



Committee of the Whole Meeting

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, February 8, 2021 Virtually.

Trustees Present:

Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Kevin Dupuis, Jeanne Gravelle, Wendy Price, Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen (Chair), Tracey Weiler

Student Trustees Present:

Abby Barbosa & Kate Morrison

Administrative Officials Present:

Loretta Notten, Jason Connolly, Maria Ivankovic, John Klein, Shesh Maharaj, Judy Merkel, Richard Olson, Laura Shoemaker

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:

Absent:

Recorder:

Alice Figueiredo, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 5.7 all Board decisions made by consensus are deemed the equivalent of a unanimous vote. A consensus decision is therefore deemed to be a vote of 9-0. Under Board by-law 5.11 every Trustee "shall vote on all questions on which the Trustee is entitled to vote" and abstentions are not permitted.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials

The opening prayer was led by Student Trustee Morrison.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Territorial Acknowledgement was led by Chair Van Alphen.

Chair Van Alphen, Trustee Gravelle and Director Notten provided words of congratulations to Dr. Laura Shoemaker on her upcoming retirement.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Amendments to the agenda include updated 5.3 to Decision from Information. Also, 12.1 will be moved up before Items 6 to allow discussion with staff present.

2021-04 -- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Conway:

THAT the agenda for Monday, February 8, 2021, as amended, be now approved. --- Carried by consensus.

1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

1.3.1 From the current meeting – NIL

1.3.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting – NIL

2. Consent Agenda: Director of Education (e.g. day-to-day operational matters from the Ministry of Education that the board is required to do)

3. Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees (Minutes of meetings)

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings

3.1.1 Minutes of Monday, January 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Minutes

3.2 2021-2022 Estimates Budget Plan

2021-05 -- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Dupuis:

**THAT the Consent Agenda of Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved. ---
Carried by consensus**

4. Delegations

5. Advice From the CEO

5.1 Early Years Report

Superintendent Klein introduced the Early Years Report and the presenter Kim DeGasperi, Student Achievement Consultant, K-3. Ms. DeGasperi's presentation included update on professional learning for educators, celebrations, challenges and next steps.

5.2 Annual Report on STSWR

Superintendent Maharaj introduced the Annual Update on Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) and the presenter Benoit Bourgault, General Manager, STSWR. The presentation included highlights of 2019-2020, measuring performances, 2020-2021 Outlook and financial overview.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

5.3 Huron Brigadoon Boundary Review Timelines

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Virina Elgawly, Property/Planning Officer who provided a report on the Boundary Review Timelines. The report included scenarios and points for consideration. Round table discussion commenced with trustees. Trustees provided preference and concerns. Majority of Trustees felt it was important that current administrators be part of the process. Trustee Conway noted his concern that it was too rushed and did not see the justification and noted his preference of Appendix B.

Chair Van Alphen read the proposed motion and asked for a mover and a seconder.

2021-06 -- It was moved by Trustee Dupuis and seconded by Trustee Reitzel:

That the Board of Trustees direct staff to follow option C as outlined in this report for the Huron Brigadoon Boundary Review.

Chair Van Alphen asked if there was consensus. Trustee Conway stated that he opposed the motion and requested a recorded vote. As such, Chair Van Alphen asked for a show of hands of who was in favour of the motion:

Trustee Conway: No

Trustee da Silva: Yes

Trustee Dupuis: Yes

Trustee Gravelle: Yes

Trustee Price: Yes

Trustee Reitzel: Yes

Trustee Schmalz: Yes

Trustee Weiler: Yes

Chair Van Alphen: Yes

Motion passed with 8 votes in favor and 1 against. Motion carried on majority support.

Chair Van Alphen noted that the motion will be placed the in upcoming Board consent agenda to officially approve the motion.

5.4 Parent Engagement Update

Superintendent Merkel provided a Parent Engagement Update. Update included initiatives, PRO Grants, support to Schools/Catholic School Advisory Councils, onboarding event, CPIC goals and next steps.

At this time 12.1 was brought forth for discussion.

6. Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)

6.1 Linkages Activity

Trustees reported back from the Linkage Committee. Highlights included:

- Confirmation that invitations will be sent shortly to CPIC and SEAC for updated at May COW. As Audit already presented their annual report in November, will not make it onerous for them to come in May.
- Winter Walk to School Day is scheduled for February 10th, there are 14 schools participating, typically Trustees were invited to participate but due to COVID-19 regulations, Trustees will not be joining schools and were asked to support via social media to build awareness.
- A card will be purchased for Laura's retirement and left at CEC for Trustees to sign. Once signed Alice will send to Laura.
- Trustee Schmalz shared his volunteer experience with Tiny Homes.

6.2 Pastoral Care Activity

Trustees reported back from the Pastoral Care Committee. Highlights included:

- Recap on Paint Night.
- Thanks to Abby for continued work on Prayer Partner initiative.
- Looking for virtual speaker for Trustees on motivation, may be a fee.
- Reaching out to Fr. Joseph to see if Trustees can support Tiny Homes in any way.

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

8. Board Education (at the request of the Board)

8.1 OCSTA Communications

Chair Van Alphen briefly discussed OCSTA communications.

9. Policy Discussion

10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

12. Potential Agenda Items

12.1 OSTA-AECO Recommendations

A quick summary of the report was read, and Superintendent Olson was called upon for insight. Superintendent Olson noted that the Board does have an active Equity Committee and that the committee has organized sub-committees to address the Ontario Equity initiative. He noted that student voice is wanted and needed and that the Board is looking at the best method to ensure student voice is captured at that table. It was suggested that students might be better served by a student advisory committee with supervision, with guidance also being provided by our incoming Equity Officer, which the Board is in the process of hiring. It was suggested that from that table have a student representative would join the Equity Committee both capturing student voice from the district and channeling it to the central equity table.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback. It was noted that Student Trustees are looking at having an equity representative on student council. Superintendent Olson noted it is important there are a diversity of voices on the committee.

Trustee Conway noted concerns of lack of parent and community voice on the committee to address racism. Noted concern of just having one student on a mainly staff committee and whether their voice would truly be heard. Questioned how parents and community would get a voice at that table. Superintendent Olson reminded Trustees that the Board is moving forward with Student census which is collecting data from student body that is voluntary and confidential but not necessarily anonymous and part of that process is a consultation with the larger community with parent groups.

Chair Van Alphen noted that there was some interest in forming a group and suggested that Superintendent Olson come back to the Board with a report with the recommendations on how to move this forward or Trustees can take on and have it come forward at another meeting.

Trustee Conway noted that he was still not satisfied that the parent or community voice will be heard and believes ongoing dialogue is needed similar to committees such as CPIC and SEAC. Trustee Conway noted that he will work with the Chair of the Board and Director in bringing a Notice of Motion for a future Board meeting.

13. Announcements (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated)

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events

Trustees discussed upcoming events. Noted February 19th is Part 2 of Equity Training for those who registered.

14. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda/Pending Items

15. Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight. Closing Prayer

15.1 Confirm Decisions

The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.


16. Closing Prayer

17. Motion to Adjourn

*2021-07-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Gravelle:
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:19 p.m.*



Chair of the Board



Secretary