

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

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

**PRESENT:**

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

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

Absent with Notice: M. Barbieri, Student Trustee A. Shenouda

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding: M. Iafrate, Chair of the Board

**2026:053 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair of the Board, Maria Iafrate, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:33pm and the Faith Ambassadors to lead the Opening Prayer, followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

Chair Iafrate stated that Director De Faveri was not available and that Associate Director Sarna was in attendance as designate.

**2026:054 ROLL CALL: M. Barbieri , Student Trustee A. Shenouda**

**2026:055 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:**

- #17b - REVISED Procedure for Policy 106 Delegations to the Board
- #17g - SEAC Report to Board
- #18c - Addendum to Item #18c - "Mileage Claims Exceptions Update - Trustees".

**MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo**

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**2026:056 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Move 16a: 2024-2025 Director's Annual Report to Information

Move 16b: Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update - Report #1 to Information

Defer 9a: Business Arising: Follow-Up to Trustee McNicol's Comment re cheque for International Languages to January 27, 2026

Defer 19h Legal Opinion - Process and Expectations

Defer 19i Trustees Meeting with Director or Senior Staff (Process)

Defer 19j Cost Containment for Legal Processes

**MOTION: McNicol/DiMeo**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**2026:057 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**

**2026:058 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

**2026:059 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Regular Board Meeting of November 25, 2025

**MOTION: DiMeo/Cotton**

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

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**2026:060 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL****2026:061 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Maria Iafrate, Chair of the Board, included her Chair's Report as part of the December 16, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Merry Christmas, Thank You Cardinal Leo and Our Lady Queen of the World CA, YCDSB Christmas Card and Director's Council Mass.

Jennifer Powers, Superintendent of Exceptional Learners, introduced the 6th Annual Holiday Video highlighting YCDSB exceptional students who communicated using a variety of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) tools while performing "*Frosty the Snowman*." The video was also shared at the December 15, 2025 SEAC meeting.

**2026:062 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE:**

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board, provided her report as part of the December 16, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Advocacy: FACE Lobby Day, Advocacy: Finance Brief, OCSTA Short Video Contest - Online Voting, OCSTA Awards: Nomination Deadline - January 9, CCSTA Award: Nomination Deadline - January 16, OCSTA Resolutions and January Trustee Seminar.

**2026:063 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:**

Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the December 16, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, Christmas Break, Advent Prayer Services, Paying it Forward to the Rose of Sharon, Father Henri Nouwen CES on CP 24, CEC Charity Bake Sale, EQAO Results, Leadership Links Conference and St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS Student Represents Canada.

**2026:064 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:**

Student Trustees Sabine Cuesta and Abby Shenouda provided their Student Trustee Report to Board in the December 16, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: YSCPC Leadership Links Conference - Words Matter, YSCPC Christmas Event, Christmas Concerts and Christmas Break.

**2026:065 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL****2026:066 DELEGATIONS: NIL****2026:067 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION: NIL****2026:068 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)****a) TRUSTEE MOTION: LEGAL COSTS (T. McNicol)**

**Whereas** the Board needs to be transparent with the costs regarding:  
- Gillian Tuck, Bruce Best, Jennifer MacKenzie, McCarthy Tretrault,  
Michael Maynard the Integrity Commissioner, BLG, the Judicial Review,  
Covering all legal fees with one grand total;

**Whereas** the Catholic ratepayers of York Region are demanding this information.

**MOTION: McNicol/Crowe**

**THAT** the YCDSB release the total cost spent on all these investigations to be accountable to the Catholic ratepayers.

- MOTION CARRIED -

The total cost spent will be shared at the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

**b) POLICY 106 DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD AND PROCEDURES**

J. Sarna, Associate Director, presented a revised Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Procedures for approval. It was noted that a more extensive review of this policy will be forthcoming at the April 7, 2026 Policy Review Committee Meeting.

**MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo**

**THAT** the Board approve the revised Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Procedures.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**c) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

M. Iafrate, Chair of the Board presented revised Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee.

**MOTION: Saggese/Wigston**

**THAT** the Board approve the revised 2026 Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**d) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2026:01 POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, A. Saggese presented for approval, Report No. 2026:01 of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on December 1, 2025.

**MOTION: Saggese/Cotton**

**THAT** the Terms of Reference for the Policy Review Committee be approved.

**THAT** the Board approve the following revised policies:

Policy 103 Communication Policy

Policy 201 Healthy Schools

Policy 201A Healthy Schools - Eating and Nutrition

Policy 201B Healthy Schools - Physical Activity

Policy 701 Access to School & Board Premises

**THAT** the Board approve the following new policy:

Policy 813 Use of Proceeds of Disposition (POD)

- MOTION CARRIED -

**e) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2026:01 CORPORATE SERVICES**

Committee Chair, J. Wigston presented for approval, Report No. 2026:01 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on December 9, 2025.

