

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
of the Regular Board Meeting**

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, C. Cotton, E. Crowe, J. DiMeo, A. Grella,
M. Iafrate, A. Saggese, J. Wigston
Student Trustees M. Galstyan, S. Cuesta
Virtual: T. McNicol

Administration: In Person: J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi,
G. De Girolamo, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow,
L. Paonessa, J. Powers, L. Sawicky
Virtual: S. Wright

Absent with Notice: N/A

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

2025:234 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:32 pm and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead the prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2025:235 ROLL CALL: All Trustees Present.

Chair Crowe welcomed Trustee McNicol back from her sick leave. Trustee McNicol remarked as follows:

"On September 9th and 16th, I did two interviews with the Newmarket Today newspaper. I do realize I was not authorized to do so, since the Chair of the Board is our official spokesperson. I apologize to my fellow Trustees and will refer all future media inquiries to the Chair or the Senior Communication Manager. I hope that Trustee Iafrate accepts my apology, it is heartfelt."

2025:236 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

MOTION: Cotton/Wigston

THAT the new material be approved.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2025:237 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: DiMeo/Saggese

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2025:238 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**2025:239 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL****2025:240 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2025

MOTION: DiMeo/Iafrate

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 25, 2025 be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2025:241 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**2025:242 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair's Report as part of the April 29, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Remembering Pope Francis, Catholic Education Week, Milestone Anniversaries, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) AGM and Artwork in the Boardroom. Chair Crowe highlighted Catholic Education Week and encouraged everyone to attend events taking place at YCDSB schools.

2025:243 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board provided her report as part of the April 29 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: OCSTA Regional Meetings and OCSTA AGM.

2025:244 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:

Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the April 29, 2025 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Minister's Visit to St. Augustine CHS, Aurora Black History Gala, The Lion King, Police Appreciation Dinner and Yes, I Can Awards.

2025:245 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan and Sabine Cuesta provided their Student Trustee Report to Board in the April 29, 2025 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: Student Trustee Elections, Mental Health Symposium, Holy Week.

2025:246 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:

Joel Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education: School Leadership introduced:

Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Medal Winners as follows:

R. Liang: St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS: Bronze Medal,
OFSAA Swimming Junior Girls 50m Freestyle

A. Zhao: St. Robert CHS: Gold Medal, OFSAA Swimming Senior Boys 100 Metre Backstroke

N. Kim, V. Su, S. Tan, H. Tse: St. Robert CHS: Bronze Medal,
OFSAA Swimming Senior Girls Freestyle Relay

A. Gao, A. Zhao, A. Gazala, A. Mak, A. Wong, A. Yu, A. Chen, D. Zhang, E. Wang, E. Wong,
E.W. Kim, H. Tse, I. Qu, J.L. Yang, K. Suceveanu, L. Hua, L. Pirvuti, M. Wen, M.W. Kim,
N. Lam, N. Kim, P. Lin, S. Huang, S. Tan, S. Gazala, S. Lai, T. Heo, V. Lu, V. Su, Y. Wang,
Z. Liu: St. Robert CHS: OFSAA Swimming Overall Bronze

S. Biemann, E. Chang, A. Golbabapour, L. Grabar, L. Lee, E. Liang, L. Lin, R. Mo, S. Olar,
C. Olan, E. Shi, G. Tan, A. Zhao, A. Zheng: St. Robert CHS:
OFSAA Sportsmanship Award - Senior Girls Volleyball

Ontario Band Association Award

Romina Di Gasbarro, Teacher at St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS: Band Festival Conductor Award.

2025 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

Mark Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications introduced the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award Winners:

David Coletto - CEO and founding partner of Abacus Data - attended St. Charles Garnier CES

Sgt. Julian Alexander Doria - a section commander, parachute company, in The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada Airborne Infantry, Canadian Armed Forces - graduated from Father Bressani CHS

Nathan Gaba - an advocate for the Black community, a public speaker, a consultant and an ableism disruptor who was born with cerebral palsy - graduate of Father Michael McGivney CA

Stephen Pastore - a research fellow in the Department of Genetics at SickKids Hospital and an adjunct professor at York University and Humber Polytechnic - graduate of St. Joan of Arc CHS

Cloey Uddenberg - a professional soccer player for AFC Toronto in the Northern Super League and the owner of 84 Soccer Training - graduate of Our Lady Queen of the World CA.

