

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES of the Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, C. Cotton, E. Crowe, A. Grella, M. Iafrate, J. DiMeo, A. Saggese
Virtual: M. Barbieri, J. Wigston

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

Absent with Notice: All Present

Approved Absence: Trustee T. McNicol

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

2024:039 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander welcomed everyone to the Special Board Meeting and led the opening prayer at 10:48 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.

2024:040 ROLL CALL: Trustee T. McNicol - Approved Absence

2024:041 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL

2024:042 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Cotton/Saggese

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

Trustee Wigston provided the following statement:

With regards to the Inaugural meeting on November 22nd, my reaction to Trustee Alexander's motion was not worthy of the decorum expected of a York Catholic Trustee. I offer sincere apologies to all my colleagues and Trustee Alexander specifically.

2024:043 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2024:044 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2024:045 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S): NIL

2024:046 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2024:047 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES: NIL

2024:048 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: NIL

2024:049 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE: NIL

2024:050 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT: NIL

2024:051 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL

2024:052 DELEGATIONS: NIL

2024:053 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION: NIL

2024:054 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):

a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, Carol Cotton, presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on December 5, 2023.

MOTION: Cotton/lafrate

Terms of Reference of the Corporate Services Committee (reviewed and approved)

THAT the Board approve the 2024 Terms of Reference (Revised) for the Corporate Services Committee, as presented.

2023-24 Revised Estimates

1. Budget Request 1 – International Education

THAT the Board approve the International Education budget request in this report for the 2023-24 budget year.

2. Budget Request 2 - Information Systems

THAT the Board approve the Information Systems budget request in this report for the 2023-24 budget year.

3. Revenue Revised Estimates for 2023-24

THAT the Board, *subject to Minister's approval*, approve the submission of the Revenue Financial Revised Estimates to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, in the total amount of \$669,570,579 (based on Operating \$620,236,789 and Non-Operating \$49,333,790) as presented in this budget presentation.

4. Salaries and Benefits Revised Estimates for 2023-24

THAT the Board, *subject to Minister's approval*, approve the submission of the Salary and Benefits Expenditures Revised Estimates to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, in the total amount of \$563,414,817 (Salaries \$480,634,681 and Benefits \$82,780,136) as presented in this budget presentation.

5. Other Expenses Revised Estimates for 2023-24

THAT the Board, *subject to Minister's approval*, approve the submission of the Support Cost Expenditures Revised Estimates to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024, in the total amount of \$119,090,964 (based on \$67,745,319 Operating expenditures, \$2,011,855 of PPF and Other Grants/Programs expenditures and \$49,333,790 of non-Operating expenditures) as presented in this budget presentation.

6. In-Year Budget for 2023-24

THAT the Board, *subject to Minister's approval*, approve the submission of the \$12,935,202 *non-compliant deficit* to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024 as presented in the budget presentation.

- MOTION CARRIED -

b) TRUSTEE MOTION: TRUSTEE REVIEW & CONSULTATION ON ALL EXISTING & NEW VACANT POSITIONS (J. DiMeo)

- WHEREAS** *the Board is currently in a deficit and will experience serious financial pressures in upcoming years as the deficit elimination plan is implemented;*
- WHEREAS** *upon completion the Board's Annual Audit, Year-End Budget Update, RIAT internal audits and upcoming Ministry of Education audit may provide more accurate fiscal updates;*
- WHEREAS** *the Board is committed to ensuring that ethical, equitable and transparent hiring practices are consistently followed, by the Director and all his staff;*
- WHEREAS** *the Board's 2023-2024 budget was a deficit budget and did not allow for any reserves for elimination, terminating, litigation or from organizational restructuring of positions and therefore require Board approval.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

- THAT** *effective immediately, all hiring for new non-union and non-Ministry mandated positions will cease until the Ministry completes our Board's audit.*
- THAT** *any union positions continue to be filled as per the Collective Agreements that we have in place.*
- THAT** *any Ministry supported positions that are funded through TPA's (Transfer Payment Agreements) continue to be filled as per the parameters set within the approved Board budget.*
- THAT** *prior to backfilling of any job openings, even if within approved budget parameters they are referred to Trustees for review and recommendation, to find budget savings.*
- THAT** *all Board hiring follows the framework delineated within Policy 405 A, B, C which mandates fair, equitable and transparent hiring practices that meet Ontario's Human Rights guidelines.*

– MOTION CARRIED –

The Board of Trustees recognized that this Motion was a temporary measure until the Ministry audit is complete.

2024:055 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL
2024:056 INFORMATION ITEM(S): NIL

2024:057 NOTICES OF MOTION:

Trustee Angela Saggese presented her two motions:

TRUSTEE MOTION: Bussing for Siblings (A. Saggese)

- WHEREAS** *students enrolled in the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) Catholic Secondary High schools impacted by the elimination of bussing 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 TCH19 (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 bussing for dual feeders, will be granted an exception to Policy 226B Admission to Secondary Schools as follows:*
- The TCH19 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 the younger sibling as long as the current (2023-24) older sibling is attending the high school impacted by the elimination of dual feeder status. To clarify transportation for siblings of current students attending the YCDSB Catholic High schools impacted by the elimination of bussing for dual feeders, will end upon graduation of current students or by closure end date of June 30th 2027, whichever comes first.*

This Motion will be an Information Item on the December 19, 2023 Regular Board agenda.

TRUSTEE MOTION: Physical Hazard or Barrier (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 and/or the City completes the construction of sidewalks along Keele St. and Teston Rd.

This Motion will be an Information Item on the December 19, 2023 Regular Board agenda.

MOTION TO EXTEND PAST 11:00 PM - lafrate/Wigston - CARRIED**RECESS AT 11:14 PM TO RECONVENE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE****RESUME THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AT 11:20 PM****2024:058 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION****APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:02 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Board Vice-Chair, Maria lafrate presented, for approval Report No. 2024:02 of the Special Committee of the Whole private session held on December 5, 2023.

(i) **DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): N/A**

(ii) **CLASSIFIED:**
MOTION: lafrate/DiMeo

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held December 5, 2023 be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2024:059 ADJOURNMENT: 11:22 PM
ON MOTION: Grella/DiMeo and CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board