

# Director's Annual Report 2006



**Northeastern Catholic District School Board**  
Serving the Cochrane and Timiskaming Districts of Ontario



## PROGRAM

The Board welcomed a new Superintendent of Education in 2006. Karen Rowe has demonstrated her thorough understanding of the needs of our students balanced alongside the expectations of the Ministry of Education. She is a dedicated professional who is committed to the betterment of Catholic education, both in terms of academics and faith development.

The Program Team also continues to provide expert leadership at the system level. Our Program Principals for Special Education and for Student Success are actively fulfilling their mandate and working collaboratively with our school communities.

Special Assignment Teachers for Student Achievement, Information Technology and Special Education work collectively and independently to facilitate the enhancement of teacher capacity and school capacity. Through their research, analysis, planning and workshop delivery, they are reaching out to support their colleagues in communities throughout the Board. Their willingness to travel to all areas of our district demonstrate our ongoing commitment as a District School Board which honours the creation of opportunities for staff in all regions.



## ONTARIO FOCUSED INTERVENTION PROGRAM (OFIP)

Three schools within the Board have been selected to receive funding under the Ontario Focused Intervention Partnership to enhance the Board's efforts to build teacher capacity for the purposes of increasing student achievement. The schools will benefit from the expertise of Ministry officials designated to work with the principal and the staff at regular intervals.

## JUNIOR PROJECT INITIATIVE

Through the support of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, improvement plans were established for male learners in junior classrooms in three of our schools. Students who demonstrated promise of reaching provincial standards in Reading were provided additional support over a six-week period. Their progress was monitored in order to provide a model which could be replicated in other school communities.



## TURN AROUND SCHOOLS

The Turn Around Team Project continued at **St. Paul School** and **St. Jerome School** in 2006. Through this Ministry Initiative, our educators are working together towards focused school improvement planning along with representatives from the Ministry.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the 2005-06 school year, educators participated in over 300 professional development workshops, including sessions led by our own internal team as well as by guest speakers. A few of the highlights include the following:

- a session by renowned Boys Literacy expert David Booth who shared his knowledge, as it relates to the gender gap in literacy;
- a Healthy Active Living workshop including the Porcupine Health Unit for school champions and an additional staff member from each school;
- an Understanding and Managing Aggressive Behaviour (UMAB) session for teams from each school community;
- Junior and Intermediate Retreats focused on literacy strategies and assessment;
- a Children and Bereavement workshop to help staff assist students in dealing with grief;
- an Improvement Planning and Achievement session for principals;
- a Revised Language workshop pertaining to the revised language curriculum;
- a session on the revised Junior Kindergarten Program presented to all JK/SK teachers; and
- a conference in Timmins by renowned educator and researcher Barrie Bennet from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.



### BEST START PROGRAM

After a thorough examination of capital projects in all school systems within our southern area, the Board was selected to receive funding through the Best Start initiative in the District of Temiskaming. At **Holy Family School** in Englehart, monies were allocated to provide playground equipment and capital investment to support the program. The Board is committed to this endeavor which will provide support to pre-school youngsters for the purpose of readiness for learning in a school environment.

### DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

A major focus of the new school year is the integration of Daily Physical Activity (DPA) into the curriculum both in the classroom and in other venues. This new approach stems from the Ministry's Healthy Schools Program, which requires that all elementary students take part in twenty minutes of sustained moderate to vigorous physical activity. The Board has invested in the professional development of 'School Champions' for healthy active lifestyles. As well, we have purchased the 'Everybody Move!' program for our schools, which is filled with ideas on how to get our students energized and moving. The package includes music, games, and other resources to encourage active participation by students during different subject lessons. As Catholics, we believe the human body shares in the dignity of the image of God. Because God created our bodies, trying to be physically fit is one way we hold our bodies in honour. It is our goal to better fulfill this mission through enhanced daily physical activity as part of our holistic approach to education of nurturing mind, body and soul. This fall, a master trainer from the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA) provided a session on DPA and the elements of fitness to our school champions.

### NEW TEACHER INDUCTION PROGRAM (NTIP)

The Ministry of Education launched the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP), a major initiative to provide meaningful and purposeful opportunities for new teachers coming into the profession. As a result, boards have been mandated to provide programs, services and guidance under several domains. New teachers were oriented at both the school and Board level to make transitions smoother, and to provide them with a mentor who will assist them in their ongoing development. The focus of our mentorship program is based on:

- a foundation of faith based on gospel values;
- a recognition and appreciation of the importance of literacy as foundational to learning; and
- a process by which we can improve classroom management through student engagement.

