

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

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

PRESENT:

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, E. Crowe, J. DiMeo, M. Iafrate, A. Grella,
A. Saggese, J. Wigston
Student Trustees M. Galstyan, S. Cuesta
Virtual: N/A

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

Absent with Notice: Trustee C. Cotton

Approved Absence: Trustee T. McNicol

Recording Officer: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

- 2025:009 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER**
Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:35 pm and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead the prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.
- 2025:010 ROLL CALL:** Trustee C. Cotton, T. McNicol - Absent with Notice
- 2025:011 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:**
Delegation: French Immersion at St. Joan of Arc CHS
Revised Pages 24, 96
YCPIC Report to Board
Action Item 16g was moved immediately following Delegations
MOTION: DiMeo/Wigston
THAT the new material be approved as presented.
– MOTION CARRIED –
- 2025:012 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.
– MOTION CARRIED –
- 2025:013 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**
- 2025:014 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

2025:015 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Regular Board Meeting of October 29, 2024
Special Board Meeting of November 12, 2024
Inaugural Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

MOTION: Wigston/Barbieri

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 29, 2024, Special Board Meeting of November 12, 2024 and Inaugural Board Meeting of November 18, 2024 be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:016 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**2025:017 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair's Board Report as part of the November 26, 2024 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included MACCA Scholarship Gala, Level up! Skilled Trades Career Fair and Board Finals Volleyball Tournament.

International Stress Awareness Day Video

Mark Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications introduced Fernanda T. , a Grade 12 Co-Op student from Cardinal Carter CHS. Fernanda produced a three-part engaging video series using WIRED Autocomplete format. Recognizing that stress is a common experience, the videos support and inform elementary and secondary students about stress management. Appreciation was extended to Michelle Prinzo, Mental Health Lead, and to the Communications Department.

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe thanked Fernanda for her excellent video and recognized that Co-Op placements in the YCDSB Communications Department are wonderful learning experiences

St. Gregory the Great CA Kicks off CHUM Toy Drive

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Academy had the honour of hosting the kickoff of the 2024 CHUM Christmas Wish Campaign and Vaughan Toy Drive. Trustees, Senior Administration and the City of Vaughan Mayor were all in attendance, as well as all the students and their parents.

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe noted there was so much enthusiasm in the building so early in the morning and that it was a wonderful event to attend.

2025:018 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board, advised that she would provide a detailed report at the December Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Wigston noted that a reminder email had been received earlier in the day for the OCSTA Catholic Education Leadership Speaker Series featuring former Director of Education, Linda Staudt that was taking place on November 27, 2024. Information on resolutions for the OCSTA-AGM will be sent in December to allow for ample time to process prior to the AGM.

2025:019 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:

Interim Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the November 26, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Interim Director De Faveri's topics included CHUM Christmas Wish and Vaughan Toy Drive Kickoff, OLQW Students Sing at the Cardinal's Dinner, York Catholic Presents to the Durham Catholic DSB, PD Hosted by York Catholic, Counter Human Trafficking and Online Exploitation Information Sessions and Take Our Kids to Work Day.

2025:020 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan and Sabine Cuesta provided their Student Trustee Report to Board Report in the November 26, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included Halloween and All Saints Day, Take Our Kids to Work Day, School Open Houses, OSTA-AECO Fall General Meeting, Remembrance Day and World Kindness Day.

2025:021 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:**a) OFSAA Winners**

Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment, A. Arcadi presented the awards to the OFSAA Medal Winners for Golf and Cross Country as follows:

Cross Country - Gold Medal

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

Golf - Bronze Medal

L. Perron, Our Lady Queen of the World CA

2025:022 DELEGATIONS: (Chair Crowe read an introductory statement)**a) French Immersion at St. Joan of Arc CHS**

Maria Gentilin highlighted the importance of providing French Immersion at St. Joan of Arc CHS. (See Appendix A)

2025:023 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**a) REINTRODUCTION OF FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHS**

J. Chiutsi, Superintendent of Education provided a recommendation to reintroduce the start of a French Immersion program at St. Joan of Arc CHS. After the program failed to launch last year due to insufficient enrolment, a renewed effort by the school, staff and community has generated significant interest with more than 25 students committed to enrol.

It was noted that the Human Resources Department continues to actively recruit French Immersion teachers.

MOTION: Saggese/Wigston

THAT the Board approve the reintroduction of the French Immersion program at St. Joan of Arc CHS starting the 2025-2026 academic year at no additional cost to the Board.

- MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED -

2025:024 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:**a) York Catholic DSB Virtues Update**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment and D. Pimentel, Principal of Religion, Family Life, Adult Faith, & Equity, highlighted the revised YCDSB Virtues resources, which were developed by the Religious Education Advisory Committee (REAC). While the actual virtue for each month has remained the same, numerous additional content has been added to the resources, including new definitions with a focus on Catholic catechetical language, Scripture associated with each virtue, as well as an offering of saints and other lay people who are recognized as models of the respective virtues. Bishop Boissonneau, who is a member of REAC, was instrumental in leading the discussion and revisions, and all the material was guided and approved by His Excellency. D. Pimentel thanked Trustee Cotton, who was the Trustee Rep on the REAC Committee for many years and welcomed Trustee Saggese to serve until June 2026. Trustee Saggese, in return, thanked the REAC Committee for their warm welcome and stated that our staff model the virtues that she is happy to be part of this Committee.

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the work of the REAC Committee.

b) 2024-2029 Long Term Accommodation Plan

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations and J. Tsui, Manager of Community Planning and Partnerships shared the Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), a comprehensive, multi-year document that guides future accommodation planning needs and initiatives. The LTAP is a key piece of the Board's MYSP and is guided by the Ministry of Education legislation and expectations. J. Tsui provided an overview of planned initiatives in school communities for all stakeholders to be aware of what to expect in the coming years. The majority of initiatives will each have their own consultation and approval process. The LTAP guides capital investment, program and facility decisions.

Staff thanked the Board of Trustees, Senior Team, LTAP Sub Committee and Plant Department for contributing to the LTAP document. Appreciation was extended to the Public for participating in the survey and Open Houses to provide their input.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, E. Crowe, Chair of the Board thanked staff and everyone who participated in the public input sessions. It was encouraging to receive so much feedback.

2025:025**ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports) - (Continued)****a) APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2029 LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION PLAN**

G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations presented the 2024-2029 Long Term Accommodation Plan for approval.

MOTION: Alexander/DiMeo

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the 2024-2029 Long Term Accommodation Plan.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

b) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:01 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair M. Iafrate, presented for approval, Report No. 2025:01 from the Executive Committee Meeting held on November 19, 2024.

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT the 2025 Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee be approved.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

c) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:11 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:11 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 11, 2024.

MOTION: Grella/Wigston

THAT Report No. 2024:11 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on November 11, 2024, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:04 STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS

Committee Chair, A. Saggese, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:04 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on November 13, 2024.

MOTION: Saggese/Barbieri

THAT Report No. 2024:04 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on November 13, 2024, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:01 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Member (on behalf of E. Crowe), M. Iafrate, presented for receipt, Report No. 2025:01 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on November 25, 2024.

MOTION: Iafrate/Barbieri

THAT Report No. 2025:01 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on November 25, 2024, be received as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:026

DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

a) TRUSTEE MOTION: Explore Air Conditioning in All Elementary YCDSB Classrooms (J. Wigston)

- Whereas** *not all elementary YCDSB schools are equipped with air-conditioning in classrooms;*
Whereas *students attending schools without air-conditioned classrooms are reliant on rotation through common cooling areas to mitigate the effects of high temperatures;*
Whereas *rotation through common cooling areas is not a permanent solution for heat mitigation;*
Whereas *rising temperatures in late spring, summer and early autumn inequitably affects the learning environments for students attending schools without air-conditioned classrooms;*
Whereas *an optimal learning environment should be provided to all students regardless of geographical location;*
Whereas *multiple school boards have completed multi-year projects to install air conditioning in every classroom.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT *staff investigate and report back to the Board of Trustees with an estimated financial outlay and timeframe required to equip all elementary YCDSB classrooms with air-conditioning.*

Trustee Wigston clarified that if the motion passed the report should include the following:

- information that includes what timeframe other School Boards have used to plan and/or retrofit older buildings.
- want they do/use to retrofit a whole system, or did they use small classroom air conditioning units?
- the status of air conditioning in each elementary school

It was noted that once information has been received, the Board of Trustees may decide to move forward or not or prioritize the schools that are more populated.

