YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES of the Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, E. Crowe, A. Grella, M. Iafrate, A. Saggese,

J. Wigston, Student Trustee J. James

Virtual: J. DiMeo, T. McNicol (disconnected at 10:59 pm),

Student Trustee A. Peta-Dragos

Administration: In Person: D. Scuglia, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, M. Brosens, D. Candido,

J. Chiutsi, K. Elgharbawy, M. Farrell, M. Gray, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil,

S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, T. Pechkovsky, L. Sawicky, S. Wright

Absent with Notice: C. Cotton

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding F. Alexander, Chair of the Board

2023:182 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead the opening prayer at 7:39 pm. The Land

Acknowledgement followed.

2023:183 ROLL CALL - Trustee C. Cotton - Absent with Notice

2023:184 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

Removal of One Delegation

Removal of 18d Restructuring the Full Day Kindergarten ASD Centres Removal of 18l Beyond the 94, Imagining a 95th Call to ReconcilACTION

Add: YCPIC Report to Board

MOTION: Crowe/lafrate

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED -

Further to the removal of Item 18I, D. Candido, Superintendent of Education, Exceptional Learners advised that staff will continue their consultation process and provide a wholesome report on ASD centers at the May 29, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

2023:185 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Add: TRUSTEE MOTION: One Time Exception to the Delegation Policy 106 (F. Alexander)

MOTION: lafrate/Saggese

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2023:186 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2023:187 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:188 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2023

MOTION: Barbieri/Saggese

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2023 be approved as presented. **– MOTION CARRIED –**

2023:189 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:190 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:

Frank Alexander, Chair of the Board provided his report in the April 25, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: Mass of Installation of Archbishop Frank Leo, Milestone Anniversaries, School Saint Days, Marlies Game / OECTA, OCSTA 93rd Annual General Meeting & Conference.

2023:191 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston, OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board stated that in advance of the OCSTA AGM, the Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, and they look forward to welcoming Trustees from across the province, including those arriving for the Business Session on Thursday. Friday will include a keynote address from Archbishop Francis Leo. The Resolution Session will consider York Catholic DSB's proposal regarding AODA funding. Student Trustees in attendance will participate in an equity and inclusive education workshop. Following the Ministry update by Nancy Naylor, Trustees will move to workshops. Given the number of Trustees across the province embarking on the budget process for the first time, OCSTA is offering a workshop on school board funding and finance. Other selections will include Trustee Communications, Ontario College of Teachers Standards of Practice. In the evening, Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Leo. On Sunday, Dr. Niigaan Sinclair, will be speaking on the four lessons of the Papal visit reconciliation and education. A full report will be shared at the May Board Meeting.

2023:192 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE:

Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia provided his report in the April 25, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: Easter Break, Catholic Education Week, Autism Awareness Month, Humanitarian Relief for Turkey and Syria, FDK Videos, Terry Fox School Run, Twitter Break, Surveying Our Community, Stouffville Multi-Use Facility, Pride Month, National Volunteer Week – April 16 – 22, School Activities, Looking Ahead into the Month of May.

2023:193 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustee Jonah James reported as follows:

"The month of April was a busy month. The first week of April was filled with examinations as students and teachers entered the last bit of marks in time for the Midterm. We're already halfway through the 2nd semester, meaning we're only another half away from the end of the year. Midterms are often a period of reflection for students as students have the chance to analyze the progress they've made over the past two months and create plans and goals to make further progress as they near the end of the semester. Ten more Mondays to go!

April is a very special month for our Catholic school communities as it marks the most important day of the Catholic faith. Easter is a time of joy and celebrations for Catholics and our school communities. Easter festivities in our YCDSB school communities consisted of celebration, faith, and charity, as school communities partook in Easter Masses, events of charity, and school spirit! No one does Easter guite like we do!

The month of April was also spent preparing for Monday, April 24th, a very special day for student leadership, as the student trustee elections took place! Although, it's a subtle reminder that I'm going to have to start being the responsible trustee, as Trustee Peta-Dragos is with me. There was an extremely talented pool of students this year, and we're confident in the new Trustee elect. We thank everyone for stepping up to the plate and playing such a crucial role in the election. York Catholic is filled with passionate and talented student leaders, and it was inspiring to see such talented leaders in the same room. Once again, we thank everyone for coming out. Don't stop being amazing!"

