



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

Date: Monday, August 24, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m.

** Committee of the Whole In Camera, if necessary, will precede or follow the Board Meeting, as appropriate.*

Location: Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber St. W., Unit A, Kitchener, ON – Boardroom (1st Floor)

Attendees:

Board of Trustees:

Bill Conway (Chair), Manuel da Silva, Kevin Dupuis, Jeanne Gravelle, Wendy Price, Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen, Tracey Weiler

Student Representatives:

Abby Barbosa & Kate Morrison

Senior Administration:

Loretta Notten, Jason Connolly, Maria Ivankovic, John Klein, Shesh Maharaj, Judy Merkel, Richard Olson, Laura Shoemaker

Special Resource:

Recording Secretary:

Alice Figueiredo

ITEM	Who	Agenda Section	Method & Outcome
1. Call to Order	B. Conway		
1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials	Board Pastoral Team		
1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement I (we) would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral People. I (we) also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.	B. Conway		
1.3 Approval of Agenda	Board of Trustees		Approval
1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest	Individual Trustees		
1.4.1 From the current meeting			
1.4.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting			
1.5 Items for Action: Private, Private meeting of July 20, 2020 regarding Human Resource Services matters.	Board of Trustees		
2. Consent Agenda: Director of Education (e.g.: day –to –day operational matters from the Ministry of Education that the Board is required to do)			
3. Consent Agenda: Board (Minutes of meetings, staff report)			

ITEM	Who	Agenda Section	Method & Outcome
3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings 3.1.1 Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes of July 20 th , 2020	Board of Trustees	pp. 4-6	Approval
4. Delegations/Presentation			
5. Advice from the CEO			
5.1 Update on School Re-Opening	L. Notten	pp. 7-10	Information
6. Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)			
7. Reports from Board Committees/Task Forces			
8. Board Education (at the request of the Board)			
8.1 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications	B. Conway	pp. 11-30	Information
9. Policy Discussion			
10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance			
11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance			
11.1 Monitoring Reports & Vote on Compliance			
12. Potential Agenda Items/Trustee Inquiry Report (CEO)			
12.1 Trustee Inquiry Report from the CEO			
12.2 Shared concerns			
13. Announcements			
13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated): •Sept 9: SEAC (Virtual) •Sept 14: Committee of the Whole Meeting •Sept 25: OCSTA Regional Mtg (Virtual) •Sept 28: Board of Trustees' Meeting •Sept 30: Audit Committee			
13.2 Pending Items: 13.3 Pending Items for OCSTA Consideration	<u>Committee/Task Force</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
14. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda	Trustees		
15. Adjournment Confirm decisions made tonight	Director of Education		
15.1 Confirm Decision made tonight	Recording Secretary	--	Information

ITEM	Who	Agenda Section	Method & Outcome
16. Closing Prayer			
17. Motion to Adjourn	Board of Trustees	Motion	Approval

CLOSING PRAYER

O Risen Lord, you have entrusted us with the responsibility to help form a new generation of disciples and apostles through the gift of our Catholic schools.

As disciples of Christ, may we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God's world.

May our Catholic schools truly be at the heart of the community, fostering success for each by providing a place for all.

May we and all whom we lead be discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith community; effective communicators; reflective and creative thinkers; self-directed, responsible, life-long learners; collaborative contributors; caring family members; and responsible citizens.

Grant us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we might always be faithful to our responsibilities.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Rev. Charlie Fedy, CR and the Board of Trustees, 2010



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 20, 2020 via Virtual Meeting.

Trustees Present:

Bill Conway (Chair), Kevin Dupuis, Manuel da Silva, Jeanne Gravelle, Wendy Price, Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen, Tracey Weiler

Student Trustees Present:

Rori Schaefer

Administrative Officials Present:

Loretta Notten, Jason Connolly, Maria Ivankovic, John Klein, Shesh Maharaj, Judy Merkel, Richard Olson, Laura Shoemaker

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:

Meghan Cymbron

Recorder:

Alice Figueiredo, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 5.7 all Board decisions made by consensus are deemed the equivalent of a unanimous vote. A consensus decision is therefore deemed to be a vote of 9-0. Under Board by-law 5.11 every Trustee "shall vote on all questions on which the Trustee is entitled to vote" and abstentions are not permitted.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials

The meeting opened with prayer led by Trustee Gravelle.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

The Territorial Acknowledgement was declared by Trustee Conway.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

2020-104-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva seconded by Trustee Price:

THAT the agenda for Monday, July 20th, 2020, be now approved. --- Carried by *consensus*.

1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

1.3.1 From the current meeting – NIL

1.3.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting – NIL

1.5 Items for Action: None

2 Consent Agenda: Director of Education (e.g. day-to-day operational matters from the Ministry of Education that the board is required to do)

3 Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees (Minutes of meetings)

- Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings

3.1.1 Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes of July 13th, 2020

2020-105- It was moved by Trustee Dupuis and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

THAT the Consent Agenda Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved. --- Carried by consensus

4 Delegations

5 Advice from the CEO

5.1 South West Kitchener Administrative Boundary Adjustments

Superintendent Maharaj along with Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning provided the Board of Trustees with a report on Administrative Boundary Adjustments for Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Grace, St. Timothy, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha. No students are affected by these minor adjustments, and as such, no community consultation is required.

