

Highlights

from the December 17, 2018 Board Meeting

Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School Choir



Thank you to the student choir from Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School for opening the December 17, 2018 Board Meeting with their harmonic performance of O Canada followed by a Joyful Hymn of Grace.

Together for Mental Health



Janine Bowyer, Superintendent of Education and members of the Wellness Committee presented an update on the [Together for Mental Health Strategy](#) for 2018. The presentation featured key initiatives for promoting well-being to maximize achievement for all learners. Some of these highlights include:

- Continued focus on faith;
- Leading Mentally Healthy Schools Reflection Tool;
- Reduction of stigma to promote an inclusive community;
- Keeping the Elephant in the Room Campaign alive.

Young Parent School Program Partnership



Rosemary Leclair, Superintendent of Education and members of the Continuing Education leadership team presented the Young Parent School Program, a partnership between Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre, Father Donald MacLellan Catholic Secondary School and Rose of Durham. "The program helps to remove barriers for young parents so they can achieve academic goals in an environment where

they are supported both in school and with parenting skills," said Superintendent Leclair. Emerging from the key theme of Continuing Education in the *Discovery 2020 Strategic Plan*, the program is for young parents with a child under the age of one. Representatives from the Rose of Durham provided additional insight with positive feedback from students, noting that the Young Parents School Program is one of their most successful services. Trustees presented donations of toys and baby essentials for the Young Parent School Program Christmas Party.

Annual Financial Overview

Ryan Putnam, Chief Financial Officer and Superintendent of Business Services presented the Annual Financial Overview outlining the board's current financial position, enrolment and utilization of schools, provincial outlook, revised estimates, budget framework and next steps. "We are in a position to respond to future Ministry directives," Superintendent Putnam said.

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Update from John Rinella, Chair of the Board



Chair Rinella opened his address with the theme of Advent and anticipation for a great year ahead. He thanked his fellow trustees for supporting him in the role of Chair of the Board for 2019; and congratulated Vice-Chair Chapman on fulfilling her new leadership role: "Together with our colleagues on the Durham Catholic Board of Trustees and board staff, we look forward to living our mission as partners – serving with excellence, in the light of Christ." The Chair also extended welcoming words to the newest member of the Board of Trustees,

Morgan Ste. Marie, Trustee for the City of Oshawa. "His experience in leadership, Catholic family values and passion for our system will add to the strength of our dedicated team," he said.

The Chair expressed gratitude to staff and trustees for achieving many accomplishments in 2017-2018 – while building on faith through acts of service, kindness and joy, and the 2017 theme for Catholic Education Week – Renewing the Promise.

Chair Rinella acknowledged St. Christopher Catholic School for being recognized as finalists in the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association's (OCSTA) Short Video Contest under the theme of Community Builders. He encouraged everyone to visit the OCSTA website and vote for the St. Christopher Catholic School community in this challenge. [Click here to visit the contest website](#) and participate in the voting process. OCSTA will be accepting online votes between December 17 and December 31, 2018.

Chair Rinella spoke about the final phase of *Discovery 2020* and turned to the future, noting the upcoming consultation process and development of the next multi-year plan will begin in the new year, "renewing our journey in Catholic education with innovative ideas that support each and every student across the system."

The Chair thanked all Durham Catholic families for a wonderful year. "I look forward to continuing our Year of Joy together in 2019 where we will formally celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Durham Catholic District School Board in honour of the commitment and faith-centred connections that have been established over the years," he said. He also noted that many new and ongoing initiatives are documented in the 2018-2019 Board Improvement Plan, and that trustees will continue to see progress and updates on these activities at Regular Board Meetings. In closing of the final board meeting of 2018, Chair Rinella, on behalf of the Durham Catholic District School Board of Trustees, wished all Durham Catholic families, colleagues and partners a prayerful Advent season, filled with joy and happiness.

Highlights

from the December 17, 2018 Board Meeting Update from Anne O'Brien, Director of Education



Director O'Brien thanked everyone who attended the special Celebration of the Eucharist with Our Most Reverend Bishop Nguyen on December 3 at the Inaugural Board Meeting as trustees were guided in their Declaration of Oath. She thanked Chair John Rinella and Vice-Chair Tricia Chapman for accepting leadership positions for 2019. She also thanked Tricia Chapman and Monique Forster for their stewardship through 2018 in their respective roles of Chair and Vice-Chair; and all trustees for sharing their passion and commitment to Catholic education.

The Director thanked the Catholic learning community for a wonderful 2018. "It has been an amazing year as staff, students and families continuously witness, celebrate and proclaim the good news of the Gospel through their daily service," she said.

Director O'Brien noted continued progress under the guiding principles of Excellence, Equity and New Evangelization in the board's *Discovery 2020 Strategic Plan*. The [2017-2018 Balanced Scorecard](#) that was shared with trustees in June is available online, reporting on the actions that were taken in line with the *Student Well-Being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan*, and *Discovery 2020*. To animate these goals and actions, trustees have had opportunities to see the work that is taking place through various presentations on the board's 10 key themes at Regular Board Meetings throughout the year.

The Director thanked staff and trustees for their dedication and stewardship for Catholic Education: "It is a special time to be a Catholic school leader, educator or support staff. This year, as you know, we are celebrating our 50th anniversary – a commemorative year as a Catholic school system, and the Year of Joy. As a system, we witness first-hand the gift of Catholic education daily, and we are blessed to have amazing people who have chosen to live their vocation – whatever that may be – within our schools and offices. Together may we continue to share in the joy of our Catholic schools as we move into 2019."

In this final week of Advent, the Director reflected on what a blessing it is to the Durham Catholic District School Board to celebrate the season as a community with joy and anticipation. She extended extra prayers for those who may be facing challenges at this time; and best wishes to all Durham Catholic families for a joyous Christmas filled with peace and love.

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Motions

- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file the 2018-2019 Revised Estimates.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the 2018-2019 Revised Estimates.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive as information the Annual Audit Committee Activity Report.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information the Together for Mental Health Update: 2018-2019.
- That the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information, the staff presentation on the Young Parent School Program.

Minutes of the December 2018 Board Meeting will be posted on the Board website as part of the agenda for the next Regular Board Meeting of Monday, January 28, 2019.