



## ***French Education Delegation from Lille, France Visits Area Schools as part of Twinning Initiative***

Three St. Clair Catholic schools played host to a visiting delegation from the Académie de Lille, France, as part of an initiative to twin schools in France with French Immersion schools in St. Clair Catholic and the Lambton Kent District School Board.

“We are pleased to welcome these visiting dignitaries and are eager to learn more about this exciting twinning initiative,” says Dan Parr, Director of Education.

The school partnership would allow greater access for students to share their learning on a regular basis, using Skype and other technologies.

“The partnership would be a tremendous opportunity for our students,” says Mr. Parr. “It is also perfectly aligned with the new French curriculum document, which stresses, not only instruction in the French language, but also embedding the French culture into student learning.”

The delegation toured Gregory A. Hogan in Sarnia; and Ursuline College and Monsignor Uyen Catholic schools in Chatham, as well as a number of LKDSB public schools.

“When we step into your schools we immediately see similarities and differences,” says Ludovic Sauvage, an Accreditation Officer and Inspector for schools in Lille. “The similarities would provide obvious curriculum links between our schools; and the differences would offer a tremendous richness in learning for students in both countries.”

Mr. Sauvage and Isabelle Jeuffroy, Académie de Lille’s Advisor for European and International Relationships met with the Directors and Superintendents of Education for both school boards, along with LKDSB trustee Ruth Ann Dodman.

The twinning initiative began as an opportunity for students in France and Canada to dialogue as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which will occur in April 2017. However, educators from both countries agree the project has the potential to create learning experiences well beyond that.

Staff from both countries will work on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding in the coming months.

***Pictured above are (Back Row L-R) Ruth Ann Dodman, Trustee, LKDSB; Taf Lounsbury, Superintendent of Education, LKDSB; Jim Costello, Director of Education, LKDSB; Dan Parr, Director of Education, St. Clair Catholic; and Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education, St. Clair Catholic. (Front Row L-R) Ludovic Sauvage and Isabelle Jeuffroy of the Académie de Lille, France.***