



**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS  
MINUTES**

**October 27, 2025  
2:00 p.m.  
Catholic Education Centre  
320 Bloomington Rd. West, Aurora, ON. L4G 0M1**

Committee Members: M. Iafrate (Vice Chair), F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, T. McNicol, A. Saggese

Administration: J. Sarna, A. Arcadi, A. Iafrate, L. Coquim

Others Present: D. Pimentel, A. Pasquini, T. Giovinazzo, E. Crowe

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**1. OPENING PRAYER/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.

**3. ROLL CALL**

All present.

**4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** M. Iafrate

**Seconded by:** F. Alexander

**6. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Moved by:** M. Iafrate

**Seconded by:** F. Alexander

**7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**8. PRESENTATIONS**

**8.1 Religion Department Updates**

David Pimentel, principal of Religious Education, presented updates on key initiatives and faith-based events across the York Catholic District School Board.

The presentation highlighted the continued focus on virtues education, including the distribution of new virtue resources to schools. Updates were provided on the REAC 2025–26 initiative, the Saints of York Catholic resources, and the Elementary Family Life Education Curriculum. Faith formation opportunities such as Faith Day 2025 and the When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference for youth and adults were discussed, along with ongoing activities for Faith Ambassadors.

Upcoming spiritual events include the Boardwide Lenten Mass of Reconciliation and Renewal on March 12, 2026, Ordinandi 2026, and the Luke 4:18 Social Justice Symposium. The presentation also noted the refresh of the YCDSB Religious Education Dashboard and website and expressed appreciation for the community’s ongoing support of ShareLife.

Superintendent Arcadi expressed appreciation to Trustee Saggese for joining the REAC Committee and noted that her commitment and knowledge are greatly valued.

Trustee Saggese expressed appreciation for the increased focus on the YCDSB Religious Education Dashboard, the project educating students on YCDSB Saints, and the rollout of virtue posters in schools. She also acknowledged the Grade 12 religion resource HRE04, the Luke 4:18 event hosted by YCDSB (to run biannually), and expressed her anticipation for the upcoming music festival.

## 8.2 Continuing Education

Anthony Pasquini, Principal of Student Success, presented an overview of Continuing Education programs designed to support students’ futures through a variety of learning opportunities.

**Elementary Programs** included International Language Classes, offered both remotely and in-person across eight sites, with enrollment slightly decreasing from 2,627 to 2,580 students. The Elementary Band Program at St. Elizabeth CHS grew from 27 to 33 students. Two new programs—Hoopstars Basketball and Young Rembrandts Visual Art—were introduced, enrolling 10 and 20 students, respectively.

**Secondary Programs** experienced overall growth. Night School Credit enrollment rose from 1,073 to 1,328 students, Saturday International Language Credit increased from 281 to 410 students, and After-School Remedial Literacy and Numeracy expanded from 872 to 1,184 students. Specialty courses—including Yearbook, percussion, high-performance athlete, and IB classes—served 151 students.

**New and Innovative Programs** included After-School Remedial Literacy & Numeracy for EQAO and OSSLT preparation, the Travel for Credit – March Break Program to Italy and Japan (which received strong feedback), and the expanded Aquatic Leadership (PAQ2O) program in Markham, emphasizing community partnerships.

**Pathways and Lifelong Learning** programs continue to support both YCDSB students and the broader community. Introduction to Photography (AWQ2O) enrolled 50 students, promoting lifelong learning and community engagement.

The **City of Vaughan** recently contacted the Continuing Education Department to discuss offering a new course, PLF4M – Recreation and Healthy Active Living Leadership, to help meet the growing demand for camp counsellors, coaches, officials, and administrators across York Region. The City is pursuing sponsorship opportunities to benefit all students, and if successful, the program could be expanded to all municipalities within York Region. Expanding partnerships with community organizations remains a key priority for the Continuing Education Department.

During the discussion, Trustee Iafrate inquired whether remote programming ran concurrently with face-to-face sessions, which Principal Pasquini confirmed. Questions were also raised about the Credit for Travel program to Spain, which was discontinued due to lack of interest, and about course distribution across schools with respect to new programs. Principal Pasquini explained that new courses typically start at one school and expand as enrollment grows.

Trustee Saggese highlighted her appreciation for the new language offerings, noting that their introduction of new languages at the request of parents demonstrates the YCDSB's responsiveness to parent input. As well, Trustee Saggese expressed great delight in the City of Vaughan reaching out to YCDSB to work in partnership.

### **8.3 Diploma in French Language Studies (DELFF)**

Tanya Giovinazzo, FSL Consultant, presented updates on the French as a Second Language (FSL) program, focusing on the DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) initiative.

She explained that the DELF is an internationally recognized certification issued by the French Ministry of National Education, assessing students' proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. She further explained that at the YCDSB, Grade 12 students enrolled in French Immersion or French Core classes are invited to take the optional exam at levels A2, B1, or B2. This past spring, approximately 150 students took the exam and 30 trained teachers served as examiners. The DELF is globally valued, recognized by universities and the Canadian government,

and supports students in setting future language goals while enhancing engagement in FSL programs.

The Curriculum Department has distributed ABC DELF practice books to all schools to integrate CEFR-based learning and prepare students for the exam. Professional development sessions for teachers have also been implemented to strengthen curriculum connections, support student success, and provide opportunities for DELF teacher certification.

**Trustee lafrate** asked whether DELF certifications occur at specific times of the year for teachers and students. **Consultant Giovinazzo** explained that teacher certifications are offered throughout the year, while Grade 12 students in the FI or FSL Core program take the exam in May.

The exam consists of two parts: a writing/reading test followed by an oral examination. Testing is conducted on a first-come, first-served basis due to time and space limitations. Trustee lafrate also commented that students with the DELF certification are recognized by universities.

**Trustee Saggese** asked if the program was growing, to which **Consultant Giovinazzo** responded yes, noting that the coterminous board does not offer this program.

9. **ACTION ITEM(S)**
10. **DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**
11. **INFORMATION ITEM(S)**
12. **NOTICES OF MOTION**
13. **FUTURE ITEM(S)**
14. **ADJOURNMENT**

2:45 pm M. lafrate/ F. Alexander