



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 24, 2023

Subject: French Immersion Implementation at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School

Origin: Mike O'Neill, Superintendent of Education
Scott Grieve, Superintendent of Finance, Business and Facilities Services

Purpose

To provide the Board of Trustees an update on the implementation of French Immersion (FI) at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School.

Background

On January 19, 2016, the Board of Trustees received the Long-Term Accommodation Plan 2016-2020 (LTAP) report and directed staff to undertake a Whitby Secondary Study to address potential program and service delivery models at one or more Catholic Secondary Schools and to examine the implementation of FI programs at Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School.

On January 30, 2017, following the completion of the Whitby Secondary Study, the Board of Trustees approved a series of recommendations with respect to the review of boundaries of the Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Whitby. One of the recommendations was to create a new FI program at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School in support of alleviating the French Immersion program at Father Leo J. Austin and providing an option for FI secondary students in Oshawa. On April 24, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved boundary changes to create a new FI program and associated boundary at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School with an implementation date of September 2020.

On October 28, 2019, an update to the Board provided a revised implementation date of September of 2021, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the implementation of the program was further delayed, and this report proposes that the implementation of the FI program approved for Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School be implemented for September 2024.

Information/Analysis/Research

The implementation of a new FI program at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School requires the hiring of an FI Curriculum Chair, creation of courses in the calendar, resourcing, and staffing for the new program. The anticipated 2024 grade 9 FI enrolment for the program is 45 students based on current projections from all three feeder FI elementary schools in Oshawa. Ministry of Education secondary class sizes are set at 23:1. The program would begin with grade 9 in year one and grow to a full 9-12 program.

Next Steps

Human Resources will initiate the process of assigning a curriculum chair in alignment with the collective agreement.

TB/SG/MON/tc/br