

REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 31, 2010

Paul Wubben, Director of Education

SUBJECT: The Margaret Nelson-Muskoka Woods Leadership Fund

PREPARED BY: Paul Wubben, Director of Education

BACKGROUND:

To honour the work and leadership of the previous Director of Education, Margaret Nelson, the *Margaret Nelson Leadership Award* was established in 2006. The \$5,000 award has been given annually for the past five years to one graduating student from each of the Board's three secondary schools. The students receiving the award personified the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations and have shown leadership in their schools, parishes and communities. While unstated, it was intended that the award would be an incentive for students to choose Catholic high schools for their secondary careers.

While there has been a tacit understanding that the award was to exist for a period of five years, the Board report, which led to the creation of the awards in 2006, did not indicate any such time limit.

With the advent of the Muskoka Woods Project, it is recommended that the \$15,000 which has been set aside annually to be awarded to three students, now be used to serve a larger group of students. Mrs. Nelson's desire to develop leadership and promote the retention of Catholic elementary students would be served by doing so. Further, by creating the *Margaret Nelson Muskoka Woods Leadership Fund*, the money will assist the Board in growing student leaders beginning in grade seven. Muskoka Woods is a faith-based leadership experience, which benefits both the elementary and secondary students.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Motion: That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *The Margaret Nelson-Muskoka Woods Leadership Fund*, for information.

Motion: That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board discontinue the practice of the annual Margaret Nelson Leadership Awards and instead redirect the \$15,000 annual award funding to the Margaret Nelson Muskoka Woods Leadership Fund, and that the new fund be subject to review in five years.