The 2025 Distinguished Alumni Recipients present, in person and virtual, had the opportunity to address the Board of Trustees. A video was shown and photos were taken.

2025:247

DELEGATIONS:

Chair Crowe remarked as follows:

"The York Catholic District School Board values hearing the perspectives of our community partners. As such, Policy 106 Delegations to the Board, establishes a process for hearing delegations at meetings of the Board of Trustees. For those watching these delegations, the opinions expressed are those of the speaker and may not necessarily reflect the perspective of the Board. The content of the delegations has been reviewed in advance to ensure it meets the YCDSB's commitment to positive, respectful, and civil behaviour. If a speaker departs from their submitted content, I will terminate their delegation. Trustees will listen closely to delegations, but according to our Operational Bylaws, Trustees are only allowed to ask clarifying questions. To our delegate, thank you very much for joining us tonight. You have 5 minutes at which time the microphone will be turned off."

a) Election at School Sites While Students Are Present

Gioia Di Giovanni expressed her concern over the use of schools as polling stations on election day, while students are present.

Trustees asked questions of clarification. Chair Crowe thanked Ms. Di Giovanni for her delegation.

2025:248

JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:

a) Queensville New School Presentation

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant introduced Avinash Garde from Snyder Architects to present the interior and exterior drawings for the new Queensville Catholic Elementary School, scheduled to open in March 2027. This new project is a 2-storey elementary school with a 3-room Child Care. The school will have a 421 pupil capacity and the child care will have 49 spaces.

The Board of Trustees thanked Mr. Garde and Staff for their work and stated they look forward to when the school opens.

b) YCDSB International Education Programs

A Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment introduce Cynthia Anniballi, Principal of International Education to provide the "Year in Review for 2024-2025". Ms. Anniballi highlighted that International Education supports and is in alignment with the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Highlights included: responding to challenges, recruitment, student enrolment by panel, marketing plan and 2025-26 enrolment projections. Over the summer, staff plan to redesign the website to ensure it is more interactive, engaging and will offer translation capabilities. A series of promotional videos including highlighting awareness of specialized programs will be developed.

The Board of Trustees were pleased with the marketing component of the International Education program and stated that the presentation was very informative.

2025:249 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**a) TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT TO DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE**

E. Crowe, Chair of the Board presented, for approval, the Trustee representation on the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee.

MOTION: Wigston/DiMeo

THAT the Board appoint the following Trustees to the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee: Carol Cotton, Elizabeth Crowe and Maria Iafrate for the term July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

- MOTION CARRIED -

b) MULTIPLE EXCEPTIONALITIES HUBS

J. Powers, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners, presented for approval, the establishment of Multiple Exceptionalities (ME) Hubs. This will offer alternative special education programming for students with complex needs whose exceptionalities significantly impact their ability to succeed academically within the regular classroom setting. A copy of the presentation provided at the April 7, 2025 SEAC meeting was included.

MOTION: Saggese/Wigston

THAT four Multiple Exceptionalities (ME) Hubs be established, at a net cost to the Board of approximately \$400,000.

- MOTION CARRIED -

c) LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION PLAN BOUNDARY REVIEWS (NEW DEVELOPMENT ONLY)

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations presented a report recommending boundary changes in accordance with the LTAP. The changes proposed to redirect new/future development areas only, do not impact any existing students, and provide a greater distribution of students in the area schools.

MOTION: Cotton/Wigston

THAT the Stouffville Southwest study area be redirected from St. Mark to St. Brendan, effective immediately.

THAT the Robinson Glen secondary plan area be redirected from St. Monica to All Saints, effective immediately.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Opposed: F. Alexander


d) COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS LIST OF CANDIDATE SCHOOLS FOR 2025-2026

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations presented for approval, the 2025-2026 Candidate Schools for potential facility partnerships, in accordance with *Policy 704 Community Planning and Partnerships (CPP)*.


MOTION: Wigston/DiMeo

THAT the Board approve the list of schools as identified on Table 1 and 2 (below) in accordance with Policy 704.

