

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

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

PRESENT:

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

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

Absent with Notice: M. Barbieri

Recording Officer: S. Greco

Presiding: M. Iafrate, Chair of the Board

2026:009 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair of the Board, Maria Iafrate, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:34pm and the Faith Ambassadors to lead the Opening Prayer, followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2026:010 ROLL CALL: M. Barbieri

2026:011 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

#17g - *Receipt of Report No. 2026:01 York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee*
#19j - *Revised Update on Board Purchasing Card (P-Card) Management & Control Initiative*

MOTION: DiMeo/Alexander

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Trustee DiMeo asked that, in future, school name(s) be added to Recognitions on the Agenda.

2026:012 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: DiMeo/Wigston

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2026:013 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL

2026:014 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

2026:015 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting of October 28, 2025
Special Board Meeting of November 11, 2025
Inaugural Board Meeting of November 17, 2025

MOTION: Cotton/Grella

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 28, 2025, Special Board Meeting of November 11, 2025 and Inaugural Board Meeting of November 17, 2025 be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2026:016 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**2026:017 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Maria Lafrate, Chair of the Board, included her Chair's Report as part of the November 25, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Thank You, Cardinal Leo Visits the YCDSB, Red Wednesday, YSCPC Dinner.

2026:018 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board, provided her report as part of the November 25, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Catholic Education Leadership Speaker Series, Upcoming Session: Advent Retreat, OCSTA Board of Directors, January Trustee Seminar, Apostolic Letter on Catholic Education. Trustee Wigston reminded the Board of Trustees that the deadline for submitting AGM resolutions to OCSTA is February 6, 2026.

2026:019 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:

Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the November 25, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: Advent Season, A Busy Time in Our Schools, Funding for the International Language Extended Day Program, YCDSB Community Consultations, YCDSB Students Win Scholarships, Remembrance Day, CHUM CP24 Christmas Wish Campaign Wish Launch, Pathways to Skilled Trades and Technology Open House.

Trustee Theresa McNicol inquired of the Director as to why Trustees had not been informed that the Board had received a cheque in the amount of \$305,000 for International Languages. Director De Faveri responded that the only funding received by the Board was a cheque for \$123,000, delivered the previous Thursday, representing the first instalment. Trustee McNicol noted that she had a newspaper article featuring a ceremonial cheque made payable to York CDSB, and that neither the Director nor the Chair was present in the photograph accompanying the article. Trustee McNicol provided a copy of the *Corriere Canadese*. Director De Faveri advised that the matter would be investigated.

2026:020 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Sabine Cuesta and Abby Shenouda provided their Student Trustee Report to Board in the November 25, 2025 Regular Board Agenda. Topics included: OSTA-AECO Fall General Meeting, YSCPC Student Achievement Meeting, Remembrance Day, Secondary School Open Houses, Take Our Kids To Work Day.

The Board of Trustees were invited to the YSCPC Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 8, 2025 taking place at the Catholic Education Centre.

2026:021 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:

T. Laliberte and J. Chiutsi, Superintendents of Education, introduced the following medal winners:

a) OFSAA Girls Golf Festival 2025 - Open Division

M. Zhao - Our Lady Queen of the World CA

b) OFSAA Cross Country - Novice Girls 4K

K. Mihaiescu - St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS

c) OFSAA Cross Country - Senior Girls 6K

B. Malcolm, G. Malcolm, K. Marley, A. Silvera, E. Sun - St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS

Photos were taken and certificates were presented.

2026:022 DELEGATIONS: NIL

2026:023 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:

a) Student Census Data

M. McShine-Quao, Educational Researcher presented highlights from the 2024 Student Census. Ms. McShine-Quao noted that census work is not only about collecting data, but also about understanding how students' identities relate to measurable outcomes and their in-school experiences. A cautionary note was recommended, indicating that the presentation may contain material that could evoke strong emotions and that participants should seek support if needed.

Data collection is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that helps school boards understand, identify and address systemic barriers to student achievement and well-being by examining policies, practices and structures. The Voluntary Student Census was conducted in 2021 and again in 2024. In 2024, parents of students in JK to Grade 5 completed the voluntary and confidential questionnaire with their children with a 14.1% response rate. In 2024, students in Grade 6 to 12 completed the voluntary and confidential questionnaire in class with a 72.3 % response rate.

Census findings show we have work to do to ensure every student experiences equitable access to learning, well-being and a sense of belonging. Through consultation, we will identify and address these systemic inequities to enable every student to thrive and succeed.

The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and thanked Ms. McShine-Quao for her presentation.

b) 2025-2026 Revised Estimates

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board presented the Revised Estimates budget as required for submission to the Ministry by December taking into consideration the financial and operational impact of enrolments as of October 31 and other changes in financial circumstances.

