
Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Open Meeting – 6:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.

Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street W., Peterborough

and by Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/pnk-mxar-qnb>

If you would like to join by telephone, please contact Michelle Kennedy
by email - mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca or at 1-800-461-8009 ext. 1247
Arrangements to join by phone must be made prior to 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting

Chairperson: Kevin MacKenzie

Vice-chairperson: Jenny Leahy

**Trustees who are unable to attend the meeting are asked to
please notify Michelle Kennedy (mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca).**

A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting – 6:30 p.m.:

1. Opening Prayer.
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.
2. Land Acknowledgement.
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.
3. National Anthem.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.
6. Approval of the Minutes of the April 29, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Page 5
7. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

B. Reports from the Office of the Director and Student Trustees:

1. Report from the Director of Education, Stephen O'Sullivan.

2. Report from the Student Trustees: Claire Heitzner, Senior Student Trustee and Carter Peios, Junior Student Trustee.
3. Report from the Manager of Communications, Galen Eagle.
Highlights of System Achievements.

C. Presentations:

1. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Math Achievement Action Plan.
Julie Selby, Superintendent of Learning, Jennifer Minnie, Learning Consultant, and Nancy McCarthy, Learning Consultant.
2. Ensuring Equity: Student Census.
Julie Selby, Superintendent of Learning, Jennifer Minnie, Learning Consultant, and Benjamin Tenesia, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor.

D. Programs and Services:

E. Business, Finance and Governance:

1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Open Session Report.
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.

F. Human Resources:

G. Policy Development:

H. Old Business:

I. New Business:

J. Bring Forward:

K. Information Items:

1. Chairperson's Report.
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.
2. Committee Reports.

- a. Accessibility for All Committee, May 8, 2025.
- 3. Community Involvement Reports.
- 4. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and Ministry Information Items.
 - a. April 28, 2025 – Memo, Launch of New Professional Development Module Website. Page 17
 - b. April 29, 2025 – Memo, Lunch of New Catholic Education Week Video. Page 18
 - c. May 5, 2025 – Memo, Mandatory Training for Trustees. Page 19
 - d. May 5, 2025 – News Release, OCSTA Awards and Elections Results. Page 22
 - e. May 8, 2025 – Memo, Pope XIV Announcement. Page 23
 - f. May 9, 2025 – CEW 2025, Together in Faith Bulletin. Page 27
 - g. May 14, 2025 – Memo, Reminder of Mandatory Training Session. Page 37
 - h. May 15, 2025 – Memo, Bill 17, Capital Planning in Schools. Page 39
 - i. May 16, 2025 – Memo, Ontario Budget News. Page 41

L. Future Meetings and Events:

- 1. Board Meetings:
 - a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, June 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)
- 2. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
 - a. Chairperson's Committee, Monday, June 2, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
 - b. Committee-of-the-Whole, Monday, June 2, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
 - c. Policy Development Committee, June 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- 3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
 - a. STSCO Governance Committee, June 4, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
 - b. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, June 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
 - c. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, June 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
 - d. Special Education Advisory Committee, June 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
 - e. Audit Committee, June 19, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
 - f. Student Council Liaison Committee, June 24, 2025, 4:15 p.m.

- g. Accessibility for All Committee, TBA.
 - h. Faith and Equity Committee, TBA.
 - i. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, TBA.
 - j. SAL Committee, TBA.
4. Board Events: (Listed in chronological order.)
- a. Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting and Conference, Halifax, NS.
 - b. Secondary School Graduations: St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School, June 25, and all other PVNC Catholic Secondary Schools, June 26, 2025.

M. Conclusion:

- 1. Report from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera Session, May 27, 2025.
- 2. Closing Prayer.
Kathleen Tanguay, Trustee.
- 3. Adjournment.



Minutes

The Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting, held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough, and virtually, by Google Meet.

Present:

Trustees – John Connolly, Loretta Durst, Claire Heitzner (Senior Student Trustee), Jenny Leahy, Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson), Mary Ann Martin, Carter Peios (Junior Student Trustee), and Kathleen Tanguay.

Administration – Jonathan Di Ianni, Galen Eagle, Sean Heuchert, Darren Kahler, Stephen O'Sullivan, Sheila Piggott, and Julie Selby.

Recorder – Michelle Kennedy

A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting:

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and welcomed guests attending in person and guests who were joining the meeting online by Google Meet.

The Board Chairperson welcomed the Principal/Vice-principal representatives, Laura Carson, Principal at St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School, Kim Fletcher, Principal at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Cobourg, and Claire Wilson, Vice-principal at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

1. Opening Prayer

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, invited Trustee Loretta Durst to lead the opening prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie respectfully acknowledged the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnabeg.

3. Singing of the National Anthem

The National Anthem was sung.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Jenny Leahy
that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Jenny Leahy, seconded by Loretta Durst
that the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on March
25, 2025, be approved.

Carried.

7. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Reports from the Office of the Director and Student Trustees:

1. Report from the Director of Education.

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, presented the Report from the Director of Education, which included the following points:

- The PVNC Catholic community mourns the death of Pope Francis and remember his service and compassion for the marginalized.
- Easter blessings were wished for trustees, staff, students and their families.
- The federal election was acknowledged, and prayers were offered to the elected leaders in their roles.

- Appreciation was expressed to all who supported our board during the power outages due to the significant ice storm. Facilities services and custodians were diligent, ensuring a safe return to school.
- Strategic consultations are ongoing in preparation for the renewed strategic priorities for PVNC Catholic.
- The Name Change Committee has reviewed the data gleaned from the online consultation process and it has been decided that the board will not adopt a new name.
- Recently met with MPP Dave Smith to discuss local issues relevant to education and our board.
- The board welcomed Dr. David Tranter for a parent engagement session. Dr. Tranter is a psychologist recognized for his research work with trauma informed practices.
- A “Math at Home” session focusing on better understanding of EQAO assessments was held for parents.
- The director attended an Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network (EOSDN) session in Kingston which provided an excellent opportunity to collaborate with other senior school board leaders.
- Gratitude was extended to Maria Fitzgerald and the volunteers of the Rosary Apostolate Program, who attend our schools and provide a learning opportunity for students to engage in Mary traditions and pray the Rosary.
- Congratulations to Pat Daly who has been named as the new Executive Director of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association, replacing Nick Milanetti who will retire this year.
- April 28th was the National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured or Killed in the Workplace and was recognized at PVNC Catholic with flags at all schools and the Catholic Education Centre at half-mast.
- Congratulations to Vivica Muinde, who will be the Junior Trustee for the 2025-2026 school year, elected tonight by the Student Council Liaison Committee.