Funding was secured to assist in the implementation of NTIP and to provide training. All principals will be trained in regards to new teacher performance appraisals, a key component of this program.



## MANAGING INFORMATION FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (MISA)

The Board received funding under the Managing Information for Student Achievement portfolio. Accomplishments included:

- the purchase of a local analysis and reporting tool;
- the logging of suspension and expulsion data in the student management system;
- on-going data cleansing to ensure accuracy of data and eliminate duplication of record errors;
- modifications to the Student Management System, the Human Resources Information System and servers to ensure compatibility with Ministry reporting requirements;
- training of principals; and
- reporting of student data through the Ontario Student Information System (OnSIS).

The two-day principals' meeting on this topic fostered a deeper understanding of data and its role in classroom instruction. Principals were led through a framework to analyze EOAO data while learning about the wealth of information that can be derived from their students' data. Through tangible examples, they learned how this information can support evidence-informed decision making in regards to classroom instruction, programming and school improvement planning.

In addition to our system level MISA plan, the Board participates in the MISA Professional Network Centre. The MISA Team has engaged in productive dialogue and attended seminars on best practices to reach the objectives of this initiative.



## WRITING FORUM

Fifty students from throughout the **Northeastern Catholic District School Board** gathered at the Timmins Public Library in May to take part in the **NCDSB 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Writing Forum**. The participants of this forum included the winners of the **NCDSB Writing Contest** in the grade 4 to grade 12 categories, as well as additional randomly selected participants who, while not selected as winners, have demonstrated a passion for writing through their poetry and short story submissions. Renowned author Frank B. Edwards served as keynote speaker for the event, leading an informative and comical presentation on how to turn an idea into a story. He also led two workshops during which students used their creativity to develop a story line and had the opportunity to share their own writing. The day ended with the awards ceremony for the winners of the **NCDSB Writing Contest** launched in January.



Robert Munsch



Frank B. Edwards

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

In February, teachers came together regionally to engage in reflective discussion, to share best practices and to begin the preparation for Catholic Education Week 2006. Their planning efforts laid the groundwork for the celebration of this event from April 30th to May 6th. The theme this year was "And God Saw That It Was Good". This theme resonated deeply with contemporary ecological consciousness and with the spirituality of today's young people. An ecological vision, rooted in Christian belief, offered an inspiration to youth that gives them hope and meaning and a motive for service. The events planned within our schools this week were a reflection of our appreciation for our planet and the environment in general. The universe and all that exists within it is bursting with significance and purpose for those who have eyes to see it as God sees it and as God would have us see it.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Board was successful in receiving funding for Special Education through the Council of Ontario Directors of Education in 2006. The funding provided for the purchase of new assistive technologies to help students with learning disabilities build confidence and achieve greater success. Special Education Resource Teachers, Educational Assistants, Principals and Literacy/Numeracy Teachers from throughout the Board received hands-on training on programs such as Kurzweil, Word Q, and Inspiration. These revolutionary softwares were designed to empower students to take control over their reading and writing disabilities and establish their independence. The assistive technology approach to learning was a phenomenal success and was praised by teachers, parents and students alike.

Our efforts in this area are continuing in 2006-07 thanks to additional funding received this fall. This year's project has been named DELTA, which stands for **Dedicated to Enhancing Learning, Teaching and Achievement**. The project has three areas of focus which are interconnected: assistive technology, instructional strategies and school-based teams. As part of DELTA, the Board has focused on the tiered approach to early identification and intervention. The goal of this approach is to ensure that the children are receiving what they need which ties into our special education program objectives. Resource binders were being developed with assessment tools for teachers to use to monitor student progress, plan differentiated instructional strategies and identify at-risk learners. The children may then be referred to tier 2 which involves more intensive instruction and support outside of regular language and mathematics instruction. The third tier is for students who do not respond to instructional efforts in tiers 1 and 2. These students may need to be referred for more extensive assessment.



**NCDSB** Principal Claire Lamarre-Goyer received a prestigious award at the annual conference of the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario (CPCO). Claire was selected by her peers as Catholic Principal of the Year. The Award is presented annually to a deserving Principal in each of the five areas of the province for outstanding school and community leadership.

## PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care Worker, Mike Buhler, has engaged in planning throughout the year in order to roll out faith development activities for our students and staff as we grow together as Catholics. As part of his new full year mandate, he visits each of our school communities and engages our youth through community outreach initiatives, faith celebrations, relationship building, counseling and retreats. The Board also launched a Pastoral Care section on our web site to share the mandate of this valuable service to our students.

