



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 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.

1.2 Attendance – as noted above

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: June Szeman

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Agenda of the December 13, 2011 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

2. Presentations

Chair Casey extended the Board's congratulations to Rebecca Lacroix, a Grade 12 student from Holy Trinity Catholic High School, for her winning design of the annual Board Christmas card. Ms. Lacroix was unable to be in attendance.

Chair Casey welcomed players, coaches and volunteers of the Assumption College School Junior Football Team and offered the Board's congratulations on the team winning the 2011 Ontario Regional Junior Football Championship game. The team was one of six regional teams who competed in the provincial playdowns, and were victorious in the championship game against Whitby. Kent Dixon, Head Coach, distributed certificates to those in attendance and were congratulated by Mr. Casey.

Chair Casey extended the Board's congratulations to Anne Evanoff, elementary Principal, who is retiring at the end of December. Director Horgan commented that several school communities had benefitted from Ms. Evanoff's work and dedication during her ten years with the Board.



Chair Casey congratulated Mary Gallo, Principal of Program: Secondary on her upcoming retirement at the end of December. Mrs. Gallo has been a teacher, secondary Vice-Principal and system Principal during her 35-year career with the Board. She was commended by Director Horgan for her work in support of students at risk over the past few years.

3. Delegations - Nil

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1 THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes from the November 22, 2011 Board meeting.
- 4.2 THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Minutes from the December 6, 2011 Annual Meeting of the Board.
- 4.3 THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting of November 9, 2011.
- 4.4 THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee meeting of November 30, 2011.

Trustee Blake inquired as to the status of his request at the November 22, 2011 Board meeting for additional information regarding the elementary progress report card. Superintendent Roehrig will send to all trustees an electronic copy of a short presentation he has prepared on this subject.

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

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

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Accommodations Committee meeting of December 6, 2011

In reviewing the minutes from the December 6, 2011 meeting of the Accommodations Committee, Dan Dignard, Chair of the Committee, commented that having two staff members trained on conducting public consultations will assist with the process for future Accommodation Review Committee studies. He also noted that the five-year school renewal plan is a well-managed plan. He presented the following recommendations for approval:

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves that two staff members receive training through the International Association for Public Participation at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

THAT the Accommodations Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Five-Year School Renewal Plan.



Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes from the December 6, 2011 Accommodations Committee meeting.

Carried

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations from the December 6, 2011 Accommodations Committee meeting.

Carried

5.2 Financial Statements – Year Ended August 31, 2011

Trustee Petrella, Chair of the Audit Committee, reported that Cameron Johnston of Millard, Rouse & Rosebrugh LLP had reviewed the financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2011 at the Audit Committee meeting of December 7, 2011. He commented that the Board had another successful year resulting in an operating surplus of approximately \$1.5 million. He also explained some of the changes to the disclosure requirements resulting from the final phase-in of the revised Public Sector Accounting Board legislation. No accounting issues or internal control problem were encountered during the audit. Mr. Petrella thanked the finance staff for their work. Trustee Blake made a motion that the auditors present the financial statements not only to the Audit Committee, but also at a Board meeting. The motion was not seconded. Trustee Dignard requested and received clarification regarding underspending of the budget in certain areas.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2011.

Carried

5.3 Insurance Renewal

Associate Director Easton reported that the Board's annual insurance premiums have been relatively stable over the past couple of years. The cost of insurance covered by the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) reflects a nominal rate increased (2%) for base liability insurance, and no increase in the areas of property, boiler, crime and automobile insurance.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2012 insurance renewal premium, payable to the Ontario School Board's Insurance Exchange, in the amount of \$209,114.70, plus PST.

Carried

5.4 Robotics and Pathways Program

Superintendent Roehrig provided trustees with an update regarding the new VEX Robotics and Pathways program being introduced in Grade 8 classrooms this year. This new technology initiative is aligned with the revised Science and Technology curriculum. He introduced Dennis Perras, Itinerant Technology teacher who provided an overview of the program. He commented that in the fifteen classrooms that he has worked in to date, students are engaged and he has observed enhanced problem solving and listening skills, teamwork and cooperation. Mr. Perras'



son, Bennett, demonstrated a robotics vehicle that he had constructed in class. A VEX Robotics Competition is planned for the late spring. Grades 7/8 and 8 students will also participate in a two-day hands-on technology experience at their feeder secondary school during the January exam week, while students in Grades 6/7 and 7 will do the same during the June exam week.

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: June Szeman

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Robotics and Pathways report.

Carried

5.5 Excursion – New York City

Superintendent Roehrig reported that approximately ten Grade 12 Specialist High Skills Major Hospitality students from St. John's College have an opportunity to participate in a four-day field trip to New York City during the March Break to participate in culinary and educational activities in support of the classroom curriculum. In response to Trustee Blake's question regarding school visits to area culinary schools, Superintendent Roehrig confirmed that several local field trips to Norfolk, Hamilton and Toronto have taken place and that details of these trips would be sent to trustees.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from St. John's College for an excursion to New York City, NY from Saturday, March 10, 2012 to Tuesday, March 13, 2012.

Carried

5.6 Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Smitiuch reported that Student Senators were progressing well in their planning for the annual Student Leadership Symposium which will be held in May. She also updated trustees on recent events held at the secondary schools including the annual Remembrance Day service and launch of the Pennies From Heaven campaign at Assumption College School, a Bullying Awareness Week and Coffee House held at Holy Trinity during November, and the annual Remembrance Day service and launch of the Angel Campaign at St. John's College. Leadership students at St. John's also organized a successful "11:11 Make A Wish" event with proceeds being donated to the Make a Wish Foundation.

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Student Trustee Report.

Carried



6. Information and Correspondence

Chair Casey invited trustees to review a blog by People for Education regarding the closure of schools.

Associate Director Easton, who will retire on December 31, 2011, expressed his thanks to the Board for the opportunities provided to him over the past 18 years with this Board and the former Brant County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. He commended the Board on its many accomplishments and initiatives over the years, which reflect its progressive nature. He also extended his thanks to senior administrators for their commitment and dedication to students, and to Director Horgan for her leadership, particularly in the areas of student achievement and strategic planning.

Director Horgan requested that trustees review information received from OCSTA regarding a possible Certificate in Catholic Education Governance course and advise if they are interested. Trustees were also informed of an invitation from Bishop Fabbro to attend a trustee retreat being planned for March 2012. The following motion was made:

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT any trustee interested in participating in the London Diocese Trustee Retreat on March 23-24, 2012 be reimbursed for expenses as per Board policy.

Carried

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

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 Dignard inquired about Bill 13, which deals with bullying. Chair Casey advised that OCSTA is developing a response to this legislation.

In regards to an inquiry from Trustee Blake regarding the status of portables at St. John's College now that the addition is complete, Associate Director Easton confirmed that approximately 13 portables will be removed. A number of portables at St. Gabriel will also be removed once students transfer to St. Basil.

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the meeting of December 13, 2011.

Carried