- MOTION CARRIED -

 **Table 1 - 2025/2026 Candidate Schools for potential facility partnerships**

School	Address	Municipality
All Saints	130 Castlemore Ave, Unionville, ON L6C 2P9	Markham
Blessed Trinity	230 Hawker Rd., Maple, ON L6A 2R2	Vaughan
Corpus Christi	35 Squire Drive, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1C6	Richmond Hill
Divine Mercy	251 Melville Ave, Maple, ON L6A 1Z1	Vaughan
Father Frederick McGinn	61 Brockdale St., Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4W2	Richmond Hill
Father Henri Nouwen	121 Larratt Lane, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0E6	Richmond Hill
Father John Kelly	9350 Keele St., Maple, ON L6A 1P4	Vaughan
Holy Jubilee	400 St. Joan Of Arc Ave., Maple, ON L6A 2S8	Vaughan
Our Lady Help of Christians	275 Redstone Rd., Richmond Hill, ON L4S 2H1	Richmond Hill
Our Lady of Hope	80 Red Cardinal Trail, Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4S6	Richmond Hill
Our Lady Of The Annunciation	30 Baywater Ave., Richmond Hill, ON L4E 2L3	Richmond Hill
San Lorenzo Ruiz	840 Bur Oak Ave., Markham, ON L6E 0E1	Markham
San Marco	250 Coronation Dr., Woodbridge, ON L4L 6H3	Vaughan
St. Agnes of Assisi	120 Lancia Ave., Woodbridge, ON L4H 2A9	Vaughan
St. Andrew	151 Forest Fountain Dr., Woodbridge, ON L4H 1S4	Vaughan
St. Anthony	141 Kirk Dr. Thornhill, ON L3T 3L3	Markham
St. Bernadette	5279 Black River Rd., Sutton West, ON L0E 1R0	Georgina
St. Cecilia	300 Peter Rupert Ave, Maple, ON L6A 4P3	Vaughan
St. Clare	391 Velmor Dr., Woodbridge, ON L4L 8J5	Vaughan
St. David	240 Kilian Rd., Maple, ON L6A 1A8	Vaughan
St. Emily	60 Vellore Woods Blvd., Woodbridge, ON L4H 2K8	Vaughan
St. Gregory the Great	140 Greenpark Blvd., Woodbridge, ON L4L 6Z6	Vaughan
St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini	290 York Hill Blvd., Thornhill, ON L4J 3B6	Vaughan
St. James	171 Mast Rd., Maple, ON L6A 3J7	Vaughan
St. Jerome	20 Bridgenorth Dr., Aurora, ON L4G 7P3	Aurora
St. John Bosco	199 Belview Ave., Woodbridge, ON L4L 5N9	Vaughan
St. John Chrysostom	800 Joe Persechini Dr., Newmarket, ON L3X 2E8	Newmarket
St. Julia Billart	2070 Bur Oak Ave., Markham, ON L6E 1X5	Markham
St. Luke Catholic Learning Centre	301 Barrhill Road, Maple, ON L6A 1J5	Vaughan
St. Matthew	75 Waterbridge Lane, Unionville, ON L3R 4G3	Markham
St. Michael the Archangel	161 Via Campanile, Woodbridge, ON L4H 3K5	Vaughan
St. Raphael the Archangel	131 Ravineview Dr, Maple, ON L6A 3T6	Vaughan

 **Table 2: 2025-2026 Co-Build Opportunities *Pending Ministry of Education approval for Capital Priorities**

School Name	Panel	Municipality	Status
St. Robert (Replacement)	Secondary	Markham	TBD*
Vaughan Metropolitan Centre Joint (Joint with York Region District School Board)	Elementary	Vaughan	Ministry Approved, Design phase

e) FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM UPDATE - ST. JOAN OF ARC CHS

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education presented an update on the French Immersion program at St. Joan of Arc CHS. While the program initially secured 25 student commitments, current confirmed enrolment has declined to eleven students. This drop in enrolment creates a significant concern regarding financial sustainability, instructional feasibility and equitable resource allocation. The report outlined the advantages and disadvantages of proceeding and or cancelling/deferring the program to support informed decision-making.

Trustees had an opportunity to provide their input and recognized that it is not feasible to run this program with minimal students. Trustee Saggese thanked her fellow Trustees for their input and apologized to the families who had registered for the French Immersion program. It was agreed that the French Immersion students would be offered enrolment at Our Lady Queen of the World CA with no transportation if the program did not run in 2025-26.

MOTION: Saggese/Grella

THAT the Board discontinue and/or cancel, having tried twice, the French immersion program at St. Joan of Arc CHS effective 2025-26.