Student Trustee Anthea Peta-Dragos reported as follows:

"During the month of April, the YSCPC executives together with the YCDSB Mental Health Ambassadors have been busy helping organize the Horizons Leadership Conference hosted by the YCDSB Mental Health Department at the Catholic Education Centre on April 18th, 2023. The Horizons Leadership Conference brought excellent presentations and provided Professional Development for the over 150 student leader participants, representing various clubs and committees from all of the 16 YCDSB high schools. Students had the opportunity to brainstorm ideas of how to effectively bring mental health awareness to our school community and combat stigma around mental health. Participants were inspired and motivated to look to the horizon and plan what they can do to make the school community a better place to learn and live in. The feedback received from students was fantastic, they appreciated and enjoyed this learning opportunity and are eager to share their learnings with their peers, student councils, clubs and committees. We would like to extend our thanks to the Mental Health Lead at the YCDSB, Ms. Michelle Prinzo, as well as to all the teachers, guidance counselors and senior admins who contributed to making this amazing opportunity a reality for the YCDSB students!

Over the past weeks, grade 10 students had the opportunity to express their interest to serve the YCDSB school community and amplify the student voice at the board table by applying for the position of Jr Student Trustee. After four years of Student Trustee elections conducted online, we are very pleased that the Student Trustee elections on April 24th, 2023 were held in person at the Catholic Education Centre. Student Trustee James and I would like to congratulate all the talented Jr Student Trustee candidates for their inspiring speeches and ideas of how to create a better educational space for everyone. At the same time, we would also like to congratulate and welcome the newly elected Jr. Student Trustee, Monica Galstyan from Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Academy. We are impressed with Monica and are very excited to start working with you in the near future!"

2023:194 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:

a) 2022-2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

M. Brosens, Senior Manager Brand, Marketing & Communications introduced the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners.

"Since 2004, the York Catholic District School Board, has used this award to recognize our graduates who have made outstanding contributions to the world, through their professional lives and through their service to the community. Distinguished alumni. Award. Winners exemplify the Catholic school graduate expectations, which include being a discerning believer, an effective communicator, a creative and holistic thinker. A lifelong learner, a collaborative contributor, a caring, family member and a responsible citizen, These individuals have made the York Catholic District School Board, very proud. We are happy to be part of their formative years of their life. This year, we have honored six York Catholic graduates Andi Petrillo, Andrew Nembhard, Daniele Rossi, Jim Anderson, John Calarco and Maria-Rosa La Neve.. Three of these people are with us this evening to be recognized."

M. Brosens introduced Daniele Rossi, digital marketer and cartoonist and a leader in the global stuttering community. Jim Anderson, who manages multiple Rogers TV stations and is an active local volunteer, and Maria Rosa La Neve, Clinical Register Research Nurse at the Hospital for Sick Children. A video was shown and the three Distinguished Alumni winners present were invited to share a few words. A presentation plaque was presented and pictures were taken

Whereas

Whereas

2023:195 DELEGATION

Chair Frank Alexander introduced his Motion:

TRUSTEE MOTION: One Time Exception to the Delegation Policy-106

Whereas the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) established the opportunity for stakeholders to voice their concerns on issues through its Delegation Policy 106;

the YCDSB Board of Trustees approved Policy 106, "Delegations to the Board", which

the YCDSB Board of Trustees approved Policy 106, "Delegations to the Board", who outlines the guidelines under which stakeholder delegations may be heard;

the guidelines for delegations under Policy 106 require that those making delegations may

only give timely input on items to be discussed on a Board Agenda;

Whereas delegations are not consultation forums, except as outlined in the YCDSB's Meta Policy: Whereas delegation requests have been received by two YCDSB students on an item not listed on

the Board's April 25, 2023 Agenda.