5.2 Revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Superintendent Klein provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the Revised 2020-2021 School Year Calendar. In response to the Minister's memo sent during the summer, it was requested that the April 23, 2021 PA day be moved to September 1, 2020 thereby allowing school and board staff the opportunity to better prepare for the challenges and student learning needs anticipated in ensuing year. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.3 Board Policy IV 007 Monitoring Report & 2020-21 Budget Approval

Superintendent Maharaj provided an overview of the budget proposal and requested approval from the Board of Trustees.

2020-106- It was moved by Trustee Dupuis and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

1. That the Board of Trustees accept this report as providing evidence that the CEO is compliant with Board Policy IV007 "Financial Planning/Budgeting". --- **Carried by consensus**

2020-107- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Reitzel:

2. That the Board of Trustees approve an operating budget of \$ 294,265,198 for the 2020-2021 school year as presented to the Board. --- **Carried by consensus**

2020-108- It was moved by Trustee Van Alphen and seconded by Trustee da Silva:

3. That the Board of Trustees approve a capital budget of \$20,479,676 for the 2020-2021 school year as presented to the Board. --- **Carried by consensus**

2020-109- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Gravelle:

4. That the Board of Trustees directs Administration to file this balanced budget with the Ministry of Education before the deadline of August 19, 2020. --- **Carried by consensus**

5.4 Update on School Re-Opening (Presentation)

Director Notten provided the Board of Trustees with an update on the School Re-opening plan to date. Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

6 Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)

7 Actions From Board Committees/Task Forces

8 Board Education (at the request of the Board)

8.1 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications

Chair Conway briefly discussed communications. Trustees discussed concerns with respect to Economic Recovery Act, Bill 197 and whether Trustees should draft a letter to the Minister of Education to express concerns with amendments to the Education Act. Trustees agreed to compose letter stating concerns with passing Bill 197 without consultation.

2020-110- It was moved by Trustee Van Alphen and seconded by Trustee Reitzel:

That the Board of Trustees directs the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Ministry of Education, Waterloo Region MPPs and the President of OCSTA expressing our concerns regarding Bill 197, specifically the proposed amendments to the Education Act. Furthermore, we request that Boards be consulted and provided the opportunity to provide feedback on the amendments contained in Bill 197. --- Carried by consensus

9 Policy Discussion

10 Assurance of Successful Board Performance

11 Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

11.1 Monitoring Reports & Vote on Compliance

12 Potential Agenda Items

12.1 Trustee Inquiry Report from the CEO

12.2 Shared Concerns

13 Announcements

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated):

- Sept 14: Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Sept 28: Board of Trustees' Meeting

13.2 Pending Items:

13.3 Pending Items for OCSTA Consideration

14 Items for the Next Meeting Agenda

15 Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.

15.1 The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

15.2 Private, private

2020-111 -- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Dupuis:

THAT the meeting moves into Private, Private 07:38 p.m.

16 Closing Prayer

17 Motion to Adjourn

2020-112 -- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Dupuis:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 08:00 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary



Date: Aug 24th, 2020
To: Board of Trustees
From: Director of Education
Subject: Presentation on WCDSB Re-Opening Plans

Type of Report:

- ☐ Decision-Making
- ☐ Monitoring
- ☒ Incidental Information concerning day-to-day operations

Type of Information:

- ☐ Information for Board of Trustees Decision-Making
- ☐ Monitoring Information of Board **Policy IV 012**
- ☒ Information only of day-to-day operational matters delegated to the CEO

Origin: (cite Education Act and/or Board Policy or other legislation)

Executive Limitation IV 012 Communication to Board

Policy Statement and/or Education Act/other Legislation citation:

Policy 1 001 Ends
Policy IV 013 Leadership

Alignment to the MYSP:

Strategic Priority: Nurturing Our Catholic Community

Strategic Priority: Student Engagement, Achievement and Innovation

Strategic Priority: Building Capacity to Lead, Learn and Live Authentically

Background/Comments:

At the current time the province, parents, students and school boards all across Ontario and indeed the country are consumed with the dialogue about the re-opening of schools under our new reality. COVID-19 has changed the landscape of a traditional school experience and senior staff of boards have been faced with the task of planning for this new reality. Parents are faced with choices, as they try to determine what will be in the best interest of their children.

It is not an exaggeration to indicate that the senior staff of WCDSB and many others have been working throughout the summer to process and plan for the evolving landscape. On July 27th the senior team of the WCDSB met with a team from the Ministry to vet or plans and answer any questions they might have. Meetings have also been occurring throughout the summer with Waterloo Region Public Health, we have attended weekly Ministry briefings, have met with the public board and with other neighbouring regional boards. The senior team has also met throughout the summer.



The Ministry of Education released its *Guidance for Re-Opening of Schools* on July 30th and a comprehensive of the WCDSB plan for re-opening was communicated to our broader WCDSB staff, parent and student community by the following day. [WCDSB Plan Found Here](#) It was also accompanied by a survey which invited parents to comment on their plans for return- that is, their intent to send their child face to face or to learn remotely, their choice as to whether they would use Extended Day services, and their readiness to learn in terms of technology and internet. This survey closed on August 10th, but staff have continued to reach out to all outstanding student families as we work toward 100% response rate. There was also a separate survey in relation to Transportation. Staff were also surveyed to determine if they would be requesting a medical accommodation.

