

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL Board

MINUTES

of the Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

PRESENT:

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

Administration: In Person: J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, A. Arcadi, A. Battick, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi,
K. Elgharbawy, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow,
L. Paonessa, T. Pechkovsky, L. Sawicky, S. Wright, K. Scanlon
Virtual: C. Candido

Absent with Notice: All present.

Recording Officer: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

2024:395 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, welcomed everyone to the Special Board Meeting and welcomed and led the opening prayer at 7:39 pm followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2024:396 ROLL CALL – All Present.

2024:397 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

Add: TRUSTEE MOTION: Sacred Heart of Jesus

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2024:398 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Cotton/Alexander

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2024:399 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2024:400 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2024:401 a)APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S): NIL

2024:402 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

2024:403 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES: NIL

2024:404 OCSTA / Board OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: NIL

2024:405 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE: NIL

2024:406 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT: NIL

2024:407 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL

2024:408 DELEGATIONS: NIL**2024:409 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:**

Prior to the start of the 2024-2025 Budget Presentation, Interim Director De Faveri remarked as follows,

"Just before we start with our budget deliberations for tonight, I feel I owe it to the Trustees just to bring to your attention that as a Senior Team we've spent a lot of time deliberating on what it is that we are bringing forward to you tonight. We've always, and always will, continue to consider our obligations to the Board to ensure that the Multi-Year Strategic Plan is at the source and the backbone of the decisions that we make. The suggestions that we bring forward to you are our first priority, which is the students of the York Catholic District School Board. They are always front and center in our mind when we make some suggestions. The reason why I say that is because when you look at our presentation, we all recognize the budget situation that we are in and some of the Investments that we are asking the Trustees to consider, you may ask how could that be possible given where we are? The assurance that I want to give all of the Trustees is to let you know that we don't make these decisions lightly. We believe that many of these Investments that we're asking for you to consider are actually going to reap benefits for us in terms of what we can offer to our students and also an opportunity to capture opportunities that we might not consider or have considered in the past. The Senior Team is here. We are open to accept your decisions and we are here to implement and to act on those. I just need for everyone to have our assurance that we are here to ensure that York Catholic will continue to be the number one Board in the Province. We've looked at all of these decisions and we recognize that some of these issues are structural. They have to do with our funding and we've considered that very carefully in terms of the requests that we have made for Investments."

a) 2024-25 Budget Development: Financial Position (Estimates)

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided a summary of the 2024-25 Operating Budget. A summary of the bridge from 2023-24 to 2024-25 budget before the additional savings and investments was also provided. The 2023-24 Revised Estimates included a (12.9M) deficit. It was noted that the 2024-25 position, after approved cost savings and investments made to date, amounted to a \$15.3M deficit.

Trustee McNicol expressed her concerns with eliminating EAs and EIs at the May 28th Board Meeting and the demands of their job. Mr. McNeil responded that these tough decisions were made in consultation with Senior Team and the Board of Trustees as the Special Education deficit will be higher next year, even with these cuts, due to declining enrolment. Mr. McNeil shared the proposed 3 year target for special education set as compliant deficit (1% of operating allocation). Superintendent Candido agreed that these targets were achievable. The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification.

2024:410 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):**a) APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT INVESTMENT PROPOSALS**

M. Brosens, Senior Manager Brand, Marketing and Communications presented his Communications Department Investment Proposals to include a Marketing Specialist and an increased budget for a Videographer.

Some members of the Board had reservations about spending funds that could be put towards Special Education to retain some of the EAs and EIs. Others had concerns with the optics of the Board being in a deficit and that we should focus on Special Education and student transportation.

It was noted that hiring a Marketing Specialist will assist with promoting our Board and with educating our communities about the many programs that the Board offers. A Marketing Specialist will also work with our Parishes to share information with parishioners to promote our catholicity and to get information out to new young families. Just slowing the rate of decline and bringing some students that otherwise would have attended the public Board would have a positive impact on our budget. It was stated that Special Education funding is tied to our Board's total enrolment and increasing students overall will increase the Special Education budget.