Under the guidance of our Pastoral Care Worker, a group of nine teachers and administrators traveled to Toronto in March to take part in the TOOLS Trip. During their journey, they served the homeless in various shelters and met with people who live without any means on the street. The purpose of the trip was to mature in faith through service, and reflect on where we see the face of Christ. The trip was both challenging and rewarding, with participants returning to their school communities with a renewed sense of appreciation.

As part of our efforts to strengthen the triad among parish, home and school, Mr. Buhler has also invited members of the clergy to compose reflections as various times of the year. These messages will be shared throughout our system as well as on our web site.

In addition, he has launched a Faith Ambassadors Program. The representatives from each school community are committed to bringing faith alive with an eye towards developing adult faith in the school.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) was an active group again this year, working collaboratively to advise the Board on the education of exceptional students. With representation from various community agencies, the members provided valuable recommendations and feedback to our Special Education Department. Part of their mandate includes the review of the Special Education Plan. In addition to language changes, the summary of accessibility changes was updated with proposed renovations or accommodations for the coming years.

Our mandate into the new year continues to be focused on student achievement. We are committed to our students with special needs and continue to make a difference one child at a time.



## STEPS TO SUCCESS

The Steps To Success initiative continued in 2006 in the house at **O’Gorman High School**. This innovative multifaceted program which enhances a ‘school within a school’ concept that many of our students require to achieve success through both prevention and intervention strategies. It is a promising alternative approach focusing on student abilities, challenges, and goals. Steps To Success serves several purposes, including:

- targeting credit accumulation;
- reducing drop-out rates;
- increasing graduation rates;
- engaging early leavers; and
- heightening school effectiveness.

This student-centered environment meets the needs of at risk students and contributes to the growth of the whole person. The essential components of the program include:

- credit recovery;
- credit rescue;
- credit acceleration;
- independent learning programs;
- e-learning courses; and
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

Following a continuous intake model, some students may be assigned to recover credits; others may be recommended to receive additional assistance in completing assignments in order to rescue credits.

A total of 96 students were enrolled in a for-credit program at the house, while 35 students were impacted in non-credit programs. Through their participation, they achieved a total of 77 credits.

In the interest of student success, there has been a strong emphasis by the Ministry on ‘Transitions’ from grade 8 to grade 9. Our Board is in a unique situation with many of our grade 8 students moving to another school system, given that English Catholic secondary education is not available in all of our communities. We have engaged in planning to determine how to best meet this Ministry requirement through the tracking of student progress at the secondary level, as this information is highly relevant to our elementary school principals and teachers. Our Program Principal of Student Success, Glenn Sheculski, provides linkage opportunities for staff at the Intermediate and High School level. He has provided additional support through both hands-on and material resources.

The students at **O’Gorman High School** will see the school library collection expanded, thanks to a substantial financial contribution in memory of James and Rose Colton. The Colton family believes in the importance of literacy as the key to all learning. The interest from their generous gift will serve this purpose through the purchase of new library books and resources, beginning next year.

## SAFE SCHOOLS

The Government has conducted consultations across the province in regards to safe schools, which resulted in the document Safe Schools Policy and Practice: An Agenda for Action. The report outlines recommendations in the areas of prevention, progressive discipline, community involvement, and the application of the Safe Schools Act. The Board has taken first steps in these areas, beginning with changes to our Anti-bullying policy. As a Catholic Board, our gospel values guide us in how we address issues of this nature.

The Shaping Safer Catholic Schools training in September also offered Board representatives the opportunity to reflect on the Catholic perspective in dealing with bullying in our schools. The sessions laid the foundation for the implementation of bullying prevention plans and action items for administrators. All schools will be developing plans to prevent bullying.

Funding was also received earlier this year to support bullying prevention programs within the Board. Child and Youth Workers at our elementary schools were consulted to recommend grade-appropriate resources for purchase. The programs help prevent students from becoming bullies or the targets of bullies, while providing strategies to use when confronted by harassment.

Funds at the secondary level were used to support a community partnership with Timmins Community Safety Committee in an effort to establish a Bullying Mediation Program. This proactive intervention service for secondary school students was launched in September. The program seeks to assist school officials in resolving incidents of bullying between students at the early stages to prevent escalation. It will also allow students to develop positive conflict resolution skills to change anti-social behaviour. The program provides a safe milieu within which the victims, the perpetrators and the parents, under the guidance of a trained off-duty police officer, deal with issues and instances of bullying. We are pleased to be working on this very worthwhile endeavour, which has already generated several mediation sessions with positive results.