On August 13th the Minister held a press conference and on the same day a PPM on synchronous learning expectations was then released. On August 18th the Minister of Education and Deputy Minister released a supplementary memo outlining their expectations for secondary timetables. At time this report is going to print we are still awaiting the provincial Outbreak Protocol, as well as the Ministry materials connected to the 3 PA Days at the beginning of the school year.

In our discussions, we have tried to inform our decision with key Guiding Principles. Each of these lenses have played a significant role in our decision making. At the top of the list is the need to respect health and safety of our staff and students. We know this is the top priority for all involved and justifiably so. The additional lenses that hold high profile for us were student-centered learning and well-being, equity, consultation with partners and stakeholders, human resources and our ability to staff our programs and our ability to adapt and pivot between the three possible modalities.

The WCDSB published its models on July 31st. On August 19th the Ministry of Education requested a meeting with the WCDSB and on August 20th that meeting occurred. A slight revision to the secondary model has resulted and our Re-Opening Plans can once again be found (once updated) at the following link: <https://www.wcdsb.ca/plan-for-re-opening-schools/> The model prioritizes the health and safety of students by limiting their contact to their own cohort of 15 and by maximizing instruction time but creating full cohort instructional periods for their second class of the day – accessed synchronously – in a live but remote environment, i.e., student's home.

As mentioned WCDSB sent home a parent survey on July 31st. While the survey closed on August 10th, we were still missing over 10% of student responses and staff have been actively working to retrieve those responses. As this report went to print we have 19,932 students or 87% of all respondents indicating they are returning to face to face learning. 2,914 respondents or 13% have elected to begin the year through remote learning. We have records indicating approximately 2,094 outstanding surveys. The numbers may not be 100% accurate due to parents who changed their mind and re-submitted answers but this represents a fairly accurate picture. We have noted that many schools have response rates for face to face learning comfortably in the 90's (percentage) and we have some schools that have as many as 30% of parents who have indicated they will opt for remote learning.

There will be significant budget impacts as a result of COVID-19 re-opening plans. Given the number of students who have opted for remote learning (13%), we will now have to work to staff those additional classes. This could amount to a significant cost pressure as we are essentially now creating a new elementary and secondary school in a virtual environment. Further our survey revealed approximately 7652 requests (33% of all respondents) for additional technology and learning devices, which would virtually deplete our entire Chromebook inventory. Staff are investigating how many represent students who were already part of our 2800 Chromebooks that we distributed last spring – that we did not collect again.

There will also be significant unfunded costs to maintain the level of PPE that is necessary. A quick illustration is 1.6 million for disposable masks and \$300,000 to cover 3 masks per student over the course of the year should they forget or lose their own cloth mask (grades 4-12). If we require more, the cost will grow. Further there are ongoing costs associated with gloves, face shields and gowns. Other costs are associated with disinfecting wipes, disinfecting spray, hand sanitizer, transportation costs associated with our early dismissal in secondary to preserve a singular cohort (approximately \$750,000). Based on our incurred costs in the 2019-2020 school year of \$2,635,367 and our estimated COVID costs for 2020-21 of \$8,795,194 (which does not fully take into account our staffing pressures), we can anticipate a shortfall of \$6,694,245. We may be able to pool resources such as savings where MGCS funds purchases (although we do not have a commitment that they will fund the purchases they provide), and by using the \$700,000 in our WCDSB surplus revenues that was earmarked for computers, as well as



those costs we had already budgeted for in development of our 2020-2021 budget for COVID, and by so doing, reduce that potential cost to closer to \$1.3 million in shortfall. All that said – we do not know if we will have revenue shortfalls as a result of the differential between approved budget and actual enrollment, or as a result of the cost of staffing we may incur due to absences or needing to fill teaching positions in our virtual school.

Senior staff have been working on Operational Guidelines for staff and for schools in general. They will be live on our WCDSB website as of Friday afternoon and may be accessed then at www.wcdsb.ca. An additional comprehensive operational guide has been provided to Administrators reviewing protocols under all three modalities of operation. Buildings have been updated, with HVAC systems cleaned, signage installed and classrooms re-configured. Extensive purchases have been made in the area of PPE and for other materials to support building safety requirements. A policy has been developed in relation to masking for students. We have 3 Professional Activity Days planned for staff and this will provide us an opportunity to ensure our staff are ready to welcome back our students.

Masking has been a topic of considerable debate and there is even significant disagreement amongst regional Public Health units as to their merits for children in grades kindergarten to 3. The CMOH and Ministry of Education has provided us with the direction that we should use “*encouraged use*” in those grades. The Waterloo Regional Public Health Department has used the wording “*strongly encouraged*.” Our policy reflects the best medical advice and science we were able to access. There is an acknowledged risk to younger children when they wear masks and may play with them or touch them often, if they are not developmentally ready to leave them alone for a full day. This is seen as a risk to the child and why some public health units have been categorical in saying they should not be worn. Therefore WCDSB policy reflects the language “*strongly encouraged*” in grades K – 3.

