

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

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, C. Cotton, J. DiMeo, A. Grella,
M. Iafrate, A. Saggese, J. Wigston
Student Trustees M. Galstyan, S. Cuesta
Virtual: M. Barbieri, T. McNicol

Administration: In Person: J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi,
G. De Girolamo, K. Elgharbawy, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil,
L. Paonessa, J. Powers
Virtual: S. Wright

Absent with Notice: Trustee E. Crowe

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding: M. Iafrate, Vice-Chair of the Board

2025:300 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair of the Board, Maria Iafrate, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:30 pm and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead the prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2025:301 ROLL CALL: Trustee E. Crowe - Absent with Notice

2025:302 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

16b St. Augustine CHS Enrolment Update

16h Receipt of Report No. 2025:04 York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

MOTION: Wigston/DiMeo

THAT the new material be approved.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2025:303 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Wigston/Alexander

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2025:304 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2025:305 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2025:306 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting of April 29, 2025

Special Board Meeting of May 12, 2025

Special Board Meeting of May 16, 2025

MOTION: Cotton/McNicol

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 29, 2025, Special Board Meeting of May 12, 2025 and Special Board Meeting of May 16, 2025 be approved as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2025:307 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**2025:308 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, included her Chair's Report as part of the May 27, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Our New Holy Father: Pope Leo XIV, 50th Milestone Anniversary at St. Peter CES, Interviews for the Archives committee, YSCPC Elections and Track & Field Meets.

2025:309 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board provided her report as part of the May 27, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Trustee Professional Development, Catholic Education Week Theme 2025-2026, 2025 Fall Regional Meetings, Catholic Virtual Ontario and Faith Formation - Together in Faith Series.

2025:310 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:

Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the May 27, 2025 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Catholic Education Week's Province-Wide Mass, Yes - I Can Awards, Luke 4:18 Symposium, YCPIC Information Session of the School Year, YCDSB Special Olympics and Final Director's Council for the School Year. Director De Faveri noted that due to the weather, the YCDSB Special Olympics was moved to Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

Trustee McNicol asked Director De Faveri *"when there will be an investigation into the harassment and bullying that she endured for the last five years"*. She also asked, *"when the East Gwillimbury, Georgina and Newmarket families be sent a formal communication with the results of the judicial review"*. The Vice-Chair acknowledged her request.

2025:311 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan and Sabine Cuesta provided their Student Trustee Report to Board in the May 27, 2025 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included: OCSTA-AGM, OSTA AGM, YSCPC Plant a Tree With Us Initiative, YSCPC Elections, Ontario Virtual Catholic Student Youth Day, Specialized Program Examinations, Canada's Wonderland Music Festival, UNYCA - YCDSB Model United Nations Conference and White Pine Book Festival.

2025:312 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:**a) Vaughan in Motion**

Jennifer Sarna, Associate Director introduced Enza Barbieri from Vaughan in Motion. Since 1997 YCDSB Elementary Schools in Vaughan and Richmond Hill have raised funds for this charity that supports people in our community who are facing cancer by helping provide high-quality care close to home. YCDSB Schools raised more than \$5700 during the 2024-2025 school year. Enza Barbieri introduced Co-Founder Greg D'Orio who introduced their members present. A plaque was given to YCDSB in appreciation. A picture was taken with the Board of Trustees and Vaughan in Motion Directors.

Anthony Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum recognized a group of students who excelled in different areas as follows:

b) YCDSB Regional Oral Communications

G. Campisi, St. Charles Garnier CES, Junior Oral Communications Winner: "How One Child's Voice Can Change the World".

L. Rocha from Our Lady Help of Christians CES, Intermediate Oral Communications Winner: "Fast Fashion".

Both students recited their winning speech.

c) Ontario Council for Technology Education

Nat Gencarelli, Program & Pathways Consultant was recognized by the Ontario Council for Technology Education where he won the 2025 OCTA Technological Education Ambassador Award at a special ceremony in Ottawa.

d) York Region Science and Technology Fair**Gold Medal**

A. Karshan - St. Augustine CHS, "The IV Roller: A Simple Approach to Pain Management of Phlebitis During PIVS Chemotherapy Infusion".