The Board of Trustees asked that the Motion be split into two.

Videographer**MOTION: DiMeo/Saggese**

THAT the Board approve \$70K for the funding of a videographer.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

For: Alexander, Barbieri, Cotton, Crowe, DiMeo, Iafrate, Saggese, Wigston

Against: Grella, McNicol

Marketing Specialist**MOTION: Alexander/Iafrate**

THAT the Board approve 1.0 FTE Marketing Specialist with a projected budget of \$100K

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

For: Alexander, Barbieri, Crowe, DiMeo, Iafrate, Saggese, Wigston

Against: Cotton, Grella, McNicol

b) APPROVAL OF BOARD LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (BLDS)

J. Sarna, Associate Director, presented a budget request of \$50K for the Board Leadership Development Strategy (BLDS).

It was acknowledged that there is a need to nurture the leadership within our system and to fine tune the skills that they bring to our schools as system leaders. The Board of Trustees asked to have a report back in one year to report the findings.

Some Trustees felt that staff should find an internal budget that is already allocated and utilize some of our principals in the system to tap into their expertise as there are leaders in the system that can provide professional development.

MOTION: Wigston/Iafrate

THAT the Board approve \$50K for the hiring of an external consultant to co-deliver the BLDS programming to the Principals over the course (six sessions) of the 2024-2025 school year.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

For: Alexander, Barbieri, Cotton, Grella, Iafrate, Saggese, Wigston

Against: Crowe, DiMeo, McNicol

c) APPROVAL OF MOVING TOWARDS EQUITY

S. Wright, Superintendent of Education provided a first-year allocation towards equity. It was stated that the ongoing equity audit will provide critical insights and data to further inform and optimize resource distribution but that is only the start of all the work that needs to be done before an Equity Plan can come to the Board.

The Board of Trustees were pleased with the comprehensive plan / roadmap prepared by a number of Senior Team members and it was noted that there have been different communities that have reached out to the Board and we need to ensure the equity road is properly supported.

MOTION: Iafrate/Wigston

THAT the Board approve \$250K for Moving Towards Equity.

- **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED -**

d) APPROVAL OF SAP S/4HANA ERP UPGRADE

S. Morrow, Chief Information Officer presented an upgrade to the Board's ERP system (SAP) from its current version (ECC6) to the Private Cloud offering from SAP (S/4HANA).

Some members of the Board requested a more detailed technology report and felt that a full proposal with an analysis was required. Other Trustees felt that the investment was not only imminent but required.

MOTION: Alexander/DiMeo

THAT the Board approve \$1.25M for the SAP S/4HANA ERP Upgrade.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

For: Alexander, Barbieri, Cotton, DiMeo, Grella, Iafrate, Saggese, Wigston

Against: Crowe, McNicol

e) APPROVAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS

S. Morrow, Chief Information Officer presented a five-year plan for replacing network infrastructure.

MOTION: Wigston/Alexander

THAT the Board approve \$1.9M for Technology Infrastructure.

- **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED** -

f) APPROVAL OF CENTRALIZED DISTRIBUTION OF TECHNOLOGY

S. Morrow, Chief Information Officer and C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board presented a report proposing \$500K investment to address critical technology needs in schools including updating Chromebooks for staff Administration will work with principals to ensure schools meet the minimum Chromebook-to-student ratio, as developed within the Technology Committee. For schools unable to meet the ratio independently, the funding will provide supplemental support through discretionary funds. A Central Technology Fund, funded annually through a reallocation of 5% of elementary and secondary GSB, along with an additional annual investment of \$500K, will be used to set up and distribute technology through a centralized distribution centre. This information has been shared with administrators and is supported accordingly.

MOTION: Alexander/Cotton

THAT the Board approve \$500K for a Central Technology Fund;

THAT the Board approve a one-year allocation of 5% of all school GSB's to the Central Technology Fund.

- **MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED** -

g) APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations shared a summary of policy changes considered by the Transportation Review Committee. Given the budget constraints and costs, the Committee deferred the decision of four possible changes (Category B) to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Transportation Investment/Savings 8: Caregiver Address

Changes to Policy 203 Student Transportation Services is to modify the policy language to permit elementary students whose home address and caregiver address are within the same boundary, and the caregiver address qualifies for transportation, however the home address may not.

