



Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, January 21, 2014 ♦ 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 prayer led by Trustee McKinnon.

1.2 Attendance – As noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the January 21, 2014 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – A discussion took place regarding potential conflicts of interest in relation to the Revised Budget (Item 5.2).

2. Presentations - Nil

3. Delegations – Nil

4. Consent Agenda

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

4.2 THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Joint Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 11, 2013 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.



- 4.3** THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of January 8, 2014 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

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

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Reading Upgrade Program

Superintendent Telfer introduced Reading Upgrade, a web-based reading intervention program that the Board has been using for the past seven years to assist Grade 2 and 3 students who are struggling with reading. She explained how students are selected, and how the program is delivered and progress monitored by the school Special Education Resource Teacher. She introduced John Silvestri, Information Technology SERT, and Dave Szuty, eLearning Consultant who provided a demonstration of the Program and responded to trustee inquiries.

Moved by: Cliff Casey

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

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

Carried

5.2 Unapproved Budget Committee Meeting Minutes and Recommendations – January 14, 2014

Acting Chair Petrella, Chair of the Budget Committee, reviewed the more significant revisions made to the 2013-14 preliminary budget. These revisions reflect changes to revenue and expenses since the June 2013 projections, including the effect of higher than projected student enrolment and the ongoing impact of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He commented that budget has been allocated for hiring additional staff, supporting the new Advanced Placement programs at secondary schools, and to support enhancements in the area of Information Technology. Acting Chair Petrella also drew attention to the proposed 2014-15 Budget Procedures Manual and presented the Committee's recommendations for consideration.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting of January 14, 2014 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried



Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Committee of the Whole refers the 2013-14 Revised Budget Estimates, in the amount of \$118,154,110, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Carried

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Budget Committee recommends the Committee of the Whole refers the Budget Planning report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval of the budget procedures as outlined in the 2014-15 Budget Procedures Manual.

Carried

5.3 Goals for 2014-15 Budget

Director Roehrig briefly reviewed the key goals of the 2012-2015 Strategic Plan, which reflects the Board's commitment to providing the highest quality Catholic education to students. He commented that during the process of developing the 2014-15 Budget, adequate allocation of budget resources will be required in order to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan.

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 Goals for the 2014-15 Budget.

Carried

5.4 Special Education Funding – High Needs Amount

Superintendent Telfer provided a brief overview of the areas supported by the Special Education Grant, with special attention to the High Needs Amount (HNA) allocation which helps defray the cost of providing intensive staff support (i.e., Educational Assistants) required by a small number of students with high needs. The HNA calculation is determined by the Ministry, based on outdated data (currently 2006 Statistics Canada census data). This has resulted in a significantly inequitable distribution of funds across the province, with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSB) currently in the bottom 10 of the 72 boards in Ontario. Over the past 10 years, the BHNCDSB has been underfunded by approximately \$1 million in the area of Special Education; as enrolment continues to decline, it will become increasingly difficult to absorb this cost. Discussion ensued and trustee questions were addressed. Trustee Blake proposed the following motion:

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Special Education Funding – High Needs Amount report and directs the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting redistribution of the High Needs Amount funding more equitably between all boards across the province.

Carried



5.5 Strategic Plan 2012-2015 – Leadership Update

Superintendent McKinnon provided a snapshot of the work in the area of leadership development that has been spearheaded by himself, Debbie Fullerton, the Board Leadership Development Lead, and members of the Leadership and Succession Planning Steering Committee. He commented that components of the Leadership pillar of the Board's Strategic Plan have been showcased provincially, with particular emphasis on how well this Plan is integrated and aligned with School Improvement Plans. Key program offerings, including the upcoming Student Achievement Leadership Training sessions, Cognitive Coaching training for Administrators, the Principal Leadership in Human Resources Certificate Program, mentorship for newly-appointed administrators, and ongoing professional dialogue at Principal meetings were reviewed and discussed. Trustees Casey and Dignard expressed their appreciation of the quality of work that has been done in this area, which is evident by the progression of the professionalism of staff across the system.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Strategic Plan 2012–2015 Leadership Update to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.6 Tri-Party Agreement for Notre Dame School, Branlyn Community School and the City of Brantford

Superintendent Grice presented an updated Tri-Party Agreement for the complex that encompasses Notre Dame School, Branlyn Community School and a City of Brantford Community Centre. The revised Agreement is more detailed/technical from the current one that was signed in 2000, and reflects a more equitable and accurate distribution of costs based on each partner's share of ownership and usage of the building.

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 Tri-Party Operating Agreement for Branlyn/Notre Dame School Community Centre.

Carried

5.7 Excursion – New York City, New York

Superintendent Chopp presented a request from St. John's College for approximately 50 students to travel to New York City as part of their Arts program, directing trustee attention to the sites that the students will visit, as well as the activities that they will participate in.

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 St. John's College for an excursion to New York City, New York from Thursday, May 15 to Monday, May 19, 2014.

Carried



6. Information and Correspondence

Vice Chair Petrella circulated several Christmas cards that the Board received, as well as copies of two letters: a) a response from Minister Sandals to the Board's letter dated November 19, 2013 with respect to Diagnostic Assessment; and b) a letter from OCSTA President, Marino Gazzola dated January 8, 2014 regarding the disposition of Resolution 8-13 that the Board submitted to the 2013 OCSTA Annual General Meeting. Director Roehrig also made available copies of the 2014 Kindergarten Registration packages for trustee review.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

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

Trustee Blake commented on the Board's website not being accessible during a recent inclement weather day due to it being overloaded. Superintendent Grice responded that the additional funding in the area of Information Technology will help address these types of issues.

With respect to the correspondence received from a concerned parent group in Norfolk regarding buses running during the recent inclement weather, Director Roehrig understands that the group has requested to make a presentation at the February STSBHN Consortium Board of Directors' meeting. Trustee Casey expressed his concern regarding four- and five-year old children having to walk 1.6 km to school on cold days. He added that he is aware of some boards that have shorter walking distances for their younger students. Superintendent Grice commented that although this is true, they make offsetting adjustments in other areas, i.e., they may not have courtesy riders, like we do. The following motion was proposed:

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board requests that the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk Consortium re-examines the walking distance for primary students with an eye to reducing the walking distance from the current 1.6 km.

Carried

In response to Trustee Blake's inquiry if there is a staff directive addressing the use of personal electronic devices such as cell phones in the classroom, Director Roehrig advised that there is no formal directive, but if trustees are aware of specific incidents of inappropriate use of technology during instructional time, to please advise a superintendent.

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of 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 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 led by Trustee Blake.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Cliff Casey

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the meeting of January 21, 2014.

Carried