In the memo of August 18th, the Minister provided for the possibility of a staggered entry to the school year. After careful consideration staff have determined that the most prudent course of action is to allow for the following:

- a. Kindergarten is already staggered, and will add students throughout the first week
- b. Elementary start will be staggered with
 - i. Gr 1-2 Tuesday,
 - ii. Grade 3-4 Wed.,
 - iii. Gr 5-6 – Thurs and
 - iv. 7-8 Friday; (this will allow for more teachers to be available to support younger students in learning routines in their updated learning environment)
- c. Secondary – per normal, (as the Adapted model under which we are opening is a bit confusing as is and is predicated on ½ the students attending. Further, the “Head Start” program begins next week and will allow students some opportunity to be introduced to their school and expected routines.
- d. Virtual School “St Elsewhere” – will begin Sept 14th – to allow for scheduling/timetables to be built, as this is a significant undertaking and may even require additional hiring (which is unclear we can access)

Student transportation has been coordinated with WRDSB as we share the STSWR consortium. Comprehensive discussions were had both internally and in collaboration with these partners to determine bussing solutions under our new reality. As elementary students are returning under a conventional model, buses will be running at near full capacity. WCDSB has been promoting an active return to school but walking, cycling or scootering to school and have supported this by investing in new bike and scooter racks at all schools. Student on elementary buses will have assigned seats with a seating plan to assist if contact tracing is necessary. They will be seated closest to family members and students in their same cohort. The Ministry is requiring masks for students in grades 4 – 12 on buses. We have asked for the same and are strongly encouraging masks for our youngest riders on elementary buses as the duration of time is relatively short and students will hopefully ride without touching their masks. In secondary bussing has been mapped to student cohorts and buses will run at 50% capacity. As health and safety was our primary consideration, we have students leaving after one double period of 150 minutes. WCDSB is paying a premium for the early dismissal/pick up time, but we felt student safety was most important. Our model keeps the cohort pure and allows for now social or gathering time of students at school. Medical masks and eye protection (i.e. face shields) will be provided for school bus drivers, school bus monitors and student aides. Eye protection for drivers should not interfere with the safe operation of vehicles and is intended to protect drivers during close contact with students, such as during boarding and exiting.

During tonight's presentation an update on models will be given, as well as an overview of key measures being taken to maintain health and safety in the daily operation of our schools. We will review the challenges we are experiencing and the risks we are anticipating in terms of daily operation in multiple modalities (face to face and remote), resources (PPE and technology), staffing and budget.

We are sincerely looking forward to welcoming back our staff and students as we know everyone is keen to return to a dynamic learning experience, but we are also aware that there are a number of questions and considerations and we will take the time to hear those questions and give our best understanding at this time, given the ever-changing landscape.

Recommendation:

This report is for the information of the Board.

Prepared/Reviewed By: Loretta Notten
Director of Education

*Bylaw 5.2 "where the Board of Trustees receives from the Director of Education a monitoring report that flows from a responsibility delegated to the Director under Board Policy – **except where approval is required by the Board of Trustees on a matter delegated by policy to the Board** – the minutes of the Meeting at which the Report is received shall expressly provide that the Board has received and approved of the Report as an action consistent with the authority delegated to the Director, subject in all instances to what otherwise actually occurred."





Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

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Patrick J. Daly, *President*
Michael Bellmore, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

August 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: **Catholic Education Week Kit for the First Week of School**

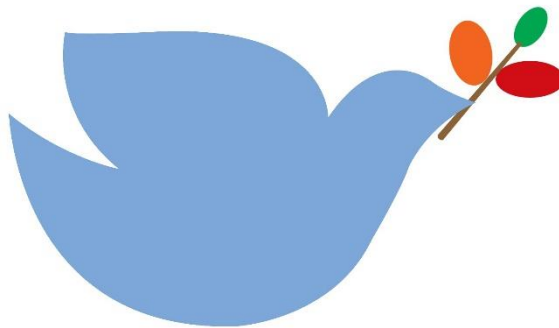
The 2021 Catholic Education Week Committee is pleased to make available to our Catholic schools, a **First Week of School Kit** which contains prayers for each day of the opening week of school and possible readings and songs for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Our theme for Catholic Education Week 2021 is:

Catholic Education: *Nurturing Hope*
L'éducation catholique: *Cultiver l'espérance*

May I request your assistance in making a copy of the **First Week of School Kit** available to all schools in your board.

Thank you for your ongoing, generous cooperation and support for publicly-funded Catholic education.



FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL RESOURCE PACKAGE



SEPTEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 2020

The new school year offers us an opportunity to reflect upon our personal, professional and spiritual growth and to set some new goals.

The theme chosen for the upcoming 2021 Catholic Education Week is:

Catholic Education: *Nurturing Hope*
L'éducation catholique: *Cultiver l'espérance*

Catholic Education Week is held each year in May in our 29 Ontario Catholic school boards. It will run from May 2 – May 7, 2021.

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2021, *Nurturing Hope*, was inspired by the following considerations:

- Recognition of the special Year of Laudato Si' which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, "On Caring for Our Common Home."
- In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020, *Igniting Hope*, which has served so well during the spring recess from in-school instruction.
- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality to the spirit of Laudato Si.

