

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

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, C. Cotton, E. Crowe, 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, A. Arcadi, A. Battick, M. Brosens,  
J. Chiutsi, G. De Girolamo, K. Elgharbawy, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte,  
C. McNeil, L. Paonessa, J. Powers, L. Sawicky, S. Wright, A. McDonald  
Virtual: R. Antunes, S. Morrow

Absent with Notice: Trustee J. DiMeo

Approved Absence: Trustee T. McNicol

Recording Officer: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

**2024:549 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.

**2024:550 ROLL CALL:** Trustees J. DiMeo, T. McNicol - Absent with Notice

**2024:551 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL: NIL**

**2024:552 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION: Saggese/Cotton**

**THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**2024:553 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING: NIL**

**2024:554 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

**2024:555 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Regular Board Meeting of September 24, 2024

Special Board Meeting of September 30, 2024

Special Board Meeting of October 21, 2024

**MOTION: Barbieri/Wigston**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting September 24, 2024, Special Board Meeting of September 30, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of October 21, 2024 be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**2024:556 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL****2024:557 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair's Board Report as part of the October 29, 2024 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included Official Blessing of Blessed Chiara Badano CES and St. Katharine Drexel CHS, MPP Tour of St. Robert CHS, All Saints Day and All Souls Day, Remembrance Day and CP24 CHUM Christmas Wish Launch at St. Gregory the Great CA.

**Recognition of Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations - T. Pechkovsky**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board recognized Coordinating Manager of Planning & Operations, Tom Pechkovsky as follows:

*"This evening I have the distinct honour of recognizing Tom Pechkovsky, Co-ordinating Manager of Planning and Operations, on the occasion of his retirement. As a system we have been blessed to have Tom on our staff for his entire career. In 1991, he joined the planning staff as a CoOp student. Upon graduation from the University of Waterloo in 1994 he was hired as an Assistant Planner in 1994. In 1997-98 he did two terms on a secondment to the business services branch of the Ministry of Education, where he gained a provincial planning perspective. In 1999 he became a senior planner followed by a promotion to Manager of Planning in 2002. To gain some perspective, in April of 1999 the board approved a plan to build over the span of 3 years 4733 new elementary pupil places, 3700 new secondary pupil places, plus RCM replacements and new additions adding up to 3725 pupil places for a total of 12158 places at a cost of about \$150 M. As York Region grew, the board also started to experience areas of decline, and Tom and his planning team were kept busy developing Long Term Accommodation Plans and business cases to support requests for funding. Provincially, Tom took on leadership roles with OASBO, first as their Planning Committee Chair in 2004-2005, then sat on their Board of Directors from 2006-2013 including a term as Vice-President in 2010-11 and then President in 2011-12. In 2015 OASBO recognized his leadership with the McCordic Award that recognizes outstanding dedication and exceptional merit for contribution to the service of school boards in Ontario. In 2017 Tom was promoted to the role of Coordinating Manager of Planning and Operations, adding transportation, admissions, as well as oversight of building operations at the CEC. It has been an honour to know Tom for all my years as a trustee. As a Board we could rely on him to provide reports that were thorough, detailed in their data, and astute in their analyses and recommendations. He was always open to new perspectives, and dealt with parents fairly and tactfully. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we thank you for your years of exceptional service and leadership. May God bless you and your family as you embark on this new journey."*

**2024:558 OCSTA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:**

Trustee Jennifer Wigston OCSTA Regional Director, representing York Catholic District School Board, provided her OCSTA Report to the Board in the October 29, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included OCSTA Catholic Education Leadership Series, 2025 Catholic Trustee Seminar, 2025 OCSTA AGM, Finance Brief and Short-Video Contest for Students.

**2024:559 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/ UPDATE:**

Interim Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director's Report in the October 29, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Interim Director De Faveri's topics included Solemn Blessing & Official Opening of Blessed Chiara Badano CES and St. Katharine Drexel CHS, Mural Unveiling for Vaughan Culture Days, Elementary & Secondary Police Protocol Training, Archives Committee, When Faith Meets Pedagogy and Rose of Sharon Grand Opening.