**MOTION: Wigston/DiMeo**

**THAT** the Board approve the 2026 Terms of Reference for the Corporate Services Committee.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2026:02 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Vice-Chair, J. Wigston, presented for receipt, Report No. 2026:02 of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 9, 2025.

**MOTION: Wigston/Cotton**

**THAT** Report No. 2026:02 of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 9, 2025, be received as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**g) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2026:02 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2026:02 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 16, 2025.

**MOTION: Grella/DiMeo**

**THAT** Report No. 2026:02 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 16, 2025, be received as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**h) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2026:04 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Vice-Chair Jennifer Wigston presented, for approval, Report No. 2026:04 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on December 16, 2025.

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

**(ii) CLASSIFIED:**

**MOTION: Wigston/Crowe**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held December 16, 2025, be approved as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**2026:069**

**DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**

**a) TRUSTEE MOTION: LEGAL INVOICES (T. McNicol)**

**Whereas** *the Board of Trustees received and paid for two legal opinions on my judicial review and that showed they would not be successful and subsequently proceeded anyways;*

**Whereas** *taxpayer money was spent on these legal opinions and court proceedings which resulted in monies being removed from classrooms where it is most needed;*

**Whereas** *I was required to spend over \$100,000 on my own court costs to defend myself.*

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**

**THAT** a request be made to the Ministry to audit all legal costs put forward by Trustees in order to provide transparency to public taxpayers on how their dollars have been spent.

**THAT** the legal cost audit be provided to all stakeholders;

**THAT** the trustees who voted in favour of continuing with the judicial review, against the advice of legal, be required to pay the money back to the Board so these monies can be properly directed to classrooms.

Trustee McNicol advised that revisions to the motion, specifically to the third resolution, would be provided in advance of the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. As the third resolution is out of order, it will be reworded to request that the Minister of Education enact the proposed direction.

This Motion will be an Action Item on the January 27, 2026 Regular Board agenda.

**b) TRUSTEE MOTION: Exploration Of Centrally Delivered Stream Programming**

**Whereas** the YCDSB recognizes the value of STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math) education for students;

**Whereas** the YCDSB is committed to the equitable delivery of STREAM learning opportunities to students;

**Whereas** *given the shared model of support for exceptional learners with special needs means that* ensuring appropriate supports for off-site learning may inadvertently create barriers for some classes and/or schools to fully participate in STREAM education experiences;

**Whereas** timing constraints on STREAM visits are a natural result of transportation scheduling limitations;

**Whereas** *students whose schools are located farther from STREAM centres experience substantially longer and potentially inequitable travel times compared to their peers;*

**Whereas** the cost of transportation for students to attend STREAM centres is funded centrally.

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**

THAT staff investigate whether there may be efficiencies in transitioning to *centrally delivered STREAM programming whereby curriculum materials for the delivery of the STREAM module are provided to the school prior to the visit of the itinerant teacher;*

THAT the report includes recommendations on increasing access to STREAM learning for exceptional students.

Trustee Saggese requested that Trustee Wigston reconsider the wording of the motion and ask staff to evaluate the current STREAM centres and how they apply to exceptional learners, rather than making assumptions. Trustee Wigston clarified that she is requesting an assessment of the current model to identify areas for improvement. She further noted that, where opportunities exist to enhance the delivery of the STREAM program for all students, the Board should proceed. The intent is to ensure that exceptional learners are able to participate in a meaningful way alongside their peers. A report identifying areas of need will be forthcoming.

This Motion will be an Action Item at the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

**c) TRUSTEE MOTION: Obligations Relating to Public Funds Spending or Obligation to Protect Public Funds Spending or Obligation to Protect Public Funds**

Chair M. Iafrate requested to defer this Motion to the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, as no staff were present to answer questions.

**MOTION TO DEFER: Iafrate/Wigston**

THAT the Board defer this Motion to the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**d) TRUSTEE MOTION: Audit of YCDSB Purchasing Credit Cards (PCards)**

Chair M. Iafrate and Trustee E. Crowe requested that this Motion be deferred to the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, as no staff were present to answer questions.

**MOTION TO DEFER: Iafrate/Crowe**

THAT the Board defer this Motion to the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2026:070

**INFORMATION ITEM(S):****a) Proposed By-Law Changes to Operational By-Law No. 1**

M. Iafrate, Chair of the Board brought forward, for information, proposed changes to the Regular Board Agenda, as per the Operational By-Law No. 1. This will come for Action on January 27, 2026.

