



## REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES August 25, 2020

Deb Crawford, Director of Education

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**SUBJECT:** Rural and Northern Education Funding Eligible Schools

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### BACKGROUND:

On March 26, 2018 the Ministry of Education (Ministry) announced the Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF) to further improve education for students from rural communities. The 2019: B14 memo released on April 26, 2019 reminded boards to continue to spend this funding and to keep their RNEF eligible school list current. RNEF funding is based on a calculation that measures the density of rural students in the board and is not based on specific schools. The funding amount for 2020-2021 is \$245,439.

The initial list of schools was determined based on a set of criteria developed by the Ministry and Boards have the ability to add schools through Board motion, thereby making them eligible for the allocated RNEF funding.

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation to add both Ursuline College Chatham and St. Patrick's High School to the list of RNEF eligible schools.

- Both Ursuline College Chatham and St. Patrick's High School are the only Catholic secondary schools in their communities.
- If either school were subject to closure, students would need to travel a substantial distance to reach the alternate school given that the schools are 74 kilometers apart.
- Rural students make up a significant portion of the student population. 47% of students reside outside city limits and 79% of students are bussed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Rural and Northern Education Funding Eligible Schools*, for information.**

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board approve the addition of Ursuline College Chatham and St. Patrick's High School to the list of schools eligible to utilize the Rural and Northern Education Funding Allocation beginning for the 2020-2021 school year.**