

# Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board Approves 2018-2019 Budget

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At its regular meeting held June 26, 2018, the Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board (NPSC) approved its 2018-2019 budget of **\$50,054,546**, for submission to the Ministry of Education. The budget focuses on programs and services that directly benefit students and is compliant with Ministry of Education balanced budget legislation. The estimated operating expenses are **\$46,004,867** and capital and non-operating expenses are estimated to be **\$4,049,679**.

“We are pleased to present a balanced budget again this year,” says Board Chair, Barbara McCool. “On behalf of the Board, we thank our administration and staff for their hard work in balancing the 2018-2019 budget and for planning a budget that continues to provide students with exceptional programming and learning opportunities.”

The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board's 2018-2019 budget aligns with the Board's Ends and goals for student achievement, equity and well-being. The budget planning process considers several factors including Ministry regulations, collective agreement requirements, enrolment and provincial and local priorities, and requires a careful and fiscally responsible approach which focuses on maintaining programming and services while optimizing opportunities to introduce new initiatives and enhance current programs.

Highlights for 2018-2019 include:

- Continuation of the Renewed Mathematics Strategy (year 3);
- Focus on 21st century competencies through the integration of coding and STEM principles into instruction;
- Addition of 49 child care spaces at Mother St. Bride and a four room child care addition at St. Francis;
- Electrical upgrades at St. Gregory and St. Francis schools;
- Gym lighting upgraded to energy efficient LED's;
- Experiential Learning opportunities, with a focus on enhancing community and parent connections with schools to support student learning experiences, aligned with the Ministry's focus on Highly Skilled Workforce K – 12;
- Enhancement of the intermediate music program through instrument renewal and the integration of digital technology in music instruction and learning;
- Additional Mental Health worker for students in grades 7 to 12;
- A new digital platform to support assessment for learning and parent engagement, which will help connect educators and parents so they can stay current with upcoming school events, school assignments and assessments, attendance and much more;
- Expansion of the New Teacher Induction Program to support teachers in their first five years, including long-term occasional teachers;
- Teacher Leadership and Learning Action Research Projects at St. Gregory and St. Theresa, focused on student well-being.

With only one secondary school, it is a priority of the board to continue to invest in a variety of programs offering multiple pathways and opportunities for students to achieve success at St. Joseph-Scollard Hall. For 2018-2019, some of these programs include: Advanced Placement in French and Biology, Musical Theatre, The Arts (Drama, Music, Dance, Visual Arts), Technological Education, Environmental Education (S.O.L.E), Dual Credit and Cooperative Education, and Indigenous Languages.

“As a Board, we are thrilled to celebrate another year of tremendous student success and achievement. This budget continues to provide rich learning opportunities for our students, in the arts, STEM subjects,

digital technology and coding, cultural programming, technical learning and so much more,” says McCool. We are proud of the work of our staff and we look forward to another exciting year ahead.”

*The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board (NPSC) serves approximately 2700 students in 11 elementary schools, and one secondary school - St. Joseph-Scollard Hall. Serving the areas of North Bay, Callander, Mattawa, Powassan and West Nipissing, NPSC offers both Regular English and French Immersion Programs.*

