

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

PRESENT:**Members**

In-Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, C. Cotton, E. Crowe, J. Di Meo, A. Grella,
M. Iafrate, A. Saggese
Student Trustees: J. James, M. Galstyan, A. Zamanifar
Virtual: T. McNicol

Administration:

In-Person: J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, A. Arcadi, A. Battick, M. Brosens, D. Candido,
J. Chiutsi, K. Elgharbawy, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, A. McDonald, C. McNeil,
S. Morrow, J. O'Hara, L. Paonessa, T. Pechkovsky, K. Scanlon, S. Wright
Virtual: N/A

Absent with Notice:

J. Wigston

Recording Officer:

K. Errett

Presiding:

E. Crowe

2024:373 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting and welcomed M. Ponzio and S. Cavuto, Faith Ambassador Chairs of Area E, to lead the opening prayer at 7:40 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.

2024:374 ROLL CALL: Trustee Wigston - Absent with Notice**2024:375 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL**

Add: Delegation, Item 14a) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Add: Delegation, Item 14b) Budget and Secularism in Catholic Schools

MOTION: Di Meo/Barbieri

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2024:376 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Cotton/Grella

THAT the agenda be approved as amended to include new material and to move Item 18h)

TRUSTEE MOTION: An Audience with Ontario Bishops to Discuss Growing Secularism in Catholic Schools (F. Alexander) to Action Item 16 I).

– MOTION CARRIED –

2024:377 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**2024:378 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL****2024:379 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Regular Board Meeting of April 30, 2024

Special Board Meeting of May 8, 2024

Special Board Meeting of May 21, 2024

MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting April 30, 2024, Special Board Meeting of May 8, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of May 21, 2024, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2024:380 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**2024:381 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair's Board Report as part of the May 28, 2024 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included OCSTA AGM, Tree Planting, Love of Dance Showcase, YSCPC Awards, Yes, I Can Awards, and Feast Days for Our Schools' Patrons.

S.T.R.E.A.M. Video

A video highlighting the S.T.R.E.A.M. program was shown.

Commissioning of Human Rights & Equity Advisor, Superintendent of Education

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe and Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate, participated in a ceremonial swearing-in/pledge of service ceremony with the Human Rights & Equity Advisor, Alex Battick and Superintendent of Education, Anna Iafrate. A candle and a Bible to commemorate the occasion was provided.

2024:382 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board, provided a report in the OCSTA Report to the Board in the May 28, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included Fall Regional Meetings on Tuesday, September 27, 2024, Social Media and Supporting Student Well-Being in Catholic Schools, OCSTA 94th AGM and Conference, OCSTA Election Results, and OCSTA Year in Review.

2024:383 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:

Interim Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided the Director's Report in the May 28, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Interim Director De Faveri's topics included "We Are Diverse. We Are One in Christ" Banners, Asian Heritage Month, Congratulations, Marlene Perry, Skilled Ontario Competition, York Region Science & Technology Fair, St. Augustine's Business Banquet, Special Olympics, Sacred Heart Rally for Life, and School Visits.

2024:384 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan, Jonah James and Amira Zamanifar provided their Student Trustee Report to Board report in the May 28, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included Alignment to Strategic Plan, Student Trustee Election, OCSTA Annual General Meeting, Catholic Education Week, Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day, YSCPC Planting Event, YSCPC Executive Elections, Catholic Lobby Day, and YSCPC Alumni Event.

2024:385 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:**a) YCDSB Regional Oral Communications**

Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment, A. Arcadi, presented the awards for YCDSB Regional Oral Communications. Students with the winning communication read their essay aloud.

b) York Region Science & Technology Fair

Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment, A. Arcadi, presented the awards for the York Region Science & Technology Fair.

c) 2024 Skills Ontario Competition

Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment, A. Arcadi, presented the awards for the 2024 Skills Ontario Competition.

d) Vaughan in Motion

P. Badali, Vaughan in Motion Co-Founder, thanked Trustees for participating in Vaughan in Motion and helping to reach the fundraising level achieved today.

