

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**AGENDA**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**  
**7:30 pm**

Watch the Board Meeting  
**STREAM**  
 event on our YCDSB TV Channel:  
<http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

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| <b>1. OPENING PRAYER (Our Father)</b>  | M. Iafrate           |          |
| <b>2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>   | M. Iafrate           |          |
| <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.<br/>         We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.<br/>         We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.</i></p> |                      |          |
| <b>3. ROLL CALL</b>  | J. Sarna             |          |
| <b>4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL</b>   | M. Iafrate           |          |
| <b>5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA</b>   | M. Iafrate           |          |
| <b>6. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING</b>   | M. Iafrate           |          |
| <b>7. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>   | M. Iafrate           |          |
| <b>8. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>   |                      |          |
| <b>9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>10. CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>11. OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>13. STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>14. RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>15. DELEGATIONS</b>   |                      |          |
| <b>16. JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION – STAFF PRESENTATIONS</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>17. ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)</b>  |                      |          |
| a) OCSTA Membership Fees   | C. Cotton            | <b>3</b> |
| b) TRUSTEE MOTION: Support for the Holy Land Children's Educational Endowment Fund   | M. Iafrate           | <b>4</b> |
| (i) Supplementary Report, Info Sheet, Video  |                      |          |
| <b>18. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)</b>  |                      |          |
| <b>19. INFORMATION ITEM(S)</b>   |                      |          |
| a) York Catholic District School Board Response to the Minister of Education   |                      |          |
| (i) Multi Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP)   | C. McNeil            |          |
| (ii) Board Cohesion and Alignment  | M. Iafrate, J. Sarna |          |
| <b>20. NOTICES OF MOTION</b>   |                      |          |
| <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>(Notices of Motion are to be submitted in writing and will return to the subsequent meeting as Information, the following meeting as Discussion, and finally Action at the next Board Meeting.)</i></p>   |                      |          |
| <b>21. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION</b>   |                      |          |

**PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

- 22.** *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

**23. ADJOURNMENT**

M. lafrate

# REPORT

## York Catholic District School Board

**Report To:** Special Board Meeting  
**From:** Carol Cotton, Trustee  
**Date:** February 10, 2026  
**Report:** **OCSTA Membership Fees**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Board of Trustees previously approved a motion to defer payment of OCSTA membership fees until discussions could be held regarding their provision of services to YCDSB. Those discussions have been completed.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The approved 2025-2026 budget includes an amount for the OCSTA membership fee. The payment of these membership fees will not impact the MYRFP. An approved motion to remove the Deferral will result in the invoice for membership fees being processed. Discussions have been held with OCSTA and they will be providing leadership and expertise to the YCDSB over the next few months with respect to professional development and reconciliation practices/processes.

### RECOMMENDATION:

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

Prepared and Submitted by: Carol Cotton, Trustee, Markham Area 1, Wards 1, 2,3, 6



# York Catholic District School Board

Catholic Education Centre, 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1  
Tel: 905-713-1211, 416-221-5051, 1-800-363-2711  
Fax: 905-713-1272 • www.ycdsb.ca

~~December 9, 2025~~ Revised February 10, 2026

## **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.

### **LET IT BE RESOLVED**

**THAT** the York Catholic District School Board hold a one-day fundraiser, “Civies Day”, in ~~January~~ **February** 2026, inviting each student and all staff member 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Iafrate  
Chair of the Board  
Trustee, Richmond Hill

Ref: 2026:01:1209:MI

# Report

**Report To:** Special Board Meeting  
**From:** Administration  
**Date:** February 10, 2026  
**Subject:** **Supplementary Information to Support TRUSTEE MOTION:**  
*Support for the Holy Land Children's Educational Endowment Fund*

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide supplementary information to support Trustee Motion, *Support for the Holy Land Children's Educational Endowment Fund*, put forward by Chair Maria Iafate.

## **BACKGROUND**

The North American Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) is currently fundraising to support the Latin Patriarchate school system, which operates 44 K-12 schools in the Holy Land and educates nearly 12,000 students of all faiths.

This fundraising effort is being undertaken by Canadian and American Catholics who are concerned about the learning conditions that children in the Holy Land are experiencing. Christians in the Holy Land do not have the financial ability to fully pay their educators or bring their school buildings up to acceptable standards. The EOHSJ seeks to help these Christian schools by raising \$12 million (\$8 million for capital renovation costs and \$4 million to help pay teacher salaries) from its members and from non-members who are willing to donate.

You can learn more about EOHSJ's fundraising effort here: <https://eohsjnorthamerica.org/>.

## **SUMMARY**

Attached to this report is a draft information sheet that could be emailed to students, staff and families.

[A condensed version of a video](#) produced by the EOHSJ is also available for Trustees to review.

Prepared by: Mark Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications  
Submitted by: Mark Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications  
Endorsed by: Jennifer Sarna, Interim Director of Education, Foundation Chair & Secretary of the Board



# Students Helping Students

## *YCDSB Students Have the Power to Help Students in the Holy Land*

Right now, schools throughout the Holy Land face serious challenges. Buildings need serious repairs. Students do not have the materials they need to learn. Classrooms are crowded. Teachers are not being paid.

### ***We Can Help***

The York Catholic District School Board is responding to the call from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) to support the Latin Patriarchate school system in the Holy Land.



#### **Facts on the Latin Patriarchate School System:**

- ✓ Operates 44 K-12 schools (6 in Israel, 25 in Jordan and 13 in Palestine)
- ✓ Employs 1,758 people
- ✓ Educates 18,968 boys and girls of all faiths



***On <Insert Date>, Students can donate a toonie to have an EXTRA CIVVIES DAY.***

All money raised will be donated to the EOHSJ's "Holy Land Children's Education Endowment Fund – Ensuring the Future." This endowment will help rebuild schools in the Holy Land and contribute to teachers' salaries.

***All Children Should be Able to Learn in Safe, Comfortable Schools.***

#### **About The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem**

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) is an ancient lay Catholic organization dedicated to supporting a Christian presence in the Holy Land through charitable, cultural and social works. The EOHSJ is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Service (CRA). Click here for more information



**York Catholic  
District School Board**