



## **Committee of the Whole Meeting**

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, March 3, 2025, 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

**Trustees Present:**

Linda Cuff (Vice-Chair), Winston Francis, David Guerin, Renée Kraft, Marisa Phillips, Robert Sikora (Chair), Conrad Stanley, Tracey Weiler

**Student Trustees Present:**

Allison-Hannah Berwick\*-left the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

**Administrative Officials Present:**

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

**Special Resources For The Meeting:**

**Regrets:** Judy Merkel

**Absent:** Matteo Leone

**Recorder:**

Stephanie Medeiros, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 4.7, when a decision is reached by consensus, the minutes of the Meeting shall indicate a decision by consensus with the notation in the minutes that consensus means the decision was supported by all Trustees present and eligible to vote on a matter. Under Board by-law 4.11 Whenever a vote is required, every Trustee present when a vote is taken, including the Chair but excluding any Trustee who has declared a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as required by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, shall vote on all questions on which the Trustee is entitled to vote and abstentions are not permitted.

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### **1. Call to Order:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

#### **1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials**

Opening prayer – **Deferred to Special Board of Trustees**

#### **1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement**

Territorial Acknowledgment – **Deferred to Special Board of Trustees**

#### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of the agenda.

**2025-11 -- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Cuff:**

**THAT the agenda for Monday, March 3, 2025, 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 – Feb 10, 2025

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of the consent agenda.

**2025-12 -- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Kraft:**

**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 Student Success Update/Plan (Re-Engagement Strategy Update (12/12+))**

Superintendent Varano presented the Student Success Update, which provided an overview of achievements across various programs, including culinary arts, OYAP, and Skilled Trades. Secondary students had the chance to address the Skills Ontario team regarding the 2024 results, covering areas such as hairstyling, baking, construction. The presentation also included statistics from the Specialist High Skills Major program, details on the School College Work Initiative's dual credit offerings, and insights into experiential learning workshops. Additionally, it reviewed support mechanisms for secondary math students, re-engagement strategies, de-streaming efforts, and overall pathways to graduation. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

#### **6. Ownership Linkage** (Communication with the External Environment)

##### **6.1 Linkages Activity**

Trustee Kraft provided an update on Linkages Activity mentioning that congratulatory letters have been sent to Fr. Toby and Deacon Ed MacIntosh for their achievements. Reminded the Trustees to fill out the tracking sheet for events they have attended.

##### **6.2 Pastoral Care Activity**

Trustee Guerin provided an update on Pastoral Care Activity focusing on the specifics of the spiritual retreat in April. An invitation will be extended to the deanery for engagement in discussion and fellowship.

#### **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.

Trustee Weiler emphasized that congratulatory letters to elected officials following the election should be sent.

## **8.2 Equity Training**

Superintendent Mendonça initiated the presentation on Equity and Faith for the Trustees. The session focused on Catholic Social Teachings, highlighting the essential principles. It included examples of events in schools that exemplify these teachings, as well as discussion on the Catholic Beatitudes and Social Justice as frameworks for equity. Additionally, it covered policy development and implementation, detailing relevant legislation, the responsibilities of Ontario School Boards under the Ontario Human Rights Code, and laws pertaining to equity and inclusion for both staff and students. Key points regarding PPM 119 were reviewed, along with responsibilities towards staff and students, strategies for addressing racism, and outlined the connection between equity and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Trustees were encouraged to reflect individually on how equity is promoted in schools, inspired by one of the Catholic Social Teachings. Trustees shared their insights.

Lynn Garrioch, Senior Manager of Equity Services, delivered a presentation titled "Understanding Power and Privilege – Making the Invisible Visible." During the session, Trustees were divided into two groups to explore their feelings and frustrations regarding power and privilege, followed by a collective sharing of insights. Ms. Garrioch then elaborated on the concept of privilege, including discussion around the Power and Privilege wheel. Ms. Garrioch reviewed the power model specifying the differences between systemic, personal and local power and suggested the adoption of new language to mitigate frustrations among individuals, while facilitating a roundtable discussion among Trustees throughout the presentation.

## **8.3 Trustee Work Plan - March**

Chair Sikora reviewed items for review for the month of March 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.

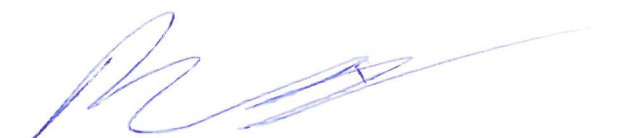
**16. Closing Prayer**

16.1 Closing prayer led by all.

**17. Motion to Adjourn**

**2025-13 -- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Cuff:**

**THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:25 p.m.**

  
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Chair of the Board  
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Secretary