



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Tuesday, May 24, 2016*

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### ***ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC INVESTS MORE THAN \$2.4 MILLION IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT***

The Board of Trustees has awarded contracts totalling more than \$2.4 million in school improvement work, the bulk of which will be completed during the summer months.

“These projects represent a significant investment in our Catholic schools and align with our commitment to wise stewardship of our resources, as expressed in our strategic plan,” says Jim McKenzie, Associate Director of Corporate Services.

Highlights include:

- \$1,002,541 for lighting retrofits at 16 schools. This is part of the Board’s ongoing 5-year energy plan to reduce electrical consumption. Work will be completed at eight schools over the summer months, with the remaining eight schools to be completed during the 2016-2017 school year.
- \$452,985 for a partial roof replacement at St. Philip Catholic School, Petrolia.
- \$340,492 for a partial roof replacement at Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School, Sarnia.
- \$330,152 for interior renovations, including extensive classroom upgrades and a new public address system at St. Michael Catholic School, Ridgetown.
- \$285,976 for parking lot upgrades, drainage, landscaping and fencing at Holy Trinity Catholic School, Sarnia.

The projects are funded through the Board’s annual School Condition Improvement and School Renewal allocations.



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### ***ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FOR 2016-2017 PRESENTED TO TRUSTEES***

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The Board of Trustees has received the Board’s annual accessibility plan, which lays out a blueprint for helping to make St. Clair Catholic more accessible for all persons with disabilities. The plan is a requirement of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA).

“This plan is the result of a great deal of consultation with our stakeholders, including students, staff and persons with disabilities,” says Julie Knight, Principal of St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown and Chair of the Accessibility Working Group. “Each year, it sets out priorities in the on-going work in our Board to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities.”

This year, student forums were held at six schools across the district.

The plan focuses on five barriers – attitudinal; architectural; technological; information and communication; and policy. Highlights of the plan for 2016-2017 include:

- Information gathered from School Climate Surveys, which were completed this year, will help guide schools in the development of their Safe and Healthy School Action Plans and the implementation of wellbeing initiatives.
- Facility Services will work with an architect to review all of the Board’s facilities. Information gathered will be incorporated into the Facility Services Five Year Capital Planning document, to ensure compliance with AODA standards.
- On-going training will be provided to Grade 3 and Grade 6 classroom teachers in the use of assistive technology, in preparation for EQAO assessments.

“Each year in the preparation of this report, we gain valuable input from all of our stakeholders,” says Mrs. Knight. “I want to thank each of them, especially our students, who are full and active participants at our school forums.”

The full report is available on the Board website at <http://www.st-clair.net/board-meetings.aspx> Click on the link for the May 24, 2016 meeting under Board Meeting Reports.