

# YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES of the Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

### PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, E. Crowe, J. DiMeo, A. Grella, M. Iafrate,  
T. McNicol, A. Saggese, J. Wigston, Student Trustee J. James  
Virtual: Student Trustee A. Peta-Dragos

Administration: In Person: D. Scuglia, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi,  
K. Elgharbawy, M. Farrell, M. Gray, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow,  
T. Pechkovsky, J. Sarna, S. Wright, A. McDonald

Absent with Notice: Trustee C. Cotton

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding F. Alexander, Chair of the Board

### 2023:118 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead the opening prayer at 7:35 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.

2023:119 ROLL CALL – Trustee C. Cotton – Absent with Notice

2023:120 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL

2023:121 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#### MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2023:122 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING:

Chair Frank Alexander declared a conflict of interest for Item # 16h TRUSTEE MOTION: Moving Towards Equity Within the YCDSB.

2023:123 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:124 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Regular Board Meeting of January 31, 2023

#### MOTION: DiMeo/Barbieri

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 31, 2023 be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

Special Board Meeting of February 7, 2023

#### MOTION: Barbieri/Saggese

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of February 7, 2023 be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

**2023:125 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL****2023:126 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Frank Alexander, Chair of the Board provided his report in the February 28, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: Tamil Heritage Month Pongal Celebration, Our Voice Black Leadership Conference, Best Buddies Valentine's Dinner & Dance, SEAC Newsletter, Distinguished Alumni Award – 6 Newly Selected Honourees, Ash Wednesday and STREAM Centres of Excellence – Virtual Reality Experience.

**a) Commissioning Ceremony**

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander, and Vice-Chair Maria Iafate participated in a ceremonial Commissioning Ceremony with Jennifer Sarna and Lou Paonessa. A candle and a Bible to commemorate the occasion was provided.

**2023:127 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:**

Trustee Jennifer Wigston, OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board reported that OCSTA Board of Directors met on February 3, and draft of the Pre-Budget Submission was approved. Numerous recommendations were brought forward to address, among others, a financial impact on Boards related to Covid-19 and operating costs of online learning; funding for Anti-Black and Indigenous Racism programs; AODA regulations; cybersecurity; reducing time to completion for capital projects; student transportation and bus driver retention; special education. The link to the pre-budget submission can be found in the Board of Director's highlights which was emailed separately. Catholic Education Week resources are available including the poster and song. OCSTA AGM and Conference in Toronto including the business session will take place on April 27 – 29. The CCSTA AGM and Convention will take place in Saskatoon June 1 – 3, with the theme Rooted in Faith - Catholic Education in Action.

**2023:128 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE:**

Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia provided his report in the February 28, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: Our Voice Conference, OECTA ABR Lecture, St. Augustine's Art Show, Twitter Break, OYAP Signing Day, New FDK Video, Good News Stories from Principals, ShareLife Week, International Education New Video, Pancake Breakfast, Anna Garito Keynote Speaker at University, February School Visits.

**2023:129 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:**

Student Trustee Jonah James reported as follows:

*"February was a busy month. February is widely regarded as a month of new beginnings for students as it marks the beginning of the new semester. The second semester offers students a chance to restart, pick up what was lost, and begin with a new mindset. Students and school communities as a whole, are pleased and refreshed with the coming of the 2nd semester. Students and school communities look forward to a smooth, and rewarding second semester, filled with school spirit, academic success, and memories that last a lifetime. Anthea and I would like to wish all students the best of luck in their second semester."*

*On Monday, February 27th, The YSCPC met for the first time for the 2023 school year and discussed the Culture here at the YCDSB. The YCDSB is home to people of many cultures and is filled with vibrant colors and traditions. We are very privileged to have such a diverse community, but we must seek a greater understanding of our community by searching for ways to create a more inclusive school community, and addressing false stereotypes which are detrimental to the learning environment of students. The YSCPC is also excited to celebrate Black History Month 2023 and celebrate the outstanding Black figures in history, and our community. Students had the opportunity to discuss these topics and bring back knowledge from discussions, to help create better school communities. Once again, we'd like to wish everyone a wonderful second semester."*

