



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, May 18th, 2016

Frank Kelly
Executive Director
Council of Directors of Education

Dear Frank:

In September 2015, I had applied for \$10,000 in Director Innovative Funding 2015-2016 and was successful in securing the funding.

After a review of a number of leading, relevant, timely and innovative professional development opportunities, I decided that the funding would be used to provide an opportunity for members of the Senior Administrative Council leadership team of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to participate in an international conference.

Five members of the Senior Administrative team attended the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) 2016 Annual National Conference on Education in Phoenix, Arizona. The decision to send five of our team members to the AASA Conference was based on an analysis of conference agendas and its direct relevance to professionally enrich the senior leadership team through an opportunity to actively participate in a conference which directly related to their areas of leadership. The AASA's program for 2016 offered over 200 specific sessions in the areas of technology, special education, assessment and evaluation, human resources and financial services. The five Supervisory Officers who participated are the leads in these areas for Niagara Catholic and selected workshops and sessions directly related to their areas of leadership.

The opportunity for members of our leadership team to interact with leading educators, business and industry leaders from across the United States, Canada and internationally in a variety of topic specific workshops, market place interactive sessions and general sessions wrapped around the conference theme of *Leading for Excellence* exceeded the expectations of attending this conference.

This was the first international conference that members of our senior leadership team have attended together. Through our extensive research to ensure that the application of the funds through the Director Innovative Fund advanced the Niagara Catholic Strategic Directions and the professional learning of our senior leadership, the participation in the AASA National Conference on Education achieved our objectives to best utilize the innovative funding.

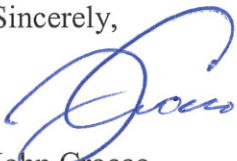
The learning that took place at the conference and through dynamic dialogue as a team both affirmed and challenged what we are implementing as a district; provided new learning on other innovative thinking and applications; and provided our team with opportunities to dialogue with educational leaders from around the world. Members of the team who attended shared their learning and materials with other members of our Senior Administrative Council and with Principals as part of their on-going professional development.

We are grateful for the opportunity through the Director Innovation Fund 2015-2016 to utilize funding not tied to the Board Budget to use for specific professional development of the senior leadership team of the Board.

As we all know, as the senior team moves, so does a system. To have an opportunity with funding provided outside of the GSN's for the professional development of a senior leadership team will have both short and long term impacts on the advancement of student achievement for all students and the professional development of staff. I know that each of the five members of our team who attend the national conference were professionally enriched and will continue to utilize the learning from this conference as leaders of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

As a Senior Administrative Council for the Niagara Catholic District School Board we are most appreciative of the \$10,000 Director Innovation Fund. We fully endorse the annual funding of such financial resources dedicated to the professional development of Directors of Education and Superintendents of Education as the leaders in education in Ontario.

Sincerely,



John Crocco
Director of Education