

TRUSTEES APPROVE 2019-2020 BALANCED BUDGET

Niagara Catholic's Board of Trustees has approved a balanced budget for 2019-2020.

The \$268-million operating budget was passed at the final Board meeting for the 2018-2019 school year on June 18. It represents a commitment to fiscal stewardship and responsibility, while providing the necessary programs and services for students.

"On behalf of Niagara Catholic's Board of Trustees, I would like to thank Senior Staff for their diligence in creating a balanced budget for the coming school year," said Chair of the Board Frank Fera. *"I have no doubt that creating a balanced budget, given the fiscal constraints set in place by the provincial government, was a challenge. I am grateful to our senior administrative team, who worked so hard to minimize the impact that these constraints will have on Board's ability to continue to provide the best programs, supports and services for our students, while remaining in full compliance with the Ministry of Education's funding allocations."*

"We will continue to monitor our enrolment numbers, as we do every year, to ensure that we continue to remain in a balanced budget position throughout the year."

Director of Education John Crocco thanked all those who participated in the process of creating a "realistic and responsible" 2019-2020 budget.

"Following an extensive consultation process, Senior Administrative Council presented the Board with the Original Estimates for the Annual Budget designed to achieve the 2019-2020 System Priorities within the funding provided by the Province," said Director Crocco. *"A reduction in \$9 million in Grants for Student Need (GSN) funding from the province did, indeed, present challenges to the Board Senior Staff as we worked through the System Priority/budget creation process for 2019-2020. However, after months of hard work, thoughtful consideration, and decisions in the best interests of all students and staff, we are confident that the 2019-2020 budget will optimize all areas of the provincial funding to ensure the Board continues to provide effective and innovative programs, supports and services for all of our students."*

"Senior Staff will continue to monitor the system needs and budget throughout the year, particularly as enrolment numbers increase, and will make any necessary changes to ensure we provide the best programs, supports and services within the context of a balanced budget."

Niagara Catholic provides excellence in Catholic education to approximately 21,000 students throughout Niagara from Kindergarten through graduation.

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