

Report to Catholic School Councils & Parents



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

February 2010

Revised school board estimates for 2009-2010 continue to show balanced budget

Trustees, at the January 12th meeting of the board, approved revised school board estimates for 2009-2010 totalling \$290,140,266 – a difference of \$652,298 from the original projection submitted in June 2009. The revised school board estimates contain an increase in Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of 187.5 elementary students and 205.45 secondary students since the original projection. Chairperson Patrick J. Daly says the revised estimates represent a balanced budget which enables the board to continue to offer the programs and services to which it has become accustomed. “But it does suggest caution,” he noted.

Board approves name of new Ancaster Catholic elementary school

Trustees also announced the name of the new Catholic elementary school in Ancaster, slated to open in September 2010. In consultation with Bishop Tonnos, the new school will be named **Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School**. Chairperson Patrick J. Daly expressed the Board’s appreciation to the bishop for his recommendation, citing the appropriateness of the name. “Immaculate Conception is a fitting choice in light of the names of our other Ancaster schools – Holy Name of Mary, St. Joachim and St. Ann – which all deal with the family of Jesus,” he said. Construction crews have begun to clear the site. Students will be housed at Holy Name of Mary Catholic Elementary School until the new school is ready for occupancy in January 2011.

Energy Efficient Schools Funding leads to \$4.8-million in school upgrades

At the February 1st meeting of the board, trustees approved \$4,881,567 in Energy Efficient Schools funding for the following roofing and energy related projects:

- lighting upgrades and related renovations at St. Charles Adult Education Centre–East 5th;
- small equipment upgrades at Cathedral High School;
- renovations to the cooling tower at St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School;
- roofing assessment and related repairs: and
- an energy analysis and related energy projects.

Leadership development and training focuses on mental wellness in the workplace

In its continued commitment to providing a respectful Catholic community workplace, the board organized a half day leadership development program for members of senior administration, principals, vice-principals, managers and supervisors which took place on January 28th. Developed in partnership with Trivaris, a local leadership innovation group, the session focused on the recognition of, and effective response to, mental health issues in the workplace. The Respectful Catholic Workplace Community Policy, which came into effect in September 2008, is a revision of the board’s former Policy against Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace. Its intent is to uphold the inherent right of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect and to work in a co-operative and supportive team environment.

Board conducts energy audits of its school facilities

The board has hired energy service provider Trane to conduct energy audits at various school facilities. The audits will identify major building components for repairs and upgrades in order to increase the energy efficiency of schools. The board has received \$4.8-million in Energy Efficient Schools Funding for energy audits and renewal projects. Funds will be used to upgrade outdated lighting systems, undertake roof repairs and increase roof insulation, as well as replace older systems in some of the secondary schools.

Culture of Life Leadership Conference expands youth understanding of life issues

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, in partnership with several neighbouring school boards, will be hosting the 6th Annual Culture of Life Leadership Conference on February 12th at the Nicholas Mancini Centre. The conference is geared to secondary students and home-schooled students with an interest in life issues. The conference will begin with an opening liturgy and finish with a mass at Cathedral of Christ the King. Fr. Tom Lynch will deliver the keynote address using his considerable knowledge on abortion and euthanasia to expand students' understanding of these issues.

Board offers Advanced Placement Grade 12 Calculus course at Cathedral

Beginning September 2010, the board will offer a new AP (Advanced Placement) Grade 12 Calculus course at Cathedral High School for high-achieving students who have met the course criteria. Upon successful completion of the program, participating students will receive a Grade 12 Calculus mathematics credit, and have the option of writing the AP exam to receive a Year 1 Calculus university credit from universities which recognize AP designations. A parent information session will be scheduled later in the year. The board hopes to offer AP courses in other academic disciplines in the near future.

Board develops Accessibility Standards for Customer Service

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was passed in 2005 to ensure equity for Ontarians of all abilities and disabilities. The goal is to have an Accessible Ontario by 2025. The AODA has defined five areas for which standards will be set: Customer Service; Built Environment; Employment; Information and Communication; and Transportation. The first area for which accessibility standards in Ontario have been developed is Customer Service. Compliance with this standard for the education sector is required by January 2010. Trustees, on January 19th, approved a draft policy and procedures for Customer Service, which includes notification of disruption of service, use of assistive devices, support persons and service animals, and monitoring and feedback. The policy can be viewed on the board website at <http://www.hwcdsb.ca/programs/student-services/>.

Collaborative inquiry/action research projects look to improve student achievement

The board will be conducting five collaborative inquiry/action research projects as part of this year's Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA) plan. The projects provide a systematic way for teams to explore issues and determine potential resolutions through collaborative inquiry, reflection and dialogue. Proposals accepted for funding include: Increasing female attitudes in mathematics, undertaken by Our Lady of Mount Carmel School; Empowering parents in supporting Early Learning student success (Holy Name of Jesus School); Improving oral literacy through Math Talk in Kindergarten boys in schools with high numbers of students living in poverty by member schools of the board's Equal Opportunities Project; iMATTER Mental Health supplement (Cardinal Newman School); and Raising Boys' Achievement in a Grade 4 Classroom (St. John the Baptist School). A written report is to be submitted by schools upon completion of the project.

Calendar

March 23, 6:00 p.m. – Religion, Family Life and Instructional Services Committee

April 6, 6:00 p.m. – Committee of the Whole

April 6, Immediately following Committee of the Whole – Board

* Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre, 90 Mulberry Street.

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