



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

1325 California Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3Y6
Telephone (519) 253-2481 Fax: (519) 253-0620
Michael B. Moher, Director of Education John Macri, Board Chairperson

REGULAR BOARD MEETING Tuesday, February 22, 2005 Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre 1325 California Avenue, Windsor

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| F. Alexander | P. Keane |
| J. Courtney, Vice-Chair | J. Macri, Chair |
| M. DiMenna | S. Porcellini |
| B. Holland | L. Soulliere |
| C. Janisse | |
| Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain | |
| Student Trustee Deschamps | |
| Student Trustee (Alternate) Limarzi | |

Administration:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| M. Moher (Resource) | P. Littlejohns |
| J. Berthiaume | K. Power |
| P. Marchini | T. Robins |
| J. Ouellette | E. Poirier |

Recorder:

D. Steffens

1. Call To Order - Chair Macri called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer – Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance – All trustees present.
4. Approval of Agenda

Amendments:

- Walk-on agenda item 10b(v) Report: Good Places to Learn Initiative
- Renumber agenda item 8b(i) St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Windsor) Delegation to agenda item 7c
- Renumber agenda item 10b(i) Report: St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School - Facility Audit to agenda item 7d

Moved by Trustee Keane and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the February 22, 2005 Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as amended. *Carried.*

5. Questions Pertaining to Agenda – None.
6. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. – None.
7. Presentations

- a. United Way Fundraising Presentation

Tony Corona, Vice-Principal at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School and this year's Chair of the United Way Education Division reported the Board's United Way campaign totalled more than \$140,000. Students Nick and Vanessa Fazio presented a cheque in the amount of \$13,644, which was raised by student fundraising events across the system. In addition, a cheque representing \$131,918 raised by employee contributions was presented. United Way representatives Dana Young, Chair of Board of Directors; Pat Gangnon, Senior Director of Fund Development; and, Serge Lamber, Fund Development Manager presented the Chair Macri and Director Moher a plaque of appreciation and expressed gratitude for the outstanding fundraising effort and achievement of the employees and students of the Catholic school board.

- b. St. Joseph Catholic High School – Global Awareness & Social Justice Initiatives

Students Jessica Alleva, James Paterson, Emily Charbonneau and Marcos Amaral provided an overview of the global awareness and social justice initiatives at St. Joseph Catholic High School. Highlights of the local, national and international programs and activities include the Young Global Leaders Conference, Youth for Social Action, the Model United Nations Debate Team, Multicultural Festival, school trips to historical destinations, mission collections and local fundraising efforts.

- c. Delegation: St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School Council (Windsor)

Presenters Shirley Kidd, School Council Chair; Miranda MacDougall – Grade 8 Student; Jenna McIntyre – Grade 5 Student; Ken Lewenzza Jr. – parent; Shawn Lappan, parent; Paulette Larosa, parent; and Rev. Matthew Kucharski spoke with respect to agenda item *St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School - Facility Audit*. The delegation spoke in support of building a new school to replace the current aging facility and cited concerns about the condition of the school and the learning environment. Major concerns include exterior and interior deterioration of the building, potential safety issues inside and outside the classroom, poor heating and ventilation, lack of student accessibility and indoor environmental conditions. Rev. Kucharski spoke in favour of rebuilding the school in the same location to preserve the close partnership that has developed between the parish and school community.

- d. Report: St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School - Facility Audit

Director Moher reported that, at the January 11, 2005 Board meeting, the Trustees approved a study regarding the feasibility of constructing a new St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Windsor). Subsequently, the services of an independent engineer *Jacques Whitford Environment Limited* were retained in order to evaluate the long-term viability of St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School.

The resulting Facility Audit report supported the Board's Renewal Capital Asset Planning Process (ReCAPP) data that indicate approximately \$1.8 million in facility repair needs and \$2,512,000 in required work over the next ten years. The cost to construct a new 28,158 square foot facility at \$130/sq. ft. would be \$4,160,540, including \$500,000 for site work. The total cost to upgrade this facility (\$2,512,000) represents approximately 60% of the cost to build a new school (based on 28,158 square feet at \$130/sq. ft.) Director Moher indicated that, based upon this analysis, it would be prudent to replace the existing facility rather than continue to repair it over the next ten years.

Superintendent Marchini reported that the Ministry of Education recently announced new funding policies that negate the previous regulations and processes under the former new pupil place grant funding. Director Moher indicated it is obvious this school is beyond repair and the government should recognize it as prohibitive to repair through the new process. Under the new four phased funding formula, the Board must prioritize its capital needs and submit its capital plan to the Ministry in October 2005. Director Moher stressed the importance of parents and community representatives being actively involved the new capital funding application process and encouraged the school community to contact their local member of parliament to convey concerns about their school needs.

Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive the comprehensive facility audit of St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School, received from Jacques Whitford Environment Limited, as information.

Motion amended as follows upon the agreement of the mover and seconder:

Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive the comprehensive facility audit of St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School, received from Jacques Whitford Environment Limited, as information; and, that the Board direct administration to proceed immediately to begin the process of obtaining funding for a new school facility.

Motion amended to address the issues separately.

Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive the comprehensive facility audit of St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School, received from Jacques Whitford Environment Limited, as information. Carried.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that a motion to direct administration to proceed immediately to begin the process of obtaining funding for a new school facility be deferred until after the March 1 Capital Study Session. Carried.

The Chair called a recess at 9:20 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

- e. Building a Culture of Excellence: The Use of Data to Enhance Academic Achievement – This agenda item was *deferred* to a later date to be determined by administration.

8. Presentations

- a. Delegation Regarding Items Not on the Agenda - None.
- b. Delegations Regarding Items On the Agenda
 - i. St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Windsor) - This item was addressed under agenda item 7c.

9. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - i) Minutes of the In-Camera Meeting, February 8, 2005
Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the minutes of the In-Camera meeting of February 8, 2005 be adopted as distributed. Carried.
 - ii) Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 8, 2005
Moved by Trustee Courtney and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2005 be adopted as distributed. Carried.
- b. Items From In-Camera Meeting of February 22, 2005

Vice-Chair Courtney reported the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board convened a closed Committee of the Whole meeting on February 22, 2005, pursuant to the Education Act - Section 207, to consider specific personnel and real property issues and other matters permitted or required to be kept private and confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Trustees Alexander, Courtney, Keane and Porcellini declared a conflict of interest in the In-Camera Session and excused themselves from the relevant discussion item.

Moved by Trustee Courtney and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the recommendations and directions of the Committee of the Whole Board at its meeting of February 22, 2005 be approved. Carried.

10. Communications

- a. External (Associations, OCSTA, Ministry)
 - i) OCSTA Correspondence dated February 7, 2005 re: Special Education Clawbacks

Director Moher indicated that he and the Chair met with Minister Kennedy in October 2004 to discuss the status of the special education reserve funds; however, no further information has come forward from the Ministry. The Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association (OCSTA) is forming a working group with representatives from all school boards to provide feedback to the Ministry.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the OCSTA Correspondence dated February 7, 2005 re: Special Education Clawbacks be received as information. Carried.

- ii) OCSTA Correspondence dated February 8, 2005 re 2005 OCSTA Regional Elections **Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Holland that the OCSTA Correspondence dated February 8, 2005 re 2005 OCSTA Regional Elections be received as information. Carried.**

b. Internal (Reports from Administration)

- i) Report: St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School - Facility Audit - This item was discussed under agenda item 7d.
- ii) Report: Administrative Staff Report
Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board receive the *Administrative Staff Report* on hiring, retirement and resignation of staff dated February 22, 2005 for information. Carried.
- iii) Report: Reporting Entity Project Funding

Superintendent Marchini reported that the government announced in the 2004 budget plans to consolidate the financial information of school boards into the Province's financial statements beginning with the 2005-06 public accounts and the 2006-07 budget. Transfer payment funding in the amount of \$116,000 will be provided to the Board over a period of three years to assist with implementing processes and procedures required to deliver the necessary financial information into the province's financial reports. Superintendent Marchini responded to trustee questions pertaining to the security of Board reserves and school fundraising money once they are included in the provincial financial statements.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board receive the report *Reporting Entity Project Funding* as information. Carried.

- iv) Report: Legal Fees – December 2004
Moved by Trustee Holland and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the report *Legal Services – December 2004* be received as information. Carried.
- v) Walk-on Report: Good Places to Learn Initiative

Superintendent Marchini reported the Ministry of Education recently announced an annual amortization fund that will be available to school boards across the province to leverage financing for school renewal initiatives. There are four phases to the new funding model, which replaces the previous funding formula that forced Board's to close a school in order to build a new one.

The monies will be provided to fund major school renovations and repairs, to construct new schools and to construct additions to buildings to meet the space needs for new Ministry driven programs such as the primary class size reduction program, new

programs for 16- and 17-year-olds who are no longer dropping out and early learning and child care spaces through the Best Start plan.

The Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board's first phase annual allocation is \$558,780, which will be used to cover the payments on an \$8,094,000 25-year capital debenture to fund urgent major school repairs. Individual school board allocations for phases two through four will be announced following the submission of Long Term Capital Plans to the Ministry in October 2005.

Moved by Trustee Janisse and seconded by Trustee Courtney that the report *Good Places to Learn Initiative* be received as information. Carried.