M. Aashika Maram Reddy - Cardinal Carter CHS, "HARMONY: A Machine Learning-Based Adaptive Music Neurostimulation Device for Pediatric Epilepsy".

M. Shen - St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS, "Explainable Artificial Intelligence to Diagnose Early Parkinson's Disease via Voice Analysis".

T. Zeng, E. Hon - St. Robert CHS, "Fluctus - Using Digital Audio Classification as a Modern Alternative to Traditional Hearing Aids".

Silver Medal

L. Chan - St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS, "Reducing Carbon Emissions By Optimizing Traffic".

B. Huang - St. Augustine CHS, "Graphic Printing with Charcoal: Reducing Textile and Synthetic Waste One Graphic at a Time".

N. Li, N. Ko - St. Augustine CHS, "Snowy Sun-Signs: Solar-Powered, Self-Hearing Road Signs".

M. Vlasova, A. Emmanuel-Singh - St. Augustine CHS, "Reviving Coral Reefs: Genetic Innovations to Combat Climate Change".

Bronze Medal

B. Chow, T. Diplas - St. Justin Martyr CES, "The DriftDroid / The Robot That Tackles Drift Netting".

C. Hong - St. Robert CHS, "ReScribble - Digital Writing Made Accessible".

L. Joshi, S. Benedete - St. Augustine CHS, "Piezo-Power: Using Sound-Powered Batteries to Monitor Air Quality".

R. Lee, R. H. Lin - St. Justin Martyr CES, "Determining Natural Disasters in the GTA Using Chaos Theory".

L. Mak, R. Amini - St. Robert CHS, "Exploring the Potential of Biodegradable Gum".

e) 2025 Skills Ontario Competition**Gold Medal**

A Leong - Our Lady Queen of the World CA, "Photography"

M. Mangoni - St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS, "Pin Design Competition"

M. Mannello - St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS, "Medal Design Competition"

Silver Medal

H. Hussaini - St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS, "Job Interview"

V. Lin, S. Ghoorchian - St. Robert CHS, "Geographic Information Systems"

Bronze Medal

V. Miele - Cardinal Carter CHS, "Graphic Design Presentation"

A. Movashehi Asr - Cardinal Carter CHS, "Workplace Safety"

All students were given certificates and pictures were taken.

2025:313 DELEGATIONS: NIL**2025:314 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:****a) Mental Health Supports and Initiatives Throughout the Tiers**

J. Powers, Superintendent of Exceptional Learners, introduced the Mental Health Team, including Michelle Prinzo, Mental Health Lead, along with team members Renee Jordan, Erica Tari, and Vanessa Schirripa.

The team presented an overview of their multi-tiered system of support, designed to promote equity and reconciliation through mental health initiatives:

Tier 1 – (for all): mental health promotion that includes lunch-and-learn sessions, school visits, staff and student leadership initiatives, professional development, consultations, and community partnerships.

Tier 2 – (for some): Offers targeted prevention and brief services.

Tier 3 – (for a few): Involves specialized consultation and assessment, family/caregiver support and therapy services.

The team has facilitated a Mental Health Symposium and a series of parent engagement sessions, all of which received positive feedback from students and families. Data on the number of workshops and in-services delivered was also shared.

The Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation to the Mental Health Team for their informative, thorough and meaningful initiatives and commended the integration of faith as a coping mechanism for mental anguish.

2025:315 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:15 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Vice-Chair Maria Lafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2025:15 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on May 27, 2025.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): NIL**(ii) CLASSIFIED:****MOTION: lafrate/Cotton**

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held May 27, 2025, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

b) ST. AUGUSTINE CHS ENROLMENT UPDATE

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education shared information regarding the projected enrolment at St. Augustine CHS for the 2025-2026 school year. The report highlighted that given that the physical expansion is no longer an option and neighbouring YCDSB schools are also operating at capacity, a recommendation to the Board to approve an enrolment cap of 1780 students was presented. It was further recommended that the updated admission criteria outlined in the report be adopted to manage Grade 9 intake going forward.