Student Trustee Anthea Peta-Dragos reported as follows:

*"This month of February, students celebrated the beginning of the Lent Season by observing Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, which represented opportunities for reflection and prayer in preparation for Easter. Students organized and participated in school fundraisers in support of the people who rely on humanitarian aid, after being affected by the two earthquakes and aftershocks in Turkey and Syria. The weekend of February 16th, Student Trustee James and I had the opportunity to attend the annual OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference in Ottawa, with the participation of over 70 student trustees from across the province, guest speakers from the Ontario Principals' Council and Catholic Principals Council of Ontario, as well as guest speaker Gabrielle Fayant-Lewis, Co-Founder of the Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G), an Indigenous youth-led organization focused on cultural support and empowerment programs for Indigenous youth. The OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference offered many interactive sessions on topics related to environmental sustainability, sexual and gender-based violence in schools, and barriers faced by Indigenous students, which will be further discussed with the YSCPC executives. We would like to thank everyone who made our participation at this conference possible, as well as to Trustee Cotton, who attended the conference and we had the great pleasure to travel with to Ottawa!"*

*Finally, I am very pleased to announce that student trustee Jonah and I are currently working on the implementation of an initiative that was proposed last year, which involves the creation of a permanent designated executive seat for an Indigenous student on the YSCPC. In order to have the Constitution amended and have this initiative implemented prior to the YSCPC Executive elections on May 15, 2023, a working group with the YSCPC Executives has been created. Student trustee Jonah and I would like to extend our thanks to Superintendents Sarna, Chiutsi and Sawicky, Past Chair of the Board Trustee Crowe, all Trustees and Senior Administrators who supported this initiative, Student Trustee Casbarro with whom I initiated this proposal, teacher moderators Ms. Ulgiati, Ms. Moreal, as well as the entire YSCPC Executive team who is working with us on the implementation of this initiative. This measure will assist in advancing reconciliation with this historically marginalized group and will contribute to the creation of a more equitable and inclusive system in support of the education and wellbeing of the YCDSB Indigenous students. We are very excited to see this initiative become a reality!"*

**2023:130      RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL**

**2023:131      DELEGATIONS:**

Chair Alexander welcomed the Delegations 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)      Bussing for St. Joan of Arc CJS**

Vittoria Tantalo advised that she attended St. Joan of Arc CHS's Open House and that busing remains a concern for her child attending her local community high school. Mrs. Tantalo stated that the community would support their local high school to ensure it remains open as the school does offer great programs.

**b)      Catholic Values in Our Schools**

Carlo Ravenna expressed his opinion regarding what children are being exposed to in our Catholic Schools.

**c) Catholic Values in Our Schools**

Sheree Di Vittorio, presented virtually her delegation expressing her opinion on the safe school sticker.

Due to the disorderly audience a recess was called at 8:20 p.m. until 8:34 p.m.

**2023:132 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:****a) MYSP – Year Five Quarterly Report – Board Improvement Learning Cycle for Student Achievement and Well-Being 2022-2023**

J. Sarna, Associate Director advised that York Catholic DSB is at the end of the five year 2018-2023 MYSP Plan and have undertaken stakeholder input to prepare and unveil a new Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Data has been gathered from all stakeholders and the consultation results from in-person and virtual sessions were shared. 75% of stakeholder input indicates a high satisfaction with Integration of our Catholic Faith; 62% indicate a high satisfaction with how the YCDSB supports Student Achievement; 54% indicate a high satisfaction with how the YCDSB supports Exceptional Learners; 66% indicate a high satisfaction with YCDSB strategies for Equity and Diversity; 54% indicate a high satisfaction with YCDSB strategies for Mental Health and Well-Being; 65% indicate a high satisfaction with YCDSB Facilities and Grounds; 67% indicate a high satisfaction with YCDSB Engaging Our Community Strategies. A Steering Committee has reviewed all stakeholder feedback and extracted four areas of focus to guide the actions expenditures and commitments of the MYSP for 2023-2027. Strategic Commitments for each of the four areas of focus were drafted. Once these commitments are finalized, they will lead into the next step of the Board Improvement Plan to help guide the smart goals that will be developed by action teams in these four areas. A draft five-year MYSP Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees in April 2023.

