

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES

of the Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

PRESENT:

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

Administration: In Person: D. Scuglia, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, M. Brosens, D. Candido,
J. Chiutsi, M. Farrell, M. Gray, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow,
L. Paonessa, L. Sawicky, S. Wright, C. Allegranza, J. Tsui

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding F. Alexander, Chair of the Board

2023:374 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and welcomed the Religious Education Department to lead the opening prayer at 7:30 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.

2023:375 ROLL CALL – All Present

2023:376 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

Add HREA Report to Board

MOTION: Iafrate/Barbieri

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2023:377 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Wigston/Iafrate

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2023:378 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2023:379 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:380 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Regular Board Meeting of June 20, 2023

Special Board Meeting of June 29, 2023

Special Board Meeting of August 23, 2023

MOTION: DiMeo/Barbieri

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 29, 2023, Special Board Meeting of June 7, 2023 and Special Board Meeting of June 13, 2023, be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2023:381 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:382 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:

Frank Alexander, Chair of the Board provided his report in the August 29, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: 2023-28 Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Feast Days for Our Schools' Patrons.

a) Commissioning of New Student Trustee

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander and Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate, participated in a ceremonial swearing in/pledge of service ceremony with Monica Galstyan, Student Trustee. A candle and a Bible to commemorate the occasion was provided.

2023:383 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston, OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board, advised that the OCSTA Regional and Board of Directors meeting will occur mid-September and noted that she will bring a wholesome report to the September Board Meeting.

2023:384 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE:

Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia provided his report in the August 29, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: CODE and ECCODE Meetings, Top Scholars, NACCA Scholarship Award Winners, Thank you to Michael Gray.

2023:385 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT: NIL**2023:386 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL****2023:387 DELEGATIONS: NIL****2023:388 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:****a) YCDSB Communications Calendar**

M. Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications presented the 2023-2024 York Catholic Communications Calendar that indicates a list of dates/observances, religious holidays, social justice observances, etc. This live document will assist school administrators with planning and highlighting their school's patron saint.

b) Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Update

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided an update on the 2023-2028 MYSP. J. Sarna highlighted that the Communications Department had developed promotional material (flyer) and that it is in the process of being vetted to ensure it reflects the opinion and input of stakeholders. The Senior Team will continue to develop action plans to put in place smart goals to ensure we focus on MYSP to guide our actions to improve student learning. Updates will be provided at the December 2023, February 2024 and June 2024 Board Meetings.

b) Human Rights and Equity Office – Annual Report 2022-2023

M. Farrell, Human Rights & Equity Advisory (HREA) provided an update on the HREA achievements for the 2022-2023 school year. The information was categorized into four main areas: Advice and Complaints, Systemic Initiatives, professional Development, and External Activities. M. Farrell stated that it was her intention to create a YCDSB Advisory Committee on Human Rights & Equity and an Advisory Committee on eradicating anti-Black racism. The Board of Trustees asked that the Terms of Reference, methodology for membership be shared with them.

The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and expressed their concerns. Ms. Farrell will incorporate the feedback received and return to the September Board Meeting with actionable items.

2023:389 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):**a) POLICY 106 DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD AND PROCEDURES**

J. Sarna, Associate Director presented, for approval *Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Procedures*. Trustees indicated that further revisions were needed to Parameter 3.1 and 3.4 and advised that this policy be brought back to the next Policy Review Committee for further discussion. The policy was lifted as an Action Item.

b) POLICY 118 TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT & PROCEDURE AND COMPLAINT PROTOCOL

J. Sarna, Associate Director presented, for approval *Policy 118 Trustee Code of Conduct & Procedure and Complaint Protocol*. The Board of Trustees requested that this policy be brought back to the next Policy Review committee for further discussion. The policy was lifted as an Action Item.

c) POLICY 809 STAFF USE OF EXTERNAL LEGAL RESOURCES

J. Sarna, Associate Director presented, for approval *Policy 809 Staff Use of External Legal Resources*.

MOTION: Crowe/lafrate

THAT the Board approve the following revised policy:

Policy 809 Staff Use of External Legal Resources

- **MOTION CARRIED –**

d) TRUSTEE MOTION: STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT TO BOARD

Whereas YCDSB Operational Bylaw No. 1 requires all board agendas to be provided 72 hours in advance of Board or Committee meetings;

Whereas Policy 107 Student Trustees, Parameter 3.13.1 requires Student Trustees Reports to Board be received by the Superintendents, for review/approval one week prior to the meeting.

