

BOARD MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

April 2018



Hamilton-Wentworth
Catholic District School Board
Believing, Achieving, Serving

Changes to Trustee Determination & Distribution

New municipal ward boundaries have resulted in a change to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board's trustee distribution structure. The structural change ensures an equitable distribution of Catholic ratepayers and schools based on a quotient formula. On March 20, Trustees approved the following trustee determination and distribution:

Ward	Trustee Distribution
1, 2 & 15	1
3 & 4	1
5	1
6	1
7	1
8 & 14	1
9 & 11	1
10	1
12 & 13	1
Total	9

[Map of the newly determined ward boundaries](#)

Are you on the voters' list?

The next municipal and school board election is October 22, 2018. Ensuring you are registered as a separate school supporter is important for the protection and promotion of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. As a registered Catholic school supporter, you have the opportunity to elect trustees who will represent and address your interests and concerns at the school board level and at various levels of the government. But you can't vote if you're not on the electoral list. Log on to <https://voterlookup.ca/> and be counted!

Our Lady of the Assumption readies for big move

After months of anticipation, students and staff at Our Lady of the Assumption will finally take possession of their new school on Monday, April 30. Built at a cost of \$11.5-million, the two-storey, 5,736 m² replacement school, located at 103 Fletcher Road in the heart of the Summit Park community, will accommodate 512 students, JK to Grade 8. An official blessing and dedication ceremony will follow on Tues., June 12.

Survey supports budget priorities

Results from a Budget Priorities Survey conducted over a four-week period from February 12 to March 9 indicate continued strong support for faith formation, mental health, Special Education, better and more accessible technology, mandatory daily physical activity, stronger school/parish relationships and advanced academics. The survey aligns with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan

2015-2018, and enables respondents to rate their support for each of the areas of focus within each strategic priority. Survey feedback is used in budget decision making.

Christian Service Water Project

On April 27, HWCDSB schools are invited to take part in a Catholic Education Week Christian Service Water Awareness and Fundraising Campaign, initiated by the Ontario Student Trustee Association, to support clean water projects at the local and international level. Proposed fundraising activities include a Blue T-Shirt Fundraiser or a “Walk for Water” event with proceeds/pledges donated to Development and Peace. The day will kick off with a “Drinking Water Prayerfully” liturgy to raise awareness of the many people in our world who lack access to clean drinking water. The campaign is one of many activities hosted by the HWCDSB to mark Earth Month (April). Other activities throughout April include the annual City of Hamilton Team Up to Clean Up community challenge and Stewardship of Creation Custodial Awards.

Notre Dame Vision

One student from each Catholic secondary school along with two adult staff members from the HWCDSB will be selected to attend a Notre Dame Vision summer retreat program at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana in July 2018. The focus of the five-day conference is to engage participants in an exploration of the call to discipleship and conversion.

Project COOK (Children On-Board Owning the Kitchen)

From September to December 2017, more than 650 Grade 7 & 8 students from Ward 6, 7 and 8 Catholic elementary schools participated in Project COOK, a Ministry funded program designed to teach kids about healthy eating and food preparation. Taught by Chef Talwin, a certified teacher and chef from St. Charles Adult & Continuing Education, in partnership with Hamilton Public Health, the program provided 8 hours of cooking instruction. The HWCDSB has applied to extend Project COOK to six new schools within the three wards.

Elementary students learn code

Class-based coding experiences are on the rise in HWCDSB schools as teachers are increasingly integrating coding activities into classroom instruction, particularly in mathematics. Coding lessons and Sphero bot challenges allow students to explore geometric properties of two-dimensional shapes and measurement concepts, and foster the development of mathematical processes. Moreover, lunch-time and after-hour school coding clubs are introducing students to coding basics through block-based coding programs such as Lightbot and Scratch. These clubs at present are offered in 57% of schools and are supervised by a post-secondary ICT student or member of the local ICT business community. In 2018, 61% of schools participated in Hour of Code activities.

SHSM Pedagogy B4 Technology Project

A Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Pedagogy B4 (PB4T) Project was implemented in 2016-2017 to assess the effectiveness of digital devices in promoting and supporting student engagement and achievement in Specialist High Skills Major programs. Another intended outcome of the PB4T project was to build teacher capacity through the use of technology. Key findings from teacher and student data sources indicated that technology did support teacher and student growth, student engagement, and improved subject proficiency. The project has been expanded for 2017-2018.