



**2026:107 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):****a) OCSTA MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Prior to presenting her Motion, Trustee Cotton expressed her appreciation to OCSTA for their willingness to provide additional support to the York Catholic DSB as they create opportunities for professional development and learning in their roles as Catholic Trustees. She noted that OCSTA's stewardship of Catholic education will serve as a critical foundation for all members of the Board as they prepare for the future. Vice-Chair Wigston added that Trustee Cotton spoke on behalf of all Trustees in recognizing the exceptional service and support provided to Catholic Trustees in the Province of Ontario. For more than 95 years, OCSTA has advocated for and supported publicly funded Catholic education.

The report noted that the approved 2025-2026 budget included an amount for the OCSTA membership fee and that paying these fees, would not impact the MYFRP.

**MOTION: Cotton/Wigston**

**THAT** the Board rescind the deferral and authorize the payment of OCSTA membership fees.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**b) TRUSTEE MOTION: SUPPORT FOR THE HOLY LAND CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

Chair lafrate acknowledged the report prepared by M. Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications, for providing supplementary information in support of the Motion. A draft information sheet was shared that could be distributed to students, staff and families by email. The EOHSJ is seeking to assist Christian schools by raising \$12M (\$8M for capital renovation costs and \$4M to support teacher salaries) A video produced by EOHSJ was viewed.

Trustee Saggese stated that she would be pleased to support this Motion and further stated that supporting this Order reflects their responsibility to bear witness to their faith through service and solidarity and to support those in need.

- 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: Saggese/lafrate**

**THAT** the York Catholic District School Board hold a one-day fundraiser, "Civies Day", in February 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.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**2026:108 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL**

**2026:109 INFORMATION ITEM(S):****a) York Catholic District School Board Response to the Minister of Education****(i) Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP)**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer began by stating that like many Boards across Ontario, York Catholic DSB faces structural cost pressures. The MYFRP addresses the challenges in a disciplined way while protecting classrooms and student outcomes. Our Board's response to the Minister is not a resubmission of the MYFRP. The plan is being implemented, near-term results are on track and risks are actively managed. The first three years remain largely unchanged, aside from updated assumptions. Two plans were submitted this year, the January plan showed a return to in-year balance by 2026-27, and the August update addressed the Ministry's requirement to eliminate the accumulated deficit. Most 2025-26 measures are already in place and planning for 26-27 have been refined based on current experience. Absenteeism remains a key cost pressure and is being addressed through targeted strategies.

The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification.

Trustee McNicol asked questions regarding a draft document previously shared with Trustees during preparation of the Board's response to the Minister. The document was draft and not intended for distribution.

**(ii) Board Cohesion and Alignment**

M. Iafrate, Chair of the Board welcomed attendees and acknowledged the importance of the York Catholic DSB to the York Region community. J. Sarna, Interim Director reported that the Minister of Education is considering provincial supervision and that the Board takes this seriously but believes it is not necessary, noting strong student achievement, and continued implementation of the MYFRP.

Chair Iafrate affirmed the leadership stability with recognizing the appointment of the Interim Director's experience and ongoing work to return the Board to a balanced budget. The MYFRP is intended to minimize classroom impact and meet the government timelines. The Board of Trustees committed to completing additional governance training focused on roles, financial oversight and effective decision-making. The Board highlighted strong academic results, high graduation rates, staff achievements and community engagement. The Board of Trustees reaffirmed their commitment to student success, responsible governance and the Catholic identity of its schools.

A video was presented.

**2026:110 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**

Chair Iafrate addressed the draft document referenced by Trustee McNicol and clarified that the letter was in draft form.

Trustee Frank Alexander raised a "point of order", stating that the letter was a private document and that its contents were intended for Trustees only and not for public distribution.

**2026:111 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**2026:112 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**2026:113 ADJOURNMENT: 8:21 PM**  
**ON MOTION: Saggese/Barbieri and CARRIED**

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**Secretary of the Board**

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**Chair of the Board**