- MOTION CARRIED -

f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:03 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Member E. Crowe, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:03 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on March 31, 2025.

MOTION: Crowe/DiMeo

THAT Report No. 2025:03 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on March 31, 2025, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

g) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:05 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:05 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7, 2025.

MOTION: Grella/Wigston

THAT Report No. 2025:05 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7, 2025, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

h) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:04 POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Saggese, presented for approval, Report No. 2025:04 of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on April 8, 2025.

MOTION: Saggese/lafrate

THAT the Board approve the following revised policies:

Policy 205 Student Government

Policy 603B Fundraising for External Charitable Purposes

THAT the Board approve the following new policy:

Policy 304 Research and Surveys (formerly Policy 304 A & B)

Research and Surveys Procedure

- MOTION CARRIED -

i) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:12 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2025:12 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on April 29, 2025.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval):

MOTION: Iafrate/DiMeo

RATIFICATION OF TENTATIVE SETTLEMENT FOR RENEWAL OF LOCAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS

THAT the Board approve ratification of the tentative settlement, as presented at the April 23, 2025 HRC meeting, for renewal of the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Elementary Principals and Vice Principals

– MOTION CARRIED –

(ii) CLASSIFIED:

MOTION: Iafrate/DiMeo

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held April 29, 2025, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:250

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**a) Technology and Skilled Trades Centre Update**

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education provided a report with the feasibility findings and final site recommendation for the Technology and Skills Trades Centre. As outlined in the March 25, 2025 report, a full architectural and engineering assessment was undertaken at both St. Joan of Arc CHS and St. Elizabeth CHS. The Board retained Snyder Architects and SAB Engineering to lead this comprehensive feasibility study. Following the analysis, St. Joan of Arc CHS is recommended as the optimal location for the Centre based on cost efficiency, retrofit readiness and long-term flexibility.

The Board of Trustees thanked Mr. Chiutsi and the two companies who put together the feasibility study. Further detailed information was requested at a future meeting, Eg, which courses to run, partnerships, etc.

2025:251

INFORMATION ITEM(S):**a) 2025-2026 Budget Consultation Survey**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided a summary of the input received from students, families, staff and the broader YCDSB community regarding the 2025-2026 budget. There were 1088 respondents who participated in the 2025-26 budget survey which resulted in similar budget priorities as in the previous year. The Board of Trustees asked staff to think of new and exciting ways to engage the community for the next budget cycle.

b) Policy 604 Child Care: Early Years, Extended Day, before and After School Programs - Results of Parent Satisfaction Survey

J. Powers, Superintendent of Exceptional Learners provided information related to the administration of the Parent Satisfaction Survey as defined in Policy 604 Child Care & Early Years, Extended Day, before and After School Programs. Overall, parents utilizing the services of child care operators in YCDSB schools are satisfied with the services offered.

c) Action Plan to Combat Anti-Black Racism at YCDSB

S. Wright, Superintendent of Education: Inviting and Inclusive Schools outlined actions undertaken by the York Catholic District School Board, guided by insights from previous consultants and census data. Trustee Alexander asked for a more defined plan with expected results and timeframe as per his original motion. An update will be provided.

d) Moving Towards Equity Within the YCDSB Motion

S. Wright, Superintendent of Education: Inviting and Inclusive Schools provided information intended to address socio-economic disparities across the YCDSB with an initial focus on equitable access to learning tools and technology in elementary classrooms.

e) Transportation: Reviewing Existing Stops and Non-Transportation Zone Revisions

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations shared a report informing of planned changes in transportation that will be communicated to families in June 2025. Another reminder to check will be sent in August when the STS website is updated with new stop information. The changes are a result of an ongoing review of current bus stops and non-transportation zones in an effort to find service and cost efficiencies.

f) Board Room Delegate System (Microphone) Replacement

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant shared information on the immediate replacement of the defective and outdated Boardroom Delegate System (Microphone System). The existing system has reached the end of its useful life. The funding for this initiative will be drawn from this year's approved operating budget.

g) May 2025 Calendar

The May 2025 calendar was provided. It was noted that the Executive Committee & Audit Committee meetings will move from May 21 to May 20, 2025.

- 2025:252 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**
- 2025:253 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
- 2025:254 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**
- 2025:255 ADJOURNMENT – 10:22 pm**
ON MOTION: Saggese/Grella and CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board