementation costs. Funds were set aside in previous years in accumulated surplus to support this project. Staffing increases include 30.67 teachers, 9 ECEs, and 15.1 educational assistants, driven by enrolment changes. The Board forecasts an accumulated surplus of \$12 million in the working fund and \$4 million internally appropriated by August 31, 2024. The revised estimates comply with Ministry limits and enveloping provisions.

"These revised estimates reflect our commitment to maintaining fiscal responsibility while addressing the growing needs of our students and staff. The careful planning and allocation of

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resources ensure that we continue to provide a high-quality education in a supportive and enriching environment. Thank you all for your work on preparing this presentation," concluded Chair Cummings.

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