

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES of the Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, C. Cotton, A. Grella, M. Iafrate, J. DiMeo, A. Saggese, Student Trustees A. Zamanifar, M. Galstyan, J. James
Virtual: J. Wigston (disconnected at 8:16 pm)

Administration: In Person: D. Scuglia, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, A. Battick, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi, K. Elgharbawy, M. Fedrigoni, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, T. Pechkovsky, L. Sawicky, S. Wright
Virtual: D. Candido

Absent with Notice: Trustee E. Crowe

Absent w/o Notice: Trustee T. McNicol

Recording Officer: S. Greco (Virtual)

Presiding: M. Iafrate, Vice-Chair of the Board

2024:081 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

In absence of Chair Elizabeth Crowe, Vice-Chair of the Board, Maria Iafrate, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and welcomed the Faith Ambassador to lead the opening prayer at 7:30 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed. Vice-Chair Iafrate welcomed back Interim Superintendent of Human Resources, Marianne Fedrigoni.

2024:082 **ROLL CALL** – Trustee Elizabeth Crowe - Absent with Notice
Trustee T. McNicol - Absent without Notice

2024:083 **APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL**

2024:084 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Cotton/Saggese

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2024:085 **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**

2024:086 **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

2024:087 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Regular Board Meeting of November 28, 2023

Special Board Meeting of December 5, 2023

Special Board Meeting of December 12, 2023

MOTION: Cotton/Saggese

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 28, 2023, Special Board Meeting of December 5, 2023 and Special Board Meeting of December 12, 2023, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2024:088 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

2024:089 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, had provided her Board Report as part of the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included Milestone Anniversary, Blessing and Ribbon-Cutting of Pope Francis CES Port-a-Pak and OCSTA Catholic Trustees' Seminar.

2024:090 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston, OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board, provided her report in the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included 2023 Short Video Contest for Catholic Education, OCSTA Submission and 2024 OCSTA Catholic Trustees Seminar January 19-20, 2024.

2024:091 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE:

Director of Education Domenic Scuglia, provided his report in the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Director Scuglia highlighted and read two items from his report, Respectful Behaviour Towards Trustees and Change in Snow Plow Operations. Other Topics included Cardinal Carter CHS Supports Relay for Life, YCDSB Website, YCDSB Wow!, Twitter Break, Indigenous Winter Games, School Visits.

2024:092 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan, Jonah James and Amira Zamanifar presented their *December Student Trustee Report to Board* using a new format whereby their topics were linked to the Board's MYPSP Strategic Priorities: Catholic Faith, Equity and Inclusion, Student Achievement and Well-Being.

Leadership Links

On December 15th, The YSCPC held the Leadership Links Conference. This was the first time the Leadership Link conference was run in a very long time, and the event successfully promoted the importance of Mental Health education in our elementary schools. In total, 100 Elementary Student Leaders and their teachers from almost 50 elementary schools participated in the conference. The conference, which was held at the CEC, provided our elementary schools with the opportunity to understand and explore the importance of promoting mental health and how to be more aware of how to be more mentally healthy while breaking down various stigmas surrounding mental health. Providing educational opportunities to students, particularly Elementary students, is extremely important as we can foster a healthy mental environment and establish healthy practices early on in students. With the help of the YRPH, our very own Mental Health Ambassadors, Guest Speakers, and community partners, Students were engaged and made stress balls and breathing sticks, participated in a Health Fair, and won various prizes such as Starbucks cold cups and other items in a raffle draw. We'd like to thank everyone involved in running the event, including the YSCPC and TAs, Special guests, Community Partners, and the 50 Elementary schools that attended the conference.

Semi-Formals

The month of December invites senior secondary students within the YCDSB to spend exuberant nights of dance, music, and food! That's right, Senior Semi-Formals ranging from themes such as Winter Wonderland or SnowBall are taking place all throughout the month of December, encouraging hardworking YCDSB students to take a day to enjoy themselves and spend time with their friends. For those students who have been thus far, we hope you enjoy and cherish the memories those haven't are yet to make!

