



Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
December 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

Chair: B. Iannicca
Vice-Chair: A. Abbruscato

Trustees: J. Anderson T. da Silva L. del Rosario
F. Di Cosola S. Hobin E. O'Toole
M. Pascucci T. Thomas L. Zanella

Student Trustees: G. Eguaras S. Sammott

Director of Education: J. B. Kostoff
Associate Director of Instructional Services: R. Borrelli

Superintendents: J. Geiser J. Fitzgibbon L. Kazimowicz
E. McGuire S. McWatters M. Mazzorato
P. McMorrow J. P. Melito N. Milanetti
M. Prospero C. Saytar A. Tucciarone

General Managers: B. Campbell G. Robinson R. Lawton
D. McFadden J. Steele

Recorder: D. Reed

A Routine Matters

- 1 Call to Order and Attendance
Chair B. Iannicca called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m
- 2 Opening Prayer
Chair B. Iannicca led in the Opening Prayer.
- 3 Approval of the Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:
F 2 – Director's Annual Report 2006-2007

Motion 947 (07-12-11) by T. da Silva Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.
CARRIED

4. Declaration of Interest
Nil

5a Approval of Minutes, Regular Board Meeting, November 27, 2007

Motion 948 (07-12-11) by T. Thomas Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 27, 2007 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

ii) Business Arising from the Minutes
Nil

5b Approval of Minutes, Organizational Board Meeting, December 4, 2007

Motion 949 (07-12-11) by F. Di Cosola Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING
OF DECEMBER 4, 2007 BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

6. Report on Operating and Capital Accounts - J. D. Fitzgibbon

Motion 950 (07-12-11) by F. Di Cosola Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE REPORT ENTITLED OPERATING AND CAPITAL
ACCOUNTS BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

B Awards and Presentations
Nil

C Pastor's Remarks
Nil

D Delegations
Nil

E Information/Reports From Trustees, For Receipt

i) Regular Reports

ii) Good News Items

F Information/Reports From Administration, For Receipt

1. Overseas Excursions – A. Tucciarone

R. Borrelli, Associate Director of Instructional Services, introduced the report. In his opening comments, Associate Director Borrelli noted that the Overseas Excursion Committee met on Wednesday, November 14 and Thursday, November 15, 2007 to hear presentations for proposed excursions for the 2008 and 2009 school years. The final decision with respect to Overseas Excursions rests with the Associate Director, Instructional Services.

A. Tucciarone, Acting Superintendent of the Brampton Central Family of Schools summarized the details presented in the report including appendices A and B. He noted that the St. Martin Secondary School submission, outlined in appendix A was cancelled due to lack of support.

Various staff members responded to questions with regard to the required number of chaperones, religious content and social justice action. In response to questions asked, Acting Superintendent Tucciarone confirmed that supply teacher costs are included in the cost of the trips and that the Purchasing Department has a list of pre-qualified tour companies. A copy of the list will be forwarded to trustees.

Trustees asked that excursions having a specific social justice action be highlighted in future reports.

Motion 951 (07-12-11) by T. da Silva Seconded by L del Rosario

THAT THE REPORT SUMMARIZING THE OVERSEAS EXCURSION SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED ON NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2007 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

2. Director's Annual Report 2006-2007

The draft report was presented. The final version will be distributed to the system.

Motion 952 (07-12-11) by L. del Rosario Seconded by J. Anderson

THAT THE REPORT, DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G Reports From Committees For Receipt

1. Minutes of Special Education Advisory Committee, November 13, 2007

Motion 953 (07-12-11) by E. O'Toole Seconded by T. da Silva

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2007 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

H Trustee, Administration, Committee Reports Requiring Action

1. Annual Accessibility Plan – J. Geiser

Motion 954 (07-12-11) by T. Thomas Seconded by L. del Rosario

1. THAT THE REPORT ENTITLED ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Motion 955 (07-12-11) by T. Thomas Seconded by L. del Rosario

2. THAT THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN FOR THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2. Board Representation on Standing, Statutory and Ad Hoc Committees and Committees Established by Outside Agencies – 2008

An updated report was distributed.

Motion 956(07-12-11) by T. da Silva Seconded by L. del Rosario

1. THAT THE REPORT TO THE BOARD REGARDING BOARD REPRESENTATION ON STANDING, STATUTORY AND AD HOC COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES – 2008 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

The Director of Education, J. B. Kostoff, outlined the committee positions that still need to be dealt with. The outcome is as follows:

Audit Committee – M. Pascucci, L. Zanella and A. Abbruscato

S.A.L.E.P. – L. Zanella and S. Hobin

S.E.A.C. – J. Anderson, L. del Rosario, T. da Silva and T. Thomas

Central Committee for Catholic School Advisory Councils – L. del Rosario and T. Thomas

Modified School Year Calendar Committee - M. Pascucci and A. Abbruscato
School Child Care Operators Selection – M. Pascucci and T. Thomas
Secondary School Scholarships & Awards – A. Abbruscato and S. Hobin
Peel Safe and Active Routes to School – A. Abbruscato and L. del Rosario

The Director's office will contact the organization.

