

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholic Central funding approved

Student leaders make announcement of new building

(Windsor, Ontario, Monday, Oct. 31, 2016) – News that capital funding to construct a new school to replace Catholic Central High School was met with enthusiasm and delight when it was shared with students at the school this morning.

“So much of the credit for securing this funding belongs to the students who worked so hard to draw attention to all of the wonderful aspects that define the Catholic Central community, and their need for a new building,” Board Chair Barb Holland said after student leaders announced the funding to the entire student body in the school’s gymnasium. “I think they were able to impress upon a lot of influential people that they could accomplish even more than they already have with a new state-of-the-art facility. They really encouraged people to imagine the possibilities.”

Earlier today Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter announced funding for new schools throughout Southwestern Ontario, including \$26 million to build a new 850-student school to replace Catholic Central. The new school is slated to be built on the downtown property currently occupied by the old Windsor Arena and Water World.

“High-quality schools are the heart of our local communities and the foundation of our publicly funded education system,” Hunter said. “We know that better buildings support better learning. The funding announced today is a strategic investment in student achievement and well-being, and in the long-term prosperity of our province.”

Director of Education Paul Picard expressed his gratitude to the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Education for funding the project.

“They have recognized that we need a modern learning facility, able to incorporate all the latest advanced technology we rely upon to provide students with a top quality education,” he said. “We believe this new school will be another excellent addition to our downtown core.”

Holland said she believes funding for the new school legitimizes all the progress the Board has made towards reducing excess capacity throughout the system while focusing its resources on innovative programming for students.

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“We had to go through some challenging times, but the fact that we are spending far fewer precious dollars on empty spaces, and focusing those resources on better educating our students has been recognized,” she said. “The reward for those efforts is a brand new school for our students.”

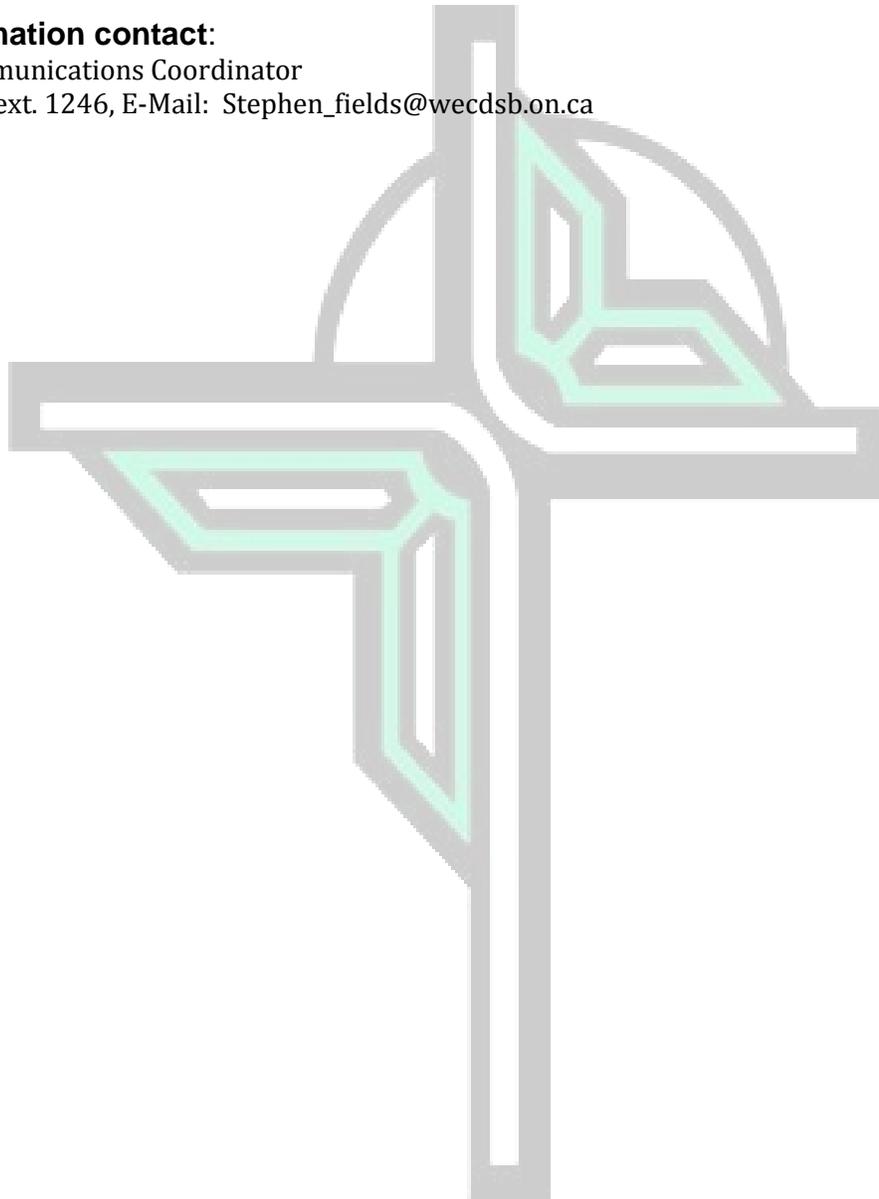
Picard said the Board will soon begin the next steps of tendering for project managers to oversee the construction of the new school.

“We’ll have much more to say about that in the coming days, but for the time being, we are just enjoying the outstanding news that we received today.”

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