

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

**PRESENT:**

Members: In Person: F. Alexander, C. Cotton, E. Crowe, M. Iafrate, A. Grella, A. Saggese, J. Wigston  
Student Trustees S. Cuesta, M. Galstyan  
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, A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, J. Powers, L. Sawicky, S. Wright, K. Scanlon  
Virtual: N/A

Absent with Notice: Trustees M. Barbieri, J. DiMeo

Approved Absence: Trustee T. McNicol

Recording Officer: S. Greco (In Person)

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

**2024:483 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone to the Regular Board meeting at 7:31 pm. The meeting began with prayer, followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

**Acknowledgement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Image**

Special recognition was given to the Knights of Columbus (York Region Chapters) for providing framed prints of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to distribute to all schools. Gratitude was extended to Trustee Angela Saggese, Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate and Principal David Pimentel for facilitating the plan.

**2024:484 ROLL CALL:** Trustees M. Barbieri, J. DiMeo, T. McNicol - Absent with Notice

**2024:485 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:**

*YCPIC Report to Board*

*New Page 26 for Item 16e*

**MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton**

**THAT** the new material be received as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**2024:486 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION: Wigston/Iafrate**

**THAT** the revised agenda be approved as amended.

- MOTION CARRIED -

**2024:487 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CURRENT MEETING:**

Trustee Angela Saggese declared a conflict of interest for 16a as her son is an Administrator.

**2024:488 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL**

- 2024:489 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**  
Regular Board Meeting of August 27, 2024

**MOTION: Cotton/lafrate**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting August 27, 2024 be approved as presented.  
**– MOTION CARRIED –**

- 2024:490 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Chair Elizabeth Crowe read a statement on behalf of Trustee Theresa McNicol,

*“I want to apologize for taping Trustee DiMeo at the Board Meeting. I was distraught and his typing was distracting while I was trying to focus on the budget presentation.”*

- 2024:491 CHAIR’S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**

Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, provided the Chair’s Board Report as part of the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Update, Minister Calandra Visits St. Patrick CES in Markham, Upcoming Board Retirement, Official Blessing of Blessed Chiara Badano CES and St. Katharine Drexel CHS, Student Artwork at Vaughan Culture Days, Recognizing Student Artwork in the Boardroom. Chair Crowe highlighted Student Trustee Monica Galstyan who was named V.P. of the Catholic Board Council of OSTA-AECO. Chair Crowe complimented Student Trustee Galstyan stating she is a “great Catholic leader”.

- 2024:492 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 September 24, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included OCSTA AGM Resolutions, Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association (CCSTA), September Board of Directors Meeting, Fall Regional Meetings,, Upcoming Short-Video Contest, OCSTA New Office.

- 2024:493 DIRECTOR’S REPORT/ UPDATE:**

Interim Director of Education, J. De Faveri, provided his Director’s Report in the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Interim Director De Faveri’s topics included Recognizing Our Amazing Staff, September 27, 2024 Faith Day, Updated Joint Police Protocol Signing, Fundraiser for National Day for the Elimination of Poverty, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Walk to School with Mayor Del Duca.

- 2024:494 STUDENT TRUSTEES’ REPORT:**

Student Trustees Monica Galstyan and Sabine Cuesta provided their Student Trustee Report to Board Report in the September 24, 2024 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included Back to School, Terry Fox Run, OCSTA Regional Meeting, First YSCPC Executive Meeting & Team Introduction, OSTA-AECO Catholic Cabinet.

- 2024:495 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL**

- 2024:496 DELEGATIONS: NIL**

- 2024:497 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:**

**a) YCDSB Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence**

A. Arcadi, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment provided an overview of the YCDSB *Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence*. Mr. Arcadi noted that using the *Artificial Intelligence Tool Evaluation Rubric Framework*, allows teachers the opportunity to make informed decisions. A copy of the YCDSB *Guidelines for Artificial Intelligence* were provided.

The document states that, *as digital disciples, we approach the benefits and challenges of AI through our Catholicity. Aligning with our multi-year strategic plan (MYSP), by integrating AI thoughtfully, we commit to inclusion, excellence, and innovation, ensuring all students can become socially responsible global citizens, as outlined in our Board's vision statement.*

*Guidelines are presented within three overarching and interconnected topics: ethical and privacy considerations, curriculum and assessment, and tools and resources. Mindful of the rapid evolution of AI, the information contained herein is dynamic and subject to review, revision, or supplementation. No position is taken on whether AI should be adopted.*

The Board of Trustees asked that this topic be further discussed at an upcoming Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting. The Board of Trustees were asked to send their questions to Mr. Arcadi.

