



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

May 2024

*Together on the Journey
Encounter, Accompany, Transform, Go Forth*

Strategic Plan 2024-2025 - Developments

Staff have been gathering school-based expectations, actions/activities to reach Key Performance Indicators that will put the district in the best position possible to achieve the Board's goals and targets. The following is a sample of some of the actions being considered in advance of the draft plan being presented to the Board in June/August.

Catholic Faith Formation

Schools will develop an annual pastoral plan with the local family of parishes and strategically support Sacramental Retreats, fostering collaboration among students, families, and parish staff. Educators will emphasize the Sacraments in the Growing in Faith ~ Growing in Christ (GIF GIC) program and support events of mutual interest in school and parish media.



To review the full version of the report visit the latest Board Meeting agenda and minutes check out our [Board Agendas and Minutes](#) webpage on our Board website.

Approval of revised Flag Protocol Policy

The Board approved the changes to the Flag Protocol Policy to:

- Ensure that the Flag of Canada remains flying at all times and in a prominent position relative to other flags
- Permit tertiary flags to fly at the Catholic Education Centre and its Catholic secondary schools where a second flag pole exists
- Define permissible tertiary flags as:
 - The Papal Flag
 - The Flag of the Province of Ontario
 - A Board Approved Inclusionary Flag during the month of June.*

The revised [policy](#) can be found on the Board website (Board Policies tab).

Catholicity Education

Catholic Education Week was a significant success throughout our system. The event began with a system-wide Mass celebrated by Rev. Bishop Fabbro, where we were blessed to have students from St. Michael CSS and several music teachers from across the district lead our music ministry. There were several priests and deacons from our Deanery in attendance as well. We inducted Ms. Erma Weernink into The Order of St. André Bessette and recognized Marc Bauer-Maison, Melanie Levinson, Joseph Patrick Ryan, Karen Teahen and Angela Carter with

the St. Teresa of Calcutta Faith in Action Award for their outstanding contributions to our schools and parish communities.

Throughout the week, individual schools held their own liturgies and Masses, celebrating our schools and honoring Mother Mary. Students participated in lessons and activities developed by the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association, as well as additional activities co-created with the Mental Health Team to mark Children's Mental Health Week. This collaborative effort highlighted the importance of both faith and mental well-being in our educational community.



Second Language Instruction (MLL)

Throughout May, the HPCDSB's Multilingual Learner (MLL) Support Teacher team (consisting of Mary Kathryn Simmons and Katherine Miller) demonstrated dedication and proactive engagement in supporting school administrators and classroom teachers. They conducted individual meetings with every school principal to assess each learner's needs and they collaboratively devised tailored plans for MLL student success. Furthermore, the team has been cycling back to classroom teachers, offering personalized support and resources to enhance their ability to meet the unique requirements of each MLL student.

French as a Second Language: DELF

On May 14 and 15, almost 30 Grade 12 Core and French Immersion students from St Anne's CSS and St Michael CSS challenged the DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) exam. DELF is an internationally recognized proficiency exam from France. It is based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), which defines language proficiency along six global levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. At each level, proficiency is measured across four competencies: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The French Ministry of National Education awards a diploma to successful candidates. HPCDSB offered the A2 and B1 tests this year.

This is an extremely valuable initiative that promotes linguistic diversity and cultural understanding. By offering the DELF, students can assess and certify their French language proficiency, opening doors to broader educational and career opportunities in a globalized world while fostering a deep appreciation for the French language and culture.

Skills Canada Competitions

Elementary students from HPCDSB proudly participated in the Skills Ontario Competition held in Toronto on May 6. Our six teams of Grade 7 and 8 students showcased their talents in categories such as Robotic Mechanical Engineering and LEGO Robotics. Thanks to the dedication of our teacher leaders in each school and the support of the system team, all teams demonstrated exceptional skill and innovation, as reflected in the HPCDSB team results which included 4th place in robotics and 8th in technology among 26 school boards. Our team from St.

