



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FOR 2016-2017 PRESENTED TO TRUSTEES

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The Board of Trustees has received the Board's annual accessibility plan, which lays out a blueprint for helping to make St. Clair Catholic more accessible for all persons with disabilities. The plan is a requirement of the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA) and the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA).

“This plan is the result of a great deal of consultation with our stakeholders, including students, staff and persons with disabilities,” says Julie Knight, Principal of St. Michael Catholic School in Ridgetown and Chair of the Accessibility Working Group. “Each year, it sets out priorities in the on-going work in our Board to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities.”

This year, student forums were held at six schools across the district.

The plan focuses on five barriers – attitudinal; architectural; technological; information and communication; and policy. Highlights of the plan for 2016-2017 include:

- Information gathered from School Climate Surveys, which were completed this year, will help guide schools in the development of their Safe and Healthy School Action Plans and the implementation of wellbeing initiatives.
- Facility Services will work with an architect to review all of the Board's facilities. Information gathered will be incorporated into the Facility Services Five Year Capital Planning document, to ensure compliance with AODA standards.
- On-going training will be provided to Grade 3 and Grade 6 classroom teachers in the use of assistive technology, in preparation for EQAO assessments.

“Each year in the preparation of this report, we gain valuable input from all of our stakeholders,” says Mrs. Knight. “I want to thank each of them, especially our students, who are full and active participants at our school forums.”

The full report is available on the Board website at <http://www.st-clair.net/board-meetings.aspx> Click on the link for the May 24, 2016 meeting under Board Meeting Reports.