



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

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John Macri, Board Chairperson

REGULAR BOARD MEETING Tuesday, September 27, 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	
A. Kishkek, Student Trustee	
J. Devos, Student Trustee (Alternate)	

Administration:

M. Moher (Resource)	P. Littlejohns
J. Berthiaume	C. Marier
P. Marchini	P. Picard
J. Ouellette	E. Poirier
S. Freeman	T. Robins
C. Geml	L. Staudt
T. Halford	

Recorder:

D. Steffens

1. Call To Order - Chair Macri called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer - Father Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance – All trustees present. Trustee Courtney entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m.
4. Approval of Agenda

Amendments:

- Addition: 12d (vii) Field Trip: F. J. Brennan Catholic High School - Kincardine/Owen Sound

Moved by Trustee Janisse and seconded by Trustee Keane that the September 27, 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.

Trustee Porcellini declared an interest in agenda item 10b(ii) *Enrolment/Staffing School Organization Information for Elementary / Secondary Schools September 2005* due to her husband's employment item and did not participate in discussion or the vote on the motion.

7. Presentations

- a. Parish Reorganization Process

Episcopal Vicars Frs. Gary Goyeau and James Roche were present to provide a brief update on the Parish Reorganization Process now underway throughout the entire Diocese of London. Local parishes are developing study-working plans that outline the need for parishes to consider clustering, amalgamating, opening or closing parishes or remaining status quo. Several factors are being considered including availability of Priests, parish financial stability, Sunday attendance, building condition, demographics, Sacramental activity, proximity of schools and overall parish vitality. The local recommendation will be presented to Bishop Fabbro, who is expected to announce his final decision for the entire Diocese in June 2006.

- b. St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School – Costa Rica Cumulative Activity

Principal Mike Seguin, teachers George Cuckovic, Mark Strong, Susan DeFroy and Melissa Tellier, and several students were present to provide trustees with a brief overview of the school's Costa Rica Destination Program. The academic program begins in grade 9 and cumulates in grade 12 with an educational trip that provides academic enrichment opportunities and advances students' understanding of the curriculum. Students spoke of their experiences at the Moneverde Biological Research Station where they conducted field research, performed field modules on the tropical ecosystem of Costa Rica and interacted with local educators and elementary students.

8. Delegations

- a. Delegation Regarding Items Not on the Agenda – None.
 - b. Delegations Regarding Items On the Agenda – None.

9. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - i) Minutes of In-Camera Meeting, September 13, 2005

Moved by Trustee Holland and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the minutes of the In-Camera meeting of September 13, 2005 be adopted as amended. Carried.

- ii) Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 13, 2005

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Keane that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2005 be adopted as distributed. Carried.

- b. Items From In-Camera Meeting of September 27, 2005

Vice-Chair Courtney reported the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board convened a closed Committee of the Whole meeting on September 27, 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.

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 September 27, 2005 be approved. Carried.

10. Communications

- a. External (Associations, OCSTA, Ministry) – None.

- b. Internal (Reports from Administration)

- i) Report: Administrative Staff Report

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Holland that the Board receive the *Administrative Staff Report on hiring, and resignation of staff dated September 27, 2005 for information. Carried.*

- ii) Report: Enrolment/Staffing School Organization Information for Elementary / Secondary Schools September 2005

Trustee Porcellini declared an interest in this item and did not participate in discussion or the vote on the motion.

Superintendent Berthiaume announced that September enrolment numbers exceeded projections in both the elementary (16,411 FTE) and secondary (9,596 FTE) panels. A total of eighty-four teachers were hired for September 2005: fifty-four elementary and thirty secondary. Of the eighty-four new hires, sixty-two teachers were hired from the OECTA Occasional Teachers Unit. Twenty-eight teachers were hired under the Primary Class Size Reduction Grant. The elementary pupil/teacher ratio (PTR) is 24.5, which is within the Ministry requirement of 24.5 PTR. Administration responded to trustee questions relating to specific school organizations, enrolment numbers, implementation of the primary class size reduction plan and assignment of vice-principals in elementary schools.

Moved by Trustee Holland and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board receive the report *Enrolment/Staffing/School Organization Information Of Our Elementary/Secondary Schools – September 2005 as information. Carried.*

iii) Report: Implementation Plan – Learning Support Services

Superintendent Ouellette and Cathy Geml, Supervisor of Special Education provided an update the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the 2003 Expert Panel review of the Board's Learning Support Services. Learning Support Services is now well positioned to implement the recommendations of the new Ministry of Education's Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students With Special Education Needs which recommends practices, based on research, that allow Ontario's teachers to improve and reinforce effective instruction of reading, writing, oral communication, and mathematics to students from Kindergarten to Grade 6 who have special education needs.

The Ministry's direction is that school boards should no longer focus on formal identification or deficits, but focus on strengths and needs with an outcomes-based approach that utilizes universal design for learning and differentiated instruction methods. Trustees were provided with a copy of the Ministry's *Education for All* document. Ms. Geml provided clarification on the new assessment processes and the supports in place to assist the classroom and learning enrichment teachers with meeting the changing expectations for students who have special education needs.

Moved by Trustee Janisse and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board receive as information the third stage of the Implementation Plan – Learning Support Services (Appendix 1) to address the recommendations of the Expert Panel which reviewed the Board's Special Education Services and the plan for the future based on Education for All: The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students With Special education Needs Kindergarten to Grade 6. Carried.

iv) Report: Legal Services – August 2005

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the report *Legal Services – August 2005* be received as information. Carried.

11. Unfinished Business – None.

12. New Business

a. Report: Tender Window Replacements – Good Places to Learn Stage 1

Moved by Trustee Keane and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board approve the tender bid from Windspec Inc. of \$462,962.00 for window replacements under the Good Places to Learn Grant - Stage 1; and, that a purchase order contract be issued upon Board approval. Carried.

b. Report: Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association (OCSTA) 2005 – 2006 Membership Fees

Moved by Trustee Keane and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board renew its membership fees with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) in the amount of \$78,754.00 based on the 2004-2005 enrolment figure of 25,937. Carried.

- c. Report: Board Meeting Schedule – Spring 2006
Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Courtney that the Board adopt the following schedule of meetings for the months of January, March and June: January 17, January 31, March 28, June 13 and June 26. Carried.
- d. Fieldtrips:
- i) Assumption College Catholic High School – Quebec City
Moved by Trustee Keane and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the Board approve the Assumption College Catholic High School Cultural Field Trip to Quebec City February 1 to 4, 2006. Carried.
 - ii) Cardinal Carter Catholic High School – Quebec City
Moved by Trustee Porcellini and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the Board approve Cardinal Carter Catholic High School field trip to Quebec City for October 19 to 23, 2005. Carried.
 - iii) St. Thomas of Villanova High School – Quebec City
Moved by Trustee Courtney and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board approve St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic High School field trip to Quebec City for February 10 to 14, 2006. Carried.
 - iv) Cardinal Carter Catholic High School – Paris, France

The draft itinerary for this educational excursion is to be amended to remove the reference to the wine tasting experience.

Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board approve Cardinal Carter Catholic High School field trip to Paris, France for March 10 to 20, 2006 with the amended itinerary as discussed. Carried.

- v) St. Anne’s Catholic High School – Kincardine/Owen Sound
Moved by Trustee Courtney and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board approve the St. Anne Catholic High School’s Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Kincardine, Ontario Field Trip for the Harvesting of Salmon Eggs for their school hatchery for 2 days falling somewhere between the end of September to early October 2005. Carried.
- vi) 2005 Fall Muskoka Woods Leadership Experience
Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the Board approve the 2005 Fall Muskoka Woods Leadership Experience field trip of October 11 to 14, 2005 for the following schools: H. J. Lassaline Elementary, Queen of Peace Elementary, St. Bernard (Amherstburg) Elementary, St. Louis Elementary, St. Maria Goretti Elementary, St. Pius X Elementary, Assumption College, St. Joseph’s High School, and St. Thomas of Villanova High School. Carried.

- vii) Walk-On Item: F. J. Brennan Catholic High School – Kincardine/Owen Sound
Moved by Trustee Porcellini and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the Board approve the F. J. Brennan Catholic High School’s Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Kincardine, Ontario Field Trip for the Harvesting of Salmon Eggs for their school hatchery for 2 days falling somewhere between the end of September to early October 2005. Carried.

13. Committee Reports

- a. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Minutes of June 8, 2005
Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive the minutes of the June 8, 2005 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting as information. Carried.

14. Notice of Motion – None.

15. Remarks and Announcements

- a. Chairperson Macri commented on the recent St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School Rededication and Blessing and congratulated both students and staff on the beautiful school facility.
- b. Director of Education Moher announced that the system-wide Together in Faith Day has been scheduled for Friday, December 2. Keynote speakers include Fr. James Mulligan, author of *Catholic Education: The Future is Now* and Sr. Clare Fitzgerald founder of founder/director of the Catholic Leadership Program at Boston University.
- c. Board Chaplain – No comments this evening.

16. Remarks/Questions by Trustees

- Trustee Porcellini congratulated students and staff of St. Angela and Immaculate Conception Elementary schools on their participation in the Terry Fox fundraising events. Trustee Porcellini asked administration to report the impact, if any, at the local board level of the possible passing of federal *Bill C60 – an Act to Amend the Copyright Act*.
- Trustee Keane congratulated the staff and students of St. Joseph’s Catholic High School for the Ground Blessing ceremony that took place this morning on the construction site of the new school facility.
- Trustee Alexander provided a brief report on the OCSTA Fall Regional meeting that he, Trustee Keane and Student Trustee Kishek attended last week. All trustees were previously provided with a copy of the OCSTA president’s address, which gave overview of the recent negotiations process at the provincial level. Trustee Alexander indicated that either he or Trustee Keane would be available to respond to specific questions related to the OCSTA meeting.
- Trustee DiMenna inquired about the status of the art mural project for the Catholic Education Centre and indicated several of the schools in her area are interested in participating.

- Student Trustee Kishek commented on her attendance at the OCSTA Fall Regional meeting. Student Trustee Kishek thanked trustees, members of administration and principals for attending the Student Senate Commissioning Ceremony last Tuesday. The Student Senate Faith Development Day, which is scheduled on Wednesday, November 2, will be expanded to include grade eight students and other secondary students active in faith development activities in their schools. Student Trustee Kishek attended the new St. Joseph's Catholic High School ground blessing and indicated the plans for the facility look impressive.

17. Pending Items

- a. Deferred from June 27, 2005: Board Policy Review Committee – Board Policy Revisions: *A:12 Code of Ethics / Conflict of Interest (Amended Policy)*
- b. Deferred from August 30, 2005: Notice of Motion - Trustee Soulliere: *“At the next Board meeting, I shall move or cause to be moved that the Board add two (2) more psychologists to its psychology department for a total of four (4), and that the cost be applied to the general budget to offset the cost of educational assistant lunch supervisor to the Special Education budget.”*

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, October 11, 2005
- Tuesday, October 25, 2005
- Tuesday, November 8, 2005
- Tuesday, November 22, 2005
- Tuesday, December 6, 2005 (Organizational Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, December 13, 2005

20. Closing Prayer – Father Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.

21. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Regular Board Meeting of September 27, 2005 adjourned at 9:55 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

John Macri
Board Chairperson

Michael Moher
Director of Education & Secretary