2024:386 DELEGATIONS:**a) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

J. Pienosos and D. De Santis presented a PowerPoint "*Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*". Appendix A

a) Budget and Secularism in Catholic Schools

R. La Neve presented Budget and Secularism in Catholic Schools. Appendix B

2024:387 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:**a) 2024-2025 Budget Development – Preliminary Operating Budget**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board, presented a PowerPoint entitled "*2024-25 Budget Development – Preliminary Operating Budget*" which provided preliminary budget information developed after the recently received (late) funding announcements and the updated funding model. The report included grant updates based on projected enrolment and the enveloped grant changes, other revenue projections, adjustments to staffing based on changes in enrolment, labour benchmark updates resulting from the Bill 124 remediation, labour increases as defined by collective agreements/Ministry and increased labour provision for teachers, as well as the removal of one-time updates and budget assumptions.

The key highlights from the presentation are the 2024-25 Estimates Deficit of \$17.7 million and an increase of \$4.8 million from the 2023-24 Revised Estimates. It was noted that the deficit in the Special Education area is estimated to be \$14.8 million, an increase of \$2.4 million from the 2023-24 Revised Estimates. A decrease in enrolment by 832 pupils (843 elementary and 25 secondary), and 57 International students (11 elementary and 46 secondary) was reported.

Additional/updated information will be presented at the June 11, 2024 Special Board Meeting.

2024:388 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**17a) Approval of Report No. 2024:18 Committee of the Whole (May 28, 2024)**

Declassified:

Vice-Chair M. Iafrate provided (verbally) Report No. 2024:18 of the Committee of the Whole (May 28, 2024) and read aloud the declassified Action Items 15b) Staffing Efficiencies 2024-25 and 15b) Curriculum Investments.

MOTION: Iafrate/ Di Meo

THAT the Board approve Report No. 2024:18 Committee of the Whole (May 28, 2024).

– MOTION CARRIED –

17b) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:07 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:07 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 6, 2024.

MOTION: Grella/Barbieri

THAT Report No. 2024:07 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on May 6, 2024, be received as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17c) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:03 CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, C. Cotton, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:03 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on May 7, 2024.

MOTION: Cotton/Iafrate

THAT Report No. 2024:03 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on May 7, 2024, be received as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:02 JOINT BOARD CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, J. Di Meo presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:02 of the Joint Board Consortium Committee meeting held on May 8, 2024.

MOTION: Di Meo/Saggese

THAT Report No. 2024:02 of the Joint Board Consortium Committee meeting held on May 8, 2024, be received as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:03 STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Saggese presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:03 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on May 13, 2024.

MOTION: Saggese/Barbieri

THAT Report No. 2024:03 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on May 13, 2024, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

It was noted that the letter to Minister Lecce, included in the agenda on page 22a, requesting the reinstatement of the funding for de-streaming teachers for September 2024, will be sent by mail on May 19, 2024.

17f) NOTICE OF MOTION: ADMISSION TO ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX CHS

Vice-Chair of the Board, M. Iafrate, put forth the Notice of Motion *Admission to St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS* along with a report to address questions arising from the April 30, 2024 Board meeting.

The Notice of Motion was revised for clarity, to read:

WHEREAS *St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS is at capacity and therefore, a cap was placed on the school in order to maintain students and staff safety and well-being;*

WHEREAS *families are transferring from public, private and other schools to St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS feeder schools, namely St. Mary Immaculate CES, St. Anne CES, St. Marguerite d'Youville CES and Father Henri Nouwen CES, in order to access entry to St. Theresa Lisieux CHS.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT enrolment to St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS remain capped at 1,600 to ensure the safety of all students and staff;

THAT any recommendations to modify the current St. Theresa Lisieux CHS admissions process be brought to the June 18, 2024 Board meeting with implementation for the 2025-2026 school year.