At this time, we felt it was important to celebrate the good work and hope of Catholic education now and in the future.

A big thank you to the consultants from nine of our English and French Catholic boards who worked together to craft the 2021 Catholic Education Week theme and sub-themes. These writers will also be producing resources for our Catholic school boards for Advent and for Catholic Education Week in May 2021.

The sub-themes for Catholic Education Week 2021 are as follows:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Monday: | Preparing the Earth / Préparer la terre |
| Tuesday: | Sowing Seeds of Gratitude / Semer la gratitude |
| Wednesday: | Cultivating Relationships / Cultiver nos relations |
| Thursday: | Harvesting New Fruit / Récolter de nouveaux fruits |
| Friday: | Marvelling in Wonder / S'émerveiller |

Overall Theme Prayer for Catholic Education Week 2021

Catholic Education Week Prayer

Gracious and generous God, creator of the earth, our common home,
With each new day, we prepare the earth of our lives by sowing seeds of gratitude for all you
have given. Inspire us to cultivate relationships with all living beings. May we harvest new fruit
and marvel in the wonder at the beauty around us. Nurture us in hope.
Amen. +

Prière pour la semaine de l'éducation catholique

Dieu très bon, créateur de la terre, notre maison commune,
Chaque jour nous préparons le terreau de nos vies en y semant la gratitude pour tout ce que tu
nous donnes. Inspire-nous à cultiver des relations avec tous les êtres vivants. Que nous puissions
récolter des fruits nouveaux qui nous permettent de nous émerveiller face à la beauté qui nous
entoure. À toi qui cultives l'espérance et nous fais grandir, louange et gloire pour les siècles des
siècles.
Amen. +

PRAYERS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY – SEPTEMBER 2020

Preparing the Earth – Préparer la terre

As we begin a new school year, let us imagine that we are preparing the earth for a garden. Let us dig deep to remove any stones of the past that may block our growth. Let us move the earth around to make planting easier. Fertilizer always gives the soil nutrients that it needs.

Let us pray:

Creator God,

We desire to prepare the soil of our lives for a new school year. Help us to dig deep, to remove anything that will prevent us from growing. May we be willing to receive the nutrients we need to learn and sprout new ways of being. Let us trust that as the Master Gardener, you will take care of us in loving ways.
Amen.

Sowing Seeds of Gratitude – Semer la gratitude

God of all creation,

We thank you for all the gifts that surround us. Thank you for the light that shines on our world, for the rain that nourishes the crops providing our food, for the animals sharing our world and for the seeds that will bring new life in the spring. Your love provides us with all that we need. Thank you for this day and all its beauty. Help us to live each day with grateful hearts.

We make this prayer in the name of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Cultivating Relationships – Cultiver nos relations

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of hope. We look forward to the school year ahead as we make new friendships and memories. Help us to live like Jesus, bringing peace and good to our community. Make our school a place of warmth and acceptance, where we follow the golden rule of treating others like we would like to be treated. May we always feel safe, included and loved each day of this school year.

We ask this in your name.

Amen.

Harvesting New Fruit – Récolter de nouveaux fruits

God our Creator,

We see signs of your love for us every year when the crops ripen for harvest. We are thankful for the gifts of the earth. Yet so often we see pollution in the water, air and soil. Teach us to take better care of our world, so that it will always be green, fruitful, and a good home for all your creatures.

Amen.

Marvelling in Wonder – S’émervueillir

God of new beginnings,

Bless us with your goodness and love. Guide us to see the beauty and wonder of all that you have created. Free our souls to sing, dance, praise and love. Fill us with delightful anticipation of the year ahead.

Nurture our hearts so that we may continue to blossom and grow into the people you call us to be.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

RAYERS FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, SECONDARY – SEPTEMBER 2020

Preparing the Earth – Préparer la terre

Gracious God,

Every new semester offers us a time to prepare the earth of our loves for new growth. We come back to school remembering the sudden changes to learning that last year brought. Let's dig into this year, with new effort and continuing hope. Let us remove the stones and patches of packed soil. Adding fertilizer will give the earth the nutrients it needs to promote new life. You are the Master Gardener of our lives, the Creator, we open ourselves to all that we can become in this academic year ahead.

Amen.

Sowing Seeds of Gratitude – Semer la gratitude

God of all creation,

Thank you for the abundance of gifts that surround us. Help us to live with a spirit of gratitude, caring for and sharing the gifts that you have given. Give us courage to sow seeds of gratitude through our work to protect and sustain all that we have. Help us to sow seeds of gratitude through hearts of justice, working so that all may receive.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, whose love knows no bounds.

Amen.

Cultivating Relationships – Cultiver nos relations

Creator God, our Lord, Saviour and Master Teacher,

Please enable us to reflect upon the impact and the importance of the Golden Rule – “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.” Help us to accept each other; to celebrate our diversity; to give us the courage to speak out and speak up against injustice, inequity and hatred in all forms; to serve one another for the greater good; to open our hearts and minds to cultivate new relationships and to repair those that are broken. In all, guide us to lead like you and to follow your teachings and nurture us to remain hopeful.

For this, we ask your blessings.

Amen.