Skilled trades Presentation (YCDSB x YRDSB)

On December 6th, 2023, the Pathways Team in Curriculum & Instructional Services in collaboration with the Workforce Planning Board of York Region, YCDSB and YRDSB hosted a Skilled Trades and Technology Career Planning Information Night. The night was held at OLQWCA and invited parents and families from across the region to inspire students in their first steps towards innovative, technological, and growing career fields in their post-secondary career., to make critical differences in people's lives. Students learned about Ontario's 140+ trades through presentations, a career panel, informational booths, and networking. They heard from former students within the York Region, local employers, tradespeople. Thank you to everyone who attended and organized this pivotal event and we hope that students throughout our board were inspired and informed regarding the bigger questions for their futures.

Advent Season

December 3rd marked the start of Advent. As the anticipation and preparation for Christmas has started within homes, they have also started within our schools. Advent is the reason for the season and is vital within Catholic Education. Students are learning about the significance of the Nativity and the hope, joy, peace, and love that Jesus brings. It is a precious time within our board for reflection, prayer, and coming together as a

community. Many classrooms have Advent wreaths with artificial candles representing each week leading up to Christmas. Schools are also organizing special Advent liturgies as well as donation drives and projects to promote not only spiritual growth but also giving back to the community. It's a wonderful time for students to deepen their faith and embrace the true meaning of Christmas.

YSCPC Christmas Dinner

In keeping with the theme of Christmas, the York Secondary Catholic President's Council is planning to host a Christmas Dinner, inviting high school students from across the board to connect, celebrate and eat some delicious food. The event is planned to be less work-oriented as the usual YSCPC meetings, with a bigger focus on what this season is about. Fellowship and community!

2024:093 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL

2024:094 DELEGATIONS:

Vice-Chair Iafrate welcomed the Delegation and recited the following:

"The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that stakeholders should have an opportunity to address the Board of Trustees. The Board has established a delegation process and this process is clearly outlined in Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Input to Agenda Items. This policy reflects the guidelines to which delegations may come forward. To YCDSB community members visiting tonight, I wish to be very clear that views expressed by the delegations are those of the speakers. We will not be engaging in question or debate and I will be asking Trustees if they have questions at the end of your presentation for clarification. Please be reminded that York Catholic District School Board promotes positive, respectful, and civil behaviour. Therefore, the expectation is to treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and if you do not adhere to these instructions, your delegation will be terminated."

a) Exception to the Transportation Policy

Alfredo Picano, who was in attendance virtually, requested an exception to the transportation policy that would permit their child to access the Board approved bus and commute with their older sibling until June 2027. The request was as a result of the changes to the dual feeder elementary schools approved by the Board.

2024:095 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:

a) Secondary Promotional Videos

J. Sarna, Associate Director shared a promotional video from Cardinal Carter CHS that is also posted on their website. The Board of Trustees were pleased with the video.

b) Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided the first (of three) status report on the MYSP update and achievement of the SMART goals. The Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation and noted that the presentation clearly demonstrated overall progress and the colours, format, visual highlights at a glance are clear and easy to understand. The next status reports will be provided in February 2024 and June 2024.

2024:096 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):

a) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:03 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented for receipt Report No. 2024:03 of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 2023.

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT Report No. 2024:03 from the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 2023, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

b) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Trustee Michaela Barbieri, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Transportation Review Committee meeting held on November 30, 2023.

MOTION: Barbieri/Saggese

THAT the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Transportation Review Committee be approved.

- MOTION CARRIED –

c) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Angela Saggese, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on December 4, 2023.

MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo

THAT the Board approve the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Student Success & Pathways Committee.

- MOTION CARRIED –

d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:02 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Angela Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:02 of the The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on December 11, 2023.

MOTION: Grella/Wigston

THAT the Report No. 2024:02 from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 11, 2023, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED –

e) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Executive Committee meeting held on December 12, 2023.

MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton

THAT the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee be approved.

- MOTION CARRIED –

f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 AD-HOC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE EXTENDED DAY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Angela Saggese, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:01 of the Ad-Hoc International Language Extended Day Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023.

MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo

THAT Report No. 2024:01 from the Ad-Hoc International Language Extended Day Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED –

g) TRUSTEE MOTION: Moving Towards Equity Within the YCDSB (F. Alexander)

Whereas	<i>There are socio-economic differences within York Region;</i>
Whereas	<i>These differences can create severe inequities between students within the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB);</i>
Whereas	<i>These inequities can place many students at an academic disadvantage;</i>
Whereas	<i>We are directed by our Vision, Mission and Values to address such inequities;</i>
Whereas	<i>Although there are many forms of inequities created by socio-economic differences, the Board cannot feasibly address them all at the same time;</i>
Whereas	<i>Students are more likely to achieve academic success when they share an equitable access to educational tools, equipment and resources.</i>

MOTION: Alexander/Saggese

THAT the Board begin the process of "Moving Towards Equity" within the YCDSB by focusing first upon learning tools and technological supports to education during the development of the 2023-2024 budget.

THAT Senior Staff initiate and oversee a process to:

IDENTIFY – essential learning tools required by our schools to effectively deliver the elementary curriculum and facilitate student achievement;

GATHER – data from all elementary schools concerning their current inventories of such tools (reflected on a per pupil basis);

PRESENT – a report to the Board as part of the 2023 Budget process to highlight this data and make recommendations for priority resource allocation that will support our movement towards equity in all schools.

THAT the Director of Education ensure that goals/actions/targets for "Moving Towards Equity" are highlighted in each year of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Director Scuglia advised that in anticipation of this Motion being approved, staff have already begun working towards some of the outcomes. This Motion will be added to next year's MYSP, if we are not able to add to the current MYSP.

Trustee Wigston disconnected at 8:16 pm.

h) TRUSTEE MOTION: Action Plan to Combat Anti-Black Racism at York Catholic District School Board (F. Alexander)

Whereas *Director Scuglia invited members of the Black community on November 23, 2023 to provide input into the results from a Survey on Black experience at York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB);*

Whereas *the Black community leaders expressed extreme disappointment that two years after receiving the survey results the Director and the School Board have taken no action on the results;*

Whereas *this delay has exacerbated the suffering of Black youth at YCDSB;*

Whereas *the community recommended that the Board show its commitment to Anti-Black Racism by setting aside a proper budget to ensure success of the Plan;*

Whereas *Director Scuglia asked for and received input from the Black Community on what will combat Anti-Black Racism;*

Whereas *failure to act on these recommendations will demonstrate a lack of commitment by YCDSB to combat Anti-Black Racism;*

Whereas *such inaction will cause further reputational damage to YCDSB within the Black community.*

MOTION: Alexander/Saggese

THAT no later than March 31, 2024, Director Scuglia presents the following to the Board of Trustees for approval:

a) A comprehensive Action Plan that details:

- The specific actions to be undertaken to combat Anti-Black Racism at York Catholic District School Board.*
- The expected results from those actions.*
- The measures of success.*
- The timeframe within which those results are to be achieved.*
- The internal operational structure that will be put in place to ensure that gains made are not lost;*
- Monthly reporting to the Board of Trustees on the progress of the Plan.*

b) A proper budget to ensure success of the Action Plan.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Trustee Carol Cotton asked the mover/seconders if they would adjust the date of March 31st to reflect by the approval of the budget. Director Scuglia stated that there was budget assigned to MYSP in the amount of \$250K that will be used for this purpose. Director Scuglia advised that in anticipation of this Motion being approved, a Committee was struck and a preliminary meeting was held on December 18, 2023. An Anti-Black Racism Sub-Committee also began their work led by Superintendent Rocchina Antunes. An update will be provided to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

Trustee Frank Alexander thanked the Board of Trustees and stated that this is a good start and the the community is elated that we have committed ourselves.

2024:097 DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

a) TRUSTEE MOTION: Busing for Siblings (A. Saggese)

- Whereas** students enrolled in the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) Catholic Secondary High schools impacted by the elimination of busing for dual feeders, as of September 30, 2024 in grades 10, 11 or 12, will receive transportation ending June 30, 2027;
- Whereas** as of September 2024, students entering grade 9 to any of the Catholic High Schools impacted by the elimination of dual feeders, shall have to attend on a TCH 19 (out of boundary) and as such are no longer eligible for busing;
- Whereas** family is at the core of Catholic values. At the YCDSB, we understand that school communities can only be strengthened by the assistance of parishes and families. Wherever possible, the YCDSB strives to be the best place for every student to learn, grow and feel safe in all aspects of their life.

