



# TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## OCTOBER 2025

*ON FIRE WITH THE SPIRIT*

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This summary provides an overview of the key reports, discussions, and decisions made during the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board Regular Board Meeting on October 27, 2025, framed by the three pillars of the Board's Strategic Plan: **AWAKEN, ILLUMINATE, and REJOICE.**

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### Catholic Faith Formation

The **Jubilee Lantern of Hope Project Report** highlighted a successful collaborative achievement across the Diocese of London. Following a blessing by Bishop Fabbro, the lantern officially began its pilgrimage across all Catholic boards within the Diocese, serving as a powerful symbol of spiritual unity and Huron-Perth Catholic DSB's leadership in faith.

Other highlights of faith in action included:

- **Board Highlights** noted strong school participation in **food drives** supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, emphasizing service to brothers and sisters.
- The **Green Leaders Program** at Holy Name of Mary Catholic School was noted for integrating Catholic Social Teachings, particularly *Laudato Si'*, into environmental education and student stewardship.
- The **Student Trustees' Report** detailed extensive religious and charitable events, including Thanksgiving liturgies, a student-led **Halloween for Hunger** drive, and the powerful impact of a Holocaust survivor's presentation to Grades 9 and 10 students.

### Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (EDIAR)

The **EDIAR Update** emphasized the Board's mandatory commitment to confronting systemic discrimination, centered around a critical action item: a **Mandatory Professional Development Day on November 21, 2025**. This day is specifically dedicated to dismantling systemic anti-Black racism, driven by professional and moral obligations to respond to reports like *Dreams Delayed*.

### Mathematics Achievement

The **Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) Update** summarized progress on the Ministry-mandated initiative, now in its second year. The plan centres on three core focus areas:

1. **Know the Curriculum**
2. **Know the Math**
3. **Know the Learner**

## Literacy Implementation

The monthly Board Highlights report detailed October's strategic focus on building educator capacity and implementing a structured approach to reading.

- The system launched its annual **Beginning-of-Year (BOY) Early Reading Screening cycle** (SK-Grade 2) to establish baseline data in foundational skills (Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency).
- The process is transitioning to a new digital platform (ALO) to ensure **real-time, actionable insights** for educators
- The implementation is supported by **one-to-one coaching** sessions with classroom teachers.

## Pathways and Experiential Learning

The Board Highlights detailed robust student participation in experiential learning programs designed to enrich career pathways:

- **Skilled Trades:** Students participated in the **Women in Skilled Trades (WIST)** Welding and Manufacturing Experience.
- **Dual Credit Programs:** A wide variety of programs were underway with post-secondary partners (Conestoga, Fanshawe, Lambton), including **Electrical, Plumbing, Gaming, and Introduction to Paramedicine**, allowing students to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously.
- **SHSM:** Students achieved mandatory certifications like **First Aid/CPR** and **GPS Training**, essential for their Specialist High Skills Major programs.

## Student Well-being and Attendance

The Mental Health and Well-being update confirmed that October was celebrated as **Attendance Awareness Month** ("Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow"). Progress on the **Attendance Action Plan** includes deploying stakeholder surveys to gather meaningful insights and providing targeted training to Special Education Resource Teachers to ensure consistent referral processes for students at risk of chronic absenteeism.

The Board received a delegation from Melissa McIssac bringing forward a petition requesting Board operated Before and After School Child Care where a third party provider is not available.

## Financial and Audit Oversight

The **Audit Committee September 2025 Meeting Report** confirmed that the Audit Committee received the **2024-25 External Audit Plan** from BDO Canada.

The **2025-26 Enrolment Update** showed a positive preliminary outlook. As of October 10, 2025, the Elementary enrollment was **3,387.0 FTE**, an **increase of 30.0 FTE** above budget estimates. Secondary enrollment also showed a slight increase, resulting in a healthy position heading into the final count date.

## Policy Review

- The Board recommended approval of the **Advocacy Policy** and **Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Policy**
- The **Uncertified Instructor** and **Children in Need of Protection** policies were received for review
- **Trustee Honoraria** for the 2025–2026 term were set at the maximum rates allowed by Regulation 357/06 (reflecting a minor decrease due to the enrollment calculation).

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- November 10, 2025 - SEAC Meeting
- November 11, 2025 - EDIAR Meeting
- November 12, 2025 - Audit Committee
- November 17, 2025 - Annual Board Meeting
- November 20, 2025 - Catholic Education Team meeting
- December 8, 2025 - Regular Board Meeting

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*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](mailto:directorsoffice@huronperthcatholic.ca).*