11. Unfinished Business – None.

12. New Business

a. Report: Modified School Year Calendar 2005 – 2006

Superintendent Berthiaume reported that *Ontario Regulation 304, School Year Calendar*, requires the Board to prepare, adopt and submit to the Ministry of Education a proposed School Year Calendar for the schools under its jurisdiction. The Board's proposed 2005 – 2006 School Year Calendar modifies the Christmas Vacation to begin Monday, December 26, 2005 and end Friday, January 6, 2006. In an effort to control transportation costs, the School Year Calendar parallels the one being considered by the Greater Essex County District School Board and Conseil scolaire de district des écoles catholiques de Sud-Ouest.

Moved by Trustee Courtney and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board approve the modified School Year Calendar - 2005-2006 for the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. Carried.

13. Committee Reports – None.

14. Notice of Motion

- Trustee Soulliere: "At the next meeting of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board I will move or cause to be moved, that the Board begin evaluating the opportunity to expand its French Immersion program to include a program at each of St. John the Baptist Elementary School, Belle River; St. John de Brebeuf Elementary School, Kingsville; and, St. Joseph Elementary School, River Canard. Upon Board approval, a committee consisting of the principal or his/her designate from each of the named schools as well as the principal from St. Anne French Immersion School, school council representation from each of the four schools, Trustee(s) and administrative support, as required, be established to gauge community support and interest, determine availability of staff, space, transportation and general matters relating to the feasibility of the program at each proposed location with a final report of the Committee to be brought to the Board by October 2005 to allow for proper initiation of any new program(s) with the JK/SK enrolment for the 2006 school year."

- Trustee Alexander: “At the next meeting of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board I will move or cause to be moved, that in view of the St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Windsor) facility audit, administrative recommendations and the newly released Ministry of Education Capital Funding Initiatives, the Board proceed to immediately begin the process leading to the construction of a St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School.”

15. Remarks and Announcements

- a. Chair Marci commented on the high calibre of the presentations to the Board this evening.
- b. Director Moher commended the presenters and principals for their excellent leadership and support of Catholic education.
- c. Board Chaplain Brunet indicated that he had no comments tonight.

16. Remarks/Questions by Trustees

- Trustee Alexander congratulated the participants and organizers for the success of the recent All Ontario Catholic Senior Girls Annual Volleyball Tournament. The highlight was the Mass celebrated by Bishop Daniels and commended Margaret Palmer-McCann and Renee Fuerth for their work on the liturgy.
- Trustee Holland commented on the new capital funding announcements and commended Director Moher and Superintendent Marchini for their leadership and fiscal management of the New Pupil Place Grants. Trustee Holland commented on the quality of the Lenten resources provided to schools through Barry Elliott’s office. Trustee Holland acknowledged the resignation of Margaret Palmer-McCann and wished her and her family the best. Trustee Holland suggested a meeting be held with two new deans, bishop, chair and director to explore avenues to strengthen the bond between the board, schools and parishes.
- Trustee Courtney reminded fellow trustees of St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School’s theatrical production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and congratulated Holy Cross Catholic Elementary School on being selected as a lighthouse school in the province.
- Trustee Porcellini congratulated the Catholic Central High School basketball teams on their successful season. Trustee Porcellini indicated that she attended the annual luncheon for Daughters of the Underground Railroad, which is a fundraiser for their scholarship program and inquired into the possibility of receiving a report on school activities celebrating Black History Month.
- Trustee Keane inquired into the advertising space in the OCSTA AGM booklet and commented on the success of the International Baccalaureate information night at Assumption College Catholic High School. Trustee Keane congratulated Student Trustee Limarzi on her appointment as Miss Teen Windsor.
- Student Trustee Deschamps congratulated Board on the success of the e-learning program and reported that she and Alternate Student Trustee Limarzi will be attending a meeting of the Ontario Student Trustees Association - English Catholic Board Council conference in Toronto this weekend.
- Alternate Student Trustee Limarzi thanked the participants and those who assisted with the recent Ontario Catholic Senior Girls Annual Volleyball Tournament.

17. Pending Items – None.
18. Continuation of In-Camera - Not required.
19. Future Board Meetings: (unless stated otherwise all meetings will be held at the Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre - 1325 California Avenue, Windsor)
 - Tuesday, March 8, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, March 29, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE NEW DATE**)
 - Tuesday, April 12, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, April 26, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, May 10, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, May 24, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, June 14, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
 - Monday, June 27, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE NEW DATE**)
20. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
21. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board of February 22, 2005 adjourned at 10:10 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

John Macri
Board Chairperson

Michael Moher
Director of Education & Secretary