HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**Policy No. V-12**

# Blessing and Official Opening of a New School

| **Adopted:** November 26, 1996 | **Last Reviewed/Revised:** June 16, 2021 |
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| **Next Scheduled Review:** 2023-2024 | |
| **Associated Policies & Procedures:**<br>V-13 Blessing and Rededication of a Major Addition to a School<br>VI-61 Recognition and Acknowledgement of Dignitaries, Board Officials at Board and School Events | |

## Purpose

The Halton Catholic District School Board recognizes the importance of celebrating our Catholic faith and acknowledging the establishment and construction of a new Catholic school through an official blessing and opening.

## Application and Scope

This policy applies to all newly constructed schools in the Halton Catholic District School Board.

## Principles

- Our school community exists to foster and exemplify Catholic values.
- The Catholic school is recognized as an integral component of the home-school-parish partnership in the development of each child's faith.
- The Catholic school is a community of faith and is centred on the person of Jesus Christ.

## Requirements

**Ground Breaking Ceremony**

- A Ground Breaking Ceremony may be organized at the new school site.
    - Official guests and dignitaries will be invited to attend and shall include appropriate clergy, educational and political officials who have jurisdiction for the respective school area, as well as students and parent representatives of the new school boundary area.

## Blessing and Official Opening

- The school principal shall establish a committee to organize the blessing and official opening of the school.
- The principal shall act as the Chair of the Committee.
- A local trustee shall act as a Master of Ceremonies for the occasion.
- Board staff shall send the principal the contact information and sample templates of the invitations to be sent to official guests, members of the Board of Trustees, appropriate Clergy and educational and political officials who have jurisdiction for the respective school area *(See Appendix "A")*.
- The Chair of the Board or designate, the Director of Education and the principal of the school shall be invited to address the gathering. Other dignitaries may be requested to address the assembly at the discretion of the Committee.
- The Board will provide copies of the Board Mission Statement and Governing Values to be presented to the school principal.
- A plaque bearing the names of the Chair of the Board; each Trustee; the Director of Education; the Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer of the Board; the Family of Schools Superintendent of the school; the Superintendent of Facility Management Services; the School Principal; the Architect and the General Contractor; including the date and name of the officiating clergyman, shall be commissioned for the official opening.
- Board funds up to $1,500.00 shall be allocated to defray the costs of the ceremony.
- The final accounting of expenditures shall be submitted to Business Services.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____

*Chair of the Board*

**APPENDIX "A"**

**List of Guests**

- Bishop of the Diocese
- Current Trustees
- Local Clergy
- Staff – school and/or support services for that school
- Regional Ministry of Education official
- Local MPP
- Local MP
- Mayor
- Local and Regional Councillors
- Catholic School Council members
- President of Bargaining Units
- Others, as determined by the Committee