



Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 27, 2011 7:00 pm
Boardroom

Trustees:

Present: Cliff Casey (Chair), June Szeman (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Bonnie McKinnon, Rick Petrella, Maxine Smitiuch (Student Trustee)

Absent:

Senior Administration:

Cathy Horgan (Director of Education & Secretary), Wally Easton (Associate Director, Corporate Services & Treasurer), Bill Chopp, Trish Kings and Chris Roehrig (Superintendents of Education), Tom Grice (Assistant Superintendent of Business)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Cliff Casey. Trustee Dignard read a Memorial Statement for Lewis Fintas, former trustee with the Brant County Roman Catholic School Board.

1.2 Attendance – as noted above

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Agenda of the September 27, 2011 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

2. Presentations

2.1 Chair Casey extended the Board's congratulations to Dr. Dina Dalia, Principal, on the occasion of her retirement in June, 2011. Although Dr. Dalia was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Casey shared a summary of her career and distinguished accomplishments.

3. Delegations

3.1 In a presentation regarding the Accommodation Review of St. Mary, Brantford, Ian Rolls-Carson, Chair of the St. Mary School Catholic Parent Council, presented trustees with a list of requests that he felt would assist in the transfer of St. Mary students to Holy Cross school, should the Board proceed with the closure of St. Mary's school at the end of June, 2012.



4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1 THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes from the June 28, 2011 Board meeting.

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves all reports and motions under the Consent Agenda.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 20, 2011

Vice Chair June Szeman reviewed the highlights from the September 20, 2011 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. She extended the Board's congratulations to many schools across the system for the excellent results on the Grades 3, 6 and 9 EQAO assessments from last spring, as well as the success of the Summer Literacy Program for primary students. In presenting the recommendations from Committee of the Whole to Board for approval, Trustee Blake requested that the first item dealing with the Accommodation Review of St. Mary School be dealt with separately. The following recommendations were then voted on:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves Pearson PowerSchool as the Board Student Information System to complete the remaining four years of the current contract with Pearson Education Inc. (eSIS).

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Student Transportation Agreement, as attached.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 20, 2011.

Carried

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 20, 2011.

Carried



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Discussion on the St. Mary Accommodation Review recommendation followed. Trustee Petrella asked if all current St. Mary school students will be transferred. Director Horgan confirmed that all students would move to Holy Cross. Trustee Petrella reiterated his strong opposition to closing the school and reviewed the reasons he had presented at the September 20, 2011 Committee of the Whole meeting. Trustee Petrella requested a recorded vote. Trustee Blake asked if St. Mary's literacy materials as well as Smart Boards would transfer to Holy Cross. Associate Director Easton responded that he anticipates that all materials will move with the students and will benefit all Holy Cross/St. Mary's students. Trustee Blake inquired as to the increased cost for busing, including having to hire buses to transport double the students at Holy Cross to Our Lady of Assumption Church for mass. Associate Director Easton advised that following the transportation formula, there will be no extra cost to the Board to bus students to Holy Cross as students can be accommodated on existing routes. As for busing costs for mass attendance, Associate Director Easton explained that schools have funds in their school budgets to offset the costs of various activities like sports events, attending mass, etc. There is also a small central fund for busing students to masses. Trustee Blake also inquired if portables will need to be added at Holy Cross school as the combined student population will exceed the capacity of the Holy Cross building. Associate Director confirmed that as had been anticipated all along, one or two portables will need to be added in the first couple of years. This year's enrolment at Holy Cross is higher, which is unusual for this school. Trustee Blake reiterated his opposition to closing a school that is being fully utilized now that the lower level is occupied by Child Youth Workers and the Alternative Education program and that Watson's enrolment projections are not always correct. He stated that the numbers are not adding up. Chair Casey stated his intention to vote on this item.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the closure of St. Mary School, Brantford, effective June 30, 2012 and transfers the students of St. Mary School to Holy Cross School.

Trustee Blake	No
Trustee Casey	Yes
Trustee Dignard	Yes
Trustee McKinnon	Yes
Trustee Petrella	No
Trustee Szeman	Yes

Carried

Trustee Szeman commented that she had been present at all Accommodation Review Committee meetings and asked for several assurances including that money be allocated for the transition of students to Holy Cross, that transportation routes be closely examined, that funds be provided for children to attend mass regularly, that funding be made available for integration activities prior to the move, and that all pupils be transferred to Holy Cross. She also suggested that additional funding for curriculum resources in the literacy and numeracy areas be considered to maintain the high academic standards, and that all equipment like Smart Boards be moved to Holy Cross. She also hoped that asbestos standards have been met and will be maintained.



5.2 Debenture Re-Financing

Assistant Superintendent of Business Grice advised that one of the debentures issued in 2001 to finance the construction of Holy Trinity Catholic High School and Our Lady of Providence Catholic Elementary Schools is scheduled for re-financing in October 2011. He provided trustees with the details of the re-financing terms.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the issue of a debenture, in the amount of \$2,833,671, in accordance with the attached By-Law Number 2011-A1.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 Chair Casey reminded trustees of the three upcoming OCSTA events (Fall Regional Meeting, Labour Relations Seminar and Human Resources Professional Development seminar).

6.2 Director Horgan updated trustees on the system-wide launch of the Year 3 Board Theme, *Because We Believe ... Our Faith Comes Alive in our Community*, held earlier in the day. Trustees were provided with background information leading up the creation of a theme song and dance, received a copy of the planning guide provided to Principals to assist them with the implementation of the theme, and viewed the DVD used in the school assemblies across the system.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the information and correspondence items since the last meeting.

Carried

7. Notices of Motion - Nil

8. Trustee Inquiries

Trustee Szeman inquired as to how quickly the Board intends on moving ahead with accommodation reviews of other schools in the system. Chair Casey referred this question to Executive Council for consideration.

Trustee Szeman commented on the information trustees had received regarding the transfer of students from the two Caledonia Catholic schools to public schools. She requested reasons for the student moves from Notre Dame School, which was not indicated on the chart. Director Horgan advised that this information would be sent to trustees in the near future.

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board moves to an in-camera session.

Carried



10. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business from the in-camera session.

Carried

11. Future Meetings

The list of upcoming year-end meetings and events was reviewed by Trustees.

12. Closing Prayer

A closing prayer was recited in unison.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: June Szeman

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the meeting of September 27, 2011.

Carried