

OCSTA REGION 1 NEWSLETTER

February 2017



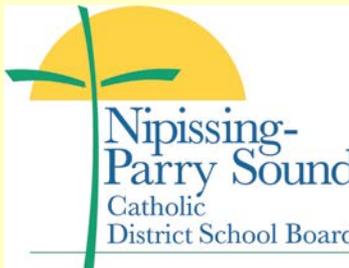
Northeastern Catholic District School Board



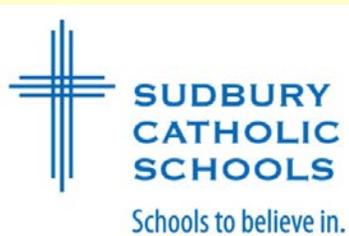
Region 1



Huron Superior Catholic District School Board



Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board



Sudbury Catholic District School Board

Happy New Year to you all and Good Health in 2017.

I enjoyed seeing you all at the January PD and we had a productive regional meeting with great discussion.

The notes from this meeting will be coming shortly. As discussed we will have an update at the regional meeting in April as to where we are with topics already discussed and then go on to other discussion. We will be meeting alone as Region 1 at the AGM regional meeting as was requested by trustees we will meet jointly with Region 2 at the January PD and alone as Region 1 trustees at the AGM.

If you have any questions or topics you need information on do not hesitate to contact me. I will do my best to get you the information.

I have attached a prayer for your family as they are the most important people in your lives.

Board Meeting Highlights OCSTA Board of Directors February 3, 2017



The OCSTA Board of Directors' meeting took place via conference call on Friday, February 3, 2017.

2017 Trustee Award of Merit and Student Trustee Alumnus Award

Recipients of the 2017 OCSTA Trustee Award of Merit and Student Trustee Alumnus Award were selected by the OCSTA board of directors. The winners will be announced in the coming weeks.

Meetings at Queen's Park

OCSTA president, Patrick Daly reported that meetings are continuing to take place with the Ministry of Education and other government officials, as well as MPPs.

In each of these meetings, the important role of locally elected Catholic trustees is highlighted and the challenges and priorities of Catholic school boards are discussed.

Bill 68 – Modernizing Municipal Legislation Act, 2016

On November 16, 2016 the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced Bill 68 – *Modernizing Municipal Legislation Act, 2016 (Bill68)*. This package of reforms proposed to amend certain acts including the *Municipal Act*, the *City of Toronto Act*, and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and other statutes including the *Education Act*.

Key components of Bill 68 that will, if passed, have impact on school boards and trustees, include:

- Proposed amendments to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* that will require trustees to file written conflict of interest statements for each board meeting, where the trustee declares his or her financial interest.
- Changing the term of office start date from December 1 to November 15 in an election year for school boards.

Concern has been raised about the disruptive impact of these proposed changes. OCSTA will be making a submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Standing Committee of the Legislature outlining our concerns with this bill.

Labour

For the last several months OCSTA has been involved in contract extensions with unions representing staff in Catholic school boards. Tentative agreements have been reached with CUPE, OECTA, OCEW, EWAO and ETFO.

Community Hubs

The government's Community Hubs initiative is focused on engaging school board trustees and the wider community in the coming months beginning with the Community Hubs Summit taking place May 1-3 at the Allstream Centre in Toronto. Details of the program are currently being determined, but it is expected that the program will examine best practices, opportunities and issues in establishing community hubs across Ontario.

The Community Hubs Secretariat expects in the range of 500 attendees at this event. OCSTA and other trustee association representatives are members of the Community Hubs Resource Network Capacity Development Group and provide input into initiatives including the upcoming May Summit.

Broadband Access – Survey Results

In November, OCSTA issued a survey to Catholic district school boards to assess the types and degrees of barriers to accessing high speed and cost effective internet services for schools.

Key findings of that survey include the following (18 of 29 boards responded):

- 72% of boards responding to this survey indicated that they do not have sufficient internet capacity to meet their board's needs;
- 28% have sufficient capacity today but with bandwidth requirements expanding continuously this could be compromised without new investments.
- 100% of boards responding indicated that students are allowed to bring their own devices to school;
- Infrastructure costs are a significant operational expenditure and meeting Ministry targets of internet access for students will require new and sustained funding.

OCSTA will continue to examine the survey results and liaise with CDSB's to develop the data and insight needed for an informed and effective advocacy effort on this issue.

Catholic Education Update

Secondary Religious Education Curriculum Document: This document has been completed and was well received by the Institute for Catholic Education's Catholic Curriculum Partners Committee. The document can be viewed on the [ICE website](#).

OCSTA and First Nations, Metis and Inuit Curriculum Development: OCSTA Catholic Trustee, Judy Manitowabi currently serves on the provincial steering committee charged with the task of revising the Ministry of Education's history curriculum to include more Indigenous content. The provincial writing team for this initiative is comprised of representatives from all four education systems. ICE has nominated three additional Catholic educators to be part of the Ministry's implementation team for this curriculum.

Catholic Education Week – “Walking Forward Together” - April 30 – May 5, 2017: The 2017 Catholic Education Week resource package for schools will be released mid-February.

These documents and resources, including the new Catholic Education Week song written and performed by Nancy Bodsworth will be available for download from the OCSTA website: www.goodnewsforall.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

OCSTA AGM and Conference

The **2017 OCSTA AGM and Conference** will be held April 27 – 29, 2017 at the International Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre in Toronto.

[Register online.](#)

Business Seminar

The **2017 OCSTA/OCSBOA Business Seminar** will be held April 27, from 9 – 3:30 p.m. also at the International Plaza Hotel and Conference.

[Register online.](#)

For your convenience, below are direct links to event presentations grouped by year. **NOTE: Your OCSTA username and password will be required to access these links. If you cannot recall your password, use the password retrieval function on the login page or contact Ashlee Cabral (acabral@ocsta.on.ca) for assistance.**

- [2017 OCSTA Event Presentations](#)
- [2016 OCSTA Event Presentations](#)
- [2015 OCSTA Event Presentations](#)

Thank you.

Prayer for My Family

Dear Lord, with Mary and Joseph, you have lived within a family; Teach me always to appreciate the precious gift of being part of a family. Show me ever new ways to protect and comfort those closest to me, and Let me, each day, do something that will say 'I love you' without speaking the words. But remind me also to frequently say those words. Let me never part from any member of my family in anger. Prompt me always to turn back without delay - to forgive, and be forgiven. And let me see your image within each person in my own family, and in my greater family, Knowing that in your Kingdom, we will truly be one family, United by your sacrifice on the cross.

Amen



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