



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

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CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS FOR 2011-2012 OUTLINED

Trustees of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board received a report tonight outlining \$3.2 million in capital works projects, which are scheduled for completion during the current school year. The projects are expected to go to tender in March and be completed during the summer months.

Summaries of the projects and funding sources are listed in the table below.

School	Project Description	Budget
Christ the King	FDK Retrofit, HVAC & BMS Upgrade, Childcare Space	\$ 500,000
Our Lady of Fatima	Asphalt Replacement	100,000
St. John Fisher	Roof Replacement	400,000
St. Joseph, Tilbury	FDK Retrofit, HVAC Upgrade	1,500,000
St. Philip	FDK Retrofit	175,000
St. Vincent	Drainage & Asphalt Upgrade	100,000
Ursuline College	Asphalt Replacement	120,000
Ursuline College	Roof Replacement	275,000
Catholic Education Centre	Server Room Upgrade	50,000
		\$ 3,220,000
Sources of Funding	2011-12 GSN Renewal Allocation	\$ 1,267,060
	School Condition Improvement Allocation	952,394
	Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten (FDK) Allocation	658,596
	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	50,000
	Deferred Revenue – School Renewal	181,075
	Energy Incentive Rebates	110,875
		\$ 3,220,000



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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC TRUSTEES ENDORSE BOARD CALENDAR FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR

Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have endorsed the proposed calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.

Each year, school boards in Ontario are required to draft calendars which set out holidays, professional development days and secondary examination days. The calendars are prepared in accordance with the Education Act and must include a minimum of 194 instructional days, of which a minimum of two and maximum of six days may be designated as professional development days.

A consultation process was undertaken for the 2012-2013 calendar, which included the Lambton Kent District School Board, the Board Advisory Council and the leadership of the unions and the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario.

Highlights:

- The school year would begin on Tuesday, September 4, 2012
- The final day for students is Thursday, June 27, 2013
- Professional Activity days are scheduled for:
 - Monday, September 24, 2012
 - Friday, October 19, 2012
 - Friday, November 23, 2012
 - Friday, February 1, 2013
 - Monday, June 10, 2013
 - Friday, June 28, 2013
- The Christmas Holiday is Monday, December 24, 2012 to Friday, January 4, 2013
- The March Break is Monday, March 11, 2013 to Friday, March 15, 2013
- Secondary School Examination days are:
 - Semester 1: Friday, January 25, 2013 to Thursday, January 31, 2013
 - Semester 2: Friday, June 21, 2013 to Thursday, June 27, 2013

The calendar will now be submitted to the Ministry of Education for final approval.



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MONSIGNOR UYEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BECOMES SINGLE-TRACK FRENCH IMMERSION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have accepted the recommendations of the Monsignor Uyen/Our Lady of Fatima Boundary Review Committee (BRC), clearing the way for Monsignor Uyen to become a single-track French Immersion school, effective September 1, 2012.

A report by the Director of Education was in full agreement with the BRC's final report, and urged Trustees to accept the committee's recommendations.

"I want to thank the members of the Boundary Review Committee for their work and for reaching consensus on recommendations which are in the best interests of the students, their families and the Board," says Paul Wubben, Director of Education.

Currently both schools house English programs from JK to Grade 8; with French Immersion from JK to Grade 2 at Our Lady of Fatima and from Grade 3 to Grade 8 at Monsignor Uyen. The BRC, made up of parents from both schools, met three times from November through February to consider the problem of declining enrolment, which was affecting the viability of the English program at Monsignor Uyen. At the same time, growth in the English program at Our Lady of Fatima was resulting in a shortage of classroom space. In accepting the BRC's recommendations tonight, the Board has shifted English program students to Our Lady of Fatima and French Immersion program students to Monsignor Uyen, solving both issues.

The Board also accepted a recommendation which will permit the current Grade 7 students to graduate from Monsignor Uyen next year, provided that there is a minimum class size of 12 students.

"We will now begin the work of transitioning students, so that when they arrive in their new school communities in September they will feel welcome among their new friends," says Mr. Wubben.

The BRC also establish a new attendance boundary for Our Lady of Fatima, which includes the former boundaries of both schools. A new transportation boundary has also been established for Monsignor Uyen, which complies with Board policy.



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PAUL WUBBEN TO STEP DOWN AUGUST 31ST AFTER NEARLY SEVEN YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Paul Wubben has announced that he will step down on August 31, 2012 after nearly seven years as Director of Education for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board.

“This past summer, in the interests of the organization and my own interests, the Board and I agreed that August 31, 2012 is a good date for me to step down and allow for new leadership at St. Clair Catholic,” says Mr. Wubben.

Mr. Wubben was appointed to serve as Director of Education beginning in February 2006, following the retirement of Margaret Nelson. He began his career as a teacher with the Carleton Catholic District School Board in 1982. He was a vice principal, principal and superintendent of education. He was also actively involved in the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario and served on committees appointed to write and review curricula.

“My career has been enormously satisfying,” says Mr. Wubben. “I have particularly enjoyed serving St. Clair Catholic as Director of Education and now I’m interested in pursuing other opportunities.”

Mr. Wubben lists declining enrolment as one of the great challenges that has faced the Board during his tenure. However, he also says with that challenge came some great opportunities.

“I think we have learned that school closures and consolidations can sometimes be blessings in disguise. We have two brand new, state-of-the-art elementary schools in south Sarnia because our parent community partnered with our Board and dared to dream of something better. That was a tremendous experience,” he says.

“I have appreciated the support of our Trustees and I believe that through our boldness, we have shared many successes together. I felt at all times, that the Trustees believed I would act in the best interests of our students and their families ... and to protect the gift of Catholic education.”

The Board of Trustees will now begin the search for a new Director of Education, to replace Mr. Wubben.