Mary's Listowel clinched a gold medal in the Construction competition, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Secondary students showcased their skill and dedication by participating in the Skills Ontario Competition, held in Toronto on May 7. From carpentry and electrical installation to automotive service, hairstyling, and aesthetics, our students demonstrated exceptional talent and commitment to their crafts. Their participation not only highlights their individual capabilities but also reflects the quality of education and guidance they receive at our Catholic schools. These opportunities were made possible by the generous sponsorship of OYAP which celebrates achievements in skills trades. HPCDSB continues to support growth and success in both academics and vocational endeavors.

Improving Student Achievement - Mathematics

In May, the Math Team surged with activity, marking an exciting chapter for our initiatives. Firstly, we enthusiastically welcomed a new Math Facilitator, Megan Lunn, who seamlessly integrated into the team, immediately collaborating with our newest teacher hires in schools. Meanwhile, our existing two Math Facilitators continued their invaluable work, diligently conducting Math curriculum reviews for all Grade 3 and 6 students across our system: 15 schools, 60 classrooms, and over 850 students. The Math Curriculum Review Tour spanned six dynamic weeks, with Math Facilitators and classroom teachers analyzing formative assessment data to pinpoint student learning needs. These insights were then translated into targeted small-group instructional sessions, led by both the Math Facilitators and the classroom teachers. Moreover, the entire Math Team convened multiple times, synergizing efforts to outline system-wide needs for our forthcoming strategic plan.

Improving Student Achievement - Literacy

In May, the literacy team achieved their goal of completing important literacy training sessions for all classroom educators (K-8) along with our DECE partners. This initiative ensured that every classroom teacher had the opportunity to engage in professional development, focusing on early reading screening and immersing themselves in Strand B: Foundation of Language within the newly adopted Literacy curriculum. Notably, considerable emphasis was placed on leveraging the invaluable resource "The Writing Revolution" to integrate writing fundamentals across all subject areas seamlessly.

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation days have begun in all of our elementary schools this month. In collaboration with our bus companies, new junior kindergarten students and their families have been welcomed into our schools. These events are geared toward creating an opportunity for families to meet school staff as well as have some bus safety training. It is very exciting to welcome our newest learners and families into our schools!

Mental Health

During Catholic Education Week and Children's Mental Health Week (May 6-10), the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board (HPCDSB) proudly introduced Mental Health Literacy Grade 7 and 8 modules. Developed collaboratively with School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) and guided by the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations (OCGEs) and New Family Life Education curriculum, these modules enhance existing mental health literacy expectations within the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Each module lesson incorporates prayer, scripture references, and Gospel values, promoting a holistic approach to

mental health education. By integrating Catholic connections throughout the curriculum, students are inspired to embody Gospel teachings while nurturing their mental well-being.

2024-2025 Budget Update Report

On April 26, 2024 the Ministry of Education issued Ministry Memorandum 2024:B05 2024-25 Core Education Funding (formerly Grants for Student Needs). 2024–25 Core Education Funding (formerly Grants for Student Needs) (gov.on.ca). This memorandum introduced a restructured version of the former Grants for Student Needs (GSN) now called Core Education Funding (Core Ed). Core Ed funding for 2024-25 is projected to be \$28.6 billion, an increase of 2.7 per cent compared to 2023-24. As detailed in the memo, the increase is largely attributed to labour-related increases resulting from ratified central agreements, a labour provision amount of 1.25 per cent increase for teacher salary benchmarks, and a 2 per cent cost update to assist school boards in managing increases in commodity prices (i.e. electricity, etc).

As a result of a Ministry review of education funding, there has been a significant restructuring of the funding formula for the first time in 25 years. Core Ed comprises the former 18 grants and 77 allocations re-organized into six funding pillars and 28 allocations. Staff will be presenting the draft budget at the June 17 board meeting.

Assistance with summarizing content from Board Highlights with the assistance of Chat GPT 3.5.

To review the full version of the latest Board Meeting agenda and minutes check out our [Board Agendas and Minutes](#) webpage on our Board website. Any questions, please contact the Director's Office by emailing directorsoffice@huronperthcatholic.ca.