

Our Catholic Schools 2006-07

**Waterloo Catholic District
School Board**

BOARD REPORT

Submitted: May 31, 2007

Appendix B

CODING TEMPLATE FOR GROUP REPORTS

(Please insert space, as needed if completing electronically OR add extra sheets)

School Board: Waterloo Catholic District School Board

Group (choose one - use one Coding Template per group report):

- School council
- School Staff
- Parish Council
- Student or Youth group
- Parent
- Community

X School board

- Catholic Women's League
- Knights of Columbus
- Other – please specify: _____

1. Distinctiveness: What did the group say about the distinctiveness of Catholic schools?

A.	Responses related to proclamation of the faith	Frequency
1	There is a God; God comes first; our Catholic religion	24
2	Jesus as our model in all that we do; we seek the kingdom of God	27
3	We are here to nourish the child on the journey to God	9
4	We are all worthwhile; Catholic identity; we are all created equal by a loving God	12
5	Dignity and sacredness of every human person	28
6	Life is a gift; positive understanding of human sexuality	8
7	Purity of heart, truth, desire what is right and good	3
8	Catholic values, gospel values lived out in school's discipline /organization, fundraising for causes	50
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

[Distinctiveness: What did the group say about the distinctiveness of Catholic schools?]

B.	Responses related to providing and supporting space and time for the sacred and the academic	Frequency
1	Space, time, reverence for the sacred	15
2	Retreat time, daily prayer; time to honour God	55
3	Time for academics, love of learning, excellence	2
4	Time to balance work and play with worship and service; balancing emotional, spiritual, physical and social; responsive to spiritual and academic needs	8
5	Catholic Religious Education taught each day	17
6	Celebration of the liturgical year (Eucharist, Advent, Lent, etc.); sacraments; clergy presence	64
7	Celebrate school name day	1
8	Catholic values integrated in all of the curriculum; reconciliation, forgiveness	37
9	Biblical analogies in conflict resolution; see God in everything we do	8
10	Teachers are Catholic; teachers grow in faith; pastoral role of staff	10
11	Catholic symbols (crucifixes, etc.), reflection centres in foyer and classrooms	24
12	Faith Based / Inclusive	3
13		
14		
15		

C.	Responses related to promoting the Catholic faith	Frequency
1	Family values and beliefs	17
2	Value parents and families; the first unit of the Church and of society	2
3	Vision co-nurtured by parents, trustees, administrators, teachers, students and wider Catholic public especially parish priests	12
4	School/parish partnerships; pastoral teams that provide community support	25
5	Social justice; peace on earth	18
6	A better world; a caring world	3
7	Respect the material world that God has entrusted to our care	1
8	Creating a Christian community to mirror the values of the Church; support role of the Church	29
9	Assuring stability, consistency, coherence	3
10	Tradition, continuity	9
11	Welcoming environment; safe and secure; caring, approachable environment	5
12	Mandatory community service which is exemplary	6
13	Social responsibility, communal perspective; sense of service	16
14		
15		

[Distinctiveness: What did the group say about the distinctiveness of Catholic schools?]

D.	Other Responses	Frequency
1	Value the on-site chapel, chaplain and peer ministry at secondary level	1
2		
3		
4		

TOP 5 RESPONSES TO QUESTION #1 IN 2000

1. Catholicity
2. Discipline
3. Vision
4. Social teachings and stewardship
5. Values

2. Value: What did the group say they value about Catholic schools?

A.	Responses related to proclamation of the faith	Frequency
1	There is a God; God comes first; our Catholic religion	9
2	Jesus as our model in all that we do; we seek the kingdom of God	8
3	We are here to nourish the child on the journey to God	13
4	We are all worthwhile; Catholic identity; we are all created equal by a loving God	11
5	Dignity and sacredness of every human person	16
6	Life is a gift; positive understanding of human sexuality	2
7	Purity of heart, truth, desire what is right and good	1
8	Catholic values, gospel values lived out in school's discipline organization, fundraising; bring Scriptures to life; Christ centered learning environment	53
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

[Value: What did the group say they value about Catholic schools?]

