

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, August 23, 2023**

Watch the Board Meeting  
STREAM  
event on our YCDSB TV Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.  
We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.  
We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.*

1. **OPENING PRAYER**
  2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** F. Alexander
  3. **ROLL CALL** D. Scuglia
  4. **APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL** F. Alexander
  5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** F. Alexander
  6. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING** F. Alexander
  7. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** F. Alexander
  8. **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES: N/A**
  9. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
  10. **CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES: N/A**
  11. **OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: N/A**
  12. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE: N/A**
  13. **STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT: N/A**
  14. **RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: N/A**
  15. **DELEGATIONS: N/A**
  16. **JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION – STAFF PRESENTATIONS**
  17. **ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**  
a) Achieving Financial Targets: A New Approach to Snow Removal K. Elgharbawy
  18. **DISCUSSION ITEM (S)**
  19. **INFORMATION ITEM(S)**
  20. **NOTICES OF MOTION**  
*(Notices of Motion are to be submitted in writing and will return to the subsequent meeting as Information, the following meeting as Discussion, and finally Action at the next Board Meeting.)*
  21. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
- RECESS – TO CONVENE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Lord, fill us with Your supernatural  
power to overcome each obstacle  
in our path.  
With our eyes on You Lord, and You  
walking beside us, we can make it.  
Amen**

**RECONVENE - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**ACTION ITEM(S) (*including Committee Reports*)**

a) Approval of Report No. 2023:20 Special Committee of the Whole (Aug 23)

M. Iafrate

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

F. Alexander

## **YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**REPORT TO:** Special Board

**FROM:** Administration

**DATE:** August 23, 2023

**RE:** Achieving Financial Targets: A New Approach to Snow Removal

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks to identify an effective solution to attain the targeted cost savings of one million dollars within the scope of winter maintenance. The recommendation is to halt snow removal in the playground areas of certain elementary schools, specifically those without portable classrooms. The financial implications, alongside the practical aspects of this decision, are considered in this report.

#### **Current Snow Removal Practices:**

Currently, all elementary schools adopt a standard procedure of snow removal from playground areas during the winter season. This involves contracting external services, covered under the district's operational budget. We have a total of 85 schools, out of which 15 have portable classrooms.

#### **Associated Costs and Potential Savings:**

The present budget allocated for winter maintenance is \$3.2 million. Based on an in-depth examination of our contractual expenses for snow removal and salting, we estimate that by discontinuing winter maintenance for the secondary areas in the 60 schools without portable classrooms, we will achieve an approximate annual savings of one million dollars.

#### **Considerations and Alternatives:**

In proposing this change, we must account for potential safety implications, liability concerns, and possible alternative solutions. However, considering the immediate and substantial cost savings, it is recommended to adopt this change promptly. It's important to note that provisions will be made for "site-specific, emergent plowing" in the event that some schools experience drainage issues leading to significant ice formation.

### **Conclusion:**

The analysis suggests that discontinuing snow removal from the playground areas at elementary schools without portable classrooms will result in the targeted cost savings of one million dollars. While acknowledging potential safety and liability implications, it's vital to recognize that the financial benefits outweigh the potential risks.

With the prospect of substantial potential savings, and considering the immediate need for cost reduction, the Board is advised to move forward with the proposed changes. These involve halting winter maintenance for the secondary areas at the 60 schools without portable classrooms.

Despite the decision potentially requiring additional safety monitoring, the immediate financial benefits make this a compelling course of action. To address concerns around safety, "site-specific, emergent plowing" will be implemented where necessary to address drainage issues leading to significant ice formation.

The Board should ensure a vigilant approach to safety monitoring and adapt as necessary to maintain the well-being of our students. Implementing these changes offers us an opportunity to redirect substantial funds back into our educational programs, thus creating a more enriching environment for our students.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**THAT the Board approve staff's recommendation of halting winter maintenance for the secondary areas at the 60 schools without portable classrooms.**

Submitted by: Khaled Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant  
Endorsed by: Domenic Scuglia, Director of Education.