Stephen O’Sullivan invited and answered questions from the trustees at the conclusion of the report.

2. Report from the Student Trustees.

Senior Student Trustee, Claire Heitzner and Junior Student Trustee, Carter Peios, gave the Student Trustee report which included the following highlights:

- The Student Council Liaison Committee elected Vivica Muinde from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School as the in-coming Junior Student Trustee. -

- The St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School Specialist High Skills Major students were busy with certifications and trips throughout the month. The senior dodgeball tournament was held with Durham Regional Police Services participating. The musical production of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” will be held May 8-10.
- The Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School student cabinet hosted their annual Easter spirit week. The annual Dodgeball tournament was a success and the Grade 12 students prepared for graduation at the annual Grade 12 Day. Throughout the month of April, funds were raised for Autism Homebase. The activities raised awareness to honour those living with Autism.
- The game of Spoons is back at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School with 90 students participating. Some students will be visiting the Netherlands during May and some Grade 11 students traveled to a local mosque to gain insights for their world religion class.
- At Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, the badminton team met great success at the COSSA tournament. The annual cake auction for special education was very competitive and a successful fundraiser.
- Students at St. Peter Catholic Secondary School showed their care for the community through their recent blood drive. Jeff Martin, a motivational speaker, visited for a recent assembly. Science students made a trip to Queens University to experience their cadaver laboratory.
- St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Learning Life Skills class hosted other schools for their annual Spring Fling dance. Environmental SHSM students traveled to Ganaraska for experiential learning and the Choir is preparing to travel to Ireland for a competition.

Student trustees Claire Heitzner and Carter Peios invited questions and comments from the trustees at the conclusion of their report.

3. Report from the Communications Department.

Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications, shared the following system highlights and initiatives:

- Catholic Education Week will be celebrated from May 4-9, 2025. A video message for Catholic Education Week from Bishop Daniel Miehm was viewed.
- The 2025-2026 School Year Calendar has been approved by the Ministry of Education and is available on the Board website.
- The annual Math Olympics were held on April 24th. There were 250 students from Grades 3-8 participating from all areas of the school board.
- Teams from PVNC Catholic schools competed at regional robotics competitions

held at Ontario Tech University in Oshawa at the end of March. A team from St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Bowmanville advanced to the Skills Ontario competition being held in May.

- PVNC Catholic students were successful at the Peterborough Regional Science Fair. Claire Sehn from St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School researched fire-retardant products and qualified to compete at the Canada-wide Science Fair being held in New Brunswick this year.
- 75th Anniversary of Catholic Education at St. Alphonsus CES will be celebrated on Tuesday, May 6, 2025.
- Grade 8 students at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School are carrying on the tradition of ringing the church bell at St. Joseph Church in Douro.
- St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School is staging the musical, “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” from May 8-10th.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School students collected over 1,600 pairs of shoes for the “Soles4Souls” organization, which assists communities in developing countries.
- A school-wide Black History conference took place at St. Anne Catholic Elementary School where students shared their learning with other students who visited their classroom.
- Students from Monsignor Leo Cleary Catholic Elementary School were awarded a bronze medal at the Clarington Public Library Battle of the Books.
- The Director of Education engaged in Strategic Planning visits at various schools. Kindergarten students at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School presented him with a book created by them of what they think the Director does.

At the conclusion of the report, Galen Eagle invited questions and comments from the trustees.

C. Presentations:

1. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Student Achievement Plan.

Superintendents Jonathan Di Ianni, Sheila Piggott, and Julie Selby gave a presentation to inform the trustees about the Student Achievement Plan for PVNCCDSB.

With the use of data, the superintendents identified and explained the year two goals and specific actions in Literacy and Math, which fall under the first priority of improved Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills.

The second priority for the board is Preparation of Students for Future Success. The year two goal is to improve graduation rates and preparedness for future success which relate to data reflecting credit accumulation, participation in job skills training, attainment of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, and credit attainment in Math or Science. Each of the goals and their respective actions were described.

Student Engagement and Well-being is recognized as the third priority. The goals under this priority are to Improve Student Participation in Class Time and Learning and Improve Student Well-being. Specific actions in the areas of attendance and suspensions that will be engaged to improve indicator data were reviewed.

The next steps in the Student Action Plan were explained and will include the publishing of the plan on the board website and its submission to the Ministry of Education by the end of June.

The student achievement plan data will be used with other data gathered, such as school climate survey data to identify areas of growth and will assist the formation of the next Catholic Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being, and the Catholic School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-being.

The chairperson called a brief recess at 7:45 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:49 p.m.

2. Nurturing Mental Health and Well-being: 2025 Mental Health and Well-being Updates.

Superintendent Jonathan Di Ianni introduced Dr Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist and Jennifer Angelo, Board Mental Health Lead who gave a presentation about the Mental Health and Well-being initiatives being undertaken at PVNC Catholic.

The presentation included an overview of the professional development that has been delivered to administrators and teaching staff this year and a brief explanation of each type of training that was provided. In addition, the presenters reviewed procedures that were recently updated and the ongoing work to streamline resources and response to student and staff needs.

Ongoing work such as classroom presentations, participation in the Peterborough Community Resilience Project, supporting parent engagement, and the promotion of the parent resource from School Mental Health Ontario 'By Your Side' was reviewed. The work of the social worker teams was highlighted and future work which is planned for summer programming and for the fall of 2025 was reviewed.

At the conclusion of the presentation the trustees had the opportunity to have their questions answered by the presenters.

E. Business, Finance and Governance:

1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Open Session Report.

Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie highlighted communications that were received from OCSTA during the month of April which included the report on Anti-Black Racism in Education from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the OCSTA 2025 AGM Resolutions package, the program for the OCSTA 95th AGM and Conference, and the Trustee Professional Development Essential Training. Chairperson MacKenzie also noted the official statement from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

F. Human Resources:

G. Policy Development:

1. Recommended Actions from the Policy Development Committee, April 8, 2025.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Mary Ann Martin
that the Board receive the reports and recommendations from the
Policy Development Committee meeting dated April 8, 2025, for
publication and implementation.