B.	Responses related to providing and supporting space and time for the sacred and the academic	Frequency
1	Space, time, reverence for the sacred; time to gather and celebrate; profess and grow in faith	21
2	Retreat time, daily prayer; time to honour God; share our faith	26
3	Time for academics, love of learning, excellence	2
4	Time to balance work and play with worship and service; balancing emotional, spiritual, physical and social; responsive to spiritual and academic needs	7
5	Catholic Religious Education taught each day	6
6	Celebration of the liturgical year (Eucharist, Advent, Lent, etc.)	23
7	Clergy presence in schools	1
8	Sacramental program; school involvement in preparation for and delivery of sacraments	16
9	Celebrate school name day	
10	Catholic values integrated in all of the curriculum; reconciliation, forgiveness	32
11	Biblical analogies in conflict resolution; see God in everything we do	3
12	Teachers are Catholic; teachers grow in faith	12
13	Catholic symbols (crucifixes, etc.), reflection centres in foyer and classrooms	3
14		
15		

[Value: What did the group say they value about Catholic schools]

C.	Responses related to promoting the Catholic faith	Frequency
1	Family values and beliefs; discipline	11
2	Value parents and families; the first unit of the Church and of society	
3	Vision co-nurtured by parents, trustees, administrators, teachers, students and wider Catholic public especially parish priests	7
4	School/parish partnerships; pastoral teams that provide community support; church, home school connection	17
5	Social justice; peace on earth; tolerance	6
6	A better world; a caring world; condemn third world exploration and corporate greed	
7	Respect the material world that God has entrusted to our care	1
8	Creating a Christian community to mirror the values of the Church; support role of the Church	9
9	Assuring stability, consistency, coherence, solidarity, shared destiny community	6
10	Tradition, continuity, history	6
11	Welcoming environment; safe and secure; caring, approachable environment	13
12	Mandatory community service which is exemplary	
13	Social responsibility, communal perspective; sense of service; transform society	11
14	Promoting unity and distinctiveness through use of uniforms in schools	4
15		

D.	Other	Frequency
1	Increase in number of non Catholic students	3
2	Increase in new Canadians, who may or may not be Catholic, who choose our system because of the freedom to pray and discuss faith issues	3
3		

TOP 5 RESPONSES TO QUESTION #2 IN 2000

1. Tradition, continuity and history
2. Freedom to express our faith
3. Holistic education and the sharing of common values
4. The development of a faith community
5. Evangelization

3. What did the group say about their future hopes for Catholic schools?

A.	Responses related to proclamation of the faith	Frequency
1	God to remain at the centre of our educational system	13
2	Continue to live as witnesses of the Catholic faith	23
3	Continue to have pride and respect for the Catholic faith	9
4	Remain faith-driven rather than business-oriented	10
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

B.	Responses related to providing and supporting space and time for the sacred and the academic	Frequency
	<i>Curriculum, programs</i>	
1	Graduate expectations	13
2	Faith programs for staff and parents; include parents, draw parents, inform parents	12
3	Curriculum to continue to revolve around service	1
	<i>Funding</i>	
4	Increased funding	14
5	Increased resources for teachers	2
6	Hire pastoral assistants to help promote faith in schools, to facilitate church and school programs	6
7	Continue to attract teachers committed to the mission of the Church	7
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

[What did the group say about their future hopes for Catholic schools?]

C.	Responses related to promoting the Catholic faith	Frequency
	<i>Parish, school, home</i>	
1	Strengthened Church-school-family relations; greater collaboration between parent and school councils and schools	50
2	More parental involvement in faith development; more parent volunteers	21
3	Increased School Council involvement in faith development and other aspects of education	24
4	Increased youth ministry; local churches more welcoming; enhancement of youth spiritual life	13
5	More visible clergy in schools	16
	<i>Society, General</i>	
6	Preserve right to retain Catholic schools; continue to exist as a system	22
7	Catholic community remain united	5
8	Clergy take a public stand	
9	Defend the value and distinctiveness of our schools	14
10	Strong leadership	3
11	Prepare youth for leadership roles	4
12	Continue traditions	7
13	Continue to teach and live social teaching, transform society, social justice	28
14	Challenge morally and spiritually dangerous elements in society	4
15	Provide appropriate skills to make a positive difference in the community	5
16	Ensure positive public image and general acceptance	7

