



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

DIRECTOR'S Annual Report 2022-2023



Director's Message

As a Catholic learning community, we know that we are called to faith and good works. The Good News that is the message of hope for all of us, lived by the example and witness of Jesus, must also exercise an essential component of Catholic Social Teaching: the preferential option for the poor, the poor in spirit, and those who are marginalized or have experienced oppression that has placed them outside and away.

Our theme, *I Belong Here - Together we are God's Good News!* unifies faith and action and, in doing so, renews the promise of Catholic education as a common good.

The Director's Report this year once again focuses on our Board Strategic Plan, which include the tenets of Nurturing, Learning, Protecting, and Believing. The plan has been updated to include the Ministry of Education's Three Provincial Priorities which find solid footing in our Strategic Plan:

- Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
- Preparation of Students for Future Success
- Student Engagement & Well-Being

In keeping with the Ministry's direction to adopt these provincial priorities into our trustee-approved multi-year plans, the senior administration has begun the process of reviewing them and aligning them with our Strategic Plan. The Ministry is also releasing a Student Achievement Plan which replaces the Board Improvement Plan, that contains measurable system-wide performance indicators under each priority.

Our best expression of Catholic education can be found in the tenets and priorities of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario.

To our students and families, thank you for your continued support and faithfulness at a time in our world that can still be unpredictable. Thank you for sending your children to us each and every day and for kindling with all of us the fire of God's unconditional love and acceptance. My hope is that this report has communicated that to you and more.

In Faith and Hope,

Laurie Corrigan
Director of Education



Nurturing



Learning



Protecting



Believing



Parent Involvement

The 2022-2023 school year welcomed several new members to PIC, and virtual meetings were held on October 12th, February 1st, May 24th, and an in-person meeting was held on November 29th at the Kemptville Board Office. On February 1st CDSBEO Mental Health Lead Strategist Selina Mackie, presented Supporting the Mental Health of Children and Youth, where she shared strategies for supporting children's anxieties. Founder of the Umbrella Project, Dr. Jen Forristal, also presented a virtual parent workshop on May 30th, to discuss the important role parents play in helping children develop critical life skills to navigate uncertainties and steps to build and sustain resilient children.

PIC Chair and Superintendent McDonald attended Provincial PIC meetings virtually throughout the school year and shared information with parents on how to engage with schools, Specialist High Skills Majors, Dual Credit, OYAP and apprenticeship programs. The CDSBEO website houses many PIC Committee resources including the PIC Handbook, information about Parent Reaching Out Grants and recorded committee parent presentations.

Experiential Learning & OYAP

Experiential Learning programs allow students to enhance their learning by working with community partners and making connections outside the classroom. Students can explore future pathways with an emphasis on skilled trades and STEM. During the 2022-2023 school year, secondary schools participated in the Career Labs Virtual Reality program to learn more about skilled trades including welding, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry. Along with the trades-related simulations, there were dissection simulations for biology classes, leadership simulations, and simulations to support visual arts.

Students across the Board also had the opportunity to participate in a year-long Entrepreneurship Pilot Project. Students were challenged to develop business and financial plans, while participating in a virtual speaker series with community partners, including former CDSBEO graduate and successful entrepreneur Mark Lafleur. The year-end event allowed participants to pitch ideas to an expert panel and display their proposals at a provincial showcase.

In partnership with OYAP and SHSM, the Experiential Learning Department helped facilitate a professional development initiative for guidance counsellors to enhance their understanding of the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathways. This very successful initiative included a tour of various facilities including Seaway Valley Meat Cutting School, Bourgon Construction site, DevCore (Hospitality), and St. Lawrence College (Taste of the Trades).

Specialist High Skills Major

The CDSBEO Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program flourished in 2022-2023, providing students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences throughout the year. There were 26 robust programs running in eight different sectors within our ten secondary schools. CDSBEO had 221 grade 11 students participating in the first year of the two-year SHSM program, and 261 grade 12 students enrolled, and 164 of them graduated with a Certificate of Distinction.

CDSBEO continued to work with community partners such as Unearth Education, Apoetic Health, and SUGU World to provide students the opportunity to complete the required certificates to earn their SHSM seal. Students were able to fulfill their sector-partnered experience (SPE) requirement by participating in the Financial Literacy course provided by Enriched Academy.

The 2022-2023 Expansion funding provided an opportunity for many grade 9 and 10 students to participate in a day in the skilled trades. The St. Lawrence College Mobile Learning Lab travelled to our secondary schools to promote skilled trades in electrical, welding, and carpentry. The funding also allowed the Board to broaden SHSM programs by securing new welding equipment and opening the Eagles Nest Café at St. Luke CHS.