2026:024 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)

a) APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 REVISED ESTIMATES

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board presented the Revised Estimates budget for approval, to be submitted to the Ministry.

Revenue Revised Estimates for 2025-26

MOTION: Alexander/DiMeo

THAT the Board approve the submission of the Revenue Financial Revised Estimates to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026, in the total amount of \$741,910,130 (based on Operating \$694,031,422 and Non-Operating \$47,878,708) as presented in the budget presentation.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Salaries and Benefits Revised Estimates for 2025-26

MOTION: Cotton/Wigston

THAT the Board approve the submission of the Salary and Benefits Expenditures Revised Estimates to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026, in the total amount of \$628,101,439 (Salaries \$538,196,984 and Benefits \$89,904,455) as presented in the budget presentation.

- MOTION CARRIED -

Other Expenses Revised Estimates for 2025-26**MOTION: DiMeo/Wigston**

THAT the Board approve the submission of the Support Cost Expenditures Revised Estimates to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026, in the total amount of \$123,137,523 (based on \$72,036,954 Operating expenditures \$2,815,824 of REP and Other Grants/Programs expenditures and \$48,284,745 of Non-Operating expenditures) as presented in the budget presentation.

- MOTION CARRIED -

in-Year Budget for 2025-26**MOTION: Crowe/DiMeo**

THAT the Board approve the submission of the \$9,328,832 non-compliant deficit to the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 as presented in the budget presentation.

- MOTION CARRIED -

b) INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM AT ST. JEAN DE BREBEUF CHS

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education, presented a report recommending the introduction of the Advanced Placement (AP) Program at St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year. The proposal requires no new budget allocations, as the school has qualified staff within its existing staffing structure and strong student interest to support the launch of the program. This initiative will also help ease enrolment pressures at Fr. Bressani CHS at no additional cost to the Board.

MOTION: Wigston/Grella

THAT the Board approves the introduction of the Advanced Placement Program at St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS for the 2026-2027 academic year at no additional cost to the Board.

- MOTION CARRIED -

c) ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION, SUSPENSION & EXPULSION PROGRAMS

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education presented a report to provide the Board of Trustees with information on the current St. Luke Alternative Education model and to present recommendations on how to better serve students across the region while reducing program-related costs. Currently, students from across the Board must travel long distances to attend the program, resulting in high transportation costs and extended travel times. To address challenges and better meet the needs of students throughout the region, a decentralized three-site model is recommended effective September 2026.

The Board of Trustees were advised that the Board will continue to provide uniforms to all the students that attend any of the three-sites for Alternative Education, Suspension & Expulsion Programs.

MOTION: Crowe/Grella

THAT the Board approves the reorganization of the Alternative Education, Suspension, and Expulsion programs into a three-site regional model effective September 2026, with sites located at St. Brother Andre CHS, St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS and Our Lady of Peace Catholic Learning Centre.

- MOTION CARRIED -

d) CHANGES TO TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Maria Iafrate, Chair of the Board presented an amendment to the Trustee Membership on three (3) Standing Committees approved at the November 17, 2025 Inaugural Board Meeting.

MOTION: Alexander/Saggese

THAT the Board amend the Trustee Membership on the following Standing Committees for the year November 2025 to November 2026 as follows:

Executive Committee - add Angela Saggese

Human Resources Committee - Remove Maria Iafrate and add Michaela Barbieri

Policy Review Committee - Remove Maria Iafrate and add Michaela Barbieri

- MOTION CARRIED -

e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2026:01 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2026:01 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 10, 2025.

MOTION: Grella/DiMeo

THAT Report No. 2026:01 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 10, 2025, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2026:01 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Member, M. Iafrate, presented for receipt, Report No. 2026:01 of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on November 24 2025.

MOTION: Iafrate/DiMeo

THAT Report No. 2026:01 of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on November 24, 2025, be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

2026:025**DISCUSSION ITEM(S):****a) TRUSTEE MOTION: LEGAL COSTS (T. McNicol)**

Whereas the Board needs to be transparent with the costs regarding:
- Gillian Tuck, Bruce Best, Jennifer MacKenzie, McCarthy Tretrault,
Michael Maynard the Integrity Commissioner, BLG, the Judicial Review,
Covering all legal fees with one grand total;
Whereas the Catholic ratepayers of York Region are demanding this information.

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT the YCDSB release the total cost spent on all these investigations to be accountable to the Catholic ratepayers.