D.	Other	Frequency
1	The Catholic Church needs to make the necessary changes in the Church itself. As society has changed the Church has remained the same always. Change is the one constant force that needs to be recognized.	2
2	Teachers who teach religion should be qualified Secondary religion teachers should have Religion major	3
3	Update Religion & Family Life resources	3
4	Technologically savvy so when we get a different framework for teaching we are able to educate/connect with students about our faith.	1

TOP 6 RESPONSES TO QUESTION #3 IN 2000

- 1. That we continue to exist**
- 2. More parental involvement**
- 3. Hopes for school councils**
- 4. Remain faith driven**
- 5. Graduate expectations**
- 6. Stronger presence of the clergy in the schools**

4. What did the group say were the major issues facing Catholic Education now and in the future?

A.	Responses related to proclamation of the faith	Frequency
1	Apathy and indifference	19
2	Keep commitment to Catholic faith (teachers, parents, students)	27
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

B.	Responses related to providing and supporting space and time for the sacred and the academic	Frequency
	<i>Curriculum, programs</i>	
1	Keep faith integrated into the curriculum	33
2	Unrealistic expectations	
3	Few courses offered, loss of students	9
	<i>Time</i>	
4	To include everything in a school day; to include religious education	16
	<i>Funding</i>	
4	Funding in light of UN recommendation; funding formula; impact of politicians	27
5	Increased funding for faith oriented programs, retreats, professional development	19
6	Increased funding for resources	14
	<i>Human resources</i>	
7	Lack of /shortage of priests; poor visibility of priests in schools	20
8	Shortage of catholic teachers	
9	Teachers must practice faith; Catholicity of teachers	16
10	Teacher morale, teacher in-servicing in curriculum	7
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

[What did the group say were the major issues facing Catholic Education now and in the future?]

C.	Responses related to promoting the Catholic faith	Frequency
	<i>Parish, school, home</i>	
1	Lack of home support; few families attend church; increasing numbers of students who are not baptized; lack of involvement of parents in child's faith development	50
2	Church must support schools; greater church involvement	15
	<i>Society, General</i>	
3	Poor public support, public relations, low stakeholder involvement	5
4	Lack of political support, government support; impact of political decisions; competing interests between Catholics and government	8
5	Poor leadership	2
6	Continue to exist as a system	18
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

D.	Other	Frequency
1	Home/school/parish triangle needs to be revitalized	3
2	Religion Teachers must have background & solid understanding of Catholic culture, social teaching and scripture	3
3	Stream Gr. 9 & 10 Religion courses so that teachers (and students) can have a realistic focus for class lessons & preparation.	2
4	In-service all secondary Religion Teachers on a regular basis to ensure consistency among classes and schools.	2
5	In-service in Family Life issues to enable them to teach Catholic Social Teachings and not opinion. This will also enable teachers to answer difficult questions within the framework of Catholic teachings.	2
6	Very traditional and rigid – need for flexibility and accommodation of new music, forms of prayer, masses for children	1
7	Growing number of non-Catholics attending catholic schools	3
8.	Declining enrolment	3

TOP 4 RESPONSES TO QUESTION #4 IN 2000

- 1. Our continued existence**
- 2. Resources: financial, material, human**
- 3. Apathy and indifference**
- 4. Curriculum**

5. What did the group say about how to promote and protect Catholic education for the future?

A.	Responses related to proclamation of the faith	Frequency
1	Maintain Catholic distinctiveness	20
2	Communicate our values	26
3	Fight complacency	7
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

B.	Responses related to providing and supporting space and time for the sacred and the academic	Frequency
1	More integration of Catholic values all courses; teach faith reflection	15
2	Ensure that staff are committed to the Catholic faith, promote teacher renewal	10
3	Establish clear Ontario Catholic Graduate expectations	10
4	Increased time for prayer, retreats, discussions in media, yearly Spiritual Development day	12
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

[What did the group say about how to promote and protect Catholic education for the future?]