Student Learning

Our educators continue to implement high impact instructional strategies in collaboration with the support of Board teams to help lift learning in core subject areas. CDSBEO offered "in person" and "virtual" tutoring options for kindergarten to grade 12 students and hosted 12 different sites for the Summer Learning Program, which provided an opportunity for grade 1 to 6 students to enhance their literacy and numeracy skills. In addition, kindergarten and primary educators continued to receive resources to implement a structured literacy approach and identify areas of need using CDSBEO screening tools.

CDSBEO FSL educators have continued to implement and improve their education goals through modelling and providing authentic, action-oriented learning opportunities for our students using the Neurolinguistic Approach for second language acquisition. Many grade 12 FSL students completed the DELF exam with a 100 per cent success rate, while others in grades 9 through 11 continue to participate in French cultural activities. Additionally, the Board continued to build capacity with educators in supporting multilingual language learners in response to an increased enrollment of ELL students.

CDSBEO's success rate for the 2022-2023 OSSLT was 84.1 per cent - a 6 per cent increase over the previous year's results. Primary and junior EQAO results in reading and writing continue to parallel the provincial average and remain consistent with 2021-2022 results.

CDSBEO educators received new manipulatives and other mathematical tools such as non-permanent surfaces, to implement instructional strategies that build student engagement and confidence in mathematics. Digital math tools were promoted and used in classrooms, and a coding and tech lending library was also introduced which allows students to explore a variety of unique STEM experiences. Our EQAO results in mathematics remain consistent with recent years, and in our primary and junior divisions the results align with the provincial average. In support of increasing future results, after-school tutoring and support sessions were offered by all CDSBEO schools for literacy and mathematics.

Religious Education

The 2022-2023 school year focused on the second year of the Board's spiritual theme *I Belong Here - Together we are God's Good News!* The Department of Religious and Family Life Education, Equity and Inclusion supported schools through centrally led liturgies, weekly prayers, guest speakers, including adult faith formation virtual sessions, and Breakfast with God episodes for the primary grades. Part 1 of the Religious Education AQ course was offered twice throughout the year, facilitated by Faith Animator Fr. John Whyte and teacher consultant Kate Veinotte. The Board implemented digital access to the grade 8 Growing in Faith - Growing in Christ curriculum resource and provided ongoing training and support.

The theme for CDSBEO Week was Together We are God's Good News, and schools developed initiatives to promote belonging amongst themselves and the greater community. Chaplaincy leaders were provided with a template of social justice events to lead Just-Us Youth Day for grade 10 students, and all secondary classes joined virtually to hear keynote Canadian motivational speaker, Dillon Mendez.

Collaboration was a key element to success in the department this school year. The department worked with CDSBEO chaplaincy leaders and the Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario (CSCO) to host their annual provincial conference, Reimagining Ministry, in Gananoque. The conference was sold out and very well-received. Student support workers and educational assistants were introduced to the Umbrella Project, New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) teachers were given the opportunity to participate in voluntary sessions, chaplaincy leaders received SafeTalk training through the CDSBEO Mental Health Lead Strategist, and members of the department participated on planning committees for EOCCC's Mid-Year Retreat and Catholic Curriculum Conference.



Nurturing



Learning



Protecting



Believing



Indigenous Education

The CDSBEO continues to support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in a culturally respectful way to ensure both academic success and student well-being. The theme for 2022 to 2025, Stepping into Right Relationships, challenges how we can change our perspectives and practices to step into right relation with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit neighbours, family, friends, and the land.

Last year, the Board had many accomplishments to highlight Stepping into Right Relationships, including a Water Walk, which was held in collaboration with Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Native North American Travelling College, Ahkwesahsne Mohawk Board of Education, Ontario Power Generation, and Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

The Board also offered an Indigenous Ways of Knowing IDC course to self-identified students at St. Joseph's CSS. The course focused on student leadership, language, basket-making, and the creation of an Eagle Staff for the Cornwall Water Walk. Thirteen self-identified students received a credit for completing the course. To further support Indigenous Education and learners, Allen Smoke joined the CDSBEO Indigenous Education Team in July as the new Indigenous Cultural Advisor. The CDSBEO Indigenous Education Council also expanded last year, enhancing the Board's ability to support learning about residential schools, treaties, the legacy of colonialism, and the responsibilities we all have to each other as treaty people.

Equity & Inclusion

CDSBEO continued the work guided by Dr. Nicole West-Burns, a provincial leading consultant on educational equity. Using CRRP (Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy) through inquires, school-based equity teams examined their own school communities' celebration of diversity, as well as equity and inclusion practices.