**2024:560 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:**

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan and Sabine Cuesta provided their Student Trustee Report to Board Report in the October 29, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day, First Official YSCPC Meeting, Fundraiser for the Eradication of Poverty, Student Mental Health Ambassadors Day and School Award Ceremonies.

**2024:561 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS:**

M. Brosens, Senior Manager: Brand, Marketing & Communications introduced the Recognition of Student Artwork,

*"The York Catholic District School Board is honoured to present a collection of artwork, thoughtfully crafted by the students and staff from our 17 secondary schools. As our Board continues to grow, we have embraced this opportunity to refresh our boardroom with artwork that embodies the theme, "We are Diverse, We are One in Christ". Each of our schools contributed a stunning 60" x 60" canvas piece that reflects our shared faith, celebrates our multicultural heritage and highlights the unique voices of our school communities. Officially hung up for display at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, these beautiful works of art stand as powerful symbols of our commitment to honouring the diversity that enriches our board while grounding ourselves in the unity of Christ's love. We called upon our students and staff to tap into their God-given talents, creating pieces that resonate with the spirit of inclusivity and faith that defines our Catholicity. These 17 canvases, each an original work of art, will grace our boardroom for many years, reminding us of the talent, dedication and faith-driven creativity that flourish within our schools. The previous artwork will be relocated within the Catholic Education Centre."*

The Board of Trustees presented framed awards to each school to be mounted back at their school. Photos were taken with each group:

Cardinal Carter CHS	St. Katharine Drexel CHS	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS
Our Lady of the Lake CA	Sacred Heart CHS	St. Augustine CHS
St. Robert CHS	Fr. Michael McGivney CA	St. Br. Andre CHS
Our Lady Queen of the World CA		St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS
St. Joan of Arc CHS	Holy Cross CA	Fr. Bressani CHS
St. Elizabeth CHS	St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS	St. Luke CLC

**2024:562 DELEGATIONS: NIL****2024:563 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:****a) Math Achievement Action Plan - Year 2**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment led the Math Achievement Action Plan Year 2 with Math Consultants Robert Ball and Maria Rosa Schneiring. The team provided highlights on the commitment made in 2023-24 by Ontario School Boards to the improvement of student achievement in mathematics. A presentation outlined the Year 2 strategy and highlighted the goals and focus of the Plan. It also highlighted the use of the Ministry funding to support staff resources and learning tools and the implementation strategy. YCDSB continues to be a leader in the province with the achievements of students in Mathematics. It was noted that the Grade 3 students from 21-22 will be tested again in 24-25 and results will be compared.

The Board of Trustees acknowledged the hard work and perseverance of students and parents.

**2024:564 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)****a) APPROVAL OF MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment presented, for receipt, the Math Achievement Action Plan - Year 2 for approval.

**MOTION: Cotton/Saggese**

**THAT** the YCDSB Math Achievement Action Plan - Year 2 be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**b) RENAMING OF BLESSED SCALABRINI CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

L. Sawicky, Superintendent of Education presented, for approval, the background information on the canonization by Pope Francis where he proclaimed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini a saint on October 9, 2022.

**MOTION: Wigston/Grella**

**THAT** the Board approve to change the name of Blessed Scalabrini Catholic School to “St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini Catholic School” and approve the name change on the boulevard sign as well as the exterior school lettering.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**c) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:04 POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, M. Iafrate, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:04 of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on September 30, 2024.

**MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton**

**THAT** the Board approve the following NEW policy:  
Policy 120 Information Systems Security

**THAT** the Board approve the following revised policies:

Policy 606 Catholic School Council

Policy 610 Cannabis, Electronic Cigarettes, Tobacco - A Smoke Free Environment

Policy 617 (formerly 117) Code of Conduct

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**d) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 AD-HOC UNIFORM FUND COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, J. Wigston, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Ad-Hoc Uniform Fund Committee meeting held on October 9, 2024.