In addition, **NCDSB** in collaboration with Crime Prevention Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Timmins Police and DSBONE, a Youth At-Risk Conference was held in Timmins. Topics included Street Gangs, Drugs, the Sex Trade in Canada and Bullying. Renowned author and speaker Barbara Coloroso addressed a group of grade 7 and 8 students and provided an open session for parents in the evening.



"Action Against Poverty Week" from October 16th to the 20th resulted in the Northeastern Unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association placing a challenge for all schools and the Board offices to gather food items for their local food banks. The school or Board office collecting the greatest number of non-perishable items (on a per person basis) was to win a \$100.00 donation payable to a local food bank on behalf of the winning staff. Congratulations to **Aileen Wright English Catholic School** who collected the most items per person basis! The generosity of **Northeastern Catholic DSB** personnel will go a long way to filling many hungry stomachs.



**Northeastern Catholic District School Board**  
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## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

In response to emerging needs and legislated requirements, the Board introduced the following new policies in 2006:

- an Audit Committee Policy was prepared in consultation with our auditor to outline the responsibilities and duties of this body. Audit Committees are a requirement under the Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Board.
- a Response to Tragic Events Policy was developed this year to ensure that measures are in place for a timely and appropriate reaction during times of crisis. A tragic events protocol also provides guidance and direction during times of crisis.
- a Trustee Remuneration Policy was established in accordance with requirements of new provincial legislation. The Board engaged in a consultation process with a Citizen's Advisory Committee in setting levels of honorarium.

Existing policies were also reviewed, with amendments being brought forward as outlined below:

- the Inaugural Meetings Policy was revised to ensure conformity with the Education Act in regards to the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as to eliminate the cap on the number of consecutive terms that may be served by the Chair of the Board;
- the Anaphylaxis Policy was revised to include a new consent form and to ensure the sharing of essential information with bus drivers as well as bus operators. In the interest of student safety, all school principals received training in August in regards to this policy;
- the Anti-Bullying Policy was amended further to recommendations in the "Shaping Safer Schools" report by the Ministry of Education. The policy now provides specific responsibilities for schools in addressing and investigating reported incidents of bullying. A clearer definition of bullying will also assist schools in determining what constitutes bullying;
- the Transfer of Principals/Vice-Principals Policy was revised to emphasize that the needs of the students, schools and system will be key considerations in determining principal assignments and transfers;
- the Conferences and Conventions Policy was amended to provide greater clarity in regards to considerations in setting expense parameters for trustee travel;
- the Duties of the Chair Policy was amended to include wording indicating that the Chair shall be responsible to ensure that performance evaluations of the Director of Education are conducted as required
- the Joint Transportation Policy was amended to include clarifications on where routes may operate and to outline exceptions to these regulations; and
- the Procedural By-Law of the Board was amended accordingly to reflect policy changes.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### EDUCATION SAFETY ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (ESAO)

The Ministry of Labour is targeting the education sector in their efforts to decrease the frequency of injuries. In the interest of the health and safety of our employees, we have been working with the Education and Safety Association of Ontario to develop an action plan that would target practices that tend to result in a higher than normal incidence of injury for our Board. Initiatives have included the development of new forms for accident investigations. All sites have been asked to take part in training to prevent slips, trips and falls. The Board is also looking at providing specialized training in ergonomics in the new year.

### JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health and Safety Committee met regularly in 2006, diligently reviewing accident reports, the health and safety action plan, concern forms and health and safety reports. Through training and dialogue, the group provides an essential service to our Catholic school system. Additional members received Phase 1 training through the Education Safety Association of Ontario.

### COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

New agreements were reached through the collective bargaining process in 2006 with Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4681 and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA) Occasional Teachers.

### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Board established an Employee Assistance Program this year to better serve and support our staff members. We recognize that employees may at times be faced with personal, family or work-related problems that would be alleviated by counseling. This confidential service through Shepell-FGI offers services in healthy lifestyles, lifecycle services, and personal services. Communication was sent to all employees in December announcing the launch of this program.





## EQAO

The latest EQAO results demonstrate our continued commitment to enhancing student achievement. The newly formed curriculum team, in conjunction with the Literacy & Numeracy Secretariat is hard at work doing just that. We are planning strategic and necessary professional development for our school-based teams in an effort to enhance their capacity to deal with this challenge at the school level. Results over time are key indicators that we are indeed on the right track and achieving well. Over a five-year period, our increases are dramatic.

