

TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY OCTOBER 2026

"On Fire with the Spirit: Awaken! Illuminate! Rejoice!"

Welcome to the October edition of the Trustee Highlights Newsletter. This summary highlights the key decisions, reports, and learning initiatives from the October 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. All activities align with the goals of our Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2024–2027) and support the growth of our students under the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.

Awaken: Strengthening Catholic Faith and Community

Our Catholic faith is the heart of everything we do. This month, our school communities put faith into action through local food drives for service groups like the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. These acts of service help our students grow as **caring family members** and **responsible citizens**.

Key highlights in faith formation include:

- **When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference:** Our board co-hosted this annual provincial conference centred on the theme "Being the Beatitudes." A group of 20 educators, chaplains, and board leaders attended to learn and share ways to weave faith into daily classroom lessons.
- **Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC):** Staff participated in CCC council meetings for Elementary, Secondary, ICT, and Faith in Education to collaborate on faith-based learning resources.
- **Called to Rejoice Liturgy Project:** The board is launching a system-wide project to foster a vibrant culture of prayer, Eucharist, and sacramental life in our schools. Leaders will participate in theological training with the University of Notre Dame and hold community listening sessions to guide a new best-practice liturgy guide.
- **Indigenous Education Connections:** Schools paired the Seven Grandfather Teaching of *Honesty* with the expectation of becoming a **discerning believer**. Grade 6 classes across Huron and Perth counties participated in hands-on learning by crafting loom bracelets to learn about Indigenous art and culture.

Illuminate: Elevating Academic Achievement

We remain dedicated to academic excellence, helping our students become **effective communicators** and **reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers**.

- **EQAO Results:** In the spring 2026 provincial assessments, Huron-Perth Catholic students performed exceptionally well:
    - **Primary (Grade 3):** Exceeded provincial averages across all subjects, with 85% in Reading (Province: 75%), 79% in Writing (Province: 67%), and 78% in Mathematics (Province: 65%).
    - **Junior (Grade 6):** Outperformed provincial averages, with 89% in Reading (Province: 86%), 87% in Writing (Province: 86%), and 53% in Mathematics (Province: 52%).
    - **Grade 9 Math:** Achieved 61% at or above standard (Province: 59%).
    - **OSSLT (Grade 10 Literacy Test):** Achieved an 86% success rate, matching provincial results, with a high participation rate of 97%.
- **Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP):** Now in its fourth year, the plan focuses on three priorities: *Know the Curriculum*, *Know the Math*, and *Know the Learner*. Targeted support is being provided to priority schools, including Sacred Heart in Wingham, Precious Blood, St. Columban, and St. Joseph's Clinton. Math facilitators are working directly in classrooms to build mathematical reasoning and foundational skills.
- **Literacy & Early Reading:** Early reading screening (Acadience Reading) is underway for Senior Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students to help teachers plan targeted instruction.
- **Secondary Learning & AI:** Google AI tools (Gemini and Notebook) were safely enabled for Grade 9–12 students following lessons on digital citizenship and ethics.

Rejoice: Fostering Student Success and Well-being

We nurture the whole child, supporting students as **self-directed, responsible, lifelong learners** and **collaborative contributors**.

- **Attendance Awareness Month:** Under the theme *"Your Presence Matters,"* schools shared resources with families on the importance of regular school attendance. Information packages were sent home to all Grade 1 families.
- **Secondary Faith & Wellness Retreats:** School Social Workers and Chaplains partnered to lead meaningful retreats. Grade 12 students at St. Michael CSS reflected on their personal values and future goals, while Grade 10 students at St. Anne's CSS built personal wellness toolkits and coping strategies.
- **World Mental Health Day & Rosary Month:** On October 9, schools recognized World Mental Health Day with activities promoting well-being and reducing stigma. Throughout October, schools also joined in praying the Rosary for peace and for families facing mental health challenges.
- **Experiential Learning & Skilled Trades:**
    - Students participated in Dual Credit programs with Conestoga, Fanshawe, and Lambton Colleges in fields like Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Paramedicine.
    - Female students in Grades 9 and 10 prepared to attend the *Build a Dream* event in Mississauga to explore careers in skilled trades.
    - Secondary schools hosted Grade 6 Tech Days and Grade 7 Arts Days for local elementary students.
- **Elementary Athletics:** Over 700 student-athletes competed in the Annual District Cross Country Meet in Clinton on October 14.

Governance and Operations

Our Board of Trustees works to ensure responsible leadership and clear operational direction across the district.

Policy Review and Approval

At the October 19 meeting, the Board of Trustees reviewed and approved several key policies:

1. **State of Emergency (P 1.1.3):** Updated to include a Belief Statement, update leadership titles to Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and reference the Board's Business Continuity Plan.
2. **Selection of Textbooks and Educational Materials (P 2.2.1):** Modernized to cover digital resources, e-learning platforms, and library collections. It emphasizes Catholic faith alignment, parental partnership, and clear procedures for resource selection and reconsideration.
3. **The Order of St. André Bessette (P 1.1.6):** Refined criteria for the board's highest honour to recognize exceptional contributions to academia, spiritual life, **civic life**, or philanthropy. A subcommittee will now review nominations.
4. **Newly Elected Trustees (P 1.2.2):** Updated to include relevant legislation and training resources to support new board members in their governance roles.
5. **Student Admissions (P 2.1.1):** Separated policy principles from administrative procedures to ensure clear, transparent admission criteria for all applicant categories.
6. **Student Accidents (P 2.1.14):** Re-approved following regular policy review, ensuring student safety, immediate first aid, and proper incident reporting procedures.
7. **Trustee Honoraria (P 1.2.5):** Updated to align with new provincial rules under Ontario Regulation 320/26. Annual honoraria amounts effective November 15, 2026 are set at $7,500 for Trustees, $9,500 for Vice-Chair, and $10,000 for Chair.

Operational Updates

- **Enrolment Update:** As of October 6, 2026, elementary enrolment stood at 3,404.5 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students (an increase of 12.5 FTE above budget estimates). Secondary enrolment was at 1,411 students. Grade 8 to Grade 9 student retention across the board rose to 79.8%.
- **Tuition Fees:** Base tuition rates for non-resident and international students for 2026–2027 were set at $14,900 for elementary and $15,300 for secondary.

To review the full version of the latest Board Meeting agenda and minutes check out our Board Agendas and Minutes webpage on our Board website. Any questions, please contact the CEO's Office by emailing directorsoffice@huronperthcatholic.ca.