

York Catholic District School Board

**MINUTES
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A Transportation Review Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at the Catholic Education Centre starting at 6:30 pm.

Attending:

Trustee Committee Members: In Person: E. Crowe, M. Iafrate, A. Saggese

Other Trustees: Virtual: F. Alexander

Absent with Notice: N/A

Administration: In Person: D. Scuglia, J. Sarna, T. Pechkovsky,
K. Scanlon, N. Smith
Virtual: J. Chiutsi, K. Elgharbawy, T. Laliberte,
L. Paonessa, L. Sawicky

Recording: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: M. Iafrate, Committee Chair

1. OPENING PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Transportation Review Committee Meeting began with a Prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2. ROLL CALL: All Trustee Committee Members present

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

A Saggese nominated M. Iafrate

M. Iafrate, Committee Chair

MOTION CARRIED

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

E. Crowe nominated A. Saggese

A. Saggese, Committee Vice-Chair

MOTION CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2024

The Transportation Review Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference 2024 with minor changes.

MOTION: Crowe/Saggese

THAT the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Transportation Review Committee be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Saggese/Crowe

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

6. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST/PREVIOUS MEETINGS: NIL

7. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Crowe/Iafrate

THAT the Minutes of the Transportation Review Committee meeting held on January 11, 2022 be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: NIL

9. OUTSIDE PRESENTATION(S):

Committee Chair, Maria Iafrate welcomed the Delegations and commented as follows:

“The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that stakeholders should have an opportunity to address the Board of Trustees. The Board has established a delegation process and this process is clearly outlined in Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Input to Agenda Items. This policy reflects the guidelines to which delegations may come forward. To YCDSB community members visiting tonight, I wish to be very clear that views expressed by the delegations are those of the speakers. We will not be engaging in question or debate and I will be asking Trustees if they have questions at the end of your presentation. Although we will be listening carefully to your presentations, according to our Operational Bylaws, Trustees can only ask clarifying questions of delegates. We have read your presentations in advance and we have a good understanding of what you are about to say.

Delegations submitted have been pre-approved based on the content we received. If the delegate deviates from the pre-approved submission the delegation will be terminated.

Please be reminded that the York Catholic District School Board promotes positive, respectful, and civil behaviour. Therefore the expectation is to treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and if you do not adhere to these instructions, your delegation will be terminated.”

a) Transportation for Holy Cross CA

Tania Monaco expressed her concerns with changes to the non-transportation zones modified by Student Transportation Services, resulting in students having to take public transit. Ms. Monaco stated that the Board should survey the parents to assess the demand and need for school transportation. Survey results may help plan the bus routes, schedules, and bus capacities.

b) Policy 203 Student Transportation Services

Tania Monaco read Marisa Vitale's speaking notes indicating that policy changes are inequitable and excused only certain children from their neighbourhood. Safety, due to Highway 7, was noted, advising that the school is isolated and in a highly industrialized area. It was asked that students be grandfathered and that new grade 9 students registering for 2024 can follow any proposed policy changes. It was also suggested that bus stops be consolidated as a cost-saving measure.

c) Lack of School Bus Transportation for French Immersion High School Students

Janet Pighin brought forward her concerns about the lack of school bus transportation for elementary FI students who want to continue in the French Immersion program in high school. It was suggested to have a central pick-up and drop-off location in Thornhill to allow those FI students in the Thornhill area to attend OLQW.

d) Transportation to St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS from Notre Dame CES

Antonietta Giovinazzo-Groff brought forward her concerns with the review of the dual and triple feeder school. Excluding a child from riding the bus with their sibling is perplexing. Public consultation should have occurred. Eric Warren expressed his concern with enrolling his second child in the same school as the older sibling and that she may be unable to get on the same bus. This is an environmental concern all around.

e) Policy 203 Student Transportation Services

Sabina Okayeva brought forward her concerns regarding the Student Transportation Policy and asked the Committee to consider changes to the policy with feeder school boundary changes. Courtesy seating was suggested to be implemented as other school boards currently have in place.

The Transportation Review Committee had the opportunity to ask the delegation questions for clarification. It was noted that if any changes do occur to the policy that it will not take into effect until February / March 2024. It was explained that the Board pays for each child that rides the bus. Many years ago the Board did have a pay-for-use busing where parents were offered a seat for a fee, but had to discontinue as per Ministry direction. It was also suggested that distances be revisited as a measurement tool.

10. STAFF PRESENTATION(S): NIL

11. ACTION ITEM(S): NIL

12. DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

a) Policy 203 Student Transportation Services - Policy Review

The Transportation Review Committee discussed some preliminary changes to Policy 203 Student Transportation Services prior to bringing forward to the Policy Review Committee.

13. INFORMATION ITEM(S):

a) Transportation Services Notices Provided to Families Fall 2023

Copies of communication sent to various communities regarding transportation service change sent to parents was included for information.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

Next Meeting: Monday, January 29, 2024

16. ADJOURNMENT at 8:02 pm

Crowe/Saggese and CARRIED