MOTION: Cotton/DiMeo

THAT the Board approve an enrolment cap of 1780 students at St. Augustine CHS effective September 2026.

- MOTION CARRIED -

c) LOCATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND SKILLED TRADES CENTRES

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education presented a report seeking approval to establish the Technology and Skilled Trades Centre at St. Joan of Arc CHS.

MOTION: Saggese/Alexander

THAT the Technology and Skilled Trades Centre be established at St. Joan of Arc CHS, as recommended in the April 29, 2025 feasibility report.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:06 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:06 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 5, 2025.

MOTION: Grella/Wigston

THAT Report No. 2025:06 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 5, 2025, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:02 CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, J. Wigston, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:02 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on May 6, 2025.

MOTION: Wigston/DiMeo

THAT Report No. 2025:02 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on May 6, 2025, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

f) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:03 STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Saggese, presented for approval, Report No. 2025:03 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on May 12, 2025.

MOTION: Saggese/Cotton

THAT the Terms of Reference for the Student Success & Pathways Committee be approved as amended.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

g) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:04 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, M. Iafrate, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:04 of the Audit Committee meeting held on May 20, 2025.

MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton

THAT Report No. 2024:04 of the Audit Committee meeting held on May 20, 2025, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

h) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:04 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Member, M. Iafrate, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:04 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on May 26, 2025.

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT Report No. 2025:04 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on May 26, 2025, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

2025:316**DISCUSSION ITEM(S):****a) Secondary School TCH 19 Requests for 2026-27 School Year**

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations shared information regarding the increasing enrolment in the secondary panel resulting in accommodating pressures at several secondary schools. The report provided information regarding the process Administration will follow for assessing TCH 19 applications for the 2026-27 school year. TCH 19 applications will be accepted at all schools, however the decision will follow a set timeline to allow Administration to review requests to ensure acceptances are only granted where capacity is available. It was noted that the final decision will rest with School Superintendents.

2025:317**INFORMATION ITEM(S):****a) Action Plan to Combat Anti-Black Racism at York Catholic District School Board**

S. Wright, Superintendent of Education: Inviting and Inclusive Schools shared an Action Plan to combat anti-Black racism in the YCDSB. The plan provided clear, measurable actions, expected results and timelines, a sustainable operational structure, mechanisms for accountability and a dedicated budget. The Board of Trustees were pleased with the Action Plan that was presented.

Trustee Frank Alexander asked that the following be added:

- Action Item #4 under Measure of Success, "plus development of measures of success based on data".
- Action Item #8 under Expected Results, "plus steady goals".

b) Centralized Access Control Implementation

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Services and Plant shared an overview of the process undertaken to successfully implement a state-of-the-art, centralized access control system - an achievement that stands as a testament to the Board's commitment to students and staff safety, operational excellence and responsible financial management. The board-wide rollout of the Keyscan/Aurora Access Control System is now 99% complete.

c) OCSTA Letter to YCDSB Re: Annual General Meeting (AGM)

A copy of the letter received from OCSTA commending YCDSB for their involvement in co-hosting the OCSTA-AGM meeting was shared.

d) 2025-2026 Regular Board Meeting Dates

The 2025-2026 Regular Board Meeting dates were shared. The report indicated there will be no Regular Board Meeting during the month of March 2026 due to March break and Holy Week.

e) Ministry Letter re Board's Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan and Board Action Plan

A copy of the Ministry letter approving the Board's Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan was shared. Staff will prepare the details for the Board Action Plan and submit to the Ministry by the June 30, 2025 deadline.

f) June 2025 Calendar

The June 2025 calendar was provided with no changes.

2025:318**NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL****2025:319****FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION****2025:320****PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL****2025:321****ADJOURNMENT – 9:33 pm****ON MOTION: DiMeo/Grella and CARRIED**