Harvesting New Fruit – Récolter de nouveaux fruits

God of the Harvest,

The earth is full of your goodness, and this time every year gifts us with the fruit of your love and our labour. Your bounty is so rich and constant that we have come to bank on it, and even take undue advantage of it. Our exploitation of the earth is on display all around us: in pollution, overconsumption, the destruction of green space and the extinction of thousands of species of plant and animal life. This past year was a solemn reminder to us of our vulnerability as creatures, our dependence on one another, and the need for change in how we live together. Lead us into an ecological conversion; a change of heart, that will help us hold your creation and our common home in proper reverence, and bring forth new fruit of sustainability and just economic structures so that all life can prosper.

We make this prayer in the name of your Spirit that renews the face of the earth.

Amen.

Marvelling in Wonder – S'émervueillir

God of ocean depths and mountain heights,
We are filled with awe as we contemplate the beauty and diversity of the world you have entrusted to us. Each of your creatures, large and small, reflects you in a marvelous way, inviting us to praise your goodness and love. As we look toward the future, may we never cease to wonder at the world you have made, and especially the richness of our human family. May our hearts be rooted in gratitude and our minds be anchored in hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE FOR *NURTURING HOPE* FOR THE
FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL**

	September 2	September 3	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11
Day	Day 1 – Preparing the Earth	Day 2 – Sowing Seeds of Gratitude	Day 3 – Cultivating Relationships	Day 4 – Harvesting New Fruit	Day 5 – Marvelling in Wonder	Nurturing Hope
Feast Day		St. Gregory the Great	Blessed Virgin Mary's Birthday	St. Peter Claver		
Reading	1 Cor. 3:1- 9	1 Cor. 3:18-23	Micah 5:2-5a OR Romans 8:28-30	1 Cor. 7:1, 17, 25-31	1 Cor. 8:1b-7, 11- 13	1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22b-27
Psalm	Ps. 33:12- 13, 14-15, 20-21 (R. 12b)	Ps. 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 (R. 1a)	Ps. 13:5, 6 (R. Is. 61:10)	Ps. 45:10- 11, 13-14, 15-16 (R. 8a)	Ps. 139:1- 3, 13-14ab, 23-24 (R. 24b)	Ps. 84:2, 3, 4-5, 11 (R. 1)
Gospel	Luke 4:38- 44	Luke 5:1- 11	Matthew 1:18-23 (shorter version) OR Matthew 1:1- 16, 18-23	Luke 6:20- 26	Luke 6:27- 38	Luke 6:39- 42

ANY DAY
Catholic Education Week Themed Readings
<i>Not readings of the day. *May need permission of celebrant.</i>
Reading – Isaiah 40:27-31
Psalm – 136:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R. 1ab) <i>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.</i>
Gospel – Luke 17:26 <i>Jesus Heals a Paralytic</i>

PLANNING SHEET FOR EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS

Date: _____ Occasion/Feast: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____ Presider: _____

Altar Server(s): _____, _____, _____

Minister(s) of Hospitality: _____, _____, _____

Greeting by: _____

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- a) Gathering Song _____ Sung ____
- b) Greeting and Opening Prayer (Celebrant)
- c) Penitential Rite (Celebrant)
- d) Gloria _____ Omitted ____ Spoken ____ Sung ____

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- a) First Reading _____ by: _____
- b) Responsorial Psalm _____ Sung ____
- c) Second Reading (*Optional*) _____ by: _____
- d) Gospel Acclamation _____ Sung ____
- e) Gospel _____
- f) Homily _____
- g) Creed (*may be omitted*) _____
- h) Prayer of the Faithful by: _____
Response: _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- a) Presentation of the Gifts
Song _____ Sung ____
Gifts Presented by: _____
- b) Preface (Celebrant)
- c) Holy Holy _____ Sung ____
- d) Memorial Acclamation _____ Sung ____
- e) Doxology _____ Sung ____
- f) Great Amen _____ Sung ____
- g) Lord's Prayer _____ Sung ____
- h) Sign of Peace/Lamb of God _____ Sung ____
- i) Communion (Eucharistic Minister) _____
Extraordinary Minister(s) of the Eucharist _____

CONCLUSION

- a) Blessing and Dismissal _____
- b) Concluding Song _____ Sung ____

From: OCSTA - Connie DeMelo <CDeMelo@ocsta.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:31 PM
To: OCSTA - Connie DeMelo <CDeMelo@ocsta.on.ca>
Subject: OCSTA: Update #2: 2020 Fall Regional Meetings

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Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

August 18, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees, Student Trustees & Directors of Education

CC: OCSTA Directors and Staff
Board Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

SUBJECT: **Update #2: 2020 Fall Regional Meetings**

Following is a revised schedule of meetings. Please note the date and time for your selected region.
Please be reminded that all Regional Meetings will be held virtually. A Zoom meeting invite and agenda will be distributed closer to the meeting dates.

