



***“Our Catholic Schools 2006 – 2007:
A Discussion On Ontario’s Catholic Schools
and Their Future”***

Report to the Board of Trustees

Monday, June 11, 2007

BACKGROUND

A Report to the Board, January 15, 2007 provided the rationale for province wide discussions about the distinctiveness, the value and the future of Catholic education as well as the process and plans for facilitating these discussions in the London District Catholic School Board. “Our Catholic Schools 2006 - 2007: A Discussion on Ontario’s Catholic Schools and their Future” provided a unique opportunity for the London District Catholic School Board to engage school communities in the discussion. Within the London District Catholic School Board, discussions have taken place at ninety five tables: in staff rooms, at school councils, with administration, parents, students, parish teams and community members.

The following organizations and/or representatives were involved:

St. Peter’s Seminary
LDCSB Communications Committee
LDCSB Board of Trustees
Principals (Secondary and Elementary)
Student Senate
Senior Administration
LDCSB District School Council
Elementary Schools
Secondary Schools
Student Councils

(Note: each school site was asked to respond to one specific question and one of the school’s choice) Individual Reports were encouraged. Each of the above groups submitted a written report.

Included in some of the Elementary and Secondary Reports were representatives from school councils, student or youth group, school board staff, Knights of Columbus, school staff, parents, Catholic Women’s League, Parish Council and the community.

The results of these discussions were compiled into a report which provides us with invaluable insights regarding how we think about Catholic education and what we view as important. The report also provides a thoughtful and carefully considered view of how all of us who are involved in Catholic education see the future and its myriad of challenges.

A team of seven staff, (three elementary principals and three secondary principals) and the London District Catholic School Board Communication Manager read all reports and collated the responses on a template provided by the Institute for Catholic Education. The London District school Board report to I.C.E. was submitted May 17, 2007.

THE REPORT

The London District Catholic School Board report is comprised of three sections each responding to one central question.

1. What would you like your local school board and the Institute for Catholic Education to pay particular attention to?
2. What is the most important issue that your local school board and the Institute for Catholic Education should address?
3. What would you most like to see changed?

In addition to the formal written responses and recommendations, a tremendous amount of unrecorded interaction, discussion and debate occurred during all of these discussions. As a result, those involved are better able to articulate our Catholic faith and our Catholic schools.

It is evident, there is a deep and broad level of support for our Catholic schools, an increased awareness of what Catholic schools are about and what they contribute to society.

NEXT STEPS

The report, which was presented to Administrative Council in May, will be made available on the London District Catholic School Board website on the Stewards in Catholic Education web page (<http://www.ldcsb.on.ca/comm/committee/stewardsdiscuss.pdf>) . It will be presented and discussed at the Stewards in Catholic Education Committee, Catholicity Committee, District School Council, Principals' Meetings and the Student Senate. An action plan identifying key challenges and strategies to address them, will be established and aligned with the Board's Strategic Priorities 2007 – 2010 and focus on Catholic Identity.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive and file.