



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***PRINCIPALS, VICE PRINCIPALS AND VP LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES COMPLETE SPECIAL EDUCATION AQ COURSE***

St. Clair Catholic principals, vice principals and vice principal candidates are the first in Ontario to complete, as an entire leadership group, the Special Education for Administrators Additional Qualifications course (SEA AQ). The course, which was offered through the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) was led by Superintendent of Education Lisa Demers, Sacred Heart Catholic School (Port Lambton) Principal Jen Morrow and St. Joseph Catholic School (Corunna) Principal Colleen Coghe.

Administrators from several schools attended tonight's Regular Board Meeting to accept their Certificates of Achievement, which were presented by Chair of the Board John Van Heck and Director of Education, Deb Crawford.

"We are proud of our entire leadership team for this significant achievement, which will benefit students across the system – especially our most vulnerable students – those students who have special needs," says Mr. Van Heck.

"This is an important course for our administrators because it celebrates our distinct Catholic identity," says Mrs. Crawford. "It is learning that causes us to rethink perceptions and attitudes towards persons with disabilities, because it reflects a society in which we work toward understanding and accepting responsibility for others."

The CPCO Special Education for Administrators Additional Qualifications course consists of 125 hours of course work, including face-to-face instruction, online learning and a job-embedded professional inquiry practicum. The learning was embedded in the Board's Catholic Leadership meetings, to ensure that all administrators and leadership candidates received the SEA AQ accreditation.

A key component of the course is its practical application in school improvement plans and helping to determine the most pressing student learning needs. Administrators are looking through the lens of the learner, as school-wide numeracy and literacy goals are developed.