



Committee of the Whole Meeting

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, November 4, 2024, 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

Trustees Present:

Linda Cuff (Vice-Chair), Kathy Doherty-Masters, Winston Francis, David Guerin, Renee Kraft*, Marisa Phillips*, Robert Sikora (Chair), Conrad Stanley, Tracey Weiler

*- attended virtually via Teams

Trustee Kraft arrived in person to the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Student Trustees Present:

Allison-Hannah Berwick

Administrative Officials Present:

Tyrone Dowling, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonça, Judy Merkel, Kerry Pomfret, Jennifer Ritsma, Annalisa Varano

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:

Absent: Matteo Leone

Recorder:

Stephanie Medeiros, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 4.7 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 4.11 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

Opening prayer led by Trustee Weiler.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement

Territorial Acknowledgment declared by Chair Sikora.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of the agenda.

**2024-23 -- It was moved by Trustee Francis and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the agenda for Monday, November 4, 2024, be now approved.**

--- Carried by consensus.

1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

1.4.1 From the current meeting - NIL

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

1.5 Items for Action - 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

3.1.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes – Oct 7, 2024

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of the consent agenda.

2024-24 -- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Stanley:

THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved.

--- Carried by consensus.

4 Delegations

5 Advice From the CEO

5.1 School Travel Planning Update

Superintendent Maharaj welcomed Leslie Maxwell, Supervisor of School Travel Planning at Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region, to provide an update on School Travel Planning. The presentation covered various school travel methods and the participation rates of families in each mode of transportation, including bus, walking, and biking. Additionally, it addressed the recent road safety modifications implemented at St. Peter CES and Resurrection CSS. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.2 STSWR Annual Update

Superintendent Maharaj welcomed Benoit Bourgault, General Manager of Student Transportation Services for Waterloo Region, to deliver the STSWR Annual Update. The presentation covered highlights from the 2023-2024 school year, including an analysis of key strategic objectives, data, communications, and integration efforts. It also addressed key performance indicators and safety initiatives, along with a summary of appeals. Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, the primary focus will be on safety, followed by customer service, school travel planning, and technology. Additionally, a brief overview of expenditures for the current school year, and bus driver shortages was provided. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.3 EQAO

Superintendent Ritsma introduced Petra Le Duc, Board Math Lead, and Student Achievement Consultants Kim DeGasperis and Amy Healy to present the EQAO report. The presentation reviewed primary, junior, grade 9 and OSSLT levels of achievement and student confidence statistics in mathematics, reading and writing in the 2023-2024 school year. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.4 New Family Life Program

Superintendent Mendonça introduced Lisa Denomme, Religion and Family Life Consultant, to deliver the report on the New Family Life Program. The presentation provided an overview of the Blessed and Beloved manual and examined the various unit themes for grade one. It also covered the release dates for the program for grades two through eight. Trustees asked clarifying questions. Additionally, Trustees received an electronic link of the program from Superintendent Mendonça for their review.

5.5 Enrollment/Staffing Report

Superintendent Pomfret presented the Enrollment/Staffing Report. The report reviewed elementary and secondary enrolment numbers as of October 10th, 2024. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

6. Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)

6.1 Linkages Activity

Trustee Kraft detailed the linkages activities planned for November and provided an overview of forthcoming events, which include the Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony and the secondary Academic Awards ceremonies.

6.2 Pastoral Care Activity

Trustee Guerin presented the pastoral care initiatives for November, including a Spiritual Retreat for Trustees scheduled for April 7, 2025. St. Clements School will lead the opening prayer at the upcoming meeting, and there will be a session dedicated to brainstorming ideas for a community event.

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

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

8.1 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications

Chair Sikora briefly discussed OCSTA/CCSTA Communications.

8.2 OCSTA Resolutions

Chair Sikora announced that the OCSTA Resolutions are currently open for recommendations and invited Trustees to present any topics they wish to discuss. The following topics were brought forward as potential resolutions to submit to OCSTA: faith, voter designation, funding for cyber security, mathematics support for the junior division, teacher vacancies, sick leave and transportation concerns. Trustee Weiler offered to distribute a list to Trustees to add their ideas for resolutions.

8.3 Trustee Work Plan – November review

Chair Sikora reviewed items for review for the month of November and December in the Trustee Work Plan.

9. Policy Discussion

10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

12. Potential Agenda Items

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

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events

Trustees discussed upcoming events.

14. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda/Pending Items

14.1 Trustees discussed upcoming items on the next agenda.

15. Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.

15.1 Confirm Decisions

The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

15.2 Chair Sikora motioned for the meeting to be extended at 8:46 p.m.

**2024-25 -- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Francis:
THAT the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.
--Carried by consensus**

Chair Sikora motioned for Trustees to move into a Double In Camera Meeting.


**2024-26 -- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Kraft:
THAT the Board of Trustees move into a Double In Camera meeting.
--Carried by consensus**

16. Closing Prayer

16.1 Closing prayer led by all.

17. Motion to Adjourn

**2024-27 -- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Francis:
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:32 p.m.**



Chair of the Board



Secretary