

BOARD MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS

September 2019



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

Board approves high priority schools for Capital Funding consideration

A report, presented to Trustees at the August 27th Meeting of the Board, identified high priority business cases for Ministry of Education capital funding consideration. The Capital Priorities Program is the primary means for funding projects that address accommodation pressures, schools in poor condition, and childcare needs. The Ministry has indicated it will consider funding childcare capital projects as part of new school and larger school construction projects. Following a review of current and projected school enrolment/utilization and Facility Condition, the Board approved the following capital priorities to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for funding approval:

- St. James the Apostle CES replacement school;
- St. Paul CES permanent addition/retrofit;
- St. Michael CES permanent addition/retrofit;
- Our Lady of Lourdes CES replacement school;
- St. Joseph CES replacement school;
- Regina Mundi CES replacement school;
- St. Eugene CES replacement school;
- St. Margaret Mary CES replacement school; and
- St. Francis Xavier CES replacement school.

Business cases are listed in order of priority. Currently St. James and St. Paul are experiencing accommodation pressures due to new residential housing development in Upper Stoney Creek. Business cases must be submitted to the Ministry of Education by September 30, 2019. The last call for capital priorities funding was June 2017 and resulted in \$8,579,200 for a replacement St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School.

Health & Safety training and processes focus on improving safety

An annual Health & Safety report, presented to trustees, outlined some of the successes and strategies of the past year to improve the board's health and safety system. At present, Joint Health and Safety Committees (JHSC) have been established at 63 work sites. A kick-off event for school/site teams in Sept. 2018 provided a review of team work, communication strategies and expected JHSC procedures as required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act. JHSC's also participated in two half-day P.D. sessions on asbestos awareness and lockdown expectations, as well as quarterly meetings to discuss and review site-based accident and inspection reports, training programs and board procedures. Health and safety programs such as Violence Prevention, Ergonomics and Hygiene continue to be facilitated through Human Resources. Online training was also provided to staff in a number of H&S procedures, including WHMIS/GHS and Anaphylaxis. The annual report also provided a three-year analysis of accidents by frequency and type. Data showed an 8 percent increase in accident severity in 2018-2019 in "struck by" injuries, mostly from balls in the playground, which often result in concussion.

Board approves policies subject for review

The Policy Review Committee, at its meeting of August 16, 2019, approved amendments to the following policies subject for review: A.05 Board Suppliers/Use of Board Assets/Services & Equipment; B.B. 06 Alternative Use of School Board Facilities Contiguous to Parish Churches; B.F.01 Community Planning & Facility Partnerships; B.M.01 Vandalism; B.M.02 Licensed Uses Proposed in Proximity to School Properties; B.P.04 Key Control/Access to Building; B.R.01 Community Use of School Facilities; F.B.01 Borrowing & Debt Limitation; F.C.01 New School Design & Construction; F.E.01 Budgeting; F.M.01 Cheque Signing; F.M.03 Trustee Office Supplies, Travel, Meals & Expense Reimbursement; F.M.06 Corporate Credit Cards/Purchasing Cards; F.P.01 Purchasing Policy; F.P.02 Purchasing Authority; H.T.04 Teachers – Initial Requirement for New Personnel & Certification; R.02 School – Church Site; and S.T.02 Student Conduct on School Buses. A proposed new policy, B.B.03 Capital Maintenance Planning and Budgeting, was brought to the Committee of the Whole for approval on August 27.

St. John the Baptist school profile

A school profile report on [St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School](#) was presented at this month's Board Meeting. The report is part of a School Profile Program initiated in January 2019 to celebrate school excellence. Since opening in 1929, St. John the Baptist CES has undergone several renovations to bring it to its current capacity of 3,571 m². Enrolment as of October 31, 2018 was 330 students, JK to Grade 8.

Design/construction Updates

A verbal update was provided to Trustees on the following construction projects:

- **New Binbrook Catholic Elementary School.** The HWCDSB received Ministry of Education approval on July 18 to proceed with the tendering process. Upfill of the site began on August 19. In September, construction crews set were involved in setting up the site perimeter, laying the concrete foundation, site servicing, installing the underground plumbing, and masonry work. Construction of the building façade will commence in April 2020.
- **St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School.** The HWCDSB has submitted its application for approval to proceed with the Ministry of Education. The project will go to tender pending Ministry approval.
- **St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School Childcare Centre.** The application to proceed was submitted to the Ministry on August 12. Pending approval, the project will be put to tender immediately.
- **St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School standalone Childcare Centre.** The childcare centre has been confirmed by the City of Hamilton and the application was filed with the Ministry on August 30.

Exterior lighting replacements

Cathedral High School, Immaculate Conception CES, St. Mary CSS and St. Thérèse of Lisieux CES were retrofitted with new energy efficient LED lighting fixtures, funded in part through a one-time IESO financial incentive of \$16,608. The contract was awarded to Merlo Electric Inc. in the amount of \$103,600 + HST. The projects are expected to reduce annual energy consumption by 135 MWH and annual energy costs by \$21,600 for an expected return on investment of 25%.