Carried.

Trustee Martin requested to make a statement with respect to the Policy Development Committee meeting held on April 8, 2025. An apology was extended to Trustee Kathleen Tanguay for a comment that she made that could have been taken the wrong way. Trustee Tanguay thanked Trustee Martin.

H. Old Business:

I. New Business:

1. Director's Performance Appraisal Committee for 2025-2026.

MOTION: Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by John Connolly
that, in compliance with Ontario Regulation 83/24 Director of
Education Performance Appraisal, the Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

establish a Director Performance Appraisal Committee responsible for conducting a performance appraisal of the Director, during the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, composed of at least 3, and no more than 7 board members, one of who shall be elected by a majority of the committee to act as chair.

Carried.

Trustees Loretta Durst, Mary Ann Martin, and Kathleen Tanguay, with Vice-chairperson Jenny Leahy, expressed interest in being members of the Director Performance Appraisal Committee. Vice-chairperson Jenny Leahy was nominated as chair of the committee and accepted the role. The Board Chairperson is an ex-officio member of all board committees.

J. Bring Forward:

K. Information Items:

1. Chairperson's Report.

Board Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie reported that Education Minister, Paul Calandra has announced investigations and supervision of school boards in response to mismanagement of public funds. Chairperson MacKenzie noted that PVNC Catholic trustees take their job very seriously and will continue to look after tax dollars as though they are their own.

Chairperson MacKenzie noted that the trustees are looking forward to the events coming during the month of May, including Catholic Education Week and that he will be attending two drama productions at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School and Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School.

2. Committee Reports

a. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 1, 2025.

Board Vice-chairperson Jenny Leahy reported that the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee began with a presentation by Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education who reviewed the multi-year strategic priorities consultation process with the committee. A presentation about program funding was delivered by Learning Consultant Nancy McCarthy.

Trustee Leahy reminded trustees about Accessibility Awareness Week from May 26-June 1, 2025, which is dedicated to building awareness about accessibility needs.

b. Faith and Equity Committee, April 3, 2025.

Trustee Loretta Durst reported on the Faith and Equity Committee meeting, which included a presentation by the Director, Stephen O'Sullivan about the Multi-year Strategic Plan consultation process, and presentations by Jennifer Koch, Learning Consultant, and Benjamin, Board Equity Lead about Board Faith initiatives, Black History Month, and Asian Heritage Month.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee, April 17, 2025.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported on the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. An extensive presentation about the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and the Individual Placement Review Committee (IPRC) processes was delivered by Karen Spencely, Vice-principal, Special Education.

d. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, April 22, 2025.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported on the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee meeting, which began with a presentation by Sean Heuchert about transportation services, funding for in-school programs to prevent vaping and graffiti, capital project funding processes, and a review of a draft administrative procedure regarding sponsorship. Trustee Tanguay also reported that a guest speaker event will take place on May 21st at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School and feature psychologist, Dr. Jody Carrington.

3. Community Involvement Reports

Trustee Mary Ann Martin reported that she attended St. Luke Catholic Church for Holy Thursday, where the St. Luke Catholic Elementary Gr 8 students led the Stations of the Cross.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that she attended a St. Michael CES Catholic School Council meeting where plans are being made to paint playground surfaces. Trustee Tanguay inquired about use of facilities funding to purchase painting equipment that could be used at multiple schools, multiple times.

4. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Information Items:

a. March 27, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Pilgrims of Hope Bulletin.

- b. March 28, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Labour Relations Appointment.
- c. March 28, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Anti-Black Racism Report.
- d. March 31, 2025 – OCSTA 2025 Youth Day Virtual Event, May 7, 2025.
- e. April 4, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Regional Meetings at AGM.
- f. April 7, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, New Procurement Restriction Policy.
- g. April 7, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Executive Director Announcement.
- h. April 11, 2025 – Updated Mandatory Training for Trustees.
- i. April 21, 2025 – CCCB Statement on the Passing of Pope Francis.
- j. April 23, 2025 – CEFO, Celebrating Catholic Students.
- k. April 23, 2025 – OCSTA Revised Nominations Report.

L. Future Meetings and Events:

2. Board Meetings:

- a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, May 27, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)

3. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)

- a. Chairperson's Committee Meeting, May 12, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, May 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- c. Policy Development Committee Meeting, June 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

4. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.):

- a. Accessibility for All Committee, May 8, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- b. Special Education Advisory Committee, May 22, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- c. Student Council Liaison Committee, May 27, 2025, 4:15 p.m.
- d. STSCO Governance Committee, June 4, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
- e. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, June 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- f. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, June 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- g. Audit Committee, June 19, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- h. Faith and Equity Committee, TBA.
- i. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, TBA.

j. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, TBA

5. Board Events:

- a. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference, Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites Conference Centre, Markham.
- b. Catholic Education Week, May 4-11, 2025.
- c. Catholic Education Week, Virtual Mass, May 7, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Mass will be live-streamed from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton.
- d. Catholic Student Leadership Awards, May 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.
- e. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee Guest Speaker Special Event: Dr. Jody Carrington, Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, May 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

M. Conclusion:

2. Reports from In-camera Sessions

- a. Report from the Regular Board Meeting, Double In-camera Session, held March 25, 2025.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Loretta Durst
that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising
from the Regular Board Meeting, Double In-camera session, held
on March 25, 2025, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
 - 1. Motion for the approval of the agenda.
 - 2. No conflicts of interest were declared.
- H. New Business:
 - 1. Legal Matter.
- I. Conclusion:
 - 1. Motion to adjourn.

Carried.

- b. Report from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera Session, held April 29, 2025.

MOTION: Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Jenny Leahy

that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session, held on April 29, 2025, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
 - 1. Opening Prayer.
 - 2. Motion for the approval of the agenda.
 - 3. No conflicts of interest were declared.
 - 4. Approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session, and the March 25, Double In-camera session.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
 - 1. OCSTA In-camera Report.
- E. Human Resources:
 - 1. 2025-2026 Principal and Vice-principal Assignments.

Motion to convene in Double In-camera Session regarding the Director's Performance Appraisal.

Motion to re-convene in In-camera Session.
- I. Conclusion:
 - 1. Closing Prayer.
 - 2. Motion to convene in open session.

Carried.