This Motion will be an Action Item item at the December 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

2025:027

INFORMATION ITEM(S):

a) International Language Education Funding

Trustee A. Saggese provided information on the YCDSB-ItaliaLinguaCultura, a non-profit organization, incorporated in Ontario and accredited by the Consulate General of Italy in Toronto. The Associations' special focus is to provide support to the YCDSB International Language Italian Extended Day Program. A key objective is to secure yearly funding from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

b) Thank You Letter from Most Reverend Francis Leo

A letter from the Most Reverend Francis Leo was provided in response to the Board's letter of congratulations on His elevation to the College of Cardinals.

c) Ministry Response Request to Review Funding Formula for Online Learning

The Ministry's response to the Board's letter regarding the funding formula for Online Learning was provided.

d) Status Report on Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE)

J. Powers, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners and G. De Girolamo, Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations provided a status report on the Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE).

e) Before and After School Child Care Program Enrolment Summary

J. Powers, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners provided information (by Trustee) related to the number of children enrolled in child care programs, specifically Before and After School child care programs.

f) SEA Guidelines Presentation from November 11, 2024 SEAC Meeting

J. Powers, Superintendent of Education: Exceptional Learners provided clarification further to the SEAC meeting held on November 11, 2024. A summary of the key points regarding the SEA Technology Planner, discussed at the SEAC meeting, was provided.

g) Level III Excursions: Policy 303 School Organized and Continuing Education Excursions

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided a summary of Level III Excursions as per *Policy 303 School Organized and Continuing Education Excursions*.

h) TRUSTEE MOTION: Audit of YCDSB Purchasing Credit Cards (PCards) (E. Crowe, M. Iafrate)

- Whereas** *the York Catholic District School Board is in a deficit and controls need to be in place to ensure that spending is focussed on the classroom while at the same time getting the best value for money;*
- Whereas** *spending of Trustees and the Senior Team is being reviewed by RIAT, including the use of PCards;*
- Whereas** *transparency and accountability is of paramount importance and an external review of all remaining PCards in the system would help to ensure proper usage and provide additional systemic recommendations for improvement, including the enforcement of spending limits.*

LET IT BE RESOLVED:

- THAT** *an outside accounting firm be hired to perform a full audit of PCards not included in the RIAT audit, including a review of any controls currently in place;*
- THAT** *the review include recommendations for any changes in policy and/or procedure needed to ensure transparency, accountability and compliance;*
- THAT** *the review include a recommendation on whether or not the number of PCards in the system should be reduced;*
- THAT** *once the recommendations are implemented, training for proper usage of PCards take place once a year with all holders.*

This Motion will be a Discussion item at the December 17, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

j) YCDSB Plans to Leave X (Formerly Twitter)

M. Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications provided information advising that the YCDSB and all its schools, departments and clubs will be instructed to stop posting on X effective January 1, 2025.

k) December 2024 Calendar

The December 2024 calendar was provided.

2025:028 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL

2025:029 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

RECESS AT 9:10 PM TO RESUME THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

RESUME THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 9:38 PM

2025:030 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports) - CONTINUED

a) REPORT NO. 2025:01 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - NOVEMBER 26, 2024

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2025:01 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on November 26, 2024.

(i) **DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): N/A**

(ii) **CLASSIFIED:**

MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held November 26, 2024, be approved as presented.

– MOTION CARRIED –

2025:031 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

2025:032 ADJOURNMENT – 9:40 PM
ON MOTION: Grella/Wigston and CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chair of the Board

APPENDIX A

My name is Maria Gentilin, and I have been a resident of the Maple community for the past 20 years. My two children attend schools in the YCDSB, and I am here today to highlight the importance of providing French Immersion at St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School.

Learning French offers students a significant academic and experiential advantage. A second language opens doors to future career opportunities and as graduates of this program, students receive a bilingual certification, making them ideal candidates for many job placements.

Additionally, providing French immersion at St. Joan would benefit other communities. Due to its central location, students can attend a school closer to their homes. This would provide relief for schools that have a high enrolment in French Immersion without diminishing the quality or delivery of programming. Studies show that a smaller class size improves the quality of education.

Furthermore, all Catholic secondary schools in the board with AP programs have a French Immersion program. The board must consider maintaining consistency and delivery of the program to ensure that all schools are given similar options that work best for each community.

It is also important to consider this program since there is no cost to the board to implement French immersion.

Last year, our community was given a glimpse of the possibility of having a French Immersion program at St Joan. However, it came too late and most families had already registered their child elsewhere. I am relieved that staff is recommending that French Immersion be placed at St Joan because there is sufficient evidence to indicate student interest to have this program.

Lastly, French Immersion at St. Joan would enhance academic offerings and advance learning opportunities. This program would, in turn, enable the school to provide families with a competitive program.

This new addition will serve to strengthen the enrollment and support the school and students' success for the long-term. I encourage the board to make a choice with integrity, providing students a voice. Approve French immersion at St. Joan of Arc CSS.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Maria Gentilin