

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 24, 2023

Subject: **Targeted Tutoring Program Update**

Origin: Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Education

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Trustees on the use of targeted tutoring support provided to students during the 2022/23 school year.

Background

In the Spring of 2022, the Ministry of Education provided additional funding to boards to be used for after-hours tutoring of students in addressing learning gaps in literacy and numeracy, post pandemic. The funding was to be utilized to provide one-to-one or small group direct instruction through tutoring programs offered by both third-party companies in the community and programs designed and facilitated by staff at the school level, outside of instructional hours. Specific allocation of these funds was to be determined by individual boards of education.

Information/Analysis/Research

The Durham Catholic District School Board utilized these funds in the programs and resources outlined here:

- Expansion of the Summer Rays Program during July 2022 which focused on literacy and numeracy skills through experiential learning and small group tutoring. This was a 3-week program conducted in 18 schools throughout the board supporting Kindergarten to Gr. 2 students in their transition and readiness to learn for September of this year.

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- Tutoring in the Classroom was a board-initiated program, conducted in May and June of 2022, whereby post-secondary students were deployed to classrooms in elementary and secondary schools. These students supported individual students requiring one to one instruction in classrooms.
- In the spring and summer of 2022, parents were able to request funding for up to ten 3rd-party tutoring sessions from approved tutoring companies. Funding for these tutoring sessions were billed directly to the school board from the outside organizations. Access to this program was communicated through banners on the board website and in direct communication to parents.
- An additional 500 students throughout the board were offered 3rd party tutoring sessions through the winter of 2023. These were allocated to students and families through school-level referrals.
- Resources purchased to support independent reinforcement of skills for our students included an online gamified program called Zorbit's for Kindergarten to Gr. 3 students, and an online app for Gr. 10 students which is used in class and at home to prepare for the OSSLT assessments. These resources have directly supported over 4000 students in our schools.
- Finally, over 25 schools submitted proposals for individual after-school tutoring programs and resources for their students. These were staff-initiated tutoring programs, running twice weekly from November through March, in both elementary and secondary schools.

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