3. Resolutions for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association – M. Prospero
(Report distributed at meeting)

Motion 957(07-12-11) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

1. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
RECEIVE THE REPORT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS FOR OCSTA.
CARRIED

Resolution # 1

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

**TOPIC: MUNICIPALITIES TO REMIT THE SCHOOL TAXES
COLLECTED TO SCHOOL BOARDS MORE
FREQUENTLY**

WHEREAS: The Education Act Section #257.11 outlines the timetable that municipalities are required to follow when remitting school taxes to the school boards.

WHEREAS: The Education Act currently mandates that municipalities remit the school taxes four times annually based on a payment schedule outlined in the Act.

WHEREAS: it would be financially beneficial to school boards to receive the school taxes monthly because the improved cash flow would reduce borrowing costs for boards and/or create investment income opportunities for the benefit of students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA request that the Ministry of Education review the current protocol outlined in Section 257.11 of the Education Act with a view to changing the frequency of the payments by municipalities to school boards from the current system to a monthly payment schedule.

CARRIED

Resolution # 2

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: **NON-DEFAULT TO PUBLIC ASSESSMENT WHEN
PROPERTY CHANGES OWNERSHIP**

WHEREAS: The Education Act and the Assessment Act assures the primacy of the English Public System as default Public; and

WHEREAS: unless the new occupant declares a different school support, the property support defaults to English Public; and

WHEREAS: this is both an administrative and legislated practice (Sec.236.1 and 2, Education Act); and

WHEREAS: Municipal Property Assessment Corporation changes the property assessment to English Public.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to allow property to remain the same as the previous owner and not default to English Public.

CARRIED

Resolution # 3

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: **SPLIT PROPERTY ASSESSMENT PUBLIC vs CATHOLIC**

WHEREAS: the Ministry of Education in The Education Act, Sec.257, mandates that property taxes can only be assessed to one designation; and

WHEREAS: taxpayers request the opportunity to split their assessments; and

WHEREAS: it would allow parents to enrol students in two public-funded systems; and

WHEREAS: declining enrolment necessitates the need to retain students in the Catholic school system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to allow split assessment recognizing the declining enrolment patterns in the province.

CARRIED

Resolution # 4

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

**TOPIC: THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REVIEW THE
EDUCATION FUNDING MODEL (GSN) BEFORE 2010**

WHEREAS: the Ministry has advised boards of its intention to review the Education Funding Model (GSN) sometime in 2010.

WHEREAS: the review of the Education Funding Model should be completed earlier than in 2009 so that any positive adjustments, including potential changes to benchmarks, can be implemented as soon as possible.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA request the Ministry of Education to review the Education Funding Model (GSN) prior to 2009 in order for school boards to have the opportunity as soon as possible to take advantage of any potential improvements that may result from that review.

CARRIED

Resolution # 5

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

**TOPIC: ADJUDICATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND SCHOOL BOARDS**

WHEREAS: the Ministry of Education and School Boards recognize the need for collaboration as outlined in The Education Act; and

WHEREAS: at times there are specific areas of disagreement; and

WHEREAS: there is a need for a process to resolve these disagreements; and

WHEREAS: there is no process at this time for consistent resolutions of disagreements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to enact an adjudication process for disagreements between School Boards and the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED

Resolution # 6

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: **SCHOOL BUS SAFETY**

WHEREAS: the Ministry of Transportation is conducting a review of school bus safety in Ontario; and

WHEREAS: the focus will be on seating arrangements; and

WHEREAS: the Ministry staff is also looking at collision data and information about collisions where seat belts have been beneficial in saving lives and preventing injuries; and

WHEREAS: they are also receiving information from those US states where seat belts are required on school buses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Transportation to establish a school bus design protocol that will ensure the safety of all transported students.

CARRIED

Resolution # 7

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: **MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS: The Education Act and its Regulations provide school board members with an Honoraria package that does not include medical benefits.

WHEREAS: Trustees continue to work very long and hard to ensure that school boards accommodate the needs of students in the best possible way.

WHEREAS: Trustees receive a modest Honorarium for the work that they perform on behalf of thousands of students.

WHEREAS: Trustees should be entitled to receive medical benefits as part of their overall Honoraria package.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to review the overall Trustee Honoraria and implement a reasonable medical benefits plan as soon as possible.