**2023:133 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):****a) RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE MOTION: POPE FRANCIS CES BOUNDARY**

A. McDonald, Assistant Manager, Planning Services presented a report to respond to the Notice of Motion from the December 2022 Board Meeting regarding the enrolment cap at Pope Francis CES. The report proposed an increase to the JK cap and introduced a process to permit admission of SK-8 students who reside within the Pope Francis CES attendance area should there be space available within the existing class structure.

**MOTION: Saggese/lafrate**

**THAT** for the 2023-2024 school year, Junior Kindergarten registrations at Pope Francis CES will be increased from 90 to 101.

**THAT** the SK to 8 enrolment cap at Pope Francis CES be amended to accept new students from SK-8 as outlined in Steps 1 to 6 identified in the report.

**THAT** Administration report back to the Board in February 2024 regarding any proposed changes to the enrolment cap prior to the 2024-2025 school year.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

Trustee Angela Saggese thanked T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager, Planning & Operations and his staff for putting forward the report and expressed her gratitude for doing the review. It was also suggested that staff get in touch with those families that were not able to get into Pope Francis CES last year.

**Steps 1 to 6:**

1. Following the release of the preliminary class structure for the next school year, Administration will determine the number of vacant spaces in each class with consideration to Ministry of Education compliance requirements and the Board's collective agreement obligations with regards to class sizes.
2. Families of students who have been redirected to St. Stephen CES due to the enrolment cap will be invited to submit their child's name for inclusion on a waitlist for any available spaces that may be identified following #1 above.
3. For the 2023/24 school year, a cutoff date of Monday, March 27, 2023 is established for families to submit their child's name.
4. An SK-Grade 8 Selection Process will be held to establish an 'SK-Grade 8 Wait List'. Consistent with the priority rankings for the JK lottery, the 'SK-Grade 8 Wait List' will be determined with the following priority and in the following order:

- a) SK-Grade 8 students with existing siblings attending Pope Francis from:
  - 1) Area A; then
  - 2) Area B; then
  - 3) Area C
- b) SK-Grade 8 students without existing siblings in the school from:
  - 1) Area A; then
  - 2) Area B; then
  - 3) Area C
- 5. Administration and the Pope Francis CES administrative team will fill any vacant spaces in each class where available with students from the waitlist for placement. This process will commence following the completion of the lottery and will continue until September 30 of that school year.
- 6. Any students who register at the school following the cut off dates identified in #3 above will be added to the waitlist, and prioritized per #4 above and then by date the application was received.

**b) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2023:07 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for receipt, Report No. 2023:07 of the Special Committee of the Whole private session held on February 21, 2023.

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

(ii) **CLASSIFIED:**

**MOTION: Iafrate/Crowe**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held February 21, 2023 be approved as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**c) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:01 STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Angela Saggese presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:01 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on February 6, 2023.

**MOTION: Saggese/Barbieri**

**THAT** the Board approve the 2023 Terms of Reference for the Student Success & Pathway Committee as amended.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**d) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:01 AD-HOC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE EXTENDED DAY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Angela Saggese presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:01 of the Ad-Hoc International Language Extended Day Committee meeting held on February 7, 2023.

**MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo**

**THAT** the Board approve the 2023 Terms of Reference for the Ad-Hoc International Language Extended Day Committee.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**e) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:02 CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Jennifer Wigston presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:02 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 7, 2023.