MOTION: Alexander / Wigston

THAT the Board of Trustees provide a one-time exemption to Policy 106, at its Regular Board Meeting of April 25, 2023, to allow two students of the YCDSB to present their delegations on an item not on the Board's April 25, 2023 Agenda.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED -

Chair Alexander welcomed the Delegations and advised that they would each receive five (5) minutes to speak. Chair Alexander recited the following:

"The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that stakeholders should have an opportunity to address the Board of Trustees. The Board has established a delegation process and this process is clearly outlined in Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Input to Agenda Items. This policy reflects the guidelines to which delegations may come forward. To YCDSB community members visiting tonight, I wish to be very clear that views expressed by the delegations are those of the speakers. We will not be engaging in question or debate and I will be asking Trustees if they have questions at the end of your presentation. Although we will be listening carefully to your presentations, according to our Operational Bylaws, Trustees can only ask clarifying questions of delegates. We have read your presentations in advance and we have a good understanding of what you are about to say.

Delegations submitted have been pre-approved based on the content we received. If the delegate deviates from the pre-approved submission the delegation will be terminated.

Please be reminded that York Catholic District School Board promotes positive, respectful, and civil behaviour. Therefore, the expectation is to treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and if you do not adhere to these instructions, your delegation will be terminated."

a) Autism Spectrum Disorder Program

Theresa Notzi expressed her concerns regarding the closure of the kindergarten ASD classrooms.

b) Autism Spectrum Disorder Program

Michael De Faria expressed his concerns with the decision of discontinuing the ASD Classroom Program for kindergarten students.

c) Acceptance and Evangelization at York Catholic DSB

Myles Vosylius, a former graduate of Cardinal Carter CHS shared his thoughts.

d) YCDSB Students in Support of 2SLGBTQ+ Students

Patrick Mikkelsen and Isio Emakpor, members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community shared their experiences.

Chair Frank Alexander thanked the Delegations on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

2023:196 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:

a) International Education Program

M. Gray, Superintendent of Human Resources and International Language introduced Iolanda Faraone, Principal, International & Continuing Education Program and Carol Recine, Manager of Admissions & Assessment to provide an update on the International Education Program – Year in Review.

b) 2023-24 Budget Development Process

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board and K. Scanlon, Budget Manager presented an overview of the 2023-24 school year Grants for Student Needs (GSN) & Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF) highlights. C. McNeil and K. Scanlon also shared the Preliminary 2023-24 enrolment projections and Preliminary 2023-24 revenue projections based on the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and preliminary enrolment projections.

c) 2023-2024 Budget Consultation Survey

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board and K. Scanlon, Budget Manager shared stakeholder feedback from the online survey that guides and informs budget decisions in support of the achievement of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

d) 2023-2024 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Update

J. Sarna, Associate Director shared the 2023-2028 MYSP with a new Mission, Vision, Core Values and Strategic Commitments. Strategic Priorities and Strategic Goals were developed in each of the four Strategic Commitments that have been developed through a series of working meetings with Senior Administration and the Board of Trustees. A Steering Team will develop for each goal, target outcomes and each outcome will provide a stated objective to be achieved within a set period of time. Outcome Statements are to be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound. A sample template was shared. The final Multi-Year Strategic Plan will be shared at the May 29th Board Meeting.

2023:197 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):

a) MARKHAM EAST BOUNDARY REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations and Adam McDonald, Assistant Manager of Planning Services recommended a boundary change within the eastern part of the City of Markham to address enrolment pressures at St. Joseph Markham to establish an alternate boundary alignment in the area that responds to requests from families, and creates cohesive school attendance boundaries. Maps illustrating the overall study area, current school boundaries, proposed boundary options, enrolment projections, a summary of feedback received from families as part of the Public Information Session and an analysis of the options with recommendations for the Board's consideration was included.

Option 2

St. Joseph Markham to include Area A

St. Kateri Tekakwitha to include Area B, B1, D and E

St. Julia Billiart to include Area C (no change)

St. Patrick to include Area F and G

MOTION: Saggese/Barbieri

THAT Option 2 as described in the report be approved and effective beginning the 2023-24 school year.

THAT existing students within Area E and Area F currently attending St. Joseph Markham CES be permitted to remain at St. Joseph Markham CES until grade 8.

THAT transportation service from Area E and Area F to St. Joseph be discontinued as of June 30, 2025.

