



**Policy Committee
Tuesday, April 23, 2013 ♦ 8:00 p.m.
Boardroom**

Trustees:

Present: Dennis Blake (Chair), Cliff Casey, Dan Dignard, Rick Petrella, June Szeman

Absent: Bonnie McKinnon

Senior Administration:

Chris N. Roehrig (Director of Education & Secretary)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Dennis Blake.

1.2 Attendance

As noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Policy Committee approves the agenda of the April 23, 2013 meeting.

Carried

1.4 Approval of the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2013

Moved by: Rick Petrella

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Policy Committee approves the minutes of the March 26, 2013 meeting.

Carried

2. Committee and Staff Reports - Nil

3. Discussion Items

3.1 Posting of Trustee Expenses on Website

Trustee Blake reiterated his position that individual trustee expenses should be posted on the Board's website, which was his understanding when the Trustee Expenses policy was last revised. Discussion ensued. Concern was expressed that the public could misunderstand / misinterpret the information. Suggestions regarding reporting collectively as a line item in the budget as currently done, or reporting collectively by category, i.e., conventions, mileage, etc., were discussed. Trustee Petrella requested that staff investigate what the Ministry's directive is regarding this question of accountability. Director Roehrig will investigate and advise.



3.2 Community Use of Schools – Cleats on playing fields

Trustee Blake advised that he had received an inquiry from an area soccer organization regarding the Board's Community Use of Schools policy that states that cleats are not allowed on school sports fields, yet cleats are required for player insurance purposes. Trustees were in agreement that the risk of damage to playing fields caused by the use of cleats is high and the repair costs are prohibitive. It was noted that Norfolk Soccer does not permit practices on their own new soccer fields. This item will be raised for discussion at the next Joint Use Meeting with the Grand Erie District School Board and the City of Brantford.

3.3 Educational Field Trips and Excursions – Splash Parks

Trustee Blake drew attention to the Risk Management section of the administrative procedure where it states that "educational excursions to water parks and to programs involving water-based activities for elementary school students are prohibited." He argued that splash parks are not in the same category as water parks as there is no risk of drowning. Director Roehrig commented that although splash parks represent low risk, some splash parks are adjacent to pools/wave pools, so it would be impossible to know which parks would be considered "safe" and which might pose a threat. He also added that the Board has been working towards aligning school trips with curriculum goals to ensure that they have an educational value. Further discussion was deferred to the May Policy Committee meeting.

3.4 Trustees' Code of Conduct (revised draft)

Director Roehrig presented a revised draft of the Trustees' Code of Conduct resulting from feedback he received from trustees over the past few months. He commented that the revised draft is substantially shorter than former versions and includes the feedback that he received, most notably a new section on advocacy, clarification with respect to municipal conflict of interest, and a process for enforcing the Code of Conduct. The revised draft also incorporates key legislative requirements. Discussion ensued. A motion by Trustee Dignard to adopt the revised draft for a one year period, at which time it could be reviewed/revised was not supported. A motion by Trustee Petrella, seconded by Trustee Casey to add the advocacy portion of the revised draft to the existing Code was defeated.

3.5 Guidelines for Trustee Communication

Director Roehrig presented for discussion and consideration a suggested resource to act as a guideline for trustee communication, which he compiled from various sources.

3.6 Board By-Laws (revised draft)

Director Roehrig advised that references to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act will need to be added back to the revised Board By-laws since the proposed revised Trustees' Code of Conduct was defeated. The report to move forward with the revised by-laws will be brought to the May Policy Committee meeting.



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

4. Adjournment

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Cliff Casey

THAT the Policy Committee adjourns the meeting of April 23, 2013.

Carried

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 2013 following the Board meeting.