3. Closing Prayer.

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, invited Trustee John Connolly, to lead the closing prayer to end the meeting.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay that the open session meeting be adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Carried.

Kevin MacKenzie
Board Chairperson

Stephen O'Sullivan
Director of Education, Secretary-Treasurer
per M.K.



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 28, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Michael Bellmore, President

SUBJECT: **Trustee Professional Development Program Launch –
Essential Governance Training 2025**

As a follow-up to the recent work OCSTA has done with regards to Trustee Professional Development programming, the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) is preparing to launch on April 28th the updated Trustee Professional Development Program – “**Essential Governance Training 2025**”.

Please see the attached memo from OESC detailing the modules to be included in this program and the timing for the facilitated professional development webinars that will be offered this spring as a key component of this program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Nick Milanetti (nmilanetti@ocsta.on.ca).



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 29, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Michael Bellmore, President

SUBJECT: New Video – “*A Precious Gift: Celebrating Publicly Funded Catholic Education in Ontario*”

As we prepare to mark Catholic Education Week from May 4th - 9th, I am delighted to share with you a new video, *A Precious Gift: Celebrating Publicly Funded Catholic Education in Ontario*.

This video is a joint project of OCSTA, OECTA and ACBO, and we are grateful for the cooperation and enthusiasm of the many people involved in the production. It has been posted to our website at [A Precious Gift](#).

Please share this link with your Catholic Education colleagues and stakeholders, and encourage them to pass it on to their own contacts in the Catholic Education community.

You might also consider showing the video to audiences at Catholic Education Week events in your community, as well as other occasions when Catholic Education supporters gather during the year.

As Cardinal Leo says in the video, publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario is indeed a precious gift. We hope you enjoy the video and will join in sharing it to showcase the great work being done in our schools!

Thank you for your support, and for your vital contributions to a great, publicly funded Catholic Education system.

I wish you all the best for a wonderful week of celebrating Catholic Education, as students and staff continue to act upon the theme of *Pilgrims of Hope*.

“We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us.”

Pope Francis



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Nick Milanetti, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Updated Mandatory Training for Trustees

The Ministry of Education has revised the requirements of its “Essential Governance Training” mandate previously announced and shared by OCSTA at the recent Catholic Trustees Seminar. The Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), which works collaboratively with all trustee associations in Ontario, has been selected by the Ministry of Education to develop and deliver a mandatory professional development training program designed for school board trustees and directors of education. This program will support sector implementation of the recent regulatory amendments set out in *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

OESC’s *Essential Governance 2025* professional development program will focus on these key areas of governance:

- Mediation and Conflict Resolution
- Financial Management and Governance
- Effective Community Engagement to Promote Student Achievement
- Director of Education Performance Appraisal

Continued...

All Ontario school board trustees and directors of education are expected to complete the training program as follows:

Part 1 – Essential Governance 2025 Self-directed Online Modules

All Ontario school board trustees and directors of education are expected to complete the new **Essential Governance 2025** self-directed online learning modules which will be made available on OESC’s Good Governance website by April 28, 2025. The program includes six modules, each available in English and French:

- Module 5: Director of Education: Hiring and Performance Appraisal (*the “Hiring” content in this module is new*)
- Module 8: Understanding Conflict and Managing it Effectively
- Module 9: Effective Community Engagement to Support Student Achievement
- Module 13: Education Finance
- Module 17: Trustee Code of Conduct
- Module 19: Audit and the Role of Audit Committees

Each trustee association and CODE has contributed to the creation of the modules. Upon completion of the modules, trustees and directors of education will receive a certificate of completion in recognition of their commitment to the good governance of their boards. Data on participant completion will be made available to the Ministry of Education.

Part 2 – Essential Governance 2025 Webinars

OESC and the trustee associations will develop a series of facilitated professional development webinars focused on the four key governance areas. The sessions will build on the learning provided in the online modules.

OPSBA and OCSTA trustees will join English-language directors of education for webinars delivered in English. ACÉPO and AFOCSC trustees will join French-language directors of education for webinars delivered in French. Webinars will be facilitated by experts with experience in both public and Catholic education (*see webinar presenters names in chart below*).

The webinars will take place in Spring 2025— OCSTA will provide registration information and dates when details are confirmed. Participants are encouraged to attend the online/synchronous learning sessions; however, sessions will be recorded and made available on OESC’s Good Governance website. Participant data on both synchronous and asynchronous webinars will be shared with the Ministry of Education.

REQUIRED TRAINING AT-A-GLANCE

Required Training	School Board Trustees	Directors of Education	Deadline to complete
Six self-directed online modules available on OESC's Good Governance Website	✓	✓	Modules available by April 28, 2025. Complete online by August 31, 2025.
Webinar: <i>Mediation and Conflict Resolution</i> Presented by: Sheila MacKinnon, Partner Shibley Righton LLP	✓	✓	Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025
Webinar: <i>Financial Management and Governance</i> Presented by: Tracy McLellan, Associate Director, Wellington CDSB; Brian McKay, Associate Director, Lambton Kent DSB	✓	✓	Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025
Webinar: <i>Effective Community Engagement to Promote Student Achievement</i> Presented by: Marion Thomson-Howell Former Chair, Waterloo CDSB	✓	✓	Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025
Webinar: <i>Director of Education Performance Appraisal*</i> Presented by: Nancy Crawford, Catholic Trustee, Former TCDSB Chair; Robin Pilkey, Former TDSB Chair; Ted Doherty, Exec. Director - OESC	✓		Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025. NOTE for OCSTA members: <i>this revised Module on the Director of Education Performance Appraisal contains new content on the topic of "hiring", which was not included in the Module content delivered to members at the 2025 Catholic Trustees Seminar.</i>

*At the Ministry of Education's request, this webinar is designed for school board trustees only.



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario's Catholic School Trustees Elect Regional Leadership and Honour Outstanding Service at 2025 AGM

TORONTO, May 5, 2025 —The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) recently celebrated the Association's 95th Anniversary at the Annual General Meeting and Conference in Markham. The event provided an opportunity for Trustees to focus on the issues and achievements having impact on Ontario's strong and vibrant publicly funded Catholic school system. This year's Annual Meeting also included the announcement of election results for the OCSTA Board of Directors.