- MOTION CARRIED -

b) CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION FOLLOW-UP

Vice-Chair Maria lafrate presented her Motion:

TRUSTEE MOTION: Direction to the Director (M. lafrate)

Whereas on September 27, 2022 the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a Motion:

THAT the Board formally contact the Ministry of Education requesting that a public inquiry be immediately conducted regarding discriminatory comments made by a sitting Trustee

about Trustees of Italian heritage;

Whereas on December 20, 2022 the new Board of Trustees also unanimously approved a

follow up letter to the Minister asking for a request for an investigation;

Whereas in its April 3, 2023 letter the Minister of Education stated that he and his and Government

will always condemn inappropriate, prejudicial and racist language, and shares the concern of the community who has expressed concern with comments made by a YCDSB

Trustee;

Whereas the Minister originally proposed engaging the Board's Human Rights and Equity Advisor

and, through subsequent discussions between the YCDSB Director of Education and the Assistant Deputy Minister Case, proposed instead that the Board engage a legal professional external to the YCDSB to investigate the to ensure that Ontario School

Boards comply with Human Rights obligations;

MOTION: lafrate/McNicol

THAT the YCDSB engage an external legal professional, who has had no prior or current professional connections with the YCDSB, to investigate the complaints expressed by the previously sitting Trustees of Italian Heritage.

MOTION CARRIED -

c) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:12 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:12 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on April 25, 2023.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval):

MOTION: lafrate/Crowe

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the Student Services Budget Plan for the 2023-2024 school year to allow for the appropriate staffing to be made in accordance with the applicable collective agreements.

- MOTION CARRIED -

(ii) CLASSIFIED:

MOTION: lafrate/Crowe

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held April 25, 2023 be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2023:05 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Jennifer Wigston presented, for receipt, Report No. 2023:05 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 12, 2023.

MOTION: Wigston/Barbieri

THAT the Report No. 2023:05 from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 12, 2023 be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2023:03 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Member Elizabeth Crowe presented, for receipt, Report No. 2023:03 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on April 24, 2023.

MOTION: Crowe/Wigston

THAT the Report No. 2023:03 from the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on April 24, 2023 be received as presented.

MOTION CARRIED -

f) TRUSTEE MOTION: York Catholic District School Board Foundation (E. Crowe)

Whereas studies have shown that when a student's basic needs are not met their ability to learn is impacted:

Whereas the COVID pandemic highlighted the disparities within our own communities and the

subsequent rise in cost of living has made the gaps even wider;

Whereas our mandate as a Catholic Learning Community is to ensure that all students are fully able

to participate in learning;

Whereas other Boards have set up a charitable foundation whose missions are to provide funds

through school/student subsidies that support identified needs that are outside of the

Board's GSN funding.

MOTION: Crowe/lafrate

THAT a report be brought to the Board outlining the steps involved in creating a charitable foundation to support the needs of YCDSB schools and families.

MOTION CARRIED -

A staff report will be added to the June 20, 2023 Regular Board agenda as Discussion.

g) TRUSTEE MOTION: St. Cecilia CES Boundary Review (A. Saggese)

Whereas the Board has been reviewing the dual feeder schools in Maple;

Whereas the boundary for St. Cecilia CES was established just before the school opened in September

of 2010 identifying St. Elizabeth CHS as its feeder school and then in the fall of 2010 St. Joan

of Arc CHS was added as a dual feeder:

Whereas the enrolment of St. Joan of Arc CHS currently has declined. The programming and

administrative staff at both St. Joan of Arc CHS and St. Elizabeth CHS has evolved and

progressed in a positive direction;

Whereas after 13 years, we acknowledge community development and growth and continue to provide

families with the opportunity to adapt their alignment according to their changing needs.

MOTION: Saggese/Crowe

THAT a review of the secondary boundaries for St. Joan of Arc CHS and St. Elizabeth CHS be reviewed with respect to the alignment of St. Cecilia CES community by the fall of 2023 with any possible changes effective September 2024.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Opposed: T. McNicol, J. Wigston

h) TRUSTEE MOTION: Board-Wide Strategy to Address Secondary Enrolment (J. Wigston)

Trustee Jennifer Wigston advised that she made minor revision to her initial motion to remove "THAT the development of this strategy be immediately prioritized" as staff has a lot on their plate and asked that this be part of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan to allow for marketing strategies.

