



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Brent Laton, Chair (Grenville County and Elizabethtown-Kitley Township)

Todd Lalonde, Vice-Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Ronald Eamer (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Nancy Kirby (Lanark)

Karen McAllister (Stormont-Dundas)

Robin Reil (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)

Sue Wilson (Prescott-Russell)

Alexa Meeson (Catholic Student Trustee)

School Facility Condition Assessment

In 2011, the Ministry of Education hired a third-party facility assessor to conduct non-invasive inspections of all school facilities across the province. The assessments were done over a five-year period, and by 2015, all schools in Ontario had been assessed. The information was posted publicly on the Ministry of Education website in August, 2016.

The report provided detailed data about each school facility in the province, including the school name, the city, postal code, weighted age, gross floor area, enrolment, asset replacement value, and total five-year renewal needs at the time of assessment, as well as renewal needs by major building categories such as, roofs, windows, doors, carpets, tiles, etc. The facility requirements collected through the condition assessments are conducted once per every five-year cycle, and the assessments identify renewal events that should be completed within a 5-year window.

"Currently, CDSBEO is focusing on the immediate needs, based on the assessment, and overall the Board is in very good shape. If you look at the current 5-year renewal need, which sits at \$63.5 million, and then look at the funding that we receive, we receive only a fraction of what is needed, so it is very important that we focus on the most critical repairs and upgrades," noted Superintendent of Business, Bonnie Norton.

Police and School Board Protocol

The CDSBEO has recently coordinated the completion of revising the Police and School Board Protocol, which initially launched in 2011, to include new Ministry amendments. The Board has worked closely with coterminous school boards and police services to develop a coordinated response and training plan. The Police and School Board Protocol has been developed in conjunction with the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. Together, both of these protocols will be used by school boards and police services to assess, respond to and prevent violent incidents from occurring and to ensure students' safety.

The updated edition of the document includes a new policy regarding bomb threat procedures, incorporates changes to the policy on lockdown procedures, updates information on threat awareness/management, and reflects an ever-increasing focus on the importance of implementing violence-prevention strategies to create and maintain safe and healthy schools.

International Education Program

In the spring of 2015, the Board approved the implementation of an International Education program for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario, to begin in the fall of 2015. The program accepts students from across the world to enjoy the benefits of our first class Catholic education system. As well, it provides our own students with the opportunity to benefit from daily interactions with International students.

The program has experienced a lot of growth over the last year. The International Program is an opportunity for students from across the globe to enjoy the benefits of a first class Catholic education system. The program also provides CDSBEO students with the opportunity to benefit from daily interactions with international students. It is our hope that this program will bring a global perspective into the classroom, and help promote diversity and foster cultural awareness.

Staff and students are very excited to welcome international students to their schools and communities. Currently, 53 students from nine countries attend 14 CDSBEO schools. Principals and staff have played an important role in welcoming the students and ensuring their wellbeing. The experience has been extremely positive, for both staff and students.

Eight students from Teruel, Spain are attending CDSBEO schools for October, November, and December, and eight CDSBEO students will travel to Teruel for February, March, and April. The exchange has been highly successful, and demonstrates how effective the international partnerships can be for exchange programs. International students coming into the Board have the opportunity to enhance their language skills, and experience the richness of Canadian culture. The CDSBEO already has seven students registered for the fall of 2017, and a total of 71 students attending during the 2016-2017 school year.

*As you journey through Advent
to Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus,
may the peace of Christ, the renewal of hope,
and the joy found in family and friends
be yours this Christmas Season
and in the New Year.*