**MOTION: Wigston/Iafrate**

**Dual Feeder Secondary Schools – St. Joan of Arc CHS, Maple**

**THAT** dual/triple feeder area schools are eliminated for Maple area residents who are currently being bussed to St. Elizabeth CHS and Cardinal Carter CHS in order to help increase enrolment at St. Joan of Arc CHS as well as achieve the largest budget impact and equity support.

**THAT** as of September 2024, students entering grade 9 from the St. Joan of Arc CHS boundary (Blessed Trinity CES, Divine Mercy CES, Father John Kelly CES, Holy Jubilee CES, St. David CES, St. James CES and St. Raphael the Archangel CES) shall no longer receive dual feeder busing to attend Cardinal Carter CHS or St. Elizabeth CHS. Student that have been bussed and are in grades 10, 11 or 12 as of September 2024, will be grandparented with bussing until June 30, 2027.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2023:03 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Jennifer Wigston presented, for receipt, Report No. 2023:03 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 13, 2023.

**MOTION: Wigston/Grella**

**THAT** the Report No. 2023:03 from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 13, 2023 be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

Chair Frank Alexander passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Maria lafrate.

**g) TRUSTEE MOTION: Moving Towards Equity Within the York Catholic District School Board (F. Alexander)**

<b>Whereas</b>	<i>There are socio-economic differences within York Region;</i>
<b>Whereas</b>	<i>These differences create severe inequities between students within the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB);</i>
<b>Whereas</b>	<i>These inequities can place many students at an academic disadvantage;</i>
<b>Whereas</b>	<i>We are directed by our Vision, Mission and Values to address such inequities;</i>
<b>Whereas</b>	<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>
<b>Whereas</b>	<i>Students are more likely to achieve academic success when they share an equitable access to educational tools, equipment and resources.</i>

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**

**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.

Chair Alexander presented his Motion and did not take part in the discussion, of, or vote on any question in relation to this item.

**MOTION FOR DISCUSSION: Alexander/Wigston**

Chair Alexander recused himself and left the room at 8:57 p.m.

The Board of Trustees expressed their concern with the amount of time it would take to gather data/write the report and further indicated that equity is part of the MYSP. Director Scuglia advised That a survey will be distributed to Principals at Director's Council to identify essential technology tools. Furthermore, they will be asked to prioritize to determine what their needs are. Concerns were brought forward indicating there are other areas that need to be identified, Eg, special education, secondary, field trips. It was suggested that this Motion be deferred to the 2024-2025 budget.

**MOTION TO DEFER TO DECEMBER 2023: Crowe/McNicol****- MOTION CARRIED -**

Chair Alexander returned to the meeting at 9:26 pm and resumed his position of Chair of the Board.

**2023:134 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL**

**2023:135 INFORMATION ITEM(S):**

**a) Advanced Placement Program at YCDSB**

Information regarding the Advanced Placement Program at YCDSB was shared. YCDSB received the AP District Honour Roll Award from the College Board US for expanding opportunity and continuously improving overall academic performance for AP students across the eight AP high schools.

**b) Policy 203 Student Transportation Services Semi-Annual Report**

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager Planning and Operations provided the semi-annual report of Transportation Exemptions approved by the Director for the 2022-2023 school year, as per requirements of *Policy 203 Student Transportation Services*. The Board of Trustees asked staff to bring an update to the next Board Meeting with regards to the Student Travel and Tour Operators Prequalification process.

**c) Semi-Annual Development Report**

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager Planning and Operations provided a summary of major development applications received during the period of June 2022 to January 2023. Over 140 new development applications received since the last report of June 2022, 26 development applications met the threshold and were included in the report.

**d) Nominal Enrolment Projections 2023-2032**

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager Planning and Operations provided updated NOMINAL enrolment projections based on October 31, 2022 actual enrolment.

**e) Trustee Expenditures Report**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board shared a report on Trustee Expenditures for the period from December 1, 2021 to November 14, 2022. This will be posted on the Board's website.