**b) TRUSTEE MOTION: Support for the Holy Land Children's Educational Endowment Fund**

**Whereas** *the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem has established the Holy Land Children's Educational Endowment Fund – Ensuring the Future to provide urgently needed support to safeguard and sustain schools in the Holy Land, ensuring that children can learn in safe and stable classrooms;*

**Whereas** *the Lieutenancies of North America, in partnership with the Lieutenancy of Toronto, have launched the Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign to raise both immediate and long-term funds necessary to maintain accessible Christian education in the Holy Land;*

**Whereas** *the Order seeks "to finance our schools, our Christian schools and universities in the Holy Land... to form a new generation that is formed with our principles," as stated by Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, Governor General of the Order.*

**MOTION TO EXPEDITE: Crowe/Iafrate**

- MOTION CARRIED -

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**

**THAT** the York Catholic District School Board hold a one-day fundraiser, "Civies Day", in January 2026, inviting each student and all staff members to contribute \$2.00 (Toonie) with all proceeds directed to the Holy Land Children's Educational Endowment Fund,

**THAT** an honorary cheque, representing the collective contribution of the YCDSB community, be formally presented to H.E. Dr. Colin Saldanha, Lieutenant, or his designate, on behalf of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The Board of Trustees recognized that this is a worthwhile cause and requested supporting documentation from the Archdiocese explaining the organization, which may include a video. It was also suggested that the contribution be adjusted to a loonie or toonie to ensure that parents/guardians do not feel pressured. Chair Iafrate will reach out to the Cardinal and forward the information to Mark Brosens, Senior Manager, Brand, Marketing & Communications.

**MOTION TO DEFER: Grella/McNicol**

**THAT** the Board defer this Motion to the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**c) 2024-2025 EQAO Results**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment shared the 2024-2025 EQAO Results for Grade 3 and Grade 6 Literacy & Numeracy, Grade 9 Math and Grade 10 OSSLT. The Board of Trustees congratulated all Administrators, Staff and Students for the positive results.

**d) YCDSB Charitable Foundation Update**

A report on the *York Catholic District Hope and Opportunity Foundation* was provided for information.

**d) Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) Update**

J. Powers, Superintendent of Exceptional Learners provided information regarding the standardized cognitive-abilities assessment tool used to determine eligibility for gifted program placement in Ontario. The YCDSB uses the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) along with the WISC to determine eligibility for placement in our Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE). The York Catholic District School Board will also be exploring the NGAT, a verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative assessment that measures reasoning and problem-solving

skills with minimal reliance on prior knowledge to address some of the concerns raised regarding equity of opportunity.

**f) Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP) Update - December 16, 2025**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board shared a monthly update to the Board. The report presented the 2025-26 projection which was based on the recently completed Revised Estimates. The Board remains on track with the MYFRP submitted for approval.

**g) Yonge North Subway Extension Update**

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager, Planning and Operations provided an update on the Yonge North Subway Extension, including a response to the Board's letters from May 7, 2025 to the Ministers of Education and Transportation, and an update on Metrolinx's planned expropriation of land beneath St. Anthony CES and an overall update on the construction/tunneling phase of the project. Trustee Cotton requested that staff send a communication to the school summarizing the latest events to ensure transparency.

**h) Implementation of School Bus Cancellation Service Areas**

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager, Planning and Operations provided information that Administration has finalized with Student Transportation Services (STS) and the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) to implement Inclement Weather Service Areas in Georgina without increasing transportation costs by allowing existing routes to operate across areas while enabling localized cancellation decisions. The new service areas in Georgina will take effect as a pilot beginning on January 5, 2026. Communication will be sent to all families.

**j) 2024-2025 Directors Annual Report**

A copy of the 2024-2025 Director's Annual Report was shared as Information. The Board of Trustees thanked Mr. Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications and staff for their efforts.

**k) Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update - Report #1**

J. Sarna, Associate Director, provided Report #1 for the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update.

**i) January 2026 Calendar**

The January 2026 calendar was provided with no changes. Vice-Chair Wigston asked, for consideration, if the January 27th Regular Board meeting can be moved to either Monday or Wednesday, to accommodate her attendance at her nephew's Sacrament. Chair Iafrate stated that she would advise the Board of Trustees by the end of the week.

**2026:071** **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**2026:072** **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**2026:073** **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**2026:074** **ADJOURNMENT – 8:43 pm**  
**ON MOTION:** Grella/DiMeo and CARRIED