



Trustee News

CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Todd Lalonde, Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Ronald Eamer, Vice-Chair (Cornwall-Glengarry)

Nancy Kirby (Lanark)

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Andrew D'Alessio (Catholic Student Trustee)

Guatemala Service Trip 2018

The CDSBEO Board of Trustees had the privilege of hearing testimonials from Catholic secondary students who had the opportunity to participate in the Guatemala exposure trip in February. Clearly moved by their life-changing, profound experiences, the group gave an emotional and heartfelt account of their time in Guatemala.

Twenty-five students from St. Mary Catholic High School, St. Luke Catholic High School, St. John Catholic High School, St. Michael Catholic High School, and Notre Dame Catholic High School, along with six supervisors, participated in the experience. The students spent the majority of the week in a village called Anibal Archila, working in the community. Over the course of their stay, the students painted homes, and helped to build a road with interlock stones which will help to reduce mud in the wet season, and reduce dust in the dry season.

"Although we think we are privileged for all the materialistic things that we possess, we soon discovered that these children are the ones who are truly blessed," noted Alicia McBride, a student from St. Michael CHS. "All the joy and happiness that we shared was their gift to us. They have a contagious smile, and they never once complained."

"Whenever we bought treats from the local shops, we were giving back to the community. Our donations of basic necessities helped families through tough times, and also helped students go to school. Our monetary donations helped to pay for the road building supplies, the paint, and even the local construction workers wages to assist us with our tasks. Spending our week in this community taught us the true meaning of service," noted Mary Cowan, from St. John Catholic High School.

"There are not enough words to describe how amazing and life changing the Guatemala exposure trip was," began Elora Wales, a student from St. Mary CHS. "The second we arrived we were welcomed with smiles, firecrackers, dancing, tears of joy, and an overwhelming sense of community and love."

The students expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to participate in the experience.

"I would like to compliment the students on their presentation tonight, and for sharing with us your emotions, and how this has affected your lives in a meaningful way," noted Vice-Chair Ron Eamer. "Thank you so much for sharing your experience with us."

"I would like to thank the staff. I know the dedication and leadership you brought will never be forgotten by these students," concluded Chair Todd Lalonde.

Draft 2018-2019 Enrolment Update and Grant Revenue

Board administration is finalizing the preliminary draft grant estimates for the 2018-2019 fiscal year, compared to the 2017-2018 Revised Estimates. Manager of Finance, Ashley Hutchinson, presented an overview of the 2018-2019 draft enrolment and grant revenues to the Board of Trustees.

"Grant revenue is based on projected enrolment as at October 2018 and March 2019. A slight decline of approximately 165 FTE is predicted for the next school year at this time, however, registrations continue to be received on a daily basis," explained Mrs. Hutchinson.

Grant highlights for the 2018-2019 school year include funding associated with the provincially negotiated labour settlements, as well as all provincial plans for employee health, life and dental benefits, and local priorities funding for OECTA and CUPE.

In Special Education, new funding has been allocated in the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) for multi-disciplinary teams, as well as an application based EPO (Education Program – Other) to address current wait lists for assessments.

"Additional grants have been included for grade 7 and 8 teacher funding to help engage students in career pathways planning," noted Mrs. Hutchinson. "A new EPO has also been added for mental health workers in secondary schools, as well as continued investments to reduce class sizes for Kindergarten, and grades 4 to 8."

Additional funding has also been provided for the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP). A new Program Leadership Allocation (PLA) was created which reallocates program leader funding from other areas of the Grants for Student Needs to Board Administration and Governance for Student Success, School Effectiveness, Mental Health, Early Years and Indigenous Education Leads. Other highlights include a 2 per cent cost update for plant operations to address rising utility and insurance, and a 4 per cent cost update for transportation.

"Some positive news is that two of the EPO's we've received in prior years have been transferred to the GSN," noted Mrs. Hutchinson. "Autism Supports and Training EPO, as well as the Early Years Lead EPO."

The Board will also receive approximately \$7.3 million in capital grants which will be used for various school condition improvement projects, school renewal, and retrofitting and accessibility priorities.