"I am pleased to acknowledge with gratitude all the candidates who put their name forward to serve the mission of Catholic education at the provincial level as an OCSTA Regional Director. The newly acclaimed and elected trustees accept the call to serve Catholic education and share a commitment to place Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of students' learning experiences. I look forward to serving with them in the best interest of Catholic Education," said OCSTA President Michael Bellmore.

OCSTA Regional Directors – Election Results:

Region 1: Colleen Landers, Northeastern CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 2: Paul Landry, Kenora CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 3 (At Large): Glenn Sheculski, Northeastern CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 4: Lori Di Castri, Bruce-Grey CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 5: John Van Heck, St. Clair CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 9: Morgan Ste. Marie, Durham CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 10: Brian Evoy, Algonquin & Lakeshore CDSB (Acclaimed)
Region 11: Danny Di Lorenzo, Niagara CDSB (Acclaimed)
*CDSB – Catholic District School Board

Regions 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13 are represented by Trustees who are appointed by their respective boards. View the complete list of the OCSTA Board of Directors [here](#).

OCSTA Awards Program

The Association was pleased to acknowledge outstanding Catholic education leadership and service through the annual OCSTA Awards Program. This year's awards recognized the following individuals:

2025 OCSTA Trustee Award of Merit Recipient:

Trustee David Howard, Vice-Chair, Renfrew County CDSB ([view profile](#))

2025 OCSTA Special Award Recipient

Most Reverend Fred Colli, Retired Bishop, Diocese of Thunder Bay ([view profile](#))

2025 OCSTA Student Trustee Alumni Award Recipients

Aaron Paul and Ajoy Paul, Former Student Trustees, Durham CDSB ([view profile](#))

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association is the provincial voice for publicly funded Catholic education. Founded in 1930, OCSTA represents the interests of Catholic school boards that collectively educates approximately 600,000 students in Ontario, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.

For further information, please contact: *Sharon McMillan, Director of Communications*,
Tel: 416-460-7937 Email: smcmillan@ocsta.on.ca

OCSTA MEMO: Pope XIV Announcement

1 message

OCSTA - Connie DeMelo <CDeMelo@ocsta.on.ca>
To: OCSTA - Connie DeMelo <CDeMelo@ocsta.on.ca>

Thu, May 8, 2025 at 3:30 PM



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

May 8, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees and Directors of Education

- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Michael Bellmore, President

SUBJECT: Pope Leo XIV

Today we celebrate with the rest of the world at the announcement that Cardinal Robert Prevost of Chicago has been elected by the College of Cardinals to serve as our next Pope. We welcome with prayers of support our

Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

Attached please find information released by the Vatican regarding today's announcement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB' or similar, enclosed within a large, loopy oval.

WE HAVE A POPE

WE HAVE A POPE

The Most Eminent and Most Reverend Lord Robert Francis
Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church Prevost
who has taken the name Leo XIV

Just a few moments ago, from the central loggia of Saint Peter's Basilica, Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti pronounced the formula "Habemus Papam," proclaiming to the city of Rome and to the whole world the news of the election of Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost as Pope Leo XIV.

Leo XIV - Second Pope from the Americas

The first Augustinian Pope, Robert Prevost - now Leo XIV - is the second Roman Pontiff from the Americas after Pope Francis. However, unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the 69-year-old Robert Francis Prevost is from the northern part of the American continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms.

First Augustinian Pope

The new Bishop of Rome was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a Degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy.

On September 1 of the same year, he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago, and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows.

He received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Monsignor Jean Jadot, then Pro-President of the Pontifical Council for Non-Christians, now the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

Prevost obtained his licentiate in 1984; and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, was sent to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985–1986). In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine" and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois (USA).

Mission in Peru

The following year, he joined the mission in Trujillo, also in Peru, as director of the joint formation project for Augustinian candidates from the vicariates of Chulucanas, Iquitos, and Apurímac.

Over the course of eleven years, he served as prior of the community (1988–1992), formation director (1988–1998), and instructor for professed members (1992–1998), and in the Archdiocese of Trujillo as judicial vicar (1989–1998) and professor of Canon Law, Patristics, and Moral Theology at the Major Seminary “San Carlos y San Marcelo.” At the same time, he was also entrusted with the pastoral care of Our Lady Mother of the Church, later established as the parish of Saint Rita (1988–1999), in a poor suburb of the city, and was parish administrator of Our Lady of Monserrat from 1992 to 1999.

In 1999, he was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of “Mother of Good Counsel” in Chicago, and two and a half years later, the Ordinary General Chapter of the Order of Saint Augustine, elected him as Prior General, confirming him in 2007 for a second term.

In October 2013, he returned to his Augustinian Province in Chicago, serving as director of formation at the Saint Augustine Convent, first councilor, and provincial vicar—roles he held until Pope Francis appointed him on November 3, 2014, as Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Chiclayo, elevating him to the episcopal dignity as Titular Bishop of the Diocese Sufar.

He entered the Diocese on November 7, in the presence of Apostolic Nuncio James Patrick Green, who ordained him Bishop just over a month later, on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary.

His episcopal motto is “In Illo uno unum”—words pronounced by Saint Augustine in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that “although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one.”

Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, from 2015 to 2023

On September 26, 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis. In March 2018, he was elected second vice-president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, where he also served as a member of the Economic Council and as president of the Commission for Culture and Education.

In 2019, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy (July 13, 2019), and in 2020, a member of the Congregation for Bishops (November 21). Meanwhile, on April 15, 2020, he was also appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Callao.

Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops

On January 30, 2023, the Pope called him to Rome as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, promoting him to the rank of Archbishop.

Created Cardinal in 2024

Pope Francis created Prevost Cardinal in the Consistory of September 30 of that year and assigned him the Diaconate of Saint Monica. He officially took possession of his Titular church on January 28, 2024.

As head of the Dicastery, he participated in the Pope's most recent Apostolic Journeys and in both the first and second sessions of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, held in Rome from October 4 to 29, 2023, and from October 2 to 27, 2024, respectively.

Meanwhile, on October 4, 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as a member of the Dicasteries for Evangelization (Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches), for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the Eastern Churches, for the Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for Culture and Education, for Legislative Texts, and of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State.

Finally, on February 6 of this year, the Argentine Pope promoted him to the Order of Bishops, granting him the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance

~ May 2025 Bulletin

This month's bulletin will promote the celebration of Catholic Education Week 2025 across the province of Ontario as we uplift the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education in our schools, homes and parishes. The Catholic identity focus will shift to Sacred Scripture as we recognize the importance of God's Word in our lives. As May is the month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, this bulletin will conclude by noting ways to honour Mary and her role in the life of Jesus and the Church.