This Motion will be an Action Item at the December 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

2026:026 INFORMATION ITEM(S):**a) TRUSTEE MOTION: LEGAL INVOICES (T. McNicol)**

Whereas *the Board of Trustees received and paid for two legal opinions on my judicial review and that showed they would not be successful and subsequently proceeded anyways;*

Whereas *taxpayer money was spent on these legal opinions and court proceedings which resulted in monies being removed from classrooms where it is most needed;*

Whereas *I was required to spend over \$100,000 on my own court costs to defend myself.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED

THAT *a request be made to the Ministry to audit all legal costs put forward by Trustees in order to provide transparency to public taxpayers on how their dollars have been spent.*

THAT *the legal cost audit be provided to all stakeholders;*

THAT *the trustees who voted in favour of continuing with the judicial review, against the advice of legal, be required to pay the money back to the Board so these monies can be properly directed to classrooms.*

This Motion will be a Discussion Item on the December 16, 2025 Regular Board agenda.

b) Policy 303 School Organized and Continuing Education Excursions - Level III Excursions

J. Sarna, Associate Director shared a summary of Level III Excursions as per *Policy 303 School Organized and Continuing Education Excursions*. Ms. Sarna noted that the trip to Japan listed under St. Robert CHS was pulled from the offerings due to low enrolment.

c) Social Media Mass Tort Litigation

J. De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair and Secretary of the Board shared the update on the social media mass tort litigation as provided by Neinstein LLP.

d) Update on Technology and Skilled Trades Centre at St. Joan of Arc CHS

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education provided an update on the progress of the Technology and Skilled Trades Centre (TSTC) initiative at St. Joan of Arc CHS. The report provided an overview of recent developments, including ongoing ministry engagement and upcoming actions that will support the next stage of planning and funding for this strategic project. Next steps include a follow-up consultation with Ministry staff to complete the grant application process, proposal development to finalize detailed project proposal and partner engagement with industry partners, local colleges and community organizations to align training programs with workforce needs.

Chair Lafrate gave a shout-out to Trustee Saggese for working together with Superintendent Chiutsi to further develop this initiative.

e) Before and After School Child Care Program Enrolment Summary

J. Powers, Superintendent of Exceptional Learners provided information related to the number of children enrolled in child care programs, specifically Before and After (B&A) child care programs. A summary of the 2025-2026 child care / school age enrolment for the B&A schools was provided.

f) Student and Family Support Offices - Ministry Letter

J. De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair, and Secretary of the Board, provided a copy of the Ministry letter dated November 13, 2025, announcing the new *Student and Family Support Offices*. Director De Faveri noted that during his attendance at the Regional Education Council (REC), three of the Directors currently under supervision were present. Those Boards also have an Associate Director to whom this portfolio has been assigned, and they have established a dedicated general mailbox for this work. Implementation for all School Boards is scheduled for September 2026, and the deadline for submitting the implementation plan to the Ministry is March 31, 2026.

Trustee Crowe expressed her concern, noting that Trustees function much like air traffic controllers: while a Superintendent may already be addressing an issue, members of the public might use this new avenue as a way to have their concerns redirected or elevated.

g) Response from OCSTA re Motion Requesting an In-Camera Meeting with OCSTA and Provincial Trustees

J. De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair, and Secretary of the Board, shared the response received from OCSTA. Vice-Chair Wigston stated that the next step would be to extend an invitation to OCSTA. She also reminded Trustees that any resolutions or motions would need to be brought forward at the OCSTA AGM. To meet the February 6, 2026 submission deadline, resolutions would need to be approved at the January 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

h) Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP) Update - November 25, 2025

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board shared a monthly update to the Board. The report presented the 2025-26 projection which was based on the recently completed Revised Estimates. The Board remains on track with the MYFRP submitted for approval.

i) Mandatory Use of Supply Ontario's VOR for End User

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided an update on the mandatory use of Supply Ontario's Vendor of Record (VOR) arrangement for End User Computing for all school boards in Ontario under Regulation 612/20 of the *Supply Chain Management Act*.

j) Update on the Board Purchasing Card (P-Card) Management and Control Initiative

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided an update on the progress to date where the Board directed Administration to reduce the number of P-Cards in the system and to bring forward a revised list of allowable and excluded expenditures. The Finance Department, in partnership with School Superintendents, have made significant progress in strengthening P-Card governance, oversight and accountability.

k) December 2025 Calendar

The December 2025 calendar was provided with no changes.

RECESS AT 9:24 PM TO RECONVENE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

RECONVENE THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 10:04 PM

APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2026:02 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Vice-Chair Jennifer Wigston presented, for approval, Report No. 2026:02 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on November 25, 2025.

(i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): NIL

(ii) CLASSIFIED:

MOTION: Wigston/Grella

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held November 25, 2025, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2026:027 NOTICES OF MOTION

2026:028 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

2026:029 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

2026:030 ADJOURNMENT – 10:05 pm
ON MOTION: Grella/Alexander and CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board