In coordination with each school's Improvement and Equity Plan (SIEP), the Religious and Family Life and Equity and Inclusion Department created a review process (Equity Walk) to enhance the diversity and inclusive nature of each school's social media and web presence. This exercise was conducted to ensure that school diversity, including students, staff and families, are fully represented in the social media and web presence of each school.

A new Board of Trustees Committee, Faith and Equity was created to bring together representatives from Board staff, students, unions, and community partners. The committee provides space for discussion, learning and collaboration.

Two keynote equity speakers provided professional development for staff. Rev. Gilles Mongeau S.J. spoke to administrators and chaplains on Pastoral Care of 2SLGBTQ+ students and staff, and Michael Bach reminded all staff that the power of gratitude and privilege can further the work of equity and inclusion.

Staff and students continue to learn through diverse and enriching resources, collaboration, and conversation. Opportunities for leadership and community partnerships have helped create an EDI learning community at CDSBEO, which includes special recognition of monthly celebrations such as Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month, Pride Month, and Holocaust Awareness. CDSBEO's central EDI Committee, together with representatives from Communications, Curriculum, and Indigenous Education, created a calendar of events of important days for each month which has been linked on social media.

Mental Health

In 2022-2023, CDSBEO introduced significant changes to the Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor service delivery model to help meet the mental health needs of students more efficiently. The service transitioned to focus on mild to moderate mental health concerns through a brief intervention counselling model, with the introduction of group interventions when appropriate. The Board also worked closely with agency partners to support students with more complex mental health challenges. In alignment with the province's Right Time, Right Care initiative (2022), the Board collaborates with community partners to create a culturally relevant, robust, integrated system of care.

In response to data from a range of sources reflecting student voice, the CDSBEO offered professional development and training sessions to equip staff with tools to better support the mental health needs of students. Presentations for educators, administrators, student support staff, and/or parents was offered throughout the year on topics such as back-to-school transitions, anxiety, cannabis and vaping, building resilience, and suicide awareness. Capacity building and professional development opportunities were also provided to mental health counsellors and psychologists. Educators in the summer learning program received a mental health resource package full of activities to support mental wellness, including a kit with materials for many of the activities.

Special Education

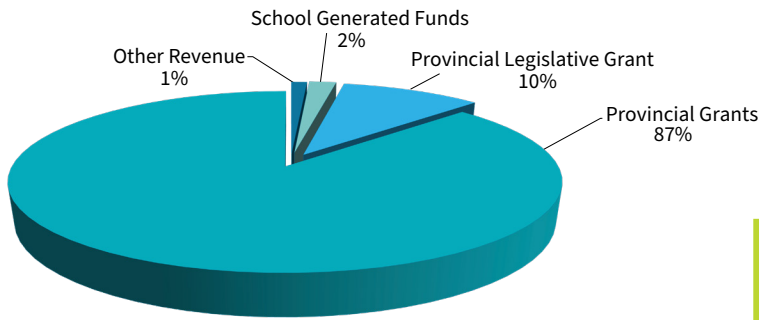
All children are created in the image of God and the Special Education Department is blessed to support learners in accessing their curriculum and engaging in their learning. The Special Education team takes the time to consider the individual needs of learners to ensure they each have the appropriate tools and resources to actively participate in their classroom and school activities.

Opportunities to build staff capacity and maximize support for students were provided through ongoing professional development sessions in the areas of Behaviour Management Systems, Structured Literacy, and Early Math Interventions, to name a few. In response to the Right to Read inquiry, CDSBEO continues the important work of educating school staff in the Structured Literacy approach. The Board is also piloting the Empower Reading program, as a tier three reading intervention. The structured literacy team continues to build capacity across the system by supporting school teams at the elbow. In addition, each school also received a KeyMath Diagnostic Assessment package which helps school teams identify student strengths and gaps, to target programming and instruction.

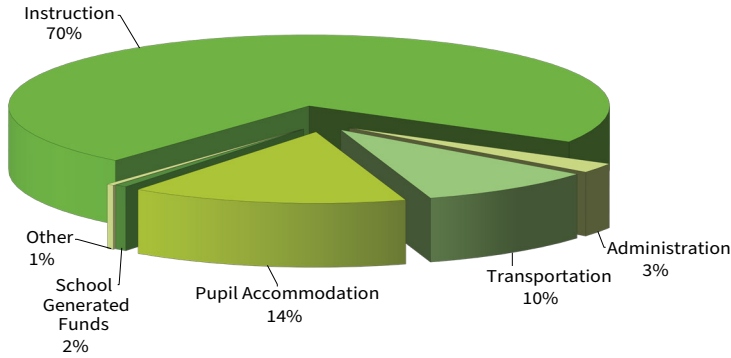
This summer, we were blessed to have educational assistants/tutors supporting the Summer Learning Program. This additional support was beneficial in helping students with special education needs achieve their learning goals. The Board also offered a Summer Transition Program, where some students who receive intensive support had the opportunity to connect with school staff and familiarize themselves with their learning environment and routine prior to the first day of school.