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2025

This month we gather as a Catholic community across the province of Ontario to celebrate the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education.

Celebrating Catholic Education Week is important because it highlights the unique role that Catholic schools play in shaping both the academic and spiritual lives of our students. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the values of faith, service, and community that are at the heart of Catholic education. This week helps to strengthen the bond between students, teachers, families, and the wider Church community, while also recognizing the contributions of educators who nurture both the intellectual and moral development of their students. As we celebrate Catholic Education Week, we are reminded of our mission to build a more just and compassionate world, grounded in the teachings of Christ.

This year's Catholic Education Week theme, "Pilgrims of Hope" is a concept that resonates deeply with the values of Catholic education. It evokes a journey of faith, perseverance, and purpose, grounded in the mission of Catholic education to inspire students to live lives of hope, service, and spiritual growth.

In Catholic education, the image of pilgrims traveling together on a shared path of faith serves as a powerful metaphor. Pilgrims are often seen as individuals who are journeying with a sense of purpose toward a goal, seeking transformation and spiritual fulfillment. In Catholic education, the goal is to help students grow not only academically but also morally and spiritually, guiding them toward a deeper relationship with God and understanding their role in the larger community.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



"Pilgrims of Hope" is a beautiful image that encapsulates the mission of Catholic education. It highlights the importance of faith, community, perseverance, service, and love in shaping students who will be the bearers of hope in the world. Through this pilgrimage, Catholic education invites each individual to embark on a journey toward a deeper relationship with God and to embrace the call to love and serve others. This year, let us embrace our call to be "Pilgrims of Hope", by accompanying one another following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK PRAYERS

Hope is our calling, O Lord,
and the destination of our pilgrim journeys.
As we mark this Jubilee Year of hope,
keep our eyes focused on Jesus,
and on the hope he reveals to us.
All our hope is in you, O God,
in the name of Jesus our Lord and companion.
Amen.



Hope is our calling, O Lord,
and the destination of our pilgrim journeys.
As we mark this Jubilee Year of hope,
keep our eyes focused on Jesus,
and on the hope he reveals to us.
May our hope lead us to love genuinely and to live generously.
In the dignity of every human being, may we honour your presence.
In our stewardship of creation, may we care for your creatures, large and small.
As we strive to respond to the poverties of our world,
may we be bearers of your compassion.
As we live as people of solidarity,
may we help to heal the divisions of our world.
In our lives as peacemakers,
may we share the "Shalom" which is your gift to all people.
Hope is the flame that has been entrusted to us;
may we keep it burning brightly,
to enlighten the path of our pilgrim journey.
All our hope is in you, O God,
in the name of Jesus our Lord and companion.
Amen.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY: SACRED SCRIPTURE



To say that our Catholic identity is rooted in Scripture is already to say quite a lot. First of all, it is to say that who we are as Catholic Christians is part of a story—actually, a very ancient, rich and nuanced story, which is the story of God’s love for humanity. As we know, it is a story that begins with God creating the cosmos and then, over time, choosing for Himself a family and a people who would be His partners in a unique covenant relationship that, through millennia of highs and lows, brings to the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Scripture reminds us that our story is part of a much larger Story, and it invites us to situate ourselves within the long unfolding of God’s unshakeable love for humanity. Scripture reminds us that, as Catholic Christians, we are heirs to that covenant relationship, and are called to embody it in our own lives and choices.

To speak of our Scriptural identity as Catholics is also to remind us of all of the amazing ancestors in faith that we can look to as models and intercessors. We think about inspiring Old Testament characters like Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Joshua, Esther, and the Hebrew Prophets. And, in the New Testament, we have the radiant model of the Virgin Mary, Jesus’ mother—and figures like St. Peter, St. Paul, and all of the Apostles, the first evangelizers, who staked everything on their relationship with Jesus, giving witness to the Risen Lord even to the point of giving up their lives. Even 2000 years later, the example of their lives still speaks powerfully to us, reminding us of what a Christ-centred life can look like. And the Church has always counted the great figures of both testaments as saints, so we can also ask their prayers and intercession as we try to live faithfully here below.

“We should never take God’s word for granted, but instead let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters.”

Pope Francis



If our identity is grounded in the Bible, then that means our identity also involves relationships. Of course, we share the first portion of the Bible—the Old Testament—with our Jewish sisters and brothers, reminding us of the unique familial relationship we have with them. But the Scriptures are the common heritage of all Christians, and so we share them in common with all believers in Jesus, whether Anglicans, Eastern Orthodox, Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans, United Church of Canada members, and those belonging to various Evangelical Christian communities. If we take Scripture seriously, then we realize that our identity necessarily involves loving relationships with other Christians, and with the Jewish people. Scripture sketches out our identity-as-family.

September 2024



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CATHOLIC EDUCATION: TOGETHER IN FAITH

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CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Last but not least, a Biblically-rooted identity for us as Catholic Christians calls us to obedience to God's Word. Not the kind of obedience rooted in fear or poor self-image, but the kind that remembers the linguistic roots of "obedience": the Latin ob + audire (roughly, "to listen in a certain direction, or with a certain goal"). To be "obedient" to God's Word means that we must listen to it as it is proclaimed in the Church's liturgies, and as we encounter it in our own meditative reading and personal prayer. If we as Catholics believe that our identity is rooted in Scripture, then we will want to return to it lovingly, over and over again, to absorb its message over time and allow it to shape our minds and hearts.

In his 2010 exhortation *Verbum Domini* (On the Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church), Pope Benedict XVI wrote of "my heartfelt hope for the flowering of 'a new season of greater love for sacred Scripture on the part of every member of the People of God, so that their prayerful and faith-filled reading of the Bible will, with time, deepen their personal relationship with Jesus.'" As so many great saints and Christian spiritual writers have emphasized, Scripture is what enables us to truly understand our deepest identity—as children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus through our baptism. By taking the time to regularly read and pray with Scripture, we will come to grasp who we are—and whose we are—and to shape our lives in a way that is authentically in keeping with that identity ... in a way that our world can see, and be drawn to believe.

“

When Scripture is read, studied, and prayed with, we do not simply receive information about God; rather, we welcome the Spirit who reminds us of all that Jesus said and did.