DATE	AREA	BOARDS/OCSTA REGION #	OCSTA DIRECTOR / REGION #	HOST BOARD
Fri, Sep 18 5:30pm – 8:30pm	NORTHEAST	Huron-Superior (1) Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB (1) Northeastern (1) Sudbury (1)	Colleen Landers (1) Michael Bellmore, Vice-President Leslie Cassidy-Amadio (3)	Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB
Tues, Sep 22 9am – 12pm	CENTRAL	Brant-Haldimand Norfolk (11) Dufferin-Peel (7) Durham (9) Halton (13) Hamilton-Wentworth (11) Niagara (11)	Kathy Burtnik (11) Clifford Casey (11) Carol Cotton (8) Nancy Crawford (6) Patrick Daly, President Luz del Rosario (7)	Halton CDSB

		Toronto (6) York (8)	Sharon Hobin (7) Vincent Iantomasi (13) Garry Tanuan (6)	
Wed, Sep 23 9am – 12pm	EAST	Algonquin & Lakeshore (10) Eastern Ontario (1) Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington (9) Ottawa (12) Renfrew (1) Simcoe-Muskoka (9)	Linda Ainsworth (9) Todd Lalonde (10) Mark Mullan (12)	Simcoe Muskoka CDSB
Fri, Sep 25 9am – 12pm	WEST	Bruce-Grey (4) Huron-Perth (4) London (5) Waterloo (4) Wellington (4) St. Clair (5) Windsor-Essex (5)	Beverley Eckensweiler, Past President Marino Gazzola (4) Linda Ward (5)	St. Clair CDSB
Fri, Oct 2 9am – 12pm	NORTH WEST	Kenora (2) Northwest (2) Superior North (2) Thunder Bay (2)	Frank Bastone (2) Leslie Cassidy-Amadio (3)	Thunder Bay CDSB

CONNIE ARAUJO-DE MELO | Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association | 1804-20 Eglinton Avenue West, Box 2064, Toronto, ON M4R 1K8 | t 416-932-9460 ext. 226

CATHOLIC EDUCATION: *Nurturing Hope*

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Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association



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Patrick J. Daly, *President*
Michael Bellmore, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

August 8, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees, Student Trustees & Directors of Education

FROM: Patrick J. Daly, President

SUBJECT: Update: 2020 Fall Regional Meetings

Following conversation with host boards and in abundance of caution, we have resolved to hold the fall regional meetings virtually. The regional meetings will be held as previously scheduled:

Saturday, September 19	North East
Tuesday, September 22	Central
Wednesday, September 23	East
Friday, September 25	West
Friday, October 2	North West

A Zoom meeting invite and agenda will be distributed closer to the meeting dates.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to supporting our Catholic schools during these unprecedented times.

*News Release***Ontario Releases Plan for Safe Reopening of Schools in September**

July 30, 2020

Province Providing Critical Investments and Resources to Keep Students and Staff Safe

TORONTO — The Ontario government is announcing the safe reopening of schools for in-class instruction beginning this September. The government has unveiled a [plan](#) that prioritizes the health and safety of students and staff, and provides school boards with unprecedented resources and flexibility, while accommodating regional differences in trends of key public health indicators. This plan was developed in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the COVID-19 Command Table and paediatric experts.

Details on the safe restart of the 2020-2021 school year were provided today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, and Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Elementary schools (Kindergarten to Grade 8) will reopen provincially, with in-class instruction five days a week. Secondary schools with lower risk will reopen with a normal daily schedule, five days a week, while most secondary schools will start the school year in an adapted model of part-time attendance with class cohorts of up to 15 students alternating between attending in-person and online. Students from Grade 4-12 and school staff will be required to wear masks.

"It's been hard on families to balance work and child care, while kids have been separated from friends and other kids their own age. We want to get our kids back to school, but it has to be done safely," said Premier Ford. "That's why we've worked with our public health experts, Ontario Health and the medical experts at SickKids to develop a plan that ensures students can return to the classroom five days a week in a way that protects the health and safety of our children, teachers, and school staff."

Parents will continue to have the option to enroll their children in remote delivery, which respects their fundamental role in making the final determination of whether they feel safe with their children returning to school.

Based on the best medical advice available, the province is implementing additional public health protocols to keep students and staff safe when they return to school in September. To support the implementation of these protocols, the government is providing over \$300 million in targeted, immediate, and evidence-informed investments, including:

- \$60 million in procurement of medical and cloth masks for students and staff, with direction to boards to ensure that students who cannot afford a mask are provided one;
- \$30 million for teacher staffing to support supervision, keeping classes small and other safety related measures;
- \$50 million to hire up to 500 additional school-focused nurses in public health units to provide rapid-response support to schools and boards in facilitating public health and preventative measures, including screening, testing, tracing and mitigation strategies;
- Over \$23 million to provide testing capacity to help keep schools safe;
- \$75 million in funding to hire over 900 additional custodians and purchase cleaning supplies for schools;
- \$40 million to clean school buses, to ensure that students are in a thoroughly cleaned transportation environment;
- \$10 million for health and safety training for occasional teachers, who have historically not been covered by professional development that is offered to permanent teachers;
- \$10 million to support special needs students in the classroom; and
- \$10 million to support student mental health.

This funding is in addition to a \$25 million investment in mental health and technology, which will see an additional \$10 million dedicated to mental health staff, resources, and programs, as well as \$15 million in technology funding to support the procurement of over 35,000 devices for Ontario's students to support their synchronous learning in-school and beyond.