Although we have not yet achieved provincial averages in some areas, we are enthusiastic about making significant gains this year. It is the intent of the new Curriculum Team to improve their achievement to truly inspire, prepare and encourage our teachers in the classrooms to help students achieve better.

### GRADE 3

	2000-01	2005-06
READING	35%	58%
WRITING	37%	50%
MATH	41%	62%

### GRADE 6

	2000-01	2005-06
READING	39%	54%
WRITING	39%	50%
MATH	34%	46%

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

### BUDGET

The school year began on the right foot with a sound financial plan. The Board passed a balanced budget in the amount of \$31,377,685 for 2006-07 by accessing funds from reserves. These monies will allow us to maintain programming and services that we have been able to offer in past years. We continue to exercise fiscal responsibility with the funding allocated to us to ensure that the needs of our students are being met in terms of programs, resources, staffing, training and facilities.

### TRANSPORTATION

The Ministry unveiled new guidelines in regards to student transportation, requiring all school boards to establish a transportation consortia in order to minimize costs. The recommendations came as a result of their review of existing partnerships, of service delivery and of costs efficiencies, with consideration to student safety. As a member of the North-East Tri-Board Transportation Services, we are pleased to already be engaged in this optimal model of delivery of student busing in our communities. A plan has been submitted to the Ministry outlining the governance and operation of our partnership.

### ROOM AND BOARD

The Board continues to provide a room and board allocation for students from the Cochrane area to attend **O'Gorman High School**. We are pleased to support three students this year in their desire to learn in an English Catholic environment at the secondary level in the absence of such schools in many of our communities.

### DOCUSHARE

The Board also invested in DocuShare, a document management system by Xerox which will enhance information sharing. This software ensures that data can be filed in a more effective manner, while facilitating the sharing of student achievement data, documents and other Board resources.



## NEW COMPUTERS

The Board invested heavily in technology over the summer as an essential learning tool. We purchased and installed 485 brand new computer workstations with the new flat screen monitors and enhanced performance ability. All computers in our school labs were replaced with the new hardware. In addition, we upgraded all of our classroom computers to increase RAM and operating efficiency. This is an investment in IT that will allow our students to access resources more efficiently using the internet. They will also be able to communicate more effectively Board-wide and use advanced software applications for learning.

## SMART BOARDS

Smart technology was introduced in many schools by purchasing four SMART Boards to run a pilot project in our Catholic schools. Already, teachers are reporting that students are more enthusiastic about class and have become more interactively involved in their own learning. Smart Boards allow educators to reach all types of learners, including auditory, visual and kinesthetic. Visual learners benefit from full colour presentations, and see math problems come to life before them. Auditory learners appreciate the ability to tap into audio presentations from the internet or computer programs linked to the curriculum. Kinesthetic learners need a hands-on approach, and by interactively using the virtual keyboard on the display screen, they can complete grammar exercises or draw diagrams as everyone else observes their work. The large interactive white boards engage students through their touch-sensitive display that connects a computer and digital projector. Computer applications can then be controlled directly from the board using a virtual keyboard, a digital pen or fingers. It also allows students and teachers to capture and save any class work for future use or sharing with other educators. It even has the ability to convert words and sentences that have been handwritten in digital ink by the students to a text file on the computer compatible with mainstream software applications.



## PHYSICAL PLANT

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

Many school facilities were the focus of capital projects and maintenance work in 2006 part of the Board's commitment to keep our facilities in good repair. Highlights include the major construction project at **O'Gorman Intermediate Catholic School** in Timmins. The school has experienced significant enrolment growth over the past few years to the extent that additional classroom space was required to accommodate the new numbers. A new full-size gymnasium was built, with the existing gym being converted into a music room, a lunch room, as well as additional classroom space.

At **O'Gorman High School**, in collaboration with the financial support of O'Gorman Parents for Kids, the Sylvia Gravel Theatre was outfitted with new stage curtains in time for this year's musical production of "Anything Goes". **St. Joseph School** in South Porcupine received new flooring in three classrooms as well as in the gym. At **St. Paul School**, new fencing was installed around the perimeter of three sides of the school yard. At **Sacred Heart School** in Timmins, a new basketball court was paved and new flooring was installed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor hallway. As well, a new playground structure, which was purchased through fundraising by their Catholic School Council, was installed.

