

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

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, C. Cotton, E. Crowe, M. Iafrate, J. DiMeo, A. Grella, A. Saggese, J. Wigston  
Student Trustee S. Cuesta  
Virtual: N/A

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

Absent with Notice: Trustee T. McNicol, Student Trustee M. Galstyan

Recording Officer: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

- 2024:461 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER**  
Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone to the first Regular Board meeting and thanked Bishop Boissonneau for celebrating Mass. The Regular Board Meeting began at 7:29 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.
- 2024:462 ROLL CALL:** Trustee T. McNicol, Student Trustee M. Galstyan - Absent with Notice
- 2024:463 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL**
- 2024:464 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**  
**MOTION: Barbieri/DiMeo**  
**THAT** the revised agenda be approved as amended.  
**– MOTION CARRIED –**
- 2024:465 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**
- 2024:466 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**
- 2024:467 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**  
Regular Board Meeting of June 18, 2024  
Special Board Meeting of June 27, 2024  
  
**MOTION: Saggese/Cotton**  
**THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting June 18, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of June 27, 2024, be approved as presented.  
**– MOTION CARRIED –**
- 2024:468 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

**2024:469 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair's Board Report as part of the August 27, 2024 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included Welcome Minister Jill Dunlop, New Artwork in the Boardroom, Official Blessing of Blessed Chiara Badano CES and St. Katharine Drexel CHS, OECTA Young Author Awards.

Chair Crowe highlighted the new artwork in the Boardroom noting that all the high schools were asked to create artwork based on the theme, *We are Diverse, We are One in Christ*. Students, Teachers, Principals and Facilities Services were thanked for being involved in creating beautiful art for all to enjoy for years to come.

**Commissioning of New Student Trustee and Senior Administration**

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe and Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate, participated in a ceremonial swearing in/pledge of service ceremony with Sabine Cuesta, Student Trustee, Giovanna De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations and Jennifer Powers, Superintendent of Education. A candle and a Bible to commemorate the occasion was provided.

**2024:470 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:**

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board, advised that the OCSTA Regional Meeting will occur on September 17, 2024. Trustee Wigston will provide a report at the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

**2024:471 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:**

Interim Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided the Director's Report in the August 27, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Interim Director De Faveri's topics included Vape and Cell Phone Bans, "We Are Diverse. We Are One in Christ" Banners, Top Scholars. Interim Director De Faveri read aloud each of the top scholar's names. Congratulations were extended.

**2024:472 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT: NIL****2024:473 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL****2024:474 DELEGATIONS: NIL****2024:475 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION: NIL****2024:476 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)****a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:23 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - AUGUST 21, 2024**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:23 of the Special Committee of the Whole private session held on August 21, 2024.

**(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): NIL****(ii) CLASSIFIED:****MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held August 21, 2024, be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**b) OPERATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGE: ELECTION PROCESS**

Chair Elizabeth Crowe, presented for approval, the proposed By-Law Changes with reference to the Election Process.

**MOTION: Iafrate/Wigston**

**THAT** the changes to B-Law Clauses 2.2., 4.1.5 and 6.2.1 as per the report to Board dated August 27, 2024, be approved.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

-

**c) POLICY 118 TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Associate Director J. Sarna, presented for approval, *Policy 118 Trustee Code of Conduct*. It was noted that the Ministry had changed legislation and regulations with specifics of what is required. Chair Crowe noted that most of the changes involved adding language verbatim from the new Regulation. Trustee Cotton did not support the change to Parameter 3.1.2 due to the Ministry's grammatical wording.

**MOTION: Barbieri/DiMeo**

**THAT** Policy 118 Trustee Code of Conduct be approved as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**d) POLICY 311 DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP (STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY)**

Associate Director J. Sarna, presented for approval, *Policy 311 Digital Discipleship* (Student Use of Technology) further to PPM 128 - Provincial Code of Conduct (Cell Phone and Vaping Restrictions) requiring school boards to update policies.

**MOTION: Barbieri/DiMeo**

**THAT** the Board approve the following revised policy as draft and send for stakeholder consultation: Policy 311 Digital Discipleship (Student Use of Technology)

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**e) POLICY 808 TRAVEL, MEALS & EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Associate Director J. Sarna, presented for approval, Policy 808 Travel, Meals & Expense Reimbursement.

**MOTION: Wigston/Saggese**

**THAT** Policy 808 Travel, Meals & Expense Reimbursement be approved as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**f) 2024-2025 CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION CALL FOR PROJECTS)**

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager Planning and Operations shared information regarding the Ministry's 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program. On July 8, 2024, the Ministry of Education released memo *2024:B11 Launch of 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program*. The memo calls School Boards to submit capital projects by September 16, 2024.

**MOTION: Cotton/Iafrate**

**THAT** the Board authorize Administration to submit a Capital Priority request for a St. Robert replacement school.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

The Interim Director will coordinate a meeting to talk about strategies for lobbying local MPPs.

