

*Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board  
Meeting of the Committee of the Whole – Tuesday, June 16, 2009*

**PRESENT AT MEETING:**

**Trustees:** Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Bonnie McKinnon,  
Joe McPherson and June Szeman

**Administration:** Cathy Horgan, Director of Education and Secretary  
Wally Easton, Associate Director and Treasurer;  
Bill Chopp, Trish Kings, Chris Roehrig, Superintendents of Education and  
Linda Luciani, Recording Secretary

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Joe McPherson.

**OPENING PRAYER:**

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

**B. ROUTINE MATTERS:**

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dennis Blake and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the June 16, 2009 meeting with the addition of Unapproved Accommodations Committee Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2009 as Item #D4.

CARRIED

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Trustees Bonnie McKinnon and June Szeman declared a conflict of interest regarding Item #5i, 2009-10 Budget, specifically the Salary and Benefits Budget included in the Unapproved Budget Committee Meeting Minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting. Trustee Dan Dignard declared a conflict of interest regarding In-Camera Item #6.2, Unapproved In-Camera Accommodations Committee Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2009.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dennis Blake and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 19, 2009.

CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nil.**

### **C. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS:**

Superintendent of Education, Bill Chopp introduced Carmen McDermid, a System Special Education Resource Teacher (System SERT) who is responsible for the programming of the Gifted Program in the Special Education Department. Carmen reported that the Department purchased two computer programs: Story Book and Memory Writer. Gifted students were then invited to the Fatima Resource Centre to compose two books using these programs. One book was to be personal in nature and the students were asked to write about something they were passionate about, i.e., their families, a hobby, an area of interest, etc. The students were also asked to write about their school as a topic for the second book. Each book was then professionally printed and a copy was given to each student and their school.

### **D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

#### **D.1 APPROVED MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FROM May 13, 2009**

Trustee Dennis Blake reported on the progress of two students that the Committee have been monitoring as Case Studies. The Council for Exceptional Children held an Awards Night on May 27, 2009 and many of our students and staff were honoured. An Assistive Technology evening was held at the Fatima Resource Centre and was well received by parents.

#### **Resolved:**

On the motion of Dennis Blake and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole receive the approved minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting from May 13, 2009.

CARRIED

#### **D.2i APPROVED MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING FROM MAY 19, 2009**

Trustee Dennis Blake reported that goals and objectives for 2009-10 were discussed. Preliminary revenue estimates of approximately \$109.5 million were reviewed. Projected expenditure estimates of \$110.3 million exceeded revenues by approximately \$800,000 and staff will provide recommendations to balance the budget.

#### **Resolved:**

On the motion of Dennis Blake and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the approved minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting of May 19, 2009. Approval was requested for the following recommendations:

THAT the Budget Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the following goals for the 2009-10 Budget:

- High levels of student achievement.
- Reduced gaps in student achievement.
- High levels of public confidence in public education.
- Enhanced faith development of students and staff.

THAT the Budget Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the Revenue Estimates report.

THAT the Budget Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the Expenditures Estimates report.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve and refer the recommendations from the Budget Committee Meeting of May 19, 2009 to the Board.

CARRIED

**D.2ii UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING FROM JUNE 9, 2009**

Trustee Dennis Blake reported that a balanced budget of approximately \$110 million, approximately \$4 million more than last year, was achieved.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dennis Blake and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting of June 9, 2009. Approval was requested for the following recommendations:

THAT the Budget Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the 2009-10 Salary and Benefits Budget in the amount of \$86,541,618.

THAT the Budget Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the 2009-10 Operations Budget in the amount of \$23,274,695.

THAT the Budget Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the 2009-10 Capital Budget in the amount of \$15,908,733.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve and refer the recommendations from the Budget Committee Meeting of June 9, 2009 to the Board.

CARRIED

**D.3 UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM THE FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FROM MAY 21, 2009**

Chair June Szeman reported that the Board's themes were introduced:

2009-10: Because We Believe, Our Catholic Faith Comes Alive in our Hearts.  
2010-11: Because We Believe, Our Catholic Faith Comes Alive in our Schools.  
2011-12: Because We Believe, Our Catholic Faith Comes Alive in our World

The Committee also adopted the virtues of faith, hope, love, temperance, prudence, justice and fortitude for our Board.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dennis Blake and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole receive the unapproved minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee Meeting from May 21, 2009.

CARRIED

**D.4 UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM THE ACCOMMODATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING FROM JUNE 15, 2009**

Chair June Szeman reported that the Committee recommended not proceeding with the consolidation of Our Lady of LaSalette and St. Frances Cabrini Schools and deferred a decision on the consolidation of Resurrection and St. Leo Schools. The Long-Term Renewal Plan was discussed. Much of the \$12 million of work is in the mechanical, electrical and building automation systems. As well, there are also significant structural and roofing costs over the next five years. Associate Director and Treasurer, Wally Easton will distribute copies of the chart which identifies all projects by school, type of project and funding source to trustees.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of June Szeman and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole receive the unapproved minutes from the Accommodations Committee Meeting from June 15, 2009. Approval was requested for the following recommendations:

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board review the Watson and Associates, Inc. recommendation to consolidate St. Leo School and Resurrection School in 2012-13.

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board complete an Attendance Area Review for St. John's College and Assumption College School in 2010-11.

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board complete an Attendance Area Review for Note Dame and St. Patrick's Schools in Caledonia in 2009-10.

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the following projects:

- School Renewal Projects of \$5.1 million for the years 2008-14.
- Energy Efficient Schools Projects for the years 2008-10.
- Good Places to Learn Projects for 2008-10.

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board designate a parcel of land identified as Part Lots 1 to 3, Concession 5, Urban Area of Simcoe, Norfolk County for use as a future school site.

