



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Todd Lalonde, Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)

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

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Alexa Meeson (Catholic Student Trustee)

Joint Protocol for Student Achievement

The Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA) is a partnership between seven regional school boards and four regional children's aid societies/family and children's services agencies (CAS), to establish and implement processes and policies to support student achievement and wellbeing for crown ward and CAS involved students. The protocol sets the foundation for effective communication and collaboration among local boards of education and the CAS.

Sue Giff and Trudy VanDyke, Behaviour Crisis Consultants with the Board, presented details on the protocol to the Board of Trustees. The JPSA outlines the way in which school boards and CAS work together to create Educational Success Plans (ESPs) to ensure crown ward and CAS students are well supported in their educational and post-secondary opportunities.

A REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement for Children/Youth) Team is a student focused support system that consists of a school member, CAS worker, guardian/parent, and a significant adult as identified by the student. Each crown ward or CAS involved student will have access to his/her REACH team, who will support the student in developing their individual success plan. The REACH meetings are positive, student-centred, and strength-based solution-focused, and allow the students to have a voice and participate in their own success plan. The student and REACH team will meet a minimum of twice per year, with the first meeting happening within 30 days of the student being registered at the school. Subsequent meetings align with existing school reporting periods, and the CAS Point Person meetings (and/or caseworker meetings).

The student Educational Success Plan is designed to encompass not only the academic goals of the student, but also their dreams for the future and their community involvement activities. In September 2016, the JPSA was finalized and shared with schools for implementation. The implementation will also provide additional training to both CAS and school personnel beginning in the spring, 2017. The Steps to Success, as outlined in the protocol, allows for specific requirements to be determined and explicitly outlined for crown ward and CAS students' learning needs at the time they register for school.

OCSTA Together in Faith Campaign

In November 2016, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association launched the Together in Faith campaign to help spread the word about the distinctiveness of Catholic education, and to help build a strong community of support for Catholic education in Ontario. Principal of Religious and Family Life Education, Paul Mantha, presented to the Board of Trustees an overview of the Together in Faith campaign.

The launch of the new Together in Faith campaign includes a dedicated website which provides an opportunity for proponents of Catholic education to demonstrate their support in a number of ways. Visitors are invited to submit their name to a growing community of advocates, and are invited to take action by writing to their member of parliament. OCSTA intends to use the information to demonstrate to political leaders, the diverse base of support for Catholic education in the province.

The site also offers options to visitors to participate in spreading the word about the website, and the Together in Faith community, in schools, with friends, and in parishes. Under the News tab, OCSTA has posted videos and stories submitted by members exemplifying how Catholic schools are unique and inherently distinct.

Mr. Mantha highlighted the recent story posted on the Together in Faith site about the St. Thomas Aquinas AVENGERS team, and their outstanding success in the area of environmental stewardship through the creation of a biodegradable hay bale wrap product.

"We will work together to proclaim that our students learn best when they learn in faith, when they learn through their faith, and when they learn of their faith," concluded Mr. Mantha.

More information on this initiative can be found at www.togetherinfaith.ca.