**RECESS AT 8:09 PM TO CONVENE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING****RESUME REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 10:00 PM****2024:478 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports) - CONTINUED****a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:24 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - AUGUST 27, 2024**

Vice-Chair Maria lafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:24 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on August 27, 2024.

**(ii) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): NIL****(ii) CLASSIFIED:****MOTION: lafrate/DiMarie**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held August 27, 2024, be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**2024:479 INFORMATION ITEM(S):****a) 2024-2029 Draft Long Term Plan Document & Communication Update**

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations shared an update on the Draft 2024-2029 Long Term Accommodation Plan (2024 LtAP) communication plan. The communications and survey launch was planned for August 28, 2024. LTAP Public Meeting dates were shared.

**b) Menstrual Equity Initiative: Continuing to Enhance Student Access to Free Menstrual Products in Ontario Schools**

J. Sarna, Associate Director, provided an update with regard to the Menstrual Equity Initiative: Continuing to Enhance Student Access to Free Menstrual Products in Ontario Schools.

**c) PPM 128 - Provincial Code of Conduct: Cell Phone and Vaping Restrictions**

J. Sarna, Associate Director, provided information with regard to the revisions made June 27, 2024 to PPM 128 - Provincial Code of Conduct and the YCDSB Implementation plan.

**d) Strengthening Academic Achievement and Transparency (Guest Speakers)**

J. Sarna, Associate Director, provided information regarding Guest Speaker protocol developed in accordance with the Strengthening Academic Achievement and Transparency memo received from the Ministry on May 13, 2024. Staff was asked to add a column for "expected learning outcomes" so that we could tie it into the curriculum.

**e) Playground Safety**

R. Antunes, Superintendent of Human REsources shared information regarding a health and safety initiative to support school playground safety.

**f) Operational By-Law Changes: Regular and Committee of the Whole Meetings**

E. Crowe, Chair of the Board shared proposed By-Law Changes with respect to the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023* an *O. Reg 313/24* which amended to *O. Reg 463/97: Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance* to promote and enhance accountability, transparency, and public confidence in the education system.

Trustee DiMeo requested that start times for regularly scheduled Board meetings be added to the bylaws.

This will be an Action Item on the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

**g) TRUSTEE MOTION: Trustee Expenditures (E. Crowe)**

- WHEREAS** expenditure limits may not be exceeded" (Policy 111 Parameter 3.3);
- WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of each individual Trustee "to ensure that all expenses submitted are necessary, reasonable, and are in compliance with the Board's policy and all other relevant policies, procedures, guidelines and legislation." (Policy 111 Responsibility Trustees 4.4.2) and Policy 808 4.1.1 "to ensure that expenses submitted are in compliance with Policy 111";
- WHEREAS** clause 3.3.2 of Policy 118 Trustee Code of Conduct states that Trustees shall "Uphold and abide by all Board policies, procedures, protocols and the York Catholic District School Board Trustee Code of Ethics (Appendix "A")";
- WHEREAS** all Trustees were in-serviced on Policies 111 and 808 at the beginning of the term and both policies were reviewed and approved by the Board (March 28, 2023 and October 30, 2023 respectively);
- WHEREAS** all claims should be submitted prior to September 15th for the fiscal year ending August 31st (Policy 808 4.4.7), so a two-year review is timely.

**THAT** RIAT be directed to audit all Trustee expenditures submitted during this Trustee term, i.e. since November 15th, 2022, and a detailed report identifying all exceptions and anomalies as well as recommendations for any additional controls and policy changes be brought to a Public Audit Committee meeting as soon as possible so as to ensure public confidence and accountability.

**h) TRUSTEE MOTION: Transportation to St. Br. Andre CHS + Report (F. Alexander)**

Trustee Frank Alexander presented a revised version of his Motion and asked that it be expedited to Action.

**MOTION: Alexander/Barbieri**

**THAT TRUSTEE MOTION:** *Transportation to St. Br. Andre CHS* be expedited to Action.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

Discussion was held and the Board of Trustees agreed that this Motion would be supported for one year, with the understanding that the newly created position of Superintendent of Inviting and Inclusive Schools reviews this with a focus on Board-wide equity.

**MOTION: Alexander/Saggese**

**THAT** the provision of transit passes for all French Immersion students attending St. Brother Andre CHS who reside within the St. Francis Xavier CES French Immersion boundary / Father Michael McGivney CA boundary be extended for one additional year, until the end of June 2025.

**i) September 2024 Calendar**

The September 2024 calendar was provided with minor changes.

**2024:479**      **NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**

**2024:480**      **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**2024:481      PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**2024:482      ADJOURNMENT – 10:15 PM**  
**ON MOTION: Grella/Cotton and CARRIED**

---

**Secretary of the Board**

---

**Chair of the Board**