



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY MAY 2026

“On Fire with the Spirit: Awaken! Illuminate! Rejoice!”

This report summarizes the main items from the May 2026 Board Agenda and Highlights, aligning them with the strategic directions of the **HPCDSB Strategic Plan 2024–2027** (*On Fire with the Spirit*) and the **Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations (OCSGE)**.

Awaken: Strengthening Catholic Faith and Community

- **Catholic Education Week 2026:** District-wide celebration kicked off with a board Mass celebrated by Rev. Innocent Ibeh with student choir leadership. System awards were presented, including the Catholic Student Leadership Award, St. Teresa Faith in Action Awards, and induction into the Order of St. André Bessette. (*OCSGE: Discerning Believer, Collaborative Contributor*)
- **Catholic Leadership & Pastoral Planning:** Senior leaders and principals engaged with the Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC) and prepared to co-host the provincial *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* conference. Leaders aligned school Pastoral Plans with parish partnerships. (*OCSGE: Reflective Thinker*)
- **Faith & Community Partners:** The Catholic Education Team (CET) collaborated with community groups (Society of St. Vincent de Paul, CWL, Development and Peace) to support local families in need. (*OCSGE: Caring Family Member, Responsible Citizen*)
- **Indigenous Education:** Review of library learning materials began at St. Boniface School alongside regional collaboration on an Indigenous unit for Grade 11 World Religions. (*OCSGE: Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinker*)

Illuminate: Elevating Academic Achievement

- **Mathematics & EQAO Preparation:** Focused instructional coaching (leveraging *Knowledgehook* and short learning cycles) was delivered to support Grade 3, 6, and 9 students with problem-solving and calm focus during assessments. (*OCSGE: Reflective & Critical Thinker*)
- **Literacy & Early Years:** Completed a 10-week reading intervention cycle for Primary grades and conducted End-of-Year reading screenings. Educators completed training on the new Kindergarten curriculum arriving in September 2026. (*OCSGE: Effective Communicator*)

- **French & Online Pathways:** Secondary students completed international DELF French language proficiency exams. Board leaders participated in Catholic Virtual Ontario and ethical AI learning initiatives. (*OCSGE: Self-Directed, Lifelong Learner*)
- **Cyber Safety Learning Plan:** Pooled provincial grant funds with regional Catholic boards to procure vendor resources (*KnowledgeFlow* and *Cyber Legends*) to teach faith-based digital citizenship. (*OCSGE: Responsible Citizen*)

Rejoice: Fostering Student Success and Well-being

- **Skills Ontario & Trade Pathways:** HPCDSB earned multiple provincial medals at Skills Ontario: Gold in Construction (Sacred Heart, Wingham), Gold in Aesthetics (St. Michael, Stratford), and Bronze in Mechanical Engineering and Landscaping (St. Joseph, Clinton). Young women also attended the *Jill of All Trades* event at Conestoga College. (*OCSGE: Collaborative Contributor*)
- **Children's Mental Health Week & Digital Wellness:** Schools hosted connection-focused events (therapy dogs, outdoor coffee houses, colour runs). Author Katherine Martinko presented to secondary students and caregivers on healthy device boundaries and screen time. (*OCSGE: Caring Family Member, Self-Directed Learner*)
- **Special Education & Rural Transitions:** Special Education staff co-presented at the provincial Ontario Council for Administrators in Special Education (OCASE) conference on cross-sector rural transition supports for youth with developmental disabilities through *Building Bright Futures*. (*OCSGE: Collaborative Contributor*)
- **Attendance & Social Work:** Board Social Workers supported over 237 students across the district. Tiered attendance supports helped achieve a 92.15% attendance rate for elementary students. (*OCSGE: Responsible Learner*)

Governance and Operations

Policy Review & Approval Information:

- **Artificial Intelligence Policy (P3.2.2) [Review]:** Refocused policy on Catholic values, human dignity, privacy, and ethics, moving operational protocols to a companion Administrative Procedure.
- **Trustee Expenses Policy (P1.2.3) [Review]:** Revised for immediate compliance with the newly enacted provincial *Putting Student Achievement First Act* (May 2026) and Ministry guidelines.
- **Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Policy (P2.2.8) [Approved]:** Formally approved by Trustees; grounds assessment as a sacred, redemptive trust focused on growth and alignment with *Growing Success*.
- **Modified Day Policy (P2.2.4) [Approved]:** Formally approved with amended language emphasizing individualized accommodations and safe education.

Operational & Financial Highlights:

- **2026–27 Core Education Funding:** Ontario announced \$30.58B in provincial core funding. Enrolment across HPCDSB remains stable. Selected Responsive Education Programs (REP) grants were rolled directly into Core Ed funding.
- **Buy Ontario Procurement Directive:** Updated purchasing procedures to align with the new *Buy Ontario Act* (Bill 72) for capital construction and fleet purchases.
- **ICT Modernization:** Modernized administrative workstations with "Hub Monitors" to cut

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