Whereas at the February 7, 2023 Corporate Services Meeting staff reported that three secondary

schools are operating below 85% capacity (as at 2022) and;

Whereas enrolment projections for 2027 indicate that the number of secondary schools operating

below 85% capacity will increase to five and;

Whereas students attending schools with lower enrolment do not have the same equity of access to

programming as students attending schools with high enrolment and;

Whereas enrolment projections for 2027 indicate that seven YCDSB secondary schools will be

operating over capacity and;

Whereas

boundaries for schools projected to be operating over capacity abut the boundaries of schools projected to operate below capacity.

MOTION: Wigston/McNicol

THAT a board-wide strategy be developed to address secondary enrolment across all of the YCDSB in order to assist in balancing student populations, address equitable access to secondary programming and help achieve sustainable futures for all YCDSB secondary schools and; **THAT** the development of this strategy be part of the MYSP to allow for consideration of a marketing and communication plan, Specialty Programs or SHSMs as part of the proposal.

MOTION CARRIED -

2023:198 DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

2023:199 INFORMATION ITEM(S):

a) Contingency Plan: Blessed Chiara Badano CES & St. Katharine Drexel CHS

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education provided the Contingency Plan for the opening of Blessed Chiara Badano CES and St. Katharine Drexel CHS given the anticipated delay in completion of the Stouffville Multi-Use Facility housing the two schools. The Board of Trustees asked staff to provide a Cost-Benefit analysis of all the options considered by staff that led to the decision of the Contingency Plan that was rolled out to the community. The Chair asked that his suggested tabular format be used so that the decision making process followed is clear and transparent.

Further information will be shared at the May 29, 2023 Board Meeting.

b) Experiential Learning Opportunities for YCDSB Secondary Student with Special Needs – Project SEARCH Pilot Update

D. Candido, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners shared additional information further to the March 28th Regular Board Meeting. It was noted that a larger number of YCDSB secondary students with special needs will continue to be offered more equitable access to valuable experiential learning opportunities through the YCDSB Pathways to Employ *ABILITY* Program, at a lower cost to the Board.

c) P.A.C.E. Program Location Updates

D. Candido, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners shared information that noted changes to the boundaries and locations of classes being made beginning in September 2023.

Trustee T. McNicol disconnected at 10:59 pm

MOTION TO GO PAST 11:00 PM: Crowe/Wigston - MOTION CARRIED -

d) Curriculum delivery Changes Model to Grade 7 & 8: Our Lady of the Lake CA

L. Sawicky, Superintendent of Education, provided information regarding a change to the intermediate (Grade 7 & 8) curriculum delivery model at Our Lady of the Lake CA. This change from a secondary model to an elementary model of support will also be implemented with the opening of St. Katharine Drexel CHS in Stouffville.

e) York Catholic DSB Website Enhancements

M. Brosens Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications provided an update on the joint efforts of the Communications Department and Information Systems to improve the YCDSB website.

f) Board Meeting Live-Stream Replays

M. Brosens Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications shared information regarding the live-stream of YCDSB Board Meetings.

g) York Catholic DSB Tutoring Support Program - Phase 1 and 2

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment provided an update on the Tutoring Support Program, Phase 1 and 2.

h) International Language Extended Day - Exempt Students

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment shared information on the exempt students from the International Language Extended Day program.

TRUSTEE MOTION: Identification of Gifted Learners (E. Crowe)

Whereas the PACE center at St. Paul CES in Newmarket is being closed due to low enrolment; Whereas

two new PACE centers are being added, one in Markham and a second center in Richmond

Whereas logically it makes no sense that one geographic quarter of the Board does not identify

enough students to maintain an elementary gifted program whilst other geographic areas of

the Board have higher concentration of identified Gifted Learners;

this calls into question whether or not the CCAT screening tool used by the Board, as a Whereas

preliminary step to a psychological assessment, is bias-free and equitable.

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT a review of the current PACE screening process be undertaken from a Human Rights and Equity lens to ensure that the process is free of any social/economic/racial biases.

This Motion will be a Discussion Item on the May 29, 2023 Regular Board Agenda.

May Calendar

The calendar was shared.

Secretary of the Board		Chair of the Board
2023:202	ADJOURNMENT: 11:04 PN ON MOTION: Crowe/Sagge	
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2023:201	FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
2023:200	NOTICES OF MOTION: NI	L