C.	Responses related to promoting the Catholic faith	Frequency
1	Increased church support; develop grass roots pastoral teams; ensure more church visibility in schools	23
2	Involve parents, expose them to school culture, educate them about issues; School councils more politically involved and vocal; more evidence of Catholicism of new students	36
3	Dialogue among partners; work together with stakeholders, schools, communities, parishes, ICE; solidarity; collaborative approach; greater ties between elementary and secondary	20
4	Ensure trustee and administrator visibility at the grassroots level	4
5	Widespread, ongoing media and advertising; market our distinctiveness province wide	12
6	Publicly demonstrate our distinctiveness; gain society consensus that our graduates are different	11
7	Raise awareness, PR, educate the public regarding our system and history	17
8	Political mobilization; lobby government; advocate to Bishops and others; support politicians who support present constitutional rights; promote funding for all religious schools	14
9	Assume leadership roles, develop strong leadership; identify and empower articulate, well-informed Catholics; write letters to editors; be pro-active	4
10	Ensure schools are welcoming communities and are visibly distinctive	8
11	Celebrate and promote distinctiveness by «walking the talk»	21
12	Values must take priority over the economy	
13	Promote more community service	4
14		
15		

D.	Other	Frequency
1	Update & Modernize Religion Program	2
2	Ensure tax support is correctly directed	2
3	Church needs to change with times- should continue with youth ministers to help bridge the gap between school and church. Needs to be more relevant to youth	3
4	Incorporate Character Education and values into curriculum	4

TOP 4 RESPONSES TO QUESTION #5 IN 2000

- 1. Communication and dialogue among partners**
- 2. Leadership**
- 3. Public relations**
- 4. Catholicity**

6. What else did the group want to tell their local school board and the Institute for Catholic Education?

A.	Responses related to proclamation of the faith	Frequency
1	We must remain faith-based and not driven by money	8
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

B.	Responses related to providing and supporting space and time for the sacred and the academic	Frequency
1	Staff need more spiritual guidance on PD days; regular classroom teachers need more support; teacher programs	5
2	More Church presence in schools	5
3	Opportunities such as this to share convictions beliefs are appreciated	7
4	Board funded mandatory Religious Ed courses for teachers	
5	Lobby to ensure equitable distribution of funding; full funding for all	2
6	Increased time for prayer, retreats, discussions, in media, yearly Spiritual Development day	6
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

[What else did the group want to tell their local school board and the Institute for Catholic Education?]

C.	Responses related to promoting the Catholic faith	Frequency
1	Trustees must assume strong leadership roles; write letters to editors; be pro-active; must be seen and heard	1
2	Trustees must be more supportive of Catholic schools in terms of public recognition and appreciation of efforts	5
3	Strengthen ties with Church and community	6
4	Be aware that the school has replaced the Church for some families	4
5	Support measures taken to educate parents in curriculum changes	
6	Ensure dialogue among partners; work together with stakeholders, schools, communities, parishes, ICE; solidarity; collaborative approach; united voice	5
7	Increase communication	2
8	Support efforts to publicly demonstrate our distinctiveness; gain societal consensus that our graduates are different	1
9	Raise awareness, PR, educate the public regarding our system and history	5
10	Political involvement; continue political mobilization; lobby government to ensure viability of the Catholic system; advocate to Bishops and others; support politicians who support present constitutional rights	3
11	Stand up for Catholicity; be supportive, be aware, be proactive	13
12		
13		
14		
15		

D.	Other	Frequency
1	Be aware of the changing demographics within our area, birthing rates, immigration, etc.	2
2		
3		
4		

TOP 3 RESPONSES TO QUESTION #6 IN 2000

- 1. Leadership**
- 2. Communication and Advocacy**
- 3. Funding**

Appendix C

CODING TEMPLATE FOR INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

School Board: **WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

1. Distinctiveness: What was said during this group discussion that you would like your local school board and the Institute for Catholic Education to pay particular attention to?

