



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

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC TRUSTEES APPROVE NEW FOOD AND BEVERAGE POLICY, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board have approved a new school food and beverage policy.

“Although the new policy will require considerable change in school culture and will result in a significant loss in revenue from vending machines at the secondary level, we believe the move to healthier food choices for our students is a good one,” says Paul Wubben, Director of Education.

“The research is clear, good nutrition promotes improved health, growth and intellectual development,” says Mr. Wubben.

At a minimum, the new policy conforms to Ministry of Education directives regarding student nutrition and in some cases it extends beyond provincial requirements. For example, school fundraising is not covered by the provincial guidelines; however, under the St. Clair policy, all school fundraising activities must be compliant with the policy by September 2014.

“It simply does not make sense to help children see the value in eating nutritious foods, but then give them a box of chocolate bars to go out and sell to raise money for the school,” says Mr. Wubben. “We’re going to stop doing that.”

The policy applies to all foods sold or given to students during school activities or organized school lunch programs; however, it does not apply to foods brought from home in student lunches or foods brought from home for special classroom parties, like birthday celebrations. Principals will also have 10 “Special Events Days” during which the school is exempted from the policy.

Food service suppliers, who provide food and beverages for sale in schools, are also impacted by the new policy. Three public consultation meetings were held in February and March to explain the new rules to vendors. Under the new policy, food service suppliers must complete a letter of compliance, which they will be able to obtain from the Board’s website. Vendors must list the ingredients, products and serving sizes in the food and beverages being sold to schools. Dietitians with the local health unit will approve the letter of compliance before vendors will be permitted to sell foods and beverages to the schools.

“We want to thank our partners in public health for their tremendous assistance in the development of this policy and in ensuring that foods and beverages sold in our schools meet the new requirements,” says Mr. Wubben.

The new policy takes effect September 1, 2011.