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve and refer the recommendations from the Accommodations Committee Meeting of June 15, 2009 to the Board.

CARRIED

#### **D.5 TUITION FEES FOR NON-RESIDENT IN ONTARIO STUDENTS**

Associate Director & Treasurer, Wally Easton reported that the average cost to educate a student has increased. Under the Education Act, school boards must charge tuition fees for students who are not resident in Ontario. The grant formula contains a calculation for the minimum a school board can charge for tuition fees, however, many school boards charge in excess of the grant. As well, many school boards charge a non-refundable administration/application fee.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the annual tuition fee of \$11,500 for secondary international students, as defined by the Education Act.

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve a non-refundable Administration/Application Fee of \$200.

CARRIED

#### **D.6 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION WALKING DISTANCE**

Associate Director and Treasurer, Wally Easton reported that the Ministry of Education, through their Efficiency and Effectiveness Reviews, have asked Transportation Consortia in all school boards to harmonize their walking distances. The general trend for elementary students is 1.6 kilometers and 3.2 kilometers for secondary students. These walking distances have been established in the City of Brantford and in Brant County. He reported that

Transportation Department staff will take into account any hazards such as four-lane major roads, rivers, bridges, etc. and exemptions to the walking distance will be made accordingly. Administration will examine the routes, refine any hazardous areas, discuss the changes with various school communities and refine the routes once again as required. These changes will become effective on September 1, 2010.

Some trustees expressed concern that 1.6 kilometers may be too long for Junior Kindergarten students. They suggested that perhaps the walking distance be adjusted for all areas, i.e., increase the walking distance in the Haldimand and Norfolk areas and decrease the walking distance in the City of Brantford and in Brant County. Trustees asked that Administration examine the implications of a walking distance of 1.3 kilometers for elementary schools and provide a report at the Board Meeting on June 23, 2009.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and June Szeman, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve Student Transportation Walking Distances of 1.6 kilometers for all elementary students and 3.2 kilometers for secondary students, effective September 1, 2010.

TABLED

**D.7 ATTENDANCE SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

Associate Director & Treasurer, Wally Easton reported that the Operational Review completed by the Ministry of Education recommended that school boards develop an attendance management strategy for all employee groups. An Attendance Management module may be purchased for the Board's Human Resources system, iSYS. This Attendance Module will assist in the tracking of absenteeism, the patterns of absence, etc. for all employees. The hiring of an Attendance Support Coordinator will assist in the development of an Attendance Support Program. The goal of the Program is to improve the absenteeism of employees with above average days of absence, thus, reducing the Board's costs due to absenteeism.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and June Szeman, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the implementation of an Attendance Support Program at a cost of \$29,000.

On the motion of Dan Dignard and June Szeman, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the position of Attendance Support Coordinator, effective September 1, 2009 with an annual salary grid of:

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| Start  | \$64,427 |
| Year 1 | \$67,356 |
| Year 2 | \$70,285 |
| Year 3 | \$73,213 |

CARRIED

**D.8 EXCURSION: ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE ART DEPARTMENT TO GREECE**

Superintendent of Education, Chris Roehrig requested permission for Grade 10 to Grade 12 students from St. John's College to participate in an excursion to Greece.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the request from St. John's College for an excursion to Greece from Friday, March 12, 2010 to Saturday, March 20, 2010.

CARRIED

**D.9 EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP SUMMARY REPORT**

Superintendent of Education, Chris Roehrig provided trustees with a summary of field trips that have been approved by the Board during the period February 2, 2009 to June 2009.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the Educational Field Trip Summary report.

CARRIED

**D.10 ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST RESULTS – MARCH 2009**

Superintendent of Education, Chris Roehrig provided trustees with an overview of the results from the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for secondary students in our Board. He reported that more detailed information regarding unsuccessful students will be forwarded to the Board in late August 2009. He provided highlights of the report and specific elements of next year's Plan.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Results – March 2009 report.

CARRIED

**E. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

Director of Education, Cathy Horgan read a letter from Premier Dalton McGuinty, which was addressed to Superintendent of Education, Bill Chopp, congratulating the Board on their *Hole in One* DVD, a story about anxiety disorders for children.

Chair June Szeman reminded trustees of the Social with the Grand Erie District School Board on Monday, June 22, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Brantford Club.

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis Blake, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receive the information and correspondence items since the last meeting.

CARRIED

**F. NOTICES OF MOTION: Nil.**

**G. TRUSTEE INQUIRIES:**

Trustee Dennis Blake inquired if trustees would receive Class Organization reports in June. Director of Education, Cathy Horgan reported that it had been the Board's custom to distribute the report in September.

Trustee Dan Dignard reported that a request may be forthcoming from the County of Brant requesting the Board's support in the construction of a twin pad hockey arena for Brant County.

**H. BUSINESS IN-CAMERA:**

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Dan Dignard and Dennis, that the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board move to an In-Camera session.

CARRIED

**I. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION:**

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Bonnie McKinnon and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the business of the In-camera session.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Peter Svec for the position of Program Consultant: Pathways to Success, effective September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve Agnes Grafton for the position of Secondary Program Consultant, effective September 2009 to June 2012.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve Derek MacEachen for the position of Department Head – Religious Studies, effective September 2009 to June 2012.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve Mariette Lauriault for the position of Department Head – Special Education, effective September 2009 to June 2012.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve Karen Wilkinson for the position of Elementary Program Consultant, effective September 2009 to June 2012.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board terminate the contract of James Ali, Behaviour Therapist, effective August 31, 2009.

CARRIED

**J. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Trustees were invited to look over the 2008-09 Meetings and Events that were included in the agenda package.

**K. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolved:**

On the motion of Bonnie McKinnon and Dan Dignard, that the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourn the meeting of June 16, 2009.

CARRIED