2024:498

**ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)**

**a) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:25 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented, for approval, Report No. 2024:25 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on September 24, 2024.

Trustee Angela Saggese declared a conflict of interest for the first declassified item as her son is an Administrator and requested that the report be split so she could vote on the remaining items.

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

**MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton**

**a) Ratification of Tentative Settlement (Central Terms)**

THAT the York Catholic District School Board approve the central terms and conditions of employment contained within the Memorandum of Settlement and attached Appendix, dated August 10, 2024, made between the Principals' and Vice-Principals' Associations comprised of (Association des Directions et Directions Adjointes des Ecoles Franco-Ontarienne (ADFO), the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) and the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC) and the l'Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACEPO), l'Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC), the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and agreed to by the Crown. Further that the approval of the motion of the central terms be reported to OCSTA.

**-MOTION CARRIED-**

*NOTE: Trustee Saggese did not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on this matter*

**MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton**

**b) Excused Leave of Absence**

THAT Trustee McNicol's request for a medical leave of absence is approved, and she is authorized to be absent from all regular meetings of the Board starting September 24, 2024 until March 31, 2025. Upon request from Trustee McNicol in writing, the duration of the leave can be modified (reduced or extended) as required.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

(ii) **CLASSIFIED:**

**MOTION: lafrate/Wigston**

**THAT** the confidential action items from the Private Session held September 24, 2024, be approved as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**b) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:09 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, A. Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:09 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on September 16, 2024.

**MOTION: Grella/Wigston**

**THAT** Report No. 2024:09 of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on September 16, 2024, be received as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**c) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:02 AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair, M. lafrate, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:02 of the Audit Committee meeting held on September 18, 2024.

**MOTION: lafrate/Saggese**

**2024-25 Audit Plan – Approval of Initial Engagement**

**THAT** the Audit Committee approves the inclusion in the Regional Internal Audit Team's Plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year (currently in development) of an audit of Expense Reimbursements for Trustees and Senior Administration.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:05 YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Committee Member Frank Alexander, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:05 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on September 23, 2024.

**MOTION: Alexander/Saggese**

**THAT** Report No. 2024:05 of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on September 23, 2024, be received as presented.

**– MOTION CARRIED –**

**e) OPERATIONAL BY-LAW CHANGE: ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Chair Elizabeth Crowe, presented for approval, the proposed By-Law Changes with reference to the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meetings

**MOTION: lafrate/Grella**

**THAT** changes to Board By Laws 3.1.1, 3.1.2 a, b, c, d, 3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.2, 3.1.2.3, 3.1.2.4, 4.1.6.1, 4.1.6.2, 4.1.6.2(a) and 4.1.7.2 (c) and (d) be approved as presented at the September 24, 2024 Board meeting.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**f) RESCIND TRUSTEE MOTION: FRENCH IMMERSION AT ST. JOAN OF ARC CHS**

Trustee Maria lafrate presented, on behalf of the Chair of the Board Elizabeth Crowe, information on a previous Board motion approved by the Board of Trustees at the March 21, 2024 Special Board Meeting regarding starting a French Immersion (FI) program at St. Joan of Arc CHS. Discussion was held at the September 18, 2024 Public Executive Meeting regarding the ability to offer this program for September 2025 at this time.

**MOTION: Iafrate/Cotton**

**THAT** the Board rescind the MOTION:

*THAT St. Joan of Arc Catholic high school offer the French Immersion program to commence September 2024.*

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**g) O.A.P.C.E. MEMBERSHIP**

J. De Faveri, Interim Director of Education shared information on the O.A.P.C.E. membership. Mr. De Faveri advised that the Board has a responsibility to monitor expenditures and suggested that the Board take a pause from this membership.

**MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese**

**THAT** the Board not renew its OAPCE 2024-25 Membership

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**2024:499 DISCUSSION ITEM(S): NIL**

**2024:500 INFORMATION ITEM(S):**  
**a) October 2024 Calendar**  
The October 2024 calendar was provided.

**2024:501 NOTICES OF MOTION: NIL**

**2024:502 FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**2024:503 PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

**2024:504 ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 PM**  
**ON MOTION: Grella/Iafrate and CARRIED**

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Secretary of the Board

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Chair of the Board