

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
of the Regular Board Meeting**

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

PRESENT:

- Members: In Person: F. Alexander, E. Crowe, J. DiMeo, M. Iafrate, T. McNicol, A. Saggese
Virtual: M. Barbieri
- Administration: In Person: J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi, G. De Girolamo, K. Elgharbawy, N. Galatianos, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, S. Morrow, C. McNeil, S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, J. Powers, L. Sawicky, A. MacDonald
Virtual: N/A
- Absent with Notice: C. Cotton, A. Grella, J. Wigston, Student Trustees S. Cuesta, A. Shenouda
- Recording Officer: S. Greco
- Presiding: M. Iafrate, Chair of the Board

2026:075 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER
Chair of the Board, Maria Iafrate, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:33 pm. The Faith Ambassadors lead the Opening Prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2026:076 ROLL CALL: C. Cotton, A. Grella, J. Wigston, Student Trustees S. Cuesta, A. Shenouda
Absent with Notice

2026:077 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:
Add: #18a2 - "Addendum to Item #18a"
Add: #19e - Revised Report
MOTION: DiMeo/Saggese
THAT the new material be approved as presented.
- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2026:078 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
MOTION: DiMeo/Saggese
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2026:079 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2026:080 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2026:081 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:
Special Board Meeting of December 15, 2025
Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2025

MOTION: DiMeo/Alexander
THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of December 15, 2025 and Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2025 be approved as presented.
- **MOTION CARRIED** -

- 2026:082 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**
a) Follow-Up to Trustee McNicol's Comment re Cheque for International Languages
Interim Director Sarna advised that a follow-up took place with CIBPA, who confirmed that the presentation cheque referenced by Trustee McNicol represents the full dollar amount to be provided to the York Catholic District School Board through the YCDSB Italia Lingua Cultura initiative. The total amount will be remitted in installment payments scheduled for December, April, and August, as outlined in the duly signed legal agreement. (The funds will include contributions from the Italian government, as well as from other community members who have contributed and will continue to contribute to this initiative.)
- 2026:083 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**
Maria Iafate, Chair of the Board, included her Chair's Report as part of the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: A Time for Love and Family, Jennifer Sarna, Milestone Anniversaries.
- 2026:084 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE:**
Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board, provided her report as part of the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: January Trustee Seminar, Upcoming Dates.
- 2026:085 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:**
Interim Director, J. Sarna, provided her Director's Report in the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Thank You, School Closure on Thursday, January 15, 2026, Ash Wednesday, Good Luck on Exams and the Start of Second Semester, YCDSB Elementary Schools are Recognized, YCDSB Distinguished Alumni Award.
- 2026:086 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:**
Student Trustees Sabine Cuesta and Abby Shenouda provided their Student Trustee Report to Board in the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Christmas Break, Semester 1 Exam Season and EQAO.
- 2026:087 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:**
Congratulations were extended to students from Father Michael McGivney CA for achieving second place in the OCSTA Short Video Contest. The students will be invited to the February 24, 2026 Regular Board meeting to be formally recognized by the Board of Trustees. The winning video was shown.
- 2026:088 DELEGATIONS: NIL**
- 2026:089 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION: NIL**
- 2026:090 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**
a) QUEENSVILLE BOUNDARY REVIEW
G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations provided information on the new unnamed Queensville Catholic Elementary School in the Town of East Gwillimbury, with a targeted opening date of September 2027. Consistent with the approved Long Term Accommodation Plan, a Local Boundary Review Committee was formed in September 2025 to establish an attendance boundary for the new school. Three potential boundary options were developed for review. Included in the report were enrolment projections, maps illustrating current school boundaries and study areas, proposed boundary options and recommendations for the Board to consider.
- MOTION: McNicol/Saggese**
THAT the Board approve Option #1 as the attendance boundary for the unnamed Queensville Catholic elementary school, effective upon opening.

Since all the options included no grandfathering provisions, Trustee McNicol put forward the following amendment:

MOTION: McNicol/Crowe

THAT the Grade 8 students be allowed to go with their peers with transportation provided only for grade 8's.

The Board of Trustees asked about the cost of grandfathering for one year and Ms. De Girolamo stated that they could get a costing for the next Regular Board meeting.

Trustee Crowe asked to split the Motion so that the amendment can be deferred to be voted upon at the next Board Meeting.

The Board of Trustees commended staff for their work and acknowledged the community's constructive feedback, noting that any decision to proceed with transportation would be contingent on cost.

Vote on main motion

- MOTION CARRIED -

MOTION: McNicol/Crowe

THAT the grandfathering amendment to Option 1 be deferred to the February 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

- MOTION CARRIED -

b) TRUSTEE MOTION: LEGAL INVOICES (T. McNicol)

Whereas *according to the Toronto Star article dated September 9, 2025, the Board of Trustees received and paid for two separate legal opinions on my judicial review and that showed they were unlikely to be successful and subsequently yet they proceeded anyways;*

Whereas *taxpayer money spent on obtaining these legal opinions and court proceedings resulted in monies being removed from classrooms where it is most needed;*

Whereas *the Board of Trustees proceeding with this case I was required to personally spend over \$100,000 on my own court costs in order to defend myself.*

THAT *a request be made immediately to the Minister of Education to conduct an audit of all non-daily operational legal costs since the start of this Trustee term in order to provide transparency to public taxpayers on how their dollars have been spent.*

THAT *the legal cost audit results and total legal costs be reported publicly and be provided to all stakeholders to provide transparency as to how their tax dollars have been spent;*

THAT *the Minister of Education demand that trustees who voted in favour of continuing with pursuing the judicial review, against the advice of legal advice, be required to pay back those fees to the Board so that these monies can be properly directed to support students in classrooms.*

Trustee McNicol presented her Motion and requested to read it; however, she was advised that the Motion was already included in the meeting package. Trustee Crowe requested that the Motion be split and indicated that she would second the first and second resolutions.

MOTION: McNicol/Crowe

THAT a request be made immediately to the Minister of Education to conduct an audit of all non-daily operational legal costs since the start of this Trustee term in order to provide transparency to public taxpayers on how their dollars have been spent.

- MOTION DEFEATED -

MOTION : McNicol/Crowe

THAT the legal cost audit results and total legal costs be reported publicly and be provided to all stakeholders to provide transparency as to how their tax dollars have been spent;

- MOTION DEFEATED -

MOTION: McNicol (No seconder) – MOTION did not progress.
THAT the Minister of Education demand that trustees who voted in favour of continuing with pursuing the judicial review, against the advice of legal advice, be required to pay back those fees to the Board so that these monies can be properly directed to support students in classrooms.

At 8:22 p.m., Trustee Elizabeth Crowe indicated that she was unwell and requested to leave the meeting.

At 8:22 p.m., Trustee Theresa McNicol also indicated that she was leaving the meeting.

As a result, quorum was lost and, in accordance with the Board's Operating By-law 3.1.6.2, the Regular Board Meeting was terminated.

3.1.6.2 Quorum Lost

Whenever a quorum is no longer present at a meeting, the meeting will be terminated.

**2026:091 MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8:23 pm
(No motion as there was no quorum)**

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board