Jubilee of the World of Communications, January 2025, Pope Francis

”

Why is it important for Catholics to read the Bible?

St. Jerome says, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." As Catholics we believe that God communicates with us in a unique and special way through His Word.

Have you considered reading the Bible in a year?

Find a friend, family member or member of your parish community willing to read along with you. Consider the following resources:

- The Augustine Institute's Bible in a Year divides up the reading and includes short reflections.
- Fr. Mike Schmitz has a podcast on reading the Bible in one year.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



HOW CAN WE MAKE SCRIPTURE A PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES?

DAILY BIBLE READING:

Spend 10-15 minutes a day reading the Bible. Begin with the sign of the cross, take a moment of silence and then read the passage. Reflect on the following questions:

- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- What does it mean to me?
- What am I going to do about it?

LECTIO DIVINA:

Lectio Divina is a method of reading Scripture. This involves reading a Gospel passage slowly, first out loud and silently, and then contemplating the words for their spiritual meaning. This deepens connection and appreciation of the Bible.

Lectio Divina traditionally consists of four simple steps:

- Reading (lectio): Read a passage of Scripture slowly and attentively.
- Meditation (meditatio): Meditate on the passage, turning it over in your mind and connecting it with other passages in the Bible.
- Prayer (oratio): Respond to God in prayer, telling him your thoughts, questions, hopes, fears, and desires as they relate to the passage.
- Contemplation (contemplatio): Rest in God, enjoying his presence and receiving his love.

“When it enters us, the Word transforms our hearts and minds; it changes us and leads us to direct our lives to the Lord...Here is Jesus' invitation: God has come close to you; recognize His presence, make room for His Word, and you will change your outlook on life.”
Pope Francis

OTHER WAYS OF ROOTING OUR LIVES IN GOD'S HOLY WORD

- Meditating on the Sunday readings or weekday Mass readings
- Pray the Liturgy of the Hours
- Carry the Word with you, physically or on your phone (i.e., YOUCAT-Daily, Amen, Hallow, Living With Christ, The Bible in a Year)
- Join a Bible Group study in your church or community

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”
Matthew 18:20



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



THE CATHOLIC BIBLE

The Catholic Bible is a sacred text that holds profound spiritual significance for millions of believers around the world. Comprising the Old and New Testaments, it serves as the foundation of our faith, guiding us in our relationship with God, moral decisions, and daily living. More than just a historical document, the Catholic Bible is seen as the living Word of God, offering wisdom, comfort, and direction. Its teachings continue to shape hearts and communities reminding us of God's enduring presence and love in our lives.



The Bible is widely considered to be the best-selling book of all time and has estimated annual sales of 100 million copies?

The Catholic Bible is composed of the 46 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. The Bible is the spiritual center of Catholic faith.



Old Testament

- **Law (Pentateuch)** - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **Historical Books** – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees
- **Poetry/Wisdom Books** – Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, Sirach
- **Prophetic Literature** – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

New Testament

- **Gospels** – Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- **Church History** - Acts
- **Paul's Letters** – Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- **General Letters** – Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- **Apocalyptic Book** - Revelation

“The word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.” Psalm 119.105



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



OUR BLESSED MOTHER MARY

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Mother, Mary, in the Catholic Church. This devotion honours Mary and reflects her central role in the life of Jesus and the Church.

Celebrating the month of May in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a beautiful tradition in the Catholic Church. Here are some meaningful ways you can celebrate:

- **Crowning of Mary:** This is a special tradition where a statue of Mary is crowned with flowers, often done at church or in homes. Many schools organize Crowning of Mary celebrations where students take part in crowning a statue of Our Lady with a garland of fresh flowers. This symbolizes honouring her as the Queen of Heaven.
- **Prayers and Rosaries:** Many Catholics increase their daily prayer life during May by praying the Rosary. You can gather as a family, with friends, or individually to meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary, asking for Mary's intercession and guidance. The Rosary is a prayer that reflects on the key events of Mary's life and her role in the salvation of humanity.
- **Create a Marian Altar:** In your home, you can create a special altar dedicated to Mary. This might include a statue or image of her, flowers, candles, and prayers. It becomes a focal point for prayer and devotion during the month of May.
- **Acts of Charity:** In the spirit of Mary's humility and love, engage in acts of charity throughout the month. This could include helping those in need, volunteering at local charities, or even simple gestures like donating food or clothes.
- **Marian Hymns and Music:** Sing hymns dedicated to Mary or listen to her songs of praise. Hymns like Immaculate Mary or Hail Holy Queen are beautiful ways to express devotion and celebrate her role in the Church.
- **Devotion to Mary:** Pope Paul VI reminded us that "the ultimate purpose of devotion to the Blessed Virgin is to glorify God and lead Christians to commit themselves to a life which is in absolute conformity to his will". We continue to follow Christ as Mary did: hearing the word of God, keeping it in our hearts and doing the will of the Father. Jesus tells us that we are his friends when we do what he commands us; Mary's life is example of the fulfilment of that command.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



MARY IN SCRIPTURE

The Bible presents Mary as a model of faith, humility, and obedience to God's will, and Catholic tradition sees her as an essential part of salvation history. Through both her own experiences and her role as the Mother of the Church, Mary's life continues to be deeply intertwined with Scripture, and she is seen as an example for all Christians to follow.

Mary's presence throughout the Scriptures (especially in the Gospels) highlights her importance. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) marks the beginning of her role in salvation history, while the Visitation (Luke 1:39-56) reveals her humility and joy in serving others. In addition, her role in John 2:1-11 at the Wedding Feast of Cana, where she intercedes for the couple and prompts Jesus to perform His first miracle, exemplifies her role as an intercessor.



MARIAN PRAYERS

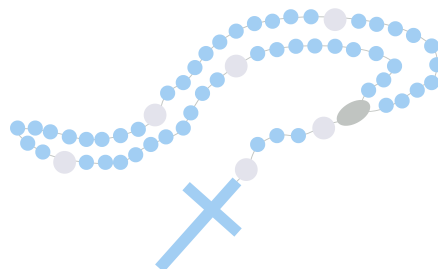


Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

The Magnificat, Mary's song of praise after her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, is a rich expression of Mary's understanding of God's plan of salvation and justice.



