



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

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FIVE YEAR ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN AND HOLY ROSARY ECO-SCHOOLS REPORT PRESENTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Under the *Electricity Act, 1998 – Ontario Regulation 507/18* and the *Demand Management Plan*, the St. Clair Catholic District School Board is required to report to the Ministry on its energy conservation investments from 2013-2018 and the new targets it has set for 2019-2023.

Both are captured in the *Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan*, which was presented to the Board of Trustees this evening.

“This report is a comprehensive snapshot of the investments we have made at St. Clair Catholic and the steps we have set out to continue to achieve energy savings through 2023,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education.

From 2013 to 2018, the Board has invested nearly \$12 million in energy management strategies, which include the installation of high efficiency lighting systems, high efficiency HVACs, boilers and rooftop systems for heating and cooling, improved glazing, wall insulation and new roofs.

It is estimated that a further \$19.5 million will be invested in the design and construction of our new school builds in Chatham and Sarnia and retrofit strategies for existing schools now through 2023; and an additional \$412,000 for planning, energy audits and training and education.

“The Board’s strategic plan calls us to be wise stewards of the public resources with which we are entrusted,” says Amy Janssens, Associate Director – Corporate Services & Treasurer. “That commitment also extends to our efforts to reduce, where we can, our carbon footprint, as we also seek to be environmental stewards of our planet.”

In June 2018, Holy Rosary Catholic School received ‘gold’ certification with the Ontario EcoSchools program, joining a movement of over 1,900 certified schools across the province.

Since that time, Holy Rosary has been involved in a number of conservation activities.

“We all care for God’s creation by managing and reducing our carbon footprint in measurable ways,” Principal Margaret DeGurse told trustees during a presentation to the Board.

Some of the initiatives at the school include turning off lights and electronics to save energy; reducing waste from seven bags a day to one bag a day; using compostable garbage bags; used battery collection and using hydroponic tower gardens to grow vegetables indoors.

New initiatives this year include promoting a National Sweater Day contest across the St. Clair Catholic District School Board; collecting dried-up markers and pens; inviting speakers in to talk to students about farming and water systems; greening the school grounds by planting 11 new trees; and writing letters to politicians, commercials and a song to petition the proper disposal of contact lenses and the cases they come in. The students are really hoping the contact lens petition will make a huge impact in the future!

“One of the most rewarding outcomes of being an EcoSchool is that our students have become environmental stewardship leaders,” says Mrs. DeGurse. “Not just at school, but also in their homes and in the community.”



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BOARD APPROVES APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT TRUSTEES

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The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has approved the appointment of two students, who will serve as Student Trustees for the 2019-2020 school year.

They are:

- Ethan Gilhula – a Grade 11 student from Ursuline College Chatham; and
- Kyra Mevis – a Grade 11 student from St. Patrick’s Catholic High School, Sarnia.

Ethan has a strong passion for politics, conservative values and his Catholic faith. He is an honour roll student, who takes great pride in his academic achievements and civic responsibilities. Ethan has been a member of the UCC orchestra since he became a Lancer. He has also been an active member of the badminton team and has participated on student council. Ethan is also committed to volunteering with a number of groups within our community, including *100 Men Who Care*, *Restorative Justice CK* and the *CK Mental Health Network*. UCC is proud to nominate Ethan as UCC Student Trustee.

Kyra is a highly engaged and hardworking Grade 11 Art and Culture Specialist High Skills Major student at St. Patrick’s. She is honoured to have been selected as Student Trustee for the 2019-2020 school year. Throughout her three years at St. Patrick’s she has been highly involved in extracurricular activities and in the daily life of the school – most notably as a Muskoka Woods leader, student council member, LINK Crew member and participant in the school’s productions of *Spotlight on Broadway* and *Footloose*. Kyra has been a member of the school Chaplaincy team for three years and has been a lector for seven years. Her dream is to pursue a career as a secondary school teacher.

“I am honoured to present these students to the Board of Trustees as our nominees for Student Trustees for the coming year,” says Scott Johnson, Superintendent of Education for secondary schools. “I know they will ably represent the student voice from their schools at the Board table.”

The term of office for Student Trustee runs from August 2019 through July 2020.



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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC AWARDS ROOF REPLACEMENT CONTRACT FOR PROJECT AT ST. JOSEPH CORUNNA

The Board of Trustees has awarded a contract totalling \$979,450 for a roof replacement at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna.

“This project has been identified as a priority for 2018-2019,” says Amy Janssens, Associate Director – Corporate Services & Treasurer.

The low bid was offered by Bullock & Sons Roofing of Sarnia. The value of the contract requires approval from the Board of Trustees, under *Sec. B Policy – Purchasing*.

The work will include the removal and replacement of the entire existing roof system. It will be funded through the annual School Condition Improvement allocation from the Ministry of Education.

The project will be completed through the summer months.