



Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, November 19, 2013 ♦ 7:00 pm
Boardroom

Trustees:

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

Absent:

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 prayer led by Trustee McKinnon.

1.2 Attendance – As noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the November 19, 2013 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

2. Presentations - Nil

3. Delegations – Nil

4. Consent Agenda

Trustee Blake requested that Item 4.3 be removed from the Consent Agenda and be discussed separately.

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

4.2 THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 9, 2013 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.



- 4.4 THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of October 28, 2013 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

Carried

Item considered separately

- 4.3 With respect to the minutes from the October 22, 2013 meeting of the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Board of Directors' meeting, Superintendent Grice provided clarification to several general inquiries from Trustees Blake and Casey.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Board of Directors' Meeting of October 22, 2013 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Structured Learning Update

Superintendent Telfer informed trustees that structured learning is a key component of the 2013-14 Special Education Plan, with the goals of building student independence and developing enhanced employability skills for special needs students. She advised that the program was introduced in the secondary Community Living and PALS classrooms four years ago, in the Secondary Job Skills and elementary Transition classes the following year, and this year is being introduced in regular classrooms in the elementary system for selected students with special education needs. She introduced Carmen McDermid, Student Achievement Leader – Special Education and Debbie Dignan, System SERT who demonstrated components of the program, which structures both the learning environment and student tasks. Discussion ensued and many trustee inquiries were responded to. Trustees congratulated presenters on their initiative and work in developing and delivering this exceptional program.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Structured Learning Update report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.2 Continuing Education – St. Mary Catholic Learning Centre

Superintendent McKinnon's report provided an in-depth picture of the Board's Alternative Education and Continuing Education programs, with an aim of developing and offering programming to reach a variety of different learners, from school-aged students to adults, in a variety of different settings. He explained that St. Mary Catholic Learning Centre acts as the hub



to coordinate programming offered through night school, summer school, the International Language program, as well as several non-credit programs. Superintendent McKinnon introduced Terre Slaght, Principal of Continuing Education, who described the programs currently being offered, as well as those under development or being considered for the future. Mrs. Slaght responded to several trustee inquiries and was congratulated for her role in building a viable and progressive continuing education program since its inception in September 2012.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Continuing Education – St. Mary Catholic Learning Centre report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.3 Junior Intermediate Mathematics Initiatives

In an effort to support teachers and students in improving achievement in the areas of Junior Mathematics and Grade 9 Mathematics, Superintendent Telfer explained that several key initiatives, imbedded in the Board's Strategic Plan, are the focus of the work being done at the grassroots level. She introduced E.J. Hunt and Michael Skrzypek, System Mathematics Teachers, who provided details of the work being done in various Collaborative Learning Inquiry initiatives, as well as the system support being provided for Marker School projects, EQAO preparation, cross-panel learning, School Improvement Plan initiatives, as well as teacher professional development. Trustees had inquiries with respect to Ministry funding, the focus of teacher professional development, and assessing the success of these initiatives.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Junior Intermediate Mathematics Initiatives report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.4 Primary Core French Program

Superintendent Telfer advised that seven schools are currently involved in a Primary Core French-as-a-Second Language (FSL) pilot, which began in September. Since Grades 1-3 FSL curriculum is not available through the Ministry, a team comprising the FSL teachers from the pilot schools and Cathy DeGoey, FSL Lead, researched and developed a curriculum focused on oral communication. These teachers also received training in the Accelerative Integrated Methodology (AIM) language learning instructional method. Superintendent Telfer commented that initial response has been very positive—students have been very enthusiastic, are engaged in their learning, and are developing a positive attitude towards learning French. She also added that the Board will be developing an action plan in response to a federal government initiative that aims at encouraging students to take French language instruction throughout their secondary school years. Several trustees voiced their support of this initiative. Trustee Casey expressed concerns with respect to the Board not approving the pilot, costs associated with the program, and what research supports this approach. Director Roehrig explained that there are no costs, extra staff or extra teacher prep time associated with this program. Superintendent Telfer will share the research with trustees.



Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Primary Core French Program report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.5 Strategic Plan 2012-2015 – Student Achievement Update

Superintendent Telfer provided an update on the Student Achievement pillar of the Board's 2012-2015 Strategic Action Plan, with a focus on various literacy and numeracy initiatives, as well as teacher usage of netbooks to enhance classroom instruction.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Strategic Plan 2012-2015 - Student Achievement Update report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.6 Insurance Renewal

Superintendent Grice reviewed details of the Board's property and liability insurance renewal for 2014. Discussion ensued regarding various factors that can impact annual insurance rates.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2014 insurance renewal premium, payable to the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange, in the amount of \$207,738, plus PST.

Carried

5.7 Board Enrolment

Superintendent McKinnon reported that the annual October 31 enrolment report to the Ministry of Education noted 79 full-time equivalent students above projections at the elementary level, and 11.5 students above projections at the secondary level. Although enrolment did not decrease as much as was originally projected, it continues to be an ongoing concern.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Board Enrolment report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.8 Surplus Accommodation – Grand Erie District School Board

Superintendent Grice reported that the Grand Erie District School Board is disposing of the former Doverwood Public School in Port Dover, Ontario, and advised that this Board has no need of elementary student accommodation in this area.



Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board advises the Grand Erie District School Board that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has no interest in the following property:

- Former Doverwood Public School, 108 Hamilton Plank Road, Port Dover, Ontario

Carried

5.9 Excursion – Mission Trip to Staten Island, NY

Superintendent Chopp presented a request from the three secondary schools for approximately 20 Grades 11 and 12 students to participate in a mission trip to Staten Island New York. Participants will assist the Mennonite Disaster Service with small construction and clean-up projects resulting from the ongoing aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Moved by: Cliff Casey

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Assumption College School, Holy Trinity Catholic High School and St. John's College for an excursion mission trip to Staten Island, NY from Saturday, January 25 to Friday, January 31, 2014.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

Director Roehrig distributed copies of the "You Cat" book (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church), a youth-friendly resource that is being distributed in our secondary schools, as well as copies of the handouts from the October Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting and information regarding upcoming regional family engagement/faith formation events. He also advised trustees that a parent has organized a rally at St. Anthony Daniel School tomorrow afternoon.

Moved by: Rick Petrella

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 – Nil

8. Trustee Inquiries

In response to the number of university graduates who cannot find employment in their area of study, Trustee Dignard inquired if information regarding alternate career paths, trades, etc., could be made available to students and parents earlier in students' school careers. Director Roehrig offered to bring a complete Pathways Program report to a future Board meeting.

Trustee Casey received confirmation that all components of the robotics and pathways program approved by the Board in the spring of 2011 are still in place. Dates for the January and June exam weeks' visits by elementary students to secondary technology areas will be shared with trustees.



Trustee Blake requested an update on school websites. Director Roehrig will bring a report to Board regarding all changes in the area of information technology in the near future.

Trustee Casey commented that he is attending the Friends of the Educational Archives Committee meetings as Board representative. He inquired if a link to the Archives website could be added to our Board's website and also asked if the Board has a protocol regarding the collection of archival items when a school closes. Director Roehrig will look into this.

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

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

Carried

10. Report on the In-Camera Session

Trustee Dignard declared a conflict of interest in item 2.2 of the in-camera session and left the room. He did not take part in the consideration or discussion of, or vote on any question with relation to this item.

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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

Carried

11. Future Meetings

Attention was drawn to the revised listing of 2013-14 meetings and events for trustees.

12. Closing Prayer

A closing prayer was recited in unison.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the meeting of November 19, 2013.

Carried