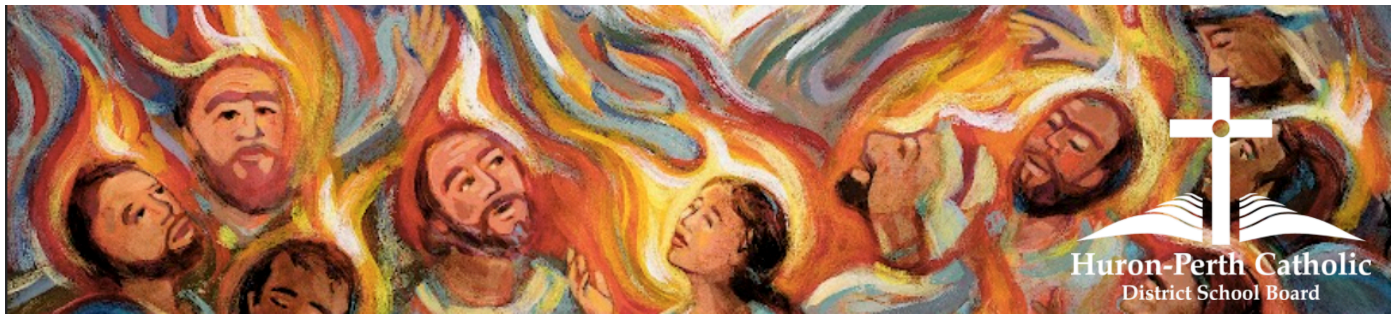




TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY SEPTEMBER 2026

“On Fire with the Spirit: Awaken! Illuminate! Rejoice!”

Brief summary of Regular Board Meeting: September 28, 2026

Awaken: Strengthening Catholic Faith and Community

Our Catholic faith guides everything we do. We help our students grow into **discerning believers** who serve others with love:

- **Faith in Action (The Doorkeeper's Journey):** We launched *Walking in the Footsteps of a Saint: The Doorkeeper's Journey*. This pilgrimage honours our patron saint, St. André Bessette. Students, families, and staff will walk distance toward St. Joseph, Ontario, while reflecting on prayer and simple acts of kindness. This initiative encourages everyone to act as **collaborative contributors** in their faith communities.
- **Spiritual Theme Discernment:** As we finish the final year of our strategic plan, our board has begun prayerfully choosing our next spiritual theme. We are gathering ideas from trustees, staff, students, and parish leaders.
- **Welcoming Students Back:** Schools across the board opened the year with liturgies and school Masses. Teachers received the OCSTA First Week of School Kit to teach students how to be "Artisans of Peace".
- **Indigenous Education:** Classes observed Powley Day on September 19th and participated in Truth and Reconciliation Week events. Students learned about Métis rights, joined virtual workshops, and took part in hands-on cultural activities like lacrosse workshops led by our Indigenous Advisor. These experiences teach our students to be **responsible citizens** who value respect and reconciliation.

Illuminate: Elevating Academic Achievement

We want every student to succeed by reaching high academic standards. We prepare our students to become **reflective, creative, and holistic thinkers** and **self-directed, lifelong learners**:

- **Literacy Initiatives:** The Literacy Team introduced September checklists for all grade levels. Kindergarten to Grade 2 teachers are starting early reading screenings using Acadience Learning Online. Secondary educators met to review literacy interventions using programs like

Corrective Reading and Edwin.

- **Math Action Plan:** Updates were made to the Math Scope & Sequence. Teachers are using daily *Number Talks* to help students build clear mathematical thinking. Math coaches are working directly with new teachers to build strong classroom routines.
- **Digital Resources (Edwin & AI):** Access to the Edwin digital platform has been expanded to Grades 1–12. High school students in Grades 9–12 have access to Google AI tools (Gemini and Notebook) alongside lessons on ethical use and digital citizenship.
- **Secondary Assessment Changes:** High school teachers received training on new Ministry of Education rules for course weightings, attendance marks, final exams, and the new financial literacy graduation requirement.

Rejoice: Fostering Student Success and Well-being

We are committed to helping every child feel safe, supported, and ready to learn. We guide our students to become **effective communicators** and **caring family members**:

- **Attendance & Re-Engagement:** Attendance counselors are working closely with families and schools to support steady student attendance. This work directly supports our strategic goal of improving overall daily attendance.
- **Mental Health & Well-being:** For World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, the Mental Health Team shared resources for staff and families. Our board also co-hosted a *Parenting with Confidence* workshop with Dr. Jennifer McTaggart.
- **Special Education & Transitions:** Special Education staff created and sent out "Chill Zone" start-up kits to help students learn emotional self-regulation in the classroom. They also created visual support kits to help students handle daily transitions independently.
- **Hands-On Pathways:** High school students explored career options through Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) sign-ups, safety certifications, and visits to the Outdoor Farm Show. Students also began trades math courses and level-1 apprenticeship options.

Governance and Operations

Good governance ensures our school board runs safely, fairly, and smoothly.

Policy Review and Approval

The Board reviewed and updated several policies to stay aligned with provincial laws and board goals:

- **Policies Recommended for Approval or Rescinding:**
 - *Guest Speakers at Schools (P2.2.12)*: Ensures guest speakers match the Ontario Curriculum and respect Catholic teachings.
 - *Emergency & Lockdown (P2.1.6)*: Updated to align with provincial police protocols and safety standards, requiring at least two lockdown drills per school year.
 - *Deferred Salary Leave Plan (P3.4.2)*: Updated terms to align with Canada Revenue Agency guidelines.
 - *Recognition of Continuous Service (P3.4.5)*: Celebrates retiring staff for their years of continuous service.
 - *Cooperative Communications Committee (P1.1.7)*: Recommended to be rescinded because existing employee communication channels meet all operational needs.
- **Policies Under Review:**
 - *State of Emergency (P1.1.3)*
 - *Selection of Textbooks and Educational Materials (P2.2.1)*
 - *The Order of St. André Bessette (P1.1.6)*
 - *Newly Elected Trustees (P1.2.2)*
 - *Student Admissions (P2.1.1)*
 - *Student Accidents (P2.1.14)*

Operational Updates

- **Student and Family Support Office (SFSO)**: Fully operational for the school year. The office gives parents a clear point of contact for concerns and acknowledges inquiries within two business days.
- **Financial & Insurance Operations**: The 2025/26 year-end audit process is underway. Trustees approved a 5-year subscription renewal with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE).
- **Classroom Supplies Fund**: The board set up Staples accounts giving each elementary classroom teacher \$750 for supplies.
- **Policy Strategic Framework**: A new three-tier system was shared to organize digital policy documents for the public, staff, and principals. Plain-language "At-A-Glance" summaries will be added to public policies on the board website.

To review the full version of the latest Board Meeting agenda and minutes check out our [Board Agendas and Minutes](#) webpage on our Board website. Any questions, please contact the CEO's Office by emailing directorsoffice@huronperthcatholic.ca.