"This plan reflects the best medical and scientific advice with a single aim: to keep your child safe," added Minister Lecce. "While this plan will continue to evolve to respond to the changing threat of COVID-19, we will remain constant and consistent in investing in the resources, staffing, and cleaning supports, and strict health and safety protocols to keep our communities and our classrooms safe."

The Ministry of Education has received clear and compelling public health guidance to inform the delivery of instruction for boards for the 2020-2021 school year. These decisions are adaptable to changing public health situations and were based on the rigorous and data-informed guidance of leading medical, epidemiological, and paediatric leaders in the province.

"Based on the current data, we are seeing that overall instances of COVID-19 are declining in Ontario. When considering the health of the whole child, and as long as this trend continues, we believe that with the appropriate measures and strategies in place to handle potential outbreaks and prevent spread, schools are expected to be a safe place for Ontario's students and staff who attend in person," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "We will continue to closely monitor the situation to ensure the safety of students and staff and will be prepared to transition to alternative options should circumstances change."

"As a society, we've made an important shift in the dialogue about our children and the adverse health impacts of school closures," says Dr. Ronald Cohn, President and CEO of SickKids. "While we recognize that COVID-19 will be with us for some time, continuing to stay home from school has become untenable for many children, youth and families. Effective, evidence-based strategies can help promote the safety of students, teachers, school staff and families as they return to school."

The Ministry of Education will continue working closely with public health and school boards to monitor and report on the health status of school communities, which is part of the government's outbreak management plan. This plan, which was developed with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Health, outlines clear protocols and authorities of the multiple agencies and organizations involved in the public health landscape. In the event of positive cases of COVID-19 among students, parents, teachers, or other staff, these protocols will enable immediate action by health and education sector officials to identify, track, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the education system. Every school board will have communication protocols in place to keep families informed.

QUICK FACTS

- Since June, school boards have been planning for three models of instruction for the 2020-2021 school year: conventional delivery, adapted instruction, and remote instruction, bolstered

by live, dynamic synchronous learning. As the public health situation unfolds through the course of the school year, boards will continue to rely on these three models to respond nimbly and pragmatically to local public health dynamics.

- Over the summer, students and families took advantage of expanded summer learning across the province. Over 150,000 students enrolled in high school programs, including more than 21,000 students who took Reach Ahead credits. Elementary students participated in literacy and numeracy programs and students with special education needs and mental health concerns are participating in new targeted and transition programs in preparation for the coming school year.
- The government will be releasing a Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) to school boards to outline the requirements for educators and board staff in utilizing synchronous learning as part of remote and online forms of instruction during the school year.
- As part of Bill 197, the government enabled a double-cohort of students in the province's demonstration schools for the 2020-2021 school year, which will provide critical support and learning for students with severe learning needs. This was in direct response to the potential learning and development loss resulting from the school closure as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- On June 19, 2020, the government released a provincial reopening guidance plan to school boards and asked boards to prepare their own restart plans for the upcoming school year, which they will present to the Ministry of Education in early August.
- The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services will supply key personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies to schools. Supplies needed for September are ready to be delivered to schools by mid-August.
- Prior to school starting, School Mental Health Ontario will provide school boards with a professional learning framework and toolkit to support the mental health of all students that can be tailored at the board and school levels for different audiences. The professional learning will have a strong focus on building students' social-emotional learning skills so that they can build resilience, manage their stress and build positive relationships.

- On March 20, 2020, the Ministry of Education unveiled the [Learn at Home](#) / [Apprendre à la maison](#) portal, which provides online resources for families and students while schools remain closed.
- Parents and guardians still have until August 31, 2020 to apply for Support for Families. Under this program, parents or guardians of children between 0-12 years old, or up to 21 years old for children and youth with special needs, are eligible for a one-time payment, per child, to purchase educational materials to support learning at home.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- [Actions Taken to Keep Schools Safe During Reopening](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Guide to reopening Ontario's schools](#)
- [Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#)
- [Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#)
- [Learn at Home](#) / [Apprendre à la maison](#)
- [Federal Guidance for School Bus Operations](#)
- [Ontario Together](#)
- [Information on COVID-19](#)

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Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

NEWS RELEASE

OCSTA Responds to Provincial Plan for School Reopening

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto – July 30, 2020 – OCSTA welcomes the government's release of its provincial direction and strategy with regard to the reopening of schools in September. The information will now permit boards to finalize the plans that they and their dedicated staff have been working tirelessly to develop.

"We acknowledge and appreciate the additional funding being provided to support school boards to assist with the myriad of challenges and issues associated in reopening schools. It will be crucially important for the Ministry of Education to work very closely with provincial associations and school boards to carefully monitor circumstances from the first day of school, so as to determine the need for additional financial support," said OCSTA President Patrick Daly.

"We know that in collaboration with employee groups and other partners, school boards will continue to place the health, safety and well-being of students at the centre of their decision making and reopening plans," added Mr. Daly.

OCSTA will consult with our member boards, carefully examine the information released today and provide feedback to the government that is informed by our timely knowledge of school board and community needs.

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association is the provincial voice for publicly funded Catholic education. Founded in 1930, OCSTA represents the interests of Catholic school boards that collectively educates approximately 600,000 students in Ontario, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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