



## Enclosure 8

# 2020-2021 School Climate Survey

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## Background

School boards in Ontario are mandated by the Ministry of Education to conduct surveys of students, staff and parents every two (2) years. They are an important tool in helping the Board to assess perceptions of school safety, inclusion and diversity and in helping to build and sustain positive school environments. They also assist the Board in making informed planning decisions about programs, which help promote safe and inclusive schools and good mental health.

As the result of the COVID worldwide pandemic, the administration of our survey in 2020 was moved forward and conducted from Tuesday, April 6, 2021 to Friday, May 21, 2021. The survey was anonymous and accessible to our stakeholders in three forms: on our Board website; as a link which was included in all correspondence to stakeholders and by paper copy which could be obtained from schools within our Board to be filled out and returned. Surveys were taken of elementary students from Grades 4 through 8, secondary students, school staff and parents.

## Highlights

- 862 parent responses, 408 staff responses, 1787 students grade 4-8, 1169 students grade 9-12; 46% male, 48% female, 6% non-identified and 7% identified as First Nations, Inuit, Metis in elementary and 44% male, 53% female, 3% non-identified; 4.5% identified as First Nations, Inuit, Metis
- Students in our board report feeling safe at school some, most or all the time (79% elementary and 76% secondary)
- Students report that they have one caring adult to talk to at school (63% elementary and 79% secondary)
- Students that report they “fit in” at school was reported (75% of elementary and 75% secondary) students
- Students that understand their faith has a positive impact on their mental wellbeing (49% elementary and 54%secondary)
- Students report that verbal bullying is the most prevalent form and has been witnessed within the last month (39% elementary and 29% secondary)
- Top three identified issues that impact student mental health and wellbeing were similar for elementary and secondary. Elementary and secondary students reported that pressure to do well at school and being nervous & afraid were the top two issues impacting them. The third reason stated by elementary students was pandemic related issues while secondary students reported sadness.

## Recommendations

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: 2020-2021 School Climate Survey, for information.**