At **St. Anne English Catholic School** in Iroquois Falls, the Junior Kindergarten classroom received new flooring and a fresh coat of paint, with a few aesthetic projects to the front of the school property. At **St. Patrick School** in Kapuskasing, new flooring was installed in two classrooms as well as to a large part of the second floor, while electrical panels were upgraded to accommodate the increase in advanced information technology equipment in the school.



**Aileen Wright English Catholic School** celebrated twenty-five years of Catholic Education this year, with festivities at a Board Meeting. The silver anniversary was marked with the presence of Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Mrs. Aileen Wright, the namesake of the school.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS (cont.)

At **English Catholic Central School** in New Liskeard, new porcelain tiles were installed in the foyer and along the main hallway, as well as in the Junior Kindergarten hallway. The portapak and hallways were painted, while an aging portable was demolished at the front of the school. At **Holy Family School** in Englehart, paving stones were repaired on the premises while the entrance canopy was repaired. Four outdoor basketball backboards were repainted in the school yard. Students at **St. Patrick School** in Cobalt received a new trophy case to house their prized awards, as well as the installation of new flooring in two rooms. In Kirkland Lake, the gym floor at **Sacred Heart Catholic School** was refinished and varnished, while 60 additional lockers were installed to accommodate the junior and intermediate students.



A grade 9 class at **O'Gorman High School** demonstrated their ability to respond in an emergency this year. When their supply teacher, a retired principal, collapsed in the middle of their physical education class on March 31, they wasted no time. Their valiant team effort, along with the heroic response by Dion Leclair, School Custodian and Joan Gvozdanovic, Educational Assistant, were recognized during a special ceremony at the May Board meeting.

## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

In May, parents, guardians, principals, administrators and trustees gathered through video conference for our annual Catholic School Council Forum. Participants were invited to share their thoughts on the latest Ministry announcements and funding for the new provincial initiatives aimed at increasing parental engagement in the education of their child. Presentations were also made on cyber safety and the challenges to Catholic education.

A Catholic Parent Involvement Committee was launched shortly thereafter to further the dialogue around the use of funds. The focus of the committee is to plan and implement strategies that involve more parents. Monies were allocated to each school community to develop a parental engagement initiative.

## SECURITY ACCESS DEVICES

Four of our schools qualified for one time grants for security access devices in order to enhance safety through better monitoring of visitors to the school. Windows were installed at **St. Patrick School** in Kapuskasing for visibility and cameras were mounted at **Holy Family School, St. Jerome School** and **St. Joseph School**. Previously, the main office at these locations did not have direct visual contact with the main visitor's entrance.

## RENEWAL CAPITAL ASSET PLANNING PROCESS (RECAPPP)

The Board recently completed the update of our inventory of capital projects and repair activities in the Ministry's Renewal Capital Asset Planning Process (ReCAPP) system. This provincial database provides a sound measure for the allocation of funds under the Good Places to Learn Initiative.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As 2006 marked the end of the mandate of current trustees, the Board bid farewell to two longtime advocates of Catholic Education. Trustees Jack Slattery (Timmins) and Paul Keating (Kapuskasing/Smooth Rock Falls) did not return to the Board table for another term. The Board thanks them for their contributions over the past years, and wishes them well as they pursue other initiatives in the new year.

The vacancies left by Mr. Slattery and Mr. Keating will be filled with new faces. Trustees Fred Salvador (Timmins) and Denis Lincez (Kapuskasing/Smooth Rock Falls) have had the opportunity to take part in an orientation session to become familiar with the operation of a district school board. Last January, the Board also welcomed new Trustee Rick Brassard for the Kirkland Lake/Englehart Zone. Mr. Brassard was appointed to fill a vacancy left by Trustee Brenda Hevenor who relocated out of province, and was acclaimed in the recent election.

These individuals will serve as guardians of our Catholic system and see to the efficient operation of our schools and Board. Along with our seasoned veterans as well as new faces around the table, we will work together to ensure that decisions are made which best meet the needs of our learners.

Inspired by the mystery of Christ, we will guide our students  
on a journey of discovery that celebrates life.



#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Colleen Landers, Chair  
Rick Brassard, Vice-Chair  
Peter Del Guidice, Trustee  
Martin Drainville, Trustee  
Elizabeth King, Trustee  
Steve Malciw, Trustee  
Fred Salvador Jr., Trustee  
Denis Lincez, Trustee

#### SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Paul Toffanello, Director of Education  
Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education  
Luigina Malciw, Manager of Financial Services  
Robert Landry, Manager of Plant  
Mélanie Bidal-Mainville, Human Resources Generalist



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