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT any younger sibling of a student who is currently (2023-24 school year) attending a YCDSB Catholic High School impacted by the elimination of busing for dual feeders, will be granted an exception to Policy 226B Admission to Secondary Schools and Policy 203 Student

Transportation Services as follows:

- The TCH 19 for the younger sibling will be automatically approved by the Superintendent.
- The younger sibling will be granted transportation.

THAT the above noted transportation exception to policy is only in place for any Grade 8 student enrolled in a YCDSB elementary school this year who is wishing to attend a YCDSB high school impacted by the removal of dual feeder transportation, and who has an older sibling in that school, **who qualifies for busing**, as of October 30, 2024, will be provided transportation to that high school until June 2027.

This Motion will be an Action Item on the January 30, 2024 Regular Board agenda. *Post Meeting - the Motion was slightly amended.*

b) TRUSTEE MOTION: Physical Hazard or Barriers (A. Saggese)

- Whereas** according to Policy 203 Student Transportation Services (STS) Parameter 3.10 Walking distances are measured by STS using the most direct walking route (which may include approved walkways) from the edge of a student's residence to the closest collector point;
- Whereas** according to Policy 203 Student Transportation Services Parameter 3.10 1.1, a physical hazard, or barrier associated with the collector point, and/or pedestrian route to the collector point, rural routes;
- Whereas** hazard walking conditions that may pose safety risks if students were to walk from home to school. These conditions include, but are not limited to the following:
- Multi-lane roads with higher speed limits and higher volumes of traffic;
 - Infrastructure and physical characteristics (e.g. without sidewalks and/or controlled;
 - Crossings (e.g., stop sign, traffic light, crosswalk, crossing guard, body of water);
 - Railway crossings (e.g., not signaled);
 - Other safety factors identified by authorities such as law enforcement authorities. The application of hazard conditions may reflect the age of students. Specific thresholds on what constitutes a hazard condition may vary based on local geography and circumstances;
- Whereas** students living in and around Keele St. and Teston Rd. within the subdivision of St. Raphael CES face hazards walking to the York Region Transit (YRT) stop on Keele St. and Teston Rd. to get to their local Catholic High school. There are no safe walking routes to St. Joan of Arc CHS since there are no sidewalks along Keele St. and/or Teston Rd;
- Whereas** students living in and around Keele St. and Teston Rd. within the subdivision of St. Raphael CES, face hazards crossing Keele St. which is a multi-lane road with higher speed limits and higher volumes of traffic to walk to their YRT stop on Keele St.

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT the York Catholic District School Board will provide a yellow school bus for students living in the St. Raphael the Archangel CES community who want to attend St. Joan of Arc CHS due to the hazards they face to get to their closest YRT stop until the YRT creates a bus special for the community or the City completes the construction of sidewalks along Keele St..

The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification. This Motion will be an Action item on the January 30, 2024 Regular Board agenda.

2024:098 INFORMATION ITEM(S):

a) 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report

D. Scuglia, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board provided a high level overview of the 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report. The Education Act requires the Director of Education to report annually on the Board's progress made towards the Multi-Year Strategic Plan goals in the previous school year. The 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report will also be posted on the Board's website.

b) Stouffville Multi-Use Project Update

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant, provided an update on the progress of the Stouffville Multi-Use project. Recent photographs capturing the building's current state were provided in the report.

c) Copy of November 24, 2023 Letter to York Regional Police

Further to November 22, 2023 Motion passed by the Board of Trustees, a copy of a letter dated November 24, 2023 to York Regional Police was shared.

d) Snow Removal Communication to Parents

A recent communication dated December 4, 2023 to parents regarding snow removal was shared.

e) Human Rights Poster

A. Battick, Interim Human Rights & Equity Advisor provided information on the creation of a poster that will be created for all schools to raise awareness of human rights in our schools.

f) January 2024 Calendar

The January 2024 calendar was shared.

2024:099 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

2024:100 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RECESS AT 8:53 PM TO RECONVENE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION AT 11:03 PM

2024:101 APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:04 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:04 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on December 19, 2023.

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

(ii) **CLASSIFIED:**

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held December 19, 2023, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2024:102 ADJOURNMENT: 11:04 PM

ON MOTION: Saggese/Barbieri and CARRIED