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT Parameter 3.2 be referred to the Policy Review Committee for an amendment to the existing policy to permit either the residents address or caregiver's address to be used in determining elementary student bussing eligibility.

- - MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED -

Transportation Investment/Savings 9: Walking Distance to Collector Points

A cost reduction estimates, if the secondary panel walk-to-stop distance, changes from 600m to 1000m. Administration does not recommend proceeding with this change without further analysis and public input to the proposal. Staff noted that through the summer, STS will review current bus stops and remove those that do not meet the 600m requirement. This information will be brought to the October PRC meeting.

Transportation Investment/Savings 10: French Immersion Secondary Transportation

Some members of the Board supported french immersion transportation while others noted that busing is not offered to other programs in the system, eg.AP, RAP, HPA, etc. It was realized that this may not be done this year until we have identified and processed the changes in order to find the savings to make this possible. It was also noted that secondary FI is the only program that qualifies for transportation if they are not transit served and that perhaps some of the concerns would best be dealt with by changing those parameters.

MOTION: Wigston/Cotton

THAT the Board approve \$400K for french immersion transportation.

- MOTION DEFEATED-

For: Alexander, Cotton, Grella, Wigston

Against: Barbieri, Crowe, DiMeo, lafrate, McNicol, Saggese

Transportation Investment/Savings 11: Transit Served Definition

A summary of the financial implication of possible changes to the parameters within the Transit Served definition and the corresponding cost was shared. The options identified all resulted in additional students being eligible for Board-provided transportation at a cost from \$41K to over \$1.2M.

MOTION: lafrate/Saggese

THAT Option #3, keeping current model but reducing the total travel time from schools down to 60 minutes.at a cost of \$41,415.93.

- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY -

h) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:20 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Maria lafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:20 of the Special Committee of the Whole private session held on June 11, 2024.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval):

Ratification of Tentative Settlement for Renewal of Terms and Conditions of Employment for Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

MOTION: lafrate/Wigston

THAT the Board of Trustees approve ratification of the Tentative Settlement for Renewal of Terms and Conditions of Employment for the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association.

Ratification of Tentative Settlement for Renewal of Terms and Conditions of Employment for Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association - York Occasional

MOTION: lafrate/Wigston

THAT the Board of Trustees approve ratification of the Tentative Settlement for Renewal of Terms and Conditions of Employment for the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association - York Occasional.

- MOTION CARRIED -

(ii) **CLASSIFIED:**

MOTION: lafrate/Wigston

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held June 11, 2024, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

i) TRUSTEE MOTION: Sacred Heart of Jesus (A. Saggese)

Whereas *Catholicity is one of the seven Core Values in the York Catholic District School Board's (YCDSB) Multi-Year Strategic Plan;*

Whereas *YCDSB has recognized that many students feel marginalized and bullied;*

Whereas *the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus welcomes everyone, and promotes compassion and inclusivity within a caring community;*

Whereas *the Catholic Church has declared and dedicated June to the Sacred Heart of Jesus;*

Whereas *a donor has come forward to fund all costs involved in licensing, framing and displaying the Sacred Heart of Jesus in each of our schools;*

Whereas *the Board is grateful for this donation and the Director, through the Religion Department, will operationalize this initiative with every effort made to display the image in every school within the Board no later than Thanksgiving 2024, including a formal launch at the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.*

MOTION: Saggese/Alexander

THAT the YCDSB proclaims that the month of June be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus within all YCDSB elementary and secondary schools, with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated each year on the second Friday after the Solemnity of Corpus Christi as determined by the Roman Catholic Liturgical calendar.

- MOTION CARRIED -

- 2024:411 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL**
- 2024:412 INFORMATION ITEM(S): NIL**
- 2024:413 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**
- 2024:414 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
- 2024:415 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**
- 2024:416 ADJOURNMENT: 9:47 PM**
ON MOTION: Wigston/DiMeo and CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board