**f) YCDSB Tutoring Support Programs – Phase 2**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment shared information about the Tutoring Support Program. The Board of Trustees asked staff to provide an update on the six schools that indicated students did not receive tutoring. Eg, did they attend the Saturday program or the remote evening program?

**g) Alternative Education Report**

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education provided information on the St. Luke Alternative School Learning model and provided recommendations focusing on how to better serve students throughout the region and how to save costs associated with the program.

**h) Centralized eLearn Program Update 2023-2024**

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided an update regarding the expansion of the Centralized eLearn Program, which included information regarding student access to the OELC (Ontario eLearning Consortium) course options.

**i) Policy 303 School Organized and Continuing Education Excursions Level III Excursions Report**

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided a summary of Level III Excursions as per *Policy 303 School Organized and Continuing Education Excursions* requirement.

**j) St. Robert CHS Capital Priority Request Update**

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided an update with regards to the St. Robert CHS Capital Priority Request meeting held on February 15, 2023.

**k) TRUSTEE MOTION: St. Cecilia CES Boundary Review (A. Saggese)**

- Whereas** *the Board has been reviewing the dual feeder schools in Maple;*  
**Whereas** *the boundary for St. Cecilia CES was established just before the school opened in September of 2010 identifying St. Elizabeth CHS as its feeder school and then in the fall of 2010 St. Joan of Arc CHS was added as a dual feeder;*  
**Whereas** *the enrolment of St. Joan of Arc CHS currently has declined. The programming and administrative staff at both St. Joan of Arc CHS and St. Elizabeth CHS has evolved and progressed in a positive direction;*  
**Whereas** *after 13 years, we acknowledge community development and growth and continue to provide families with the opportunity to adapt their alignment according to their changing needs.*

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**

**THAT** *a review of the secondary boundaries for St. Joan of Arc CHS and St. Elizabeth CHS be reviewed with respect to the alignment of St. Cecilia CES community by the fall of 2023 with any possible changes effective September 2024.*

T. Pechkovsky suggested deferring this Motion to the Long-Term Accommodation Plan. This Motion will be a Discussion Item on the March 28, 2023 Regular Board Agenda.

**l) TRUSTEE MOTION: Board-Wide Strategy to Address Secondary Enrolment (J. Wigston)**

- Whereas** *at the February 7, 2023 Corporate Services Meeting staff reported that three secondary schools are operating below 85% capacity (as at 2022) and;*  
**Whereas** *enrolment projections for 2027 indicate that the number of secondary schools operating below 85% capacity will increase to five and;*  
**Whereas** *students attending schools with lower enrolment do not have the same equity of access to programming as students attending schools with high enrolment and;*  
**Whereas** *enrolment projections for 2027 indicate that seven YCDSB secondary schools will be operating over capacity and;*  
**Whereas** *boundaries for schools projected to be operating over capacity about the boundaries of schools projected to operate below capacity.*

**LET IT BE RESOLVED**

**THAT** *a board-wide strategy be developed to address secondary enrolment across all of the YCDSB in order to assist in balancing student populations, address equitable access to secondary programming and help achieve sustainable futures for all YCDSB secondary schools and;*

**THAT the development of this strategy be immediately prioritized and;**

**THAT** *the development of this strategy be part of the MYSP to allow for consideration of a marketing and communication plan, Specialty Programs or SHSMs as part of the proposal.*

T. Pechkovsky suggested deferring this Motion to the Long-Term Accommodation Plan. This Motion will be a Discussion Item on the March 28, 2023 Regular Board Agenda

**m) March 2023 Calendar**

The calendar was shared.



**2023:137 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**RECESS TO RECONVENE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING AT 9:58 PM**

**RECONVENED THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 10:05 PM**

**a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:08 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:08 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on February 28, 2023.

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

**(ii) CLASSIFIED:**

**MOTION: Iafrate/Wigston**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held February 28, 2023 be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**2023:138 ADJOURNMENT: 10:11 PM**

**ON MOTION: Crowe/Grella and CARRIED**

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**Secretary of the Board**

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**Chair of the Board**