THAT a recommendation be brought to the Board of Trustees for implementation.

MOTION: Iafrate/Di Meo

THAT the Notice of Motion *Admission to St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS* be approved as amended.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17g) AMENDMENT TO THE TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP ON YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (YCPIC)

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, advised that as a result of the approved change to the Operational Bylaw aligning the YCPIC with the Education Act, the Committee membership needed to be updated to only one Trustee and no alternates. An update to the appointments at the November 2023 Inaugural Board meeting were sought and for which Trustee F. Alexander was appointed for the remainder of the year.

MOTION: Cotton/Barbieri

THAT Trustee F. Alexander be the sole Trustee member appointed as the York Catholic District School Board representative on the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (YCPIC).

– MOTION CARRIED –

17h) HYDRO ONE EASEMENT AT GOOD SHEPHERD CES

T. Pechkovsky, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations, reported that Hydro One is seeking an easement at Good Shepherd CES under the conditions outlined in O. Reg. 374/23. The easement is required to update the existing pole with an electrical switchgear as part of the work required to complete the upgrades to the school driveway to a municipal road access.

MOTION: Cotton/Saggese

- 1) **THAT** pursuant to clause 194 (3) of the Education Act, the Board does not require for its purposes the interest that the easement in favour of Hydro One at Good Shepherd CES would create, and
- 2) **THAT** the Board authorize Administration to enter into an Agreement in favour of Hydro One for a utility easement.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17i) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO 2024:04 TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, M. Iafrate, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:04 of the Transportation Review Committee meeting held on May 21, 2024.

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT Report No. 2024:04 of the Transportation Review Committee meeting held on May 21, 2024, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17j) SCHOOL GENERATED FUNDS: ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX CHS CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board, provided a report supporting the combination of St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic School Council funds into the St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS school bank account as per subparagraph 3.1 to *Policy 803 School Generated Funds*.

MOTION: Di Meo/Alexander

THAT the St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS Catholic School Council bank account be closed after the 2023-24 school year and combined with the St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS school bank account as per subparagraph 3.1 to *Policy 803 School Generated Funds*.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17k) APPROVAL FOR FUNDING A YCDSB SECONDARY TECHNOLOGY AND TRADES ACADEMY

Interim Director of Education, J. De Faveri, presented a report in support of funding a YCDSB Secondary Technology and Trades Academy.

MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton

THAT the Board approve a 1.0 full-time academic position within the 2024-2025 budget year dedicated to researching funding opportunities and expanding partnerships that would allow for the establishment of a YCDSB Secondary Technology and Trades Academy effective no later than September 2025, and

THAT the repurposing of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Learning Centre be given priority consideration as the location for this Academy, and

THAT a comprehensive report be prepared for implementation beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

– MOTION CARRIED –

17I) TRUSTEE MOTION: AN AUDIENCE WITH ONTARIO BISHOPS TO DISCUSS GROWING SECULARISM IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Trustee Alexander, expedited the Notice of Motion *An Audience with Ontario Bishops to Discuss Growing Secularism in Catholic Schools*.

WHEREAS *our Catholic schools are founded on Church Teachings and God's Word;*

WHEREAS *cracks have appeared in our foundation through which non-Catholic teachings have sprouted;*

WHEREAS *it is imperative that we repair the foundation and make it whole again.*

MOTION: Alexander/Cotton

THAT the Chair write letters to the Archbishop of Toronto and the Chair of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, asking for an audience to discuss growing secularism in our Catholic schools;

THAT the audience include Catholic School Board Trustees, Directors of Education, OCSTA and other stakeholders.

– MOTION CARRIED –

It was agreed that OCSTA be requested to spearhead a request for a table to be formed to discuss this issue and to make recommendations to help all Ontario school boards address this issue in a consistent manner.

