



WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Report to Parents and Taxpayers on the Board's **Rural Education Strategy**

In September of 2003 the Ministry of Education announced a \$50M Rural Education Strategy grant, intended to ensure quality education and student success in remote, rural, and northern schools.

For the current school year, five of the Board's elementary schools meet the Ministry's criteria to generate a grant. None of our secondary schools qualify.

The estimated Rural Education Strategy Grant provided for the 2003-2004 school year is \$96,129.

The Board used these funds to provide the following supports to our rural schools:

Increased Funding for School Budgets

Operating budgets of rural schools were increased by \$20,007 during the 2003-2004 school year to enhance each school's compliment of learning materials, library books, textbooks, and other necessary supplies.

Water Safety

Four of our rural schools use wells for drinking water. Significant upgrades and repairs to these wells were performed during the year to maintain optimal water quality and potability. The total cost for the year was \$18,840.

Increased Staffing

Additional staff time was allocated to our rural schools, resulting in increased safety and security during the school day. The salary and benefits costs for the additional staff were \$40,345.

Telecommunications Costs

The Board incurred increased costs amounting to \$522 to provide communication lines to qualifying schools. These increased costs were subsidized by the new grant.

Operational Supports

The geographic location and size of each qualifying school increased the cost of providing basic services such as building maintenance, staff travel, and inter-school mail delivery. Costs associated with operational supports amounted to \$18,414.

The cost of providing the supports described above totalled \$98,128.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board serves over 30,000 students in 48 elementary schools, 5 secondary schools, and 2 Adult Education facilities within the Region of Waterloo.

For more information, please contact
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"With the gift of the Catholic Faith, Our Mission is: Learning, growing and transforming the world together as faithful disciples of the Risen Lord."