

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES of the Special Board Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2023

PRESENT:

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

Administration: In Person: D. Scuglia, J. Sarna, C. McNeil, S. Morrow, B. Pageau, K. Scanlon
Virtual: R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, A. Battick, D. Candido, J. Chiutsi, T. Laliberte, L. Paonessa, L. Sawicky, S. Wright

Absent with Notice: All Present

Recording Officer: S. Greco

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

Presiding: F. Alexander, Chair of the Board

2023:482 CALL TO ORDER / OPENING PRAYER

Chair of the Board, Frank Alexander welcomed everyone to the Special Board Meeting and led the opening prayer at 6:35 pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.

2023:483 ROLL CALL: All Trustees Present.

2023:484 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL

2023:485 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee DiMeo asked that his Motion be moved from Action to Discussion

MOTION: Cotton/DiMeo

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2023:486 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2023:487 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:488 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S): NIL

2023:489 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2023:490 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES: NIL

2023:491 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: NIL

2023:492 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE: NIL

2023:493 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT: NIL

2023:494 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL

2023:495 DELEGATIONS: NIL**2023:496 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:****a) 2022-2023 Year-End Financial Results**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided an update on the 2022-2023 year-end financial results. Due to the CUPE 2331 pay equity review, the Board has an additional budget pressure of \$10.6M. The Board has requested approval from the Ministry to use Proceeds of Disposition (POD) funds to offset this pressure for 2022-2023 only. Without the POD approval, the Board has an in-year deficit of \$9.7M and an accumulated surplus of \$8.7M. With POD approval, the Board would have an in-year surplus of \$0.9M and an accumulated surplus of \$19.3M.

The Board of Trustees expressed their concern with the Board's deficit. It was noted that staff should have been prepared by having reserve funds to offset pay equity.

2023:497 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):**a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:03 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, Carol Cotton, presented, for approval, Report No. 2023:03 of the Audit Committee of the Whole private session held on November 3, 2023.

MOTION: Cotton/lafrate**a) Approval of YCDSB 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements**

THAT the Board approve the 2022-23 Consolidated Financial Statements of the York Catholic District School Board, for the year ended August 31, 2023 as audited by Grant Thornton LLP, and **THAT** the 2022-23 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the York Catholic District School Board, together with the Auditor's Report, will be made available and posted on the Board's website.

b) Approval of YCDSB 2022-23 Educational Development Charges (EDC) Financial Statements

THAT the Board approve the Summary Schedules of Education Development Charges of the York Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2023 as audited by Grant Thornton LLP.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

b) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2023:27 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Board Vice-Chair, Maria lafrate presented, for approval Report No. 2023:27 of the Special Committee of the Whole private session held on November 13, 2023.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): N/A**(ii) CLASSIFIED:****MOTION: lafrate/DiMeo**

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held November 13, 2023 be approved as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED -**

c) POLICY 808 TRAVEL, MEALS & EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer of the Board outlined some of the operational impacts of the October 30th Regular Board approval of an updated Policy 808, which removed the ability of the Director and the CFO to approve exceptions.

The Broader Public Sector (BPS) which is referred to by Policy 808, outlines the framework principles and requirements and encourages BPS organizations to review the Ontario Public Sector Travel, Meal and Hospitality directive as Boards develop or amend their expense rules.

The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification. Some of the Trustees asked that further review is necessary and that *Policy 808 Travel, Meals & Expense Reimbursement* be brought to the January Policy Review Committee Meeting.

Policy Review Chair, Maria lafrate indicated that she would connect with Associate Director Sarna.

2023:498 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL

2023:499 INFORMATION ITEM(S):

a) TRUSTEE MOTION: Temporary Hiring Freeze (J. DiMeo)

WHEREAS *the Board is currently in a deficit and will experience serious financial pressures in upcoming years as the deficit elimination plan is implemented;*

WHEREAS *upon completion the Board's Annual Audit, Year-End Budget Update, RIAT internal audits and upcoming Ministry of Education audit may provide more accurate fiscal updates;*

WHEREAS *the Board is committed to ensuring that ethical, equitable and transparent hiring practices are consistently followed, by the Director and all his staff;*

WHEREAS *the Board's 2023-2024 budget was a deficit budget and did not allow for any reserves for elimination, terminating, litigation or from organizational restructuring of positions and therefore require Board approval.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT *effective immediately all hiring for non-union and non-Ministry mandated positions will cease until the Ministry completes our Board's audit.*

THAT *any union positions continue to be filled as per the Collective Agreements that we have in place.*

THAT *any Ministry supported positions that are funded through TPA's (Transfer Payment Agreements) continue to be filled as per the parameters set within the approved Board budget.*

THAT *prior to backfilling of any job openings, even if within approved budget parameters they are referred to Trustees for review and recommendation, to find budget savings.*

THAT *all Board hiring follows the framework delineated within Policy 405 A, B, C which mandates fair, equitable and transparent hiring practices that meet Ontario's Human Rights guidelines.*

Trustee Joseph DiMeo advised that the intent of his Motion is to be involved in the spending of the hiring budget.

Trustees had the opportunity to share their thoughts. It was suggested to Trustee DiMeo that he frames his resolution to address the budget to be more prudent fiscally, and removing some of his "whereas".

This Motion will be an Action Item at the November 28, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

2023:500 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

2023:501 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

2023:502 ADJOURNMENT: 7:44 PM
ON MOTION: lafrate/Barbieri and CARRIED