2024:389 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL

2024:390 INFORMATION ITEM(S):

Chair Crowe asked for questions on each of the information items, for which there were none:

18a) POLICY 604 CHILD CARE & EARLY YEARS, EXTENDED DAY, BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS RESULTS OF PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Superintendent of Education – Exceptional Learners, D. Candido, reported the results of the Parent Satisfaction Survey as defined in Policy 604 *Child Care & Early Years, Extended Day, Before and After School Programs*. The report highlighted that the overall results of the survey were very positive, supportive and encouraging. The Manager of Child Care Services has reviewed all submissions and addressed any concerns identified.

18b) POLICY 615 EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS REPORT

Superintendent of Education – Exceptional Learners, D. Candido, provided a report and summary of the Level 2 and Level 3 facility partners as outlined in Policy 615, specifically those educational partners which are system/department wide and impact multiple schools. It was highlighted that educational partnerships augment existing skill sets of staff and in some cases, provide much needed additional support.

18c) POLICY 303 SCHOOL ORGANIZED & CONTINUING EDUCATION EXCURSIONS – LEVEL III EXCURSIONS

Associate Director, J. Sarna, provided a report and a summary of Level III Excursions which took place in the 2023-24 school year.

18d) YCDSB MYSP – SMART GOAL UPDATE

Associate Director, J. Sarna, presented a status report on the MYSP SMART Goal development for Year Two (2024-25). The departments, currently in the final stages of data collection and analysis, are reviewing the current school year data to set SMART goals for the 2024-25 school year. The final assessment and new goals will be presented at the June 2024 Board meeting.

18e) OPERATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGE: ELECTION PROCESS

Chair of the Board, E. Crowe, presented proposed By-Law changes regarding Board and Committee Chair and Vice-Chair election processes, as recommended by the Board's legal counsel. Further, as requested, clarification of voting rights was provided, particularly regarding abstaining from voting.

18f) MINISTRY RESPONSE: REACTIVATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND + YCDSB LETTER

Chair of the Board, E. Crowe, presented the Ministry of Education letter in response to the Board's February 23, 2024 request to reactivate the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to support the Board's initiatives in reducing the carbon footprint/green initiatives.

18g) 2023 E.Q.A.O. SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL RESULTS

Superintendent of Education – Education, A. Arcadi, provided a school-by-school summary of the results of the 2023 E.Q.A.O. Overall, YCDSB results consistently exceed provincial results.

18i) TRUSTEE MOTION: CONTINUATION OF MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

A Notice of Motion *Continuation of Menstrual Hygiene Program* submitted at the April 28, 2024 Regular Board meeting by Trustee J. Wigston, was included in the agenda for information.

WHEREAS *Period poverty impacts the most vulnerable students;*

WHEREAS *Menstrual hygiene products are basic necessities;*

WHEREAS *A report by Plan International Canada noted that “34 per cent of women and girls have had to regularly or occasionally sacrifice something else within their budget to afford menstrual products.”¹;*

WHEREAS *According to a government of Ontario news release, “Students who cannot afford menstrual products may experience a higher rate of absenteeism from school, challenges to engage fully in the classroom, and negative health effects, such as infections and toxic shock syndrome. It can also affect their social and emotional well-being.”²;*

WHEREAS *Convenient access to free period products helps promote gender equality and removes barriers to learning;*

WHEREAS *The Province of Ontario launched the Free Menstrual Products in Schools initiative in October 2021;*

WHEREAS *The three year agreement with Shoppers Drug Mart through the Province is set to expire in the fall of 2024;*

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that the Free Menstrual Products in Schools initiative become a permanent program, thereby ensuring continued and free access to period products for elementary and secondary students across Ontario.

This Motion will be a Discussion Item at the June 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

18j) JUNE CALENDAR

The June 2024 calendar was provided.

- 2024:391 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**
- 2024:392 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: NIL**
- 2024:393 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**
- 2024:394 ADJOURNMENT – 9:26 p.m.
 ON MOTION: Barbieri/Grella and CARRIED**

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board