



REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES November 24, 2020

Deb Crawford, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Board History Book – Catholic Education in Kent and Lambton Counties:
1824-2020

PREPARED BY: Deb Crawford, Director of Education

BACKGROUND:

In January 2017, former Director of Education Dan Parr enlisted the professional services of Diocese of London Archivist Deb Majer and Father Greg Blonde to research and write a history of Catholic education in Kent and Lambton Counties. With the support for the project from Chair of the Board John Van Heck and Trustee Carol Bryden, the work began.

Under Deb Majer's leadership, research material that was scattered and held in various archives was carefully and meticulously located and documented. Now, thanks to this record, the history of the Catholic school system in Kent and Lambton Counties, including the formation of local school boards and the tremendous influence by religious communities, is preserved for future generations.

A history of Catholic education in Ontario is also included in the book.

The support of Father Greg Blonde for this project cannot be overstated. Without his generous personal donations, the history of schools in the St. Clair Catholic district would not have been told. We are grateful for his dedication to the preservation of this important history and for the funding he has provided.

Copies of the book will now be distributed to every school in the district to add to their library collections, to our parishes and to the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Public Libraries.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Board History Book – Catholic Education in Kent and Lambton Counties: 1824 – 2020* for information.