



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

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BOARD ENDORSES NEW STRATEGIC PLAN – ‘CATHOLIC EDUCATION + FUTURE READY – 2019-2024

Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board tonight endorsed a new strategic plan, which will guide learning for the next five years. *Catholic Education + Future Ready* is the result of extensive collaboration with all of the Board’s partners in Catholic education – students, parents, staff, our parishes, community partners and the trustees.

“I am proud to present this final document to the Board of Trustees,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. “It the result of wide-ranging and rich consultation with all of our partners in Catholic education.”

Throughout the development of the new strategic plan, communication was key. The Board utilized technology through the *Thoughtexchange* online platform to reach as many stakeholders as possible – with more than 2,300 participants contributing 3,344 thoughts or ideas and rating the thoughts of others nearly 111,700 times.

A team of system champions, which represented all stakeholder groups, was brought together on three occasions to review the survey data and identify the priorities that emerged through the *Thoughtexchange*. Those themes helped to shape new vision, mission and values statements:

Our Vision:
Catholic Education + Future Ready

Our Mission:
Learning together today, transforming tomorrow

Our Values:

- *Respect rooted in love*
- *Excellence for all*
- *Accountability to God, self and others*
- *Engagement in our work*
- *Called to serve our world*

“This new strategic plan, and the operational plans that will result from it, will create the foundation for how we ensure we are a strong, faith-filled Catholic school system that is ‘future ready’ and working to ‘transform learning for tomorrow’ for our Catholic graduates,” says Mrs. Crawford.



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TRUSTEES, SENIOR ADMINISTRATION AND MUNICIPAL PARTNERS TOUR ST. ANGELA MERICI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Wow!"

That was the consensus as trustees, senior administration and municipal partners had an opportunity to tour the new Catholic elementary school, currently under construction on McNaughton Avenue, W. in Chatham. St. Angela Merici Catholic School is on target to open to staff and students in September 2020.

"Everything is on schedule and we expect to turn the building over to the school board by next Spring," says Roy Carvalho, Job Superintendent with Norlon Builders.

There is still a great deal to be done inside, but those touring the facility were impressed by the two-storey Learning Commons and atrium at the front entrance, the expansive gym, high ceilings, wide hallways and classrooms with large windows, flooding all interior spaces with natural light.

The building will also feature separate climate control for individual classrooms and a beefed-up electrical system.

"We typically hear from our staff that our older facilities don't have enough power," says Tony Montanino, Manager of Facility Services for St. Clair Catholic. "This building will have plenty of power. That was a high priority recommendation from our educators, as we looked at the importance of technology for a school of the future."

Collaboration on what the school would like like has been key from the very beginning.

"We had input from educators, custodians, secretaries, ECEs, EAs - all employee groups who work in our schools had a say in how this school should be designed," says Deb Crawford, Director of Education. "We said, 'If you could design a school for the future, what would it look like?' ... well, you're looking at it. It's very exciting for all of us!"

Most of the fall will be spent completing all of the outdoor work, including lawn seeding, landscaping, windows and doors. Once the building is closed up for the winter, work on the interior finishes will continue until the project wraps up sometime in the Spring.

"We are very proud of this school and grateful for the funding from the Government of Ontario that's making this project possible," says Mrs. Crawford

"We can't wait to get started on our next two new builds - an elementary school for south Chatham and a new French Immersion school in Sarnia."