The CDSBEO SEAC committee continues to provide a platform for advocacy and information sharing between our community partners and agencies. CDSBEO is thankful for the joint effort of its partners in continuing to improve programs and services that best serve learners, their families, and our Special Education team.

Financials



Revenues		
Provincial Grants	\$188,079,266	87%
Provincial Legislative Grant	21,300,818	10%
School Generated Funds	4,061,779	2%
Other Revenue	2,367,545	1%
TOTAL	\$215,809,408	100%



Expenditures		
Instruction	\$153,220,357	70%
Administration	5,520,844	3%
Transportation	21,802,885	10%
Pupil Accommodation	30,315,839	14%
School Generated Funds	3,791,312	2%
Other	2,911,170	1%
TOTAL	\$217,562,407	100%

Accumulated Surplus	
Increase in Operating A/S	\$2,518,076
Decrease in Internally Appropriated A/S	(4,473,332)
Increase in A/S Unavailable for Compliance	202,257
In-year Accumulated Deficit	(1,752,999)

The Early Years

During the 2022-2023 school year, CDSBEO’s Speech Language Pathologists offered training sessions to all kindergarten to grade 2 teachers to build capacity, and under the guidance of the Special Education Department, facilitated the structured literacy program by supporting delivery models and offering guidance on lessons. The Early Development Instrument Questionnaire was completed by all CDSBEO kindergarten teachers in May. This community-level measurement was implemented under the direction of the Early Years & Child Care Division of the Ministry of Education to better understand and measure children’s developmental health as they enter school. The CDSBEO Indigenous Education team supports kindergarten students, staff, and families by providing Indigenous perspective read aloud books and lessons. Engaging with the outdoors has been a valuable learning environment for students to explore literacy, math, science, and the arts through nature, and Indigenous partners have played a key role in enhancing outdoor learning from an Indigenous perspective. CDSBEO continues to be proud of our community partnerships with childcare providers, Consolidated Municipal Service Managers, and the Ministry of Education Early Years and Childcare Programs and Service Integration Branch. Through conducting parent surveys to determine childcare needs and partnerships with our local municipalities, CDSBEO continues to support childcare services in our schools.

Trustees



LEFT TO RIGHT TOP ROW: Sue Wilson, Chair (Prescott-Russell County); Karen McAllister, Vice-Chair (Dundas County & Stormont County); Jennifer Cooney (Lanark County); Christopher Cummings (City of Brockville, Town of Smiths Falls, and Leeds County)
 LEFT TO RIGHT BOTTOM ROW: Brent Laton (Grenville County & Elizabethtown-Kitley Township); Donna Nielsen (City of Cornwall & Glengarry County); Karen Torrie-Racine (City of Cornwall & Glengarry County)

Student Senate

Under the leadership of CDSBEO Student Trustee Ella Scott and Associate Student Trustee Chloe Finner, our 23 student Senators met four times throughout the year. Student Senate meetings featured presentations from CDSBEO CIO Steve Payne, who discussed establishing a positive online presence and its relationship to wellbeing, and CDSBEO Mental Health Strategist, Selina Mackie, who presented on sleep deprivation and its impact on the mental health of teens. Students were interested in building school culture in their schools in hopes of re-engaging their peers in extra-curriculars and school life following the pandemic.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Student Trustee Ella Scott, Associate Student Trustee Chloe Finner, Director of Education Laurie Corrigan

Senior Administration



LEFT TO RIGHT TOP ROW: Laurie Corrigan, Director of Education; Brent Bovaird, Superintendent of School Effectiveness; Dawn Finnegan, Superintendent of School Effectiveness
 LEFT TO RIGHT BOTTOM ROW: Heather Gerber, Superintendent of School Effectiveness; Ashley Hutchinson, Superintendent of Business; Norma McDonald, Superintendent of School Effectiveness; Tracy O’Brien, Superintendent of School Effectiveness.

School Board Profile

The CDSBEO operates 39 schools that provide quality Catholic education to over 13,600 students. The Board employs 909 full-time equivalent elementary and secondary teachers, as well as 651 support staff, including principals, educational assistants, student support workers, early childhood educators, school office support, custodial and maintenance staff, administration, chaplaincy leaders, computer and library technicians, and other professional staff employees. The CDSBEO works diligently to implement inclusive practices for staff recruitment and hiring, and to prevent systemic bias and barriers through equity training programs.