



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

AUGUST 2025

ON FIRE WITH THE SPIRIT

Catholic Faith Formation

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is committed to providing a Christ-centered learning environment and nurturing students' faith. The agenda for the August 25, 2025 Board meeting reflects this commitment through various initiatives.

- **Summer Faith Retreat for Staff:** A two-day retreat called "Instruments of God's Peace" was held on August 14-15 at the Benmiller Inn. It was attended by 18 staff members and aimed to provide an opportunity for faith renewal and community building. The retreat included shared and individual prayer, Christian meditation, Mass, and team-building activities, aligning with the Board's strategic goal to offer faith formation opportunities for staff.
- **Student and Staff Spiritual Development:** The meeting's opening prayer referenced the Catholic Education Week theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," and included intentions for leaders, the sick, and young people in the Board's care. The Board also approved a motion to rename Blessed Carlo Acutis Continuing Education School to Saint Carlo Acutis Continuing Education School following his canonization.
- **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (EDIAR):** The EDIAR Committee met on April 23, 2025, to review its action plan with a Catholic perspective, connecting it to the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations. Student representatives provided an oral report on EDIAR initiatives, including a video contest and acknowledging various heritage days. The Board also received a report on the Graduation Coach: Indigenous Student Support Advisor, Mr. Josh Pagan, who provides support for Indigenous students in secondary schools and those transitioning from elementary to secondary education.

Student Achievement

The Board is focused on improving student achievement through various academic and wellness initiatives.

- **Summer Writing Projects:** Reports were presented on the Literacy and Math Summer Writing Projects. The Literacy project created new grade-specific reading resources and multi-day lesson plans for teachers in Grades 1-8, with connections to the Ontario Language and Science and Technology Curriculums. The Math project expanded the K-8 Scope and Sequence to include adaptations for combined-grade classrooms and

Grade 9 lessons, addressing a significant need for equitable access to grade-level content.

- **Secondary Summer School:** The 2025 Secondary Summer School program was highly successful, with 260 students participating and earning a total of 286 credits. The pass rate was 99.98%. The program offered courses in Civics, Careers, and English, as well as Co-operative Education.
- **School Climate and Wellness:** A School Climate survey was conducted for students in grades 4-12 and parents from March 31 to April 11, 2025. The data from this survey will be used to inform school strategic plans. The Board also received an EDIAR Update report and approved the 2025-2026 EDIAR Work Plan.

Operations and Policies

The Board reviewed and approved several policies and reports related to its business and operations.

- **Policy Reviews:** The Board received reports on several policies for review and vetting by the community before final approval in September. These included policies on **School Generated Funds, Fraud Prevention and Management, Advocacy, and Smoking and Vaping on Property Under the Board's Jurisdiction.** The **Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals** policy was also reviewed, with Trustees requesting further review before approval.
- **Financial Reports:** The Board approved the **2025-2026 Draft Budget** with revenues and expenditures of \$85,889,896. It also received the **May 31, 2025 Financial Report**, which showed that year-to-date expenditures were on track at 75.7% of the total budget. The Audit Committee reported on the consolidated financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2024, noting a **surplus** and increases in revenue from Bill 124, investment income, and school fundraising.
- **St. Mary's School, Listowel Addition:** The Board awarded a contract to Elgin Contracting and Restoration Ltd. for the St. Mary's School, Listowel Classroom and Childcare Addition. The contract amount is **\$7,135,950.00** (HST inclusive), which is within the Ministry's allocated funding for the project.

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.