**MOTION: Wigston/Iafrate**

**THAT** the Terms of Reference for the Ad-Hoc Uniform Fund Committee be approved.

**THAT** up to \$60K be allocated to the Skills Trades & Technology Academy from the school uniform commission revenue since the program will be available to all YCDSB secondary students interested in exploring a career in the trades.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:04 CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, C. Cotton, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:04 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on October 15, 2024.

**MOTION: Cotton/Barbieri**

**THAT** Report No. 2024:04 of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on October 15, 2024, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**g) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:10 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:10 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 21, 2024.

**MOTION: Grella/Wigston**

**THAT** Report No. 2024:10 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on October 21, 2024, be received as presented.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

**2024:565 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL****2024:566 INFORMATION ITEM(S):****a) YCDSB Inviting and Inclusive Schools: Foundational Year**

S. Wright, Superintendent of Inviting and Inclusive Schools provided the details and actions for the Foundational Year of Inviting and Inclusive Schools, including equity, accessibility, anti-racism strategies and fostering an inclusive environment. Trustees asked that future reports be formatted with a graph.

**b) EQAO 2023-2024 Update - Gr. 3, 6, 9, OSSLT**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment provided the results of the 2023-24 EQAO for Grade 3 and 6 Reading, Writing and Math, Grade 9 Math and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

**c) Policy 115 Perquisites - Annual Report**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided a nil report for the annual summary of perquisites received for the 2023-24 school year, in accordance with *Policy 115 Perquisites*.

**d) Trustee Honoraria Term November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025**

C. McNeil, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of the Board provided the Trustee Honoraria for the November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025 term as per Policy 114 Trustee Honorarium. It was noted that the honorarium is calculated based on a base amount plus the regular day school average daily enrolment (ADE) of the previous school year, as reflected in the Revised Estimates.

**e) Role of the HREA Office in Handling Complaints**

A. Battick, Human Rights and Equity Advisor provided a report to outline the process and responsibilities of his office in relation to complaints disposition. A proposal was made for the use of the Human Rights Screen Tool.

**f) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Fundraiser**

S. Wright, Superintendent of Inviting and Inclusive Schools provided an update on the Board's participation in the October 17, 2024 fundraising campaign for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty which successfully raised \$23K.  
*Post Meeting - a total of \$39K was raised.*

**g) Rescheduling of Committee Meetings**

J. De Faveri, Interim Director of Education provided information to support rescheduling of Committee meetings that immediately follow long weekends in order to recognize the imposition on family time that is otherwise required by Trustees and staff. The following Executive Committee meetings will be rescheduled:  
February 18 to February 19, 2025  
April 22 to April 23, 2025  
May 20 to May 21, 2025

**h) Update on TRUSTEE MOTION: An Audience with Ontario Bishops to Discuss Growing Secularism in Catholic Schools**

J. De Faveri, Interim Director provided an update on Trustee Alexander's request for an audience with Bishop Boissonneau which took place on September 4, 2024. A copy of the agenda was included.

**i) 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.*

This Motion will be a Discussion item at the November 26, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

**j) Update on Sacred Heart of Jesus Image**

J. De Faveri, Interim Director provided an update on the Sacred Heart of Jesus image further to the presentation at the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Acknowledging the cultural diversity in school communities and in keeping with the Board's commitment to inclusivity, a limited leeway on the timing of the image's display was granted.

**k) November 2024 Calendar**

The November 2024 calendar was provided.

**2024:567 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**

**2024:568 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**RECESS AT 9:12 PM TO RESUME THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**RESUME THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT 9:28 PM**

**2024:569 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports) - CONTINUED**

**a) REPORT NO. 2024:28 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - OCTOBER 29, 2024**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:28 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on October 29, 2024.

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

**(ii) CLASSIFIED:**

**MOTION: Iafrate/Barbieri**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held October 29, 2024, be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**2024:569      PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**2024:570      ADJOURNMENT – 9:29 PM**  
**ON MOTION: Saggese/Grella and CARRIED**

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**Secretary of the Board**

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**Chair of the Board**