	Responses	Frequency
1	Inclusion – feeling of being valued even ‘if not’ a ‘perfect’ Catholic	3
2	Meeting the needs of students with learning needs – IEP’s	6
3	The supporting faith environment between home, school and church is very important. Every aspect of our faith is entwined within all activities and we are free to express our faith and beliefs in a supportive environment. Overall education is more holistic.	1
4	To get the parents of their children more involved in discussions such as the one on Ontario’s Catholic Schools and their future	3
5	Catholic educators and parents were surprised by some of the provided reading material. Parents especially were unaware that there is a threat to Catholic Education.	1
6	We value catholic education. There was a lack of awareness of what it would mean to teach in a school that is non-Catholic. Educators do not seem to realize how different it would be. In general, there is a lot of complacency out there and perhaps all staff need to have heightened awareness.	1
7	The true morals and ethics and values we need to focus on because of the changes in our society that are far too liberal, chaotic, and indecent.	1
8	Too many parents not even remotely involved in the faith formation of their children. Parents seem to be dumping the entire job of faith formation on the schools.	1
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

2. What is the most important issue you personally think your school board and the Institute for Catholic Education should address?

	Responses	Frequency
1	Benefit of Catholic salvation by being involved in the community	3
2	IEP students – getting test done quicker	3
3	How can we make the study of Religion more meaningful in school?	1
4	Why is it acceptable for students to be unsuccessful in Religion in secondary schools?	1
5	There should be more of an attempt to have elementary and secondary teachers work together on a scope and sequence chart for Religion. It needs to be seen as very important, not something that can be forgotten so other Ministry expectations can be met.	1
6	We need to be concerned about the newer teachers in our Catholic system. Some younger teachers are as ‘unchurched’ as the students and believe they can express their opinion rather than teach the Catholic teachers. We have let ‘freedom of speech and opinion’ go a little far.	1
7	The most important issue is to raise awareness within parents and those who work within the Catholic system how important Catholic Education is and that there is a real possible threat to how our children could be education in the future. We are providing an important framework for our children who will be our future leaders.	1
8	That Sunday school is offered to be taught from religious educated people and daycare is available; it should not have to be a burden of the individual churches and the parents.	1
9	The board taking a more immediate approach to both streamlining the curriculum and updating the religion programs so that both may work together in an efficient and spiritually beneficial manner. Aligning religion programming with curriculum content and practices to show the Board isn’t merely placing the student’s faith formation blindly on the shoulders of educators.	1
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

3. What would be the one or two things you would like to see changed in Catholic Education?

	Responses	Frequency
1	School masses in the p.m. to include p.m. JK/SK or at different times throughout the day.	3
2	Change length of time for testing of special needs students	1
3	See the church come to the students more. They are the key to future faith development. Church must adapt and be more accessible.	1
4	More opportunity for Faith Formation for ALL staff	1
5	More qualified Religion teachers in our secondary schools. This means a degree in Religious Studies, not parts 1, 2, and 3.	1
6	Religion courses in secondary school in Gr. 9 and 10 should be streamed as it is in Gr. 11 and 12 so the curriculum can be rigorous and seen to be worthwhile to the students. They also should have to pass one grade before they proceed to another. The current practice devalues the curriculum and program.	1
7	Faith Formation needs to be valued in our Board. The experience of the CELF program was extremely successful. None of the evaluations were negative and those who took part in the program found it to be very valuable. As Sister Claire said "show me your budget and I will show you your priorities'. We need to spend money on Faith Formation for our leaders.	1
8	New religion program.	1
9	Investigate ways and resources to make our faith alive for our students. Maintain our 'uniqueness' and legacy of being counter-cultural. Resources in libraries should be monitored. Retreats for our students, especially high school students.	1
10	Be a visible sign of our faith promoting our students accomplishments.	1
11	It is hard to say we value Catholic Education when we overlook behaviours that are wrong without being judgemental.	1
12		
13		
14		
15		

4. Other Comments

	Responses	Frequency
1	Continue sharing faith throughout the day – love of school	3
2	Focus on IEP students/meeting individual needs	2
3	Unless we address some of these important issues, we only have ourselves to blame if we lose the opportunity for Catholic Education. As Sister Clair said, we may be crumbling from within.	1
4	Catholic Education is indeed a blessing.	1
5	Catholic Education is a legacy which needs to be fought for. We would be doing our children a disservice by not incorporating our faith and belief into every fabric of our children’s lives. Those who work within education, parents and clergy all need to be re-energized to keep our traditions with the Catholic System alive.	1
6	The school board needs to make more obvious attempts at placing faith formation as a priority within our schools. While we find funding to create French emersion schools within our system, cut residential retreat programs, and hire more and more supervisory level administrators, our students use 15 year old resources taught to them by untrained educators.	1
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		