



Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, September 20, 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: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Agenda of the September 20, 2011 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

2. Presentations – Nil

3. Delegations

3.1 Ian Rolls-Carson, Chair of the St. Mary School Catholic Parent Council in Brantford, presented a report regarding the Accommodation Review of St. Mary School. He questioned the accuracy of information provided at the June 2011 Board meeting, encouraged the Board to consider factors like potential future growth in the area should the Mohawk Redevelopment proceed, questioned if the Holy Cross school building was free of asbestos, and reiterated the strong academic record of students at St. Mary school as reflected in the 2010 EQAO assessment results.

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes from the June 21, 2011 meeting.



- 4.2 THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the information regarding the recipients of the 2011 Catholic Student Award and the Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner.
- 4.3 THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes from the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Board of Directors' meeting of May 17, 2011 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.
- 4.4 THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes from the Accommodations Committee meeting of July 13, 2011 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of 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 Accommodation Review – St. Mary School, Brantford

Director Horgan advised that the revised enrolment projections to 2015 for St. Mary and Holy Cross schools based on the Watson & Associates report received in August, 2011 have not significantly changed; therefore, staff stand by their original recommendation as presented in the June 21, 2011 report to the Board.

In response to Trustee Petrella's question regarding asbestos inspections as raised in the delegation's presentation, Associate Director Easton advised that the Board is aware of its responsibilities with regards to asbestos and that all buildings are inspected annually using qualified contractors; any concerns raised are dealt with accordingly. Trustee Szeman inquired if there would be an opportunity to purchase land in the Mohawk Redevelopment area in the future should the need arise. Associate Director Easton indicated that the City would most likely circulate information regarding land purchase opportunities. He also added that he had recently consulted with the City's Planning Department and had been advised that to date, no developer had expressed interest in the project, no proposals to develop the property had been received, and that there was still environmental clean-up work required. In response to Trustee Dignard's inquiry regarding the next window of opportunity to conduct an accommodation review for this school should the motion be defeated, Director Horgan advised that legislation states that the next accommodation review cannot take place for five years unless extenuating circumstances exist. Trustee Dignard also received confirmation that by combining the two schools, the Board would realize a savings of approximately \$239,000 annually. He commented that this would result in over \$1 million of incurred costs over the next five years that will need to be funded through the Board budget. In his years of experience on the Budget Committee, there are no reserves available to cover this type of cost. Trustee Dignard added that this is a window of opportunity to do something for the whole board in order to move forward. The Board needs to address overall declining enrolment and will probably be looking at closing four schools over time.



Trustee Petrella expressed his opposition to closing St. Mary, in particular a school beside a church, and stated that if the building could be filled to capacity with optional uses, like the Alternative Education staff occupying the basement, that the school should not need to be closed. Trustee Blake added that revised enrolment projections indicate a relatively stable projection and reminded trustees that the Accommodation Review Committee supported St. Mary School remaining open. He recommended that the Board revisit the impact of declining enrolment across the entire system before any school is closed. Chair Casey commented that this decision had been delayed in June so that revised enrolment projections could be reviewed, which indicate no significant change, and that it is improbable that the Mohawk Redevelopment will happen in the foreseeable future. He added that the larger schools are starting to feel the impact of declining enrolment. As an example, he commented that there is not enough money to split large classes of 35-38 students in larger schools because smaller schools are not operating at capacity. He also reminded trustees of their fiduciary responsibilities. Trustee Petrella requested a recorded vote. Chair Casey declared his intention to vote on the motion.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

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

5.2 Pearson PowerSchool Implementation

Assistant Superintendent of Business Grice informed trustees that the Student Information System the Board currently uses, eSIS, formerly owned by The Administrative Assistants Ltd. (aal), will no longer be supported by the new owners, Pearson Education, as of August 2012. Pearson has extended a one-for-one license swap for Pearson PowerSchool to existing eSIS users. PowerSchool is a powerful application used around the world. Estimated transition costs of approximately \$125,000 have been included in the 2011-12 balanced Board budget and will be recovered in efficiency savings over the next four years of the existing contract. An implementation schedule was shared with trustees.

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

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).

Carried



5.3 EQAO Results for Primary, Junior and Grade 9

Superintendent of Education Kings reviewed the results of the Grades 3 and 6 EQAO assessments for the 2010-11 school year. Achievement in five of the six areas is good, in particular Primary reading which shows a 5% increase over the previous year's results. Once detailed information has been received and analyzed, a plan will be put in place to address the need to improve achievement in Junior mathematics, which is an area of concern across the province. Superintendent Roehrig reported that results in Grade 9 Mathematics at the Applied Level were the best ever, placing our Board in the top ten percent in the province.

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: June Szeman

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the EQAO Primary, Junior and Grade 9 results for 2010-11 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.4 Start-Up Enrolment and School Organization

Superintendent Roehrig distributed an overview of the current enrolment and school organizations. Last spring's enrolment projections were relatively accurate and the Board will meet Primary compliance requirements by early next week. To date, the board has succeeded in avoiding substantial reorganizations in schools; therefore, relatively little disruption has been experienced.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Start-Up Enrolment & School Organization report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.5 Student Transportation Reforms

Associate Director Easton reported that the amended agreement being presented in effect completes the incorporation of the Student Transportation Consortia, which began three years ago. There are no substantial changes made to the revised agreement; primarily revisions to the language. It has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: June Szeman

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

Carried

5.6 Summer Literacy Learning Program 2011

Superintendent Kings reported on the successful Summer Literacy Learning Program held in August, which drew twenty-six Grades 1-3 students from eleven schools across our Board. The three-week program engaged students in an interactive literacy program delivered by two qualified teachers, complete with a recreational component led by YMCA staff. The program will be re-evaluated once the student reassessment data is analyzed.



Director Horgan thanked and commended Superintendent Kings for her willingness to act as Principal of this summer program and for her ongoing commitment to literacy.

Moved by: June Szeman

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Summer Literacy Learning Program 2011 report.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 A card of thanks from a Rainbow Award recipient was circulated. Trustee Szeman provided trustees with a copy of the 2011-12 SEAC calendar, as well as handouts received at a trustee event with Bishop Fabbro, Diocese of London, on September 19, 2011.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

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

Carried

7. Notices of Motion

The Notice of Motion was amended to read:

THAT the Director of Education of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board provides a draft succession, transition, and contingency plan for the departure or attrition of all Senior Administrative staff to the Board of Trustees for review and acceptance by the October 2011 In-Camera Committee of the Whole meeting.

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

Carried

8. Trustee Inquiries

Trustee Szeman inquired about a letter from the CYO Basketball Association regarding increased fees resulting from the revised Community of Use policy. Director Horgan advised that staff are in the process of gathering additional information and that she update trustees in the near future.

Trustee Szeman inquired if our Board has lost pockets of students to the public system for any particular reason. The new French Immersion program at Walsh Public has attracted a small number of our students in that catchment area. As well, several students from Notre Dame and St. Patrick's Caledonia schools have transferred to River Heights School for a variety of reasons.

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

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: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

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

Carried

11. Future Meetings

The list of 2011-12 meetings and events was reviewed by Trustees.

12. Closing Prayer

The 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 September 20, 2011.

Carried