Whereas Trustees have been receiving all reports, including discussion items, information items, and action items in agenda packages except the Student Trustees' Reports as required by Policy 107 and Operational Bylaw-No. 1 through regular course of action.

MOTION: Barbieri/Wigston

THAT the Student Trustees' Report to Board gets sent to the Trustees as well as the Superintendent

overseeing Student Trustees, for approval, prior to including in the Board agenda package.

THAT the Student Trustees' Report to Board be included in the monthly Board Agenda package and received within 72 hours in advance of Board Meetings.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

Chair Alexander passed the gavel to Vice-Chair lafrate.

e) TRUSTEE MOTION: Transportation to St. Brother Andre Catholic High School (F. Alexander)

Whereas In accordance with YCDSB Policy 203 Student Transportation Services, eligibility for transportation to and/or from a student's school/ program and home is a function of the eligibility requirements outlined in the policy;

Whereas YCDSB Policy 203 Student Transportation Services paragraph 3.6 provides for transportation for Secondary French Immersion transportation to students within the host secondary school's boundary and those students who are not "transit served";

Whereas Students attending the St. Francis Xavier CES French Immersion program have identified the lack of transportation as a barrier to their continued participation in the French Immersion program at the secondary level. (see attached petition);

Whereas Students of the Markham South Community deserve additional support and resources to overcome systemic barriers to their success.

Whereas Administration is currently evaluating the new Pupil Transportation Funding from the province, with expectations of proposing policy changes to the Board of Trustees this fall.

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT a Transportation exception, as has been granted St. Cecilia CES, be granted for the area known as South Markham (St. Francis Xavier CES, French Immersion Boundary) to provide student transportation to students attending St. Brother Andre CHS, for French Immersion, effective September 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Chair Alexander introduced his Motion and thanked Mr. Pechkovsky and staff for preparing a comprehensive report to support the transportation for French Immersion students of South Markham. The Board of Trustees expressed their concern with the Motion noting that this would set a precedent with other communities that are requesting the same exception.

MOTION: Alexander / DiMeo

THAT the Board of Trustees authorize a Transportation Policy Exception for all French immersion students attending St. Brother Andre CHS who resides within St. Francis Xavier CES French immersion boundary / Father Michael McGivney CA boundary;

THAT the provision of a transit pass for each eligible student be provided;

THAT staff look at solutions with the assistance of York Region Transit;

THAT the policy exception will be in effect for the 2023-2024 school year, and will expire June 30, 2024.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2023:390

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**g) TRUSTEE MOTION: Motion to Enrich YCDSB Catholicity (F. Alexander)**

Whereas *Christ is at the center of our Faith;*

Whereas *We are all one in Christ;*

Whereas *This oneness is intended to bring us all in unity and peace with one another;*

Whereas *Unity and peace have been severely fractured;*

Whereas *Unity and peace can only be found in the Prince of Peace;*

Whereas *Infusing the Prince of Peace in our lives and the life of our schools will bring us that peace.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT the York Catholic District School Board adopt the Order of Daily Prayer and Recitations and Prayer before and after each class;

THAT the Policy on Prayer be amended to include Order of Daily Prayer and Recitations and Prayer before and after each class.

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the report accompanying this Motion and asked for further information with samples of daily prayer that take place during the regular school day.

This Motion will be an Action Item at the September 26, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

2023:391

INFORMATION ITEM(S):**a) OHRCL Anti Black Racism in Education**

A Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment shared information of their departments undertaking that are conducive to promoting equitable outcomes for all students. The Curriculum and Assessment Department recognizes the need to address anti-Black racism and all forms of discrimination.

b) September Calendar

The calendar was shared.

c) Pope Francis CES Portapak Relocation Update

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant shared an update regarding the relocation of a ten-classroom portapak from St. Agnes of Assisi to Pope Francis CES.

2023:392 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

2023:393 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RECESS AT 10:11 PM TO CONVENE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION AT 11:36 PM

2023:394 APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:21 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:21 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on August 29, 2023.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): NIL

(ii) CLASSIFIED:

MOTION: Iafrate/Barbieri

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held June 20, 2023 be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2023:395 ADJOURNMENT: 11:38 PM

ON MOTION: Barbieri/Saggese and CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board