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his humble servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed, the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



Jubilee Year 2025 Resources

CCCB Adult Faith Resources on the Jubilee Year 2025

CCCB Catechetical Activities for Children and Youth

Scripture Resources

- Delving into Dei Verbum, the document of the Vatican II that deals with Divine Revelation through Sacred Scripture and the Tradition of the Church | Video
- Read the complete Liturgical & Pastoral Handbook for 2024 Sunday of the Word of God
- For Weekly Lectio Divina with Gospel readings, check out this 2024 resources from Canadian Bible Society - Download
- The Diocese of Hamilton has wonderful resources to help us read the bible including the Bible Sunday Prayer Card and The Bible Speaks Bookmark.

† Our Catholic Identity Series (Posters)

These posters will be made on the OCSTA website to celebrate Catholic Education Week.



NEXT MONTH'S FEATURES

Highlights from Catholic Education Week
The Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Jubilee Year
Calendar
of Major Events**



Interested in sharing what your school community is doing to promote the Jubilee Year ~ Pilgrims of Hope? Email: julie.webster@dpcdsb.org

OCSTA Memo: Reminder re: Mandatory Training for Trustees - First Session: May 14th

1 message

OCSTA - Paulina Daniel <pdaniel@ocsta.on.ca>
To: OCSTA - Paulina Daniel <pdaniel@ocsta.on.ca>

Tue, May 13, 2025 at 4:35 PM



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

May 13, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustees and Directors of Education

- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Nick Milanetti, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Links: Mandatory Training for Trustees

Further to the memo sent to all Catholic District School Boards on April 11th, (see attached) following are the registration links for all English webinars.

Effective Community Engagement to Promote Student Achievement	Wednesday, May 14, 2025	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. EDT
Registration Link: https://opsba-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z6fXTCdKQSSv2uMgrUchRg		

Mediation and Conflict Resolution	Wednesday, May 21, 2025	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. EDT
Registration Link: https://opsba-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kq48hdQoQSCbJSFMynGqHQ		

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Financial Management and Governance	Wednesday, May 28, 2025	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. EDT
Registration Link: https://opsba-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tcMRGFz2Ru6b0adpT6vrmA		

Director of Education Performance Appraisal	Thursday, May 29, 2025	12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. EDT
Registration Link: https://opsba-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sgnWvqKuQa6j8TN7c9rwWA		


Paulina

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Catholic Education: *Pilgrims of Hope*



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Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

May 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

CC: OCSTA Directors and Staff
Board Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

FROM: Michael Bellmore, President

SUBJECT: **Bill 17: An Act to amend various Acts with respect to infrastructure, housing and transit and revoke a regulation**

On Monday May 12, 2025, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced Bill 17 that proposes various amendments to municipal infrastructure and capital planning. In respect of the Bill's implications for school boards, Schedule 3 City of Toronto Act, the following amendments are proposed:

The Schedule amends section 114 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 to remove the timing restrictions with respect to when a portable classroom was placed on a school site for the purposes of the definition of "development" in subsection 114 (1) of the Act. The Act is also amended to provide certain rules with respect to information and material prepared by a person authorized to practice a prescribed profession.

In addition, Schedule 7 Planning Act, the Bill proposed the following amendments:

1. *Section 16 of the Act is amended, and new section 35.1.1 is added to the Act. These provisions provide for restrictions on official plans and zoning by-laws with respect to prohibiting the using a parcel of urban residential land for an elementary school, a secondary school, or a use ancillary to such schools.*
2. *New subsections 17 (21.1) and (21.2) of the Act require the council of a municipality or the planning board to obtain the Minister's approval before making certain amendments to an official plan.*

3. *New subsections 34 (1.4) to (1.7) of the Act set out rules with respect to minimum instances that buildings on certain lands must be setback from parcel boundaries.*
4. *Section 41 of the Act is amended to remove the timing restrictions with respect to when a portable classroom was placed on a school site for the purposes of the definition of development in subsection 41 (1) of the Act.*
5. *Section 47 of the Act is amended to provide that the Minister may, in certain orders made under that section, impose conditions on the use of land or the erection, location, or use of buildings or structures.*

In summary, these and other changes will streamline planning approvals for schools. For example:

- Exempt the placement of all portable classrooms at public school sites from site plan control. Currently, public school sites built prior to January 1, 2007, are exempt from site plan control when adding a portable classroom. This change would extend the exemption to all school sites.
- Amend the Planning Act to provide explicit permission for the use of Kindergarten to Grade 12 public schools and ancillary uses (such as associated childcare) on urban land zoned for residential uses “as-of-right”. In some cases, this could remove the need for a rezoning application, saving approximately 6-18 months from the approvals process.

Further information can be obtained from the posting on the governments Regulatory Registry: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-0461>. Submissions to the consultation process are due on June 11, 2025.

To assist OCSTA with developing a submission on these issues, please forward any comments to Steve Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs by **Monday June 2, 2025**.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at mbellmore@ocsta.on.ca or Steve Andrews at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca

Sincerely,



Michael Bellmore
President



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

May 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

CC: OCSTA Directors and Staff
Board Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

FROM: Michael Bellmore, President

SUBJECT: Provincial Budget Announcement for 2025-2026

On Thursday May 15, 2025, the Ontario Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, released the 2025-26 provincial budget entitled “a Plan to Protect Ontario.”

The budget included the following new funding initiatives that will be of interest to Catholic boards:

- \$16.5 million in the Black Youth Action Plan to assist youth build career skills in demand sectors;
- \$12.8 million in the Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant to enhance security for faith based organizations;
- \$2 billion in the 2025-2026 school year to improve and modernize school infrastructure;
- \$55.8 million to hire new teachers;
- Increasing its investment in the Ontario Autism Program by \$175 million in 2025–26, bringing this year’s total funding to \$779 million;
- Overall expenditure in the education sector: \$41 billion.

For further details on the budget please refer to the following link:

<https://budget.ontario.ca/2025/contents.html>

OCSTA will on behalf of Catholic School Boards advocate strongly for additional funding with regard to planning for the 2025/2026 school year. We will continue to impress upon the Ministry of Education the need to provide sufficient resources to support the health and safety of students and staff as well as the necessary funding for mental health, student transportation, special education, and capital planning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at mbellmore@ocsta.on.ca or Nick Milanetti at nmilanetti@ocsta.on.ca

Sincerely,

Michael Bellmore
President