CARRIED

Resolution # 8

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: TRUSTEE HONORARIA

WHEREAS: The Education Act S 191(1) describes the Honoraria provisions for Trustees. Ontario Regulation #357/06 calculates the Honoraria to be paid during the term of office. The Honoraria are composed of 4 parts: a base amount, an enrolments amount, an attendance amount and a distance amount; and

WHEREAS: Trustees put forth considerable personal time and effort to ensure that the students of school boards receive the best possible education; and

WHEREAS: the Trustee Honoraria set out in the Ontario Regulation #357/06 is comprised primarily of funds related to enrolment; and

WHEREAS: Boards with declining enrolment will impact future Trustee Honoraria paid to members in the future; and

WHEREAS: Board Members should be protected from a reduction in Honoraria related to declining enrolment through a change to the formula that calculates the base amount.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA request the Ministry of Education to review the Trustee Honoraria components with a view to adjusting the formula to protect Board Members from reduced Honoraria, as a result of declining enrolment.

CARRIED

Resolution # 9

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: PENSIONS FOR TRUSTEES

WHEREAS: All elected municipal officials in the Province of Ontario receive a pension (OMERS)

WHEREAS: The Education Act and its Regulations provide school board members with an Honoraria package that does not include pension benefits.

WHEREAS: Trustees continue to work very long and hard to ensure that school boards accommodate the needs of students in the best possible way.

WHEREAS: Trustees receive a modest Honoraria for the work that they perform on behalf of thousands of students.

WHEREAS: Trustees should be entitled to receive pension benefits as part of their overall Honoraria package pending changes to the Education Act and Regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA request the Ministry of Education to review the overall Trustee Honoraria package and implement a reasonable pension benefit plan as soon as possible.

CARRIED

Resolutions # 10

MOVED BY: Trustee E. O'Toole

SECONDED BY: Trustee L. Zanella

TOPIC: SUSPENSION COMMITTEES AS STATUTORY COMMITTEES

WHEREAS: the Ministry of Education has recognized that the role of Statutory Committees in determining additional income beyond the honorarium for such Statutory Committees, such as SEAC; and

WHEREAS: under the New Safe School Legislation significant amount of time will be invested in hearings regarding suspension and expulsion; and

WHEREAS: suspension and expulsion committees will become a regular part of the weekly life of Trustees and Board staff; and

WHEREAS: the time commitment and the legislation required establishment of such committees be created in each Board.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to provide additional funding beyond the honorarium in recognizing suspension expulsion committees as part of statutory committees therefore provide additional funding to Trustees to serve on such committees.

CARRIED

Resolutions # 11

MOVED BY: Trustee M. Pascucci

SECONDED BY: Trustee T. Thomas

TOPIC: PARTIAL REBATE OF PAST PAID BY SCHOOL BOARDS ON THE PURCHASES OF SERVICES AND GOODS USED IN THE CLASSROOM AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOOL BOARD

WHEREAS: School boards incur substantial operating costs as a result of the payment of GST and PST on most goods and services used in the school classroom.

WHEREAS: A partial reduction in the GST rate by the Federal Government would be a significant benefit to school boards as board's operating costs would be reduced thereby providing more opportunities for new, enhanced and/or additional programs for students.

WHEREAS: A partial rebate in the PST from the Provincial Government over the next five years would be a significant benefit to school boards as boards operating costs would be reduced thereby providing more opportunities for new, enhanced and/or additional programs for students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association request that the Minister of Finance of Ontario review the PST incurred by school boards with a view to provide a partial rebate to reduce school board operating costs and thereby provide increased opportunities for funding new, enhanced and/or additional programs for students.

CARRIED

Motion 958 (07-12-11) by M. Pascucci Seconded by T. Thomas

2. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE RESOLUTIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO OCSTA.

CARRIED

I Notices of Motion
Nil

J Additional Business
Nil

K Questions Asked by, and of, Board Members

1. Trustee T. da Silva put forth the following motion:

Motion 959(07-12-11) by T. da Silva Seconded by M. Pascucci

THAT THE OCSTA UPDATE BE A REGULAR ITEM ON THE
ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE AND FAITH AND PROGRAM
AGENDAS.

CARRIED

2. In response to Trustee L. Zanella's inquiry about the condition of the portables at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, J. P. Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations, acknowledged that he was unaware of the specifics. It was agreed that Trustee Zanella would discuss the matter with Superintendent Melito.
3. Trustee M. Pascucci raised the matter of a leak in the portapak at St. Alfred Elementary School. J. Melito, Superintendent of Planning and Operations, explained that there was a leak in the portable and the leak was fixed. Also, there was a need to repair the roof. Unfortunately, while the roof was being repaired it rained again. In the first instance, the problem was fixed and the air quality was tested and the school was certified. After the roof was repaired, it was inspected once again.

With regard to the parents' inquