

BOARD MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

July 2018



Hamilton-Wentworth
Catholic District School Board
Believing, Achieving, Serving

Board approves a compliant budget for 2018/2019

Trustees, on June 19th, approved a compliant operating budget of \$364,274,961 and a capital budget of \$36,616,814 for the 2018/2019 school year. The budget will use \$415,423 from Board reserves (accumulated surplus) to balance a planned 2018/2019 in-year deficit in compliance with Section 232 of the Education Act. The establishment of an appropriated surplus has enabled the board to continue to support excellence and equity through the funding of priorities such as Equal Opportunities Initiatives, the purchase of new elementary school religious education textbooks, student retreats, math special assignment teachers, enhancements in classroom technology, and the installation of artificial turf fields. “By taking seriously our role as stewards, we have been able to maintain and enhance resources in a number of vital areas,” said Chairperson Patrick Daly. “The above examples speak to our willingness to ‘Allow the Holy Spirit to ... provide rich educational programs for the children in our schools, their families and the communities we serve’” (Renewing the Promise, 2018). He commended staff throughout the system for their commitment to good stewardship and, in a special way, thanked the board’s finance staff who, under the leadership and wise counsel of Paola Pace-Gubekjian, worked tirelessly throughout the budget process.

HWCD SB ranks in Ontario EcoSchools’ top five

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board is one of Ontario’s top five ranked school boards in the area of Stewardship of Creation with 89% of schools achieving Ontario EcoSchools certification for their efforts to conserve energy, protect the environment and minimize waste. Six schools did not pursue Ontario EcoSchools certification this year. Of the 50 accredited schools, 4 achieved Bronze level certification, 10 Silver, 30 Gold and 6 Platinum. Achieving at the platinum level for the first time was St. Matthew Catholic Elementary School. Next steps include strengthening support for Stewardship of Creation by encouraging schools to be intentional in their commitment to EcoSchools certification as a whole-school initiative.

HWCD SB presents annual Special Education Plan

As per Ontario Regulation 306, the HWCD SB is required to provide an annual [Special Education Plan](#) and [Parent Guide to Special Education Programs and Services](#). The purpose of the plan is to provide awareness about special education programs and services available in the board, and to monitor the details of the plan regarding their implementation. Revisions of note include the addition of several new positions, specifically, a Board Certified Behaviour Analyst, a Child and Youth Worker, and a Transition Coordinator. The updated Ministry document, *Special Education in Ontario, K-12 Policy and Resources (2017)* is also referenced.

Promoting vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

The HWCD SB endeavours to find opportunities to heighten awareness of vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life, and to celebrate religious and priestly vocations as a gift to the Church. Some of the many vocation-related activities of the past year include:

- regular prayers for seminarians and those preparing for a religious profession;
- a Grade 5 “Adopt a Seminarian” program;
- presentations by priests and sisters on the call to the priesthood and religious life;
- vocation cards, newsletters and booklets on display in Chaplaincy Leaders’ offices;
- a “Living Stories” retreat for Grade 9 students; and
- a Notre Dame Vision summer conference.

Mental Health Action Plan 2018-2019

The [Mental Health Action Plan 2018-2019](#) provides a clear and focused vision to support student achievement and well-being. Priority areas for the upcoming school year include anxiety management, substance use/addiction and peer mentoring/student engagement. Priorities were identified from “Tell Them From Me” survey data and staff feedback. 2016-2017 Tell Them From Me secondary data revealed that 37% of girls and 18% of boys report moderate to high levels of anxiety. Recognizing the role of school staff in supporting students struggling with anxiety, professional learning opportunities will be offered in basic anxiety management strategies through online programs called “Kids Have Stress Too” and “Stress Lessons.” Research also shows a strong association between substance use and mental health related issues. Next steps include in-servicing staff on concurrent disorders and referral pathways for substance use/abuse treatment and support, and, in light of the legalization of marijuana, implementing preventive education programs to equip students with the knowledge and skills to make wise and informed decisions. The third priority area, student engagement, is the outcome of Student Wellness Forums in which students expressed a need for peer-to-peer education and support. The HWCDSB will be reviewing potential student engagement models to encourage young people to become leaders in the mental health conversation. The focus of the MH Plan is to create a safe, inclusive and student-focused Catholic school climate. The plan builds on the 2017-2018 priorities of anti-bullying, life promotion/suicide prevention, and student voice.

HWCDSB adopts Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA)

A Joint Protocol for Student Achievement (JPSA), developed by local school boards and children’s aid societies, will enable JK to Grade 12 students in the care of, or receiving services from a CCAS, to benefit from the learning opportunities and supports available in schools. It contains procedures to minimize disruptions to school attendance and ensure access to supports that maximize learning potential.

Board approves policies subject for review

Pursuant to Policy [P.R.01 Policy Review Process](#), board policies are reviewed on an ongoing basis to determine whether they are relevant, still in keeping with the requirements of the Education Act and its regulations, in need of updating, or should be rescinded. New policies approved by Trustees included [H.M.01 Disability Management Program](#), [S.M.18 Diabetes](#), [S.M.19 Epilepsy](#), and [S.M.20 Administration of Prescribed Medication](#). Amendments were made to [B.B.05 Cannabis, Tobacco & Smoke-Free Schools](#), [B.M.04 Naming of Schools/Administrative Buildings](#), [H.M.03 Employee Retirement/Termination](#), [H.M.09 Professional Memberships](#), [S.06 School Year & School Holidays](#), [S.16 School Volunteers](#), [S.A.04 Acceleration & Retention Policy](#), [S.M.07 Ontario Student Records](#), [S.M.11 Allergic Reactions](#), and [S.M.12 Asthma](#).

Community Use of Schools grant provides affordable access to school facilities

The Community Use of Schools Program was initiated in 2005 to allow community groups affordable access to school facilities “in order to support the goals of a healthier Ontario” (Ministry of Education). An update presented to Trustees indicated that 2,179 permits were issued in 2016-2017 for a total number of 111,047 permitted hours. The largest proportion of users continues to be not-for-profit (NFP) groups (55%) seeking subsidized space. Of these, youth in sport and recreational activities are predominantly served, thereby fulfilling the intended target population of the grant/subsidy. The highest priority in terms of space availability is given to school board and school activities.

Student & Staff Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to the following students and staff on their recent accomplishments:

- Lucia Marchionda, a Grade 12 student at Cardinal Newman CSS, was named Festitalia’s Young Person of Distinction at the 7th Annual Heritage Awards Dinner on June 5th
- Jeff Toole, a teacher at Cathedral High School, received the Wismer Award for High School Coaching Excellence at the 15th annual Wismer Award Presentation Dinner on May 29

The following students and clubs/teams were recognized at the HWCDSB’s annual “Celebrating Excellence in Catholic Education” awards ceremony at Cathedral High School on June 5th:

St. Thomas Aquinas Centre for the Arts Foundation Scholarship

Sophie Visca – Bishop Tonnos CSS

James L. Daly Award of Excellence

Alissa Guagliano – St. Clare of Assisi CES

Aniello Lombardi – St. Thomas More CSS

Presidents’ Council Bursary

Brynmor Dayes – Bishop Tonnos CSS

Sister Maria Cordis Music Awards

Chantel Czok – St. David CES

Michaela Tassone – St. Joachim CES

Patrick Jeffrey – Our Lady of Peace CES

Angela Quesada Mora – Sts. Peter and Paul CES

Jeremiah John – St. Margaret Mary CES

Jessica Malek – Our Lady of Mount Carmel CES

Brian Whitman – St. Vincent de Paul CES

Jim Hansen Spirit of Community Award

Katherine Wiesner – St. Matthew CES

Marley Mahon – St. Mary CSS

Living the Spirit Awards

Niambh Prangle – Canadian Martyrs CES

Isaiah Brady-Clarke – St. Joseph CES

Julia Ferreira – St. Lawrence CES
Monica Daly – St. Mary CSS
Elizabeth Spanic – Holy Name of Jesus CES
Julia Tarasiuk – St. Ann (Hamilton) CES
Jasmine Pereira – St. Brigid CES
Alicia Brest – St. Eugene CES
Sophie Moores – St. John the Baptist CES
Sarah Cymbaluk – St. Patrick CES
Elizabeth Williams – Cathedral High School
Anneliese Paes – St. Agnes CES
Natalia Karsztun – St. Luke CES
Leah Xiang Finelli – Blessed Sacrament CES
Jenna Parris – St. Anthony Daniel CES
Jacob Collins – St. Kateri Tekakwitha CES
Ava Bozzo – St. Margaret Mary CES
Serena Zambito – St. Teresa of Calcutta CES
Jamal Samuels – Our Lady of Lourdes CES
Steven Bisbal – Sacred Heart of Jesus CES
Nadija Lucyshyn – St. John Paul II CES
Giuliana Mascia – St. Marguerite d'Youville CES
Angelina Baldin – St. Michael CES
Joseph Jos – Sts. Peter and Paul CES
Carina Cortez Corado – St. Jean de Brébeuf CSS
Abigail Knox – Annunciation of Our Lord CES
Marisa Caprio – Corpus Christi CES
Beata Lombardi – Regina Mundi CES
Isabella Fazzari – St. Teresa of Avila CES
Lorena Morcone – St. Thérèse of Lisieux CES
Samantha Desa – St. Vincent de Paul CES
Kristina Landry – St. Thomas More CSS
Tomas Rozman – Immaculate Heart of Mary CES
Patrick Jeffrey – Our Lady of Peace CES
Nicholas Tavares – Our Lady of the Assumption CES
Ania Vera Laguna – St. Clare of Assisi CES
Judy Belizaire – St. David CES
Annabella Castellani – St. Francis Xavier CES
Lucas Alampi – St. Gabriel CES
Carlina Cipolla – St. James the Apostle CES
Angela Guglielmo – St. Mark CES
Faith Pagunsan – St. Martin of Tours CES
Luka Severinac – St. Matthew CES
Isabella Lukic – St. Paul CES
Elisa Mejia – Bishop Ryan CSS
Michela Davies – Cardinal Newman CSS
Lily Raposo – Guardian Angels CES
Reuben Mathew – Holy Name of Mary CES
Adriana Bozzo – Immaculate Conception CES

Hannah Schneider – Our Lady of Mount Carmel CES
Tomas Jimenez – St. Ann (Ancaster) CES
Roman Campanaro – St. Augustine CES
Julia Caravaggio – St. Bernadette CES
Jenna Fraser – St. Joachim CES
Joseph Soliman – St. Thomas the Apostle CES
Emily Bird – Bishop Tonnos CSS

BASEF – Canada Wide Science Fair Trip Awards

Christopher Lamont – St. Margaret Mary CES
Claire Le Donne – Corpus Christi CES
Anthony Saturnino – St. Margaret Mary CES

BASEF – Intel International Science and Engineering Fair Trip Awards

Joseph Saturnino – Bishop Ryan CSS

OFSAA Gold Medals

Girls' Wrestling – Ellise Daynes, Bishop Ryan CSS
Girls' Wrestling – Ligaya Stinellis, Bishop Ryan CSS
Boys' & Girls' Combined Wrestling, Team Champions – Bishop Ryan CSS
Girls' Wrestling, Team Champions – Bishop Ryan CSS
Senior Girls' Volleyball – St. Mary CSS
Senior Boys' Football, GHAC Bowl Champions – St. Thomas More CSS

Mike Morton Bursary

Isaiah Brady-Clarke – St. Joseph CES
Dylan Patterson – St. Teresa of Calcutta CES
Michael Mitra – St. Thérèse of Lisieux CES
Christopher Rodrigues – St. Mary CSS

Special Presentations

Celt-X Robotics Team – Bishop Ryan CSS
Cardinal Newman Robotics Team – Cardinal Newman CSS
MakeShift Robotics Team – St. Mary CSS
BR Xpression – Bishop Ryan CSS

Stewardship of Creation Awards

Olivia Content-Renauld – Bishop Ryan CSS
Rachiel Chirara – Bishop Tonnos CSS
Seyed Ibrahim Hosseini – Cardinal Newman CSS
Regan Laroche – Cathedral High School
Pina Meleca – St. Jean de Brébeuf CSS
Haley Sheldon – St. Jean de Brébeuf CSS
Meira Morphet – St. Mary CSS
Melak Ifrim – St. Thomas More CSS