



Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2013 ♦ 7:00 pm
Boardroom

Trustees:

Present: Rick Petrella (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Cliff Casey, Dan Dignard, Bonnie McKinnon, Georgia Athanasiou (Student Trustee)

Absent: June Szeman (Chair)

Senior Administration:

Chris N. Roehrig (Director of Education & Secretary), Tom Grice (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer), Bill Chopp, Jamie McKinnon and Leslie Telfer (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Trustee McKinnon. Acting Chair Petrella declared his intention to vote on all items of business.

1.2 Attendance – As noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 22, 2013 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

2. Presentations – Nil

3. Delegations – Nil

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 24, 2013 meeting.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

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 Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 15, 2013

Trustee Casey reviewed the business of the October 15, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting. Trustee Blake requested that the motion regarding the revised Board By-Laws be voted on separately. The following recommendations were presented for approval:

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Electronic Communications and Social Media Use policy to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Hiring – Academic Staff policy to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Board Governance Policy to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the rescinding of Advocacy Policy 700.09 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves continued membership with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and remits the annual fee of \$46,144 for the 2013-14 school year.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Holy Trinity Catholic High School for an excursion to New York City from Thursday, May 15 to Monday, May 19, 2014.

Moved by: Cliff Casey

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School receives the unapproved minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 15, 2013.

Carried

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School approves the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 15, 2013.

Carried



With respect to the revised Board By-Laws, Trustee Blake proposed amendments to Sections 6.2.1.1 and 6.2.2.1, specifically changing the start time of Committee of the Whole and Board meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Trustee Casey seconded the proposed amendment. Trustee Blake explained that due to his workday ending at 6:00 pm and the travel distance, 7:00 pm meetings are a challenge for him. He indicated that when he first became a trustee, meetings started at 7:30 pm and meeting times have been adjusted back and forth over the course of time. He also added that meetings used to last much longer than they currently do, so a 7:30 pm start is a reasonable request. In response to Trustee Blake's comment that the Chair had recently made an arbitrary decision to enforce the meeting time as noted in the Board By-Laws, Acting Chair Petrella clarified that the decision was an adherence to the By-Laws and that no one made an arbitrary decision.

The following amendment was put forward:

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board amend the meeting start time to 7:30 pm in sections 6.2.1.1 and 6.2.2.1 of the proposed revised Board By-Laws.

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Secondary by: Cliff Casey

Defeated

It was noted that 2/3rd majority vote is required to approve revisions to the Board's By-Laws. The following motion was put forward:

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the revised Board By-Laws.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Cliff Casey

Carried

5.2 St. Anthony Daniel School Closure – Brant County Schools Accommodations Review

Director Roehrig advised that, based on a request made by trustees at the September Board meeting, this report contains the requested updated enrolment numbers, as well as projected cost savings. He also drew attention to the chronological summary of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process in the report, which includes a description of the tasks and outcomes. Director Roehrig made the following points:

- to date, 14 meetings to discuss this accommodation review have been held
- should students from St. Anthony Daniel School transfer to Blessed Sacrament, the projected minimum utilization of Blessed Sacrament School between now and 2026 is 86%
- by consolidating both school communities, the Board could reallocate \$326,517 to other priorities in 2014-15
- Over the next 10 years, the Board would be able to re-allocate an estimated \$3.4 million to other educational priorities
- The projected cost to maintain critical elements at St. Anthony Daniel School over the next 10 years is \$0.7 million.



In summary, he noted that staff supports the recommendation made by the Accommodation Review Committee, and added that should the Board support the recommendation, an Integration Committee would be formed to help ensure a smooth transition process for both school communities.

Discussion ensued and questions of clarification were addressed. Trustee Blake reiterated his concerns as to whether all potential options were put on the table and discussed, and whether the right school is being closed based on past and future enrolment trends. He added that in his opinion, it is important for students to be educated in their own community, and that the Board has a responsibility for keeping the face of Catholic education in all local communities. Trustee Dignard, who served on the ARC, commented that both communities are served by the same pastor, so consolidating the schools would be beneficial for sacramental preparations, school-parish events, etc. He added that school boundaries have been adjusted several times over the years in an effort to keep St. Anthony Daniel viable, and that with the low enrolment numbers, it is becoming increasingly challenging to offer viable programming for students, especially as triple grades are a real possibility. He confirmed that the ARC looked at all options and that parents voted unanimously to move all students to Blessed Sacrament School. Trustee Casey commented that although he is not in favour of closing any rural school, the Board has a responsibility for creating a level playing field for all students. He noted that when it costs significantly more to educate students in some schools versus others because of low enrolment, the Board needs to address the inequity. He added that with the projected \$0.7 million required to maintain critical items in the building over the next 10 years, it becomes very expensive to keep the school open. He remarked that the Board has received the recommendation from the members of the Accommodation Review Committee and that the Board should listen to them.

Trustee Blake requested a recorded vote.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the closure of St. Anthony Daniel School on June 30, 2014.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the transfer of all St. Anthony Daniel students to Blessed Sacrament School beginning September 1, 2014.

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

Carried

Trustee Dignard expressed his appreciation to all members of the ARC for their input, commitment and time during the process. The Committee looked at all the questions that were raised and took a lot of things into consideration. He noted that the Board has witnessed the consolidation of two separate school consolidations in recent years and it is evident that the process is working.



5.3 Additions – Our Lady of Providence Catholic Elementary School and Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, Caledonia

Superintendent Grice advised the Board that eight tenders were received for construction of one classroom at Our Lady of Providence School and the renovation of one classroom at Notre Dame School in Caledonia to accommodate the Early Learning Kindergarten Program at these schools starting in September 2014. He advised that the lowest bid was received from Abcott Construction Ltd. and that the Ministry of Education has approved these construction projects.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the awarding of the contract for the Early Learning Kindergarten Program (ELKP) addition at Our Lady of Providence Catholic Elementary School, Brantford and renovation at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School, Caledonia to Abcott Construction Ltd., in the amount of \$539,776, which includes 13% HST.

Carried

5.4 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Regional Grant

Superintendent Chopp advised that Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board, London District Catholic School Board, St. Clair Catholic District School Board, and the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board submitted a joint partnership proposal to the Ministry of Education for a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Regional Grant and that each Board has been awarded \$20,000. The monies will be used to enhance parent engagement, nurture resilience and build stronger Catholic families. Superintendent Chopp highlighted three joint parent engagements events being planned this year, and noted that parent support resources are also being purchased and distributed within our system.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Regional Grant report.

Carried

5.4 Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Athanasiou reported that the Student Senators have initiated their discussions regarding plans and events for the upcoming school year. She advised that Kyle Schell has been elected Alternate Student Trustee. In school news, all three locations have been building school spirit through various school events and are busy planning their Hallowe'en fundraisers. In response to Trustee Casey's inquiry from last month's Board meeting, Student Trustee Athanasiou indicated that she had spoken with a number of students regarding the Board's Nutrition policy and had received a wide variety of opinions and feedback. Many students do seem to appreciate the healthier menu choices offered in school cafeterias, although students do like the ten exemption days that are offered.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

Carried



6. Statutory Public Meeting – Education Development Charges (EDC)

6.1 EDC By-Law Passage Public Meeting

No conflicts of interest were declared.

If his introductory remarks, Acting Chair Petrella advised that the Board's current Education Development Charges (EDC) By-Law will expire on November 2, 2013 and reviewed the series of events that have taken place leading up to the proposed passage of the new By-Law.

Acting Chair Petrella introduced the Board's EDC consultant, Jack Ammendolia of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., who reviewed the key elements of the process, the legislative requirements that need to be met by the Board, and the proposed charge.

Acting Chair Petrella then introduced the Board's legal counsel, Steve O'Melia of Miller Thomson LLP, who briefly commented on the text of the by-law, the process for enactment, and the appeal process. In response to Trustee Casey's inquiry, Mr. O'Melia advised that no letters of objection have been received.

Public input was received from Wilf Hogeveen, 1st Vice President of the Brantford Home Builders' Association. He reiterated his concern regarding the projected development in the Eagle Place area, which represents approximately one quarter of the projected costs for elementary school land purchases. Given current land issues in that area, the Association is of the opinion that this area will not grow, as is being projected. Mr. Hogeveen requested that stakeholders be involved earlier in the process the next time the EDC rate comes up for renewal.

Acting Chair advised that since minor changes were made to the draft by-law contained in the Background Study, the Education Act requires that the Board determine whether a further Public Meeting is required. He noted that the changes were minor and that three public meetings have already been held. He requested a motion from the floor.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT a further public meeting is not required prior to considering passage of an EDC By-law.
Carried

Acting Chair Petrella asked for a motion on the passage of the EDC By-Law that is before the Board.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

That the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board passes an EDC by-law in the form tabled with the motion.

Carried



Acting Chair Petrella requested a motion to adjourn the EDC By-Law meeting.

Moved by: Cliff Casey

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the EDC By-Law meeting.

Carried

7. Information and Correspondence

- 7.1** Trustee McKinnon announced that Chair Szeman has been acclaimed as 1st Vice President of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO).
- 7.2** Superintendent Grice advised that the Board has received the results of the Ministry's Efficiency and Effectiveness (E&E) audit, as conducted by Deloitte, with respect to the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN). Superintendent Grice reported that the Consortium scored "High" in all categories, in comparison to "Moderate-Low" scores in the 2009 E&E Review, which could result in additional Ministry funding.
- 7.3** Superintendent Grice brought to trustees' attention details of the travel accident insurance coverage available through the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) as an option to the coverage that is offered through the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association. This coverage is voluntary and trustees were asked to sign up for the coverage of their choice, if interested.

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

8. Notices of Motion

Trustee Dignard presented the following two Notices of Motion that he made at the September 24, 2013 Board Meeting:

- 8.1** THAT up-to-date financial implications such as staffing and class sizes for the entire system be provided to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board prior to embarking on an Accommodation Review. The motion was seconded by Trustee McKinnon.

Trustee Dignard explained that additional data has to be provided prior to any Accommodation Review to establish an overview of the entire system; e.g., the operating cost per student within each school. Superintendent Grice advised that for the Brant County ARC, the Board did provide the operating cost/student in every building that was part of the study (1 year, 5 years, and 10 years). Trustee Casey suggested a "keep it simple" approach and agreed that this type of data is valuable and necessary.



Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon
Carried

- 8.2** THAT the Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk Catholic District School Board commits to developing only balanced budgets within the framework of the Education Act and Board Policy. This motion was seconded by Dennis Blake.

Trustee Dignard commented that the Board needs to ensure that the current Board, and any future Board, understand the legislative requirements when establishing annual budgets.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
Carried

9. Trustee Inquiries

Trustee Blake received confirmation of the details of the annual Service Recognition Dinner.

10. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

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

11. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Cliff Casey

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

12. Future Meetings

A listing of upcoming meetings and events was reviewed.

13. Closing Prayer

Trustee Blake led the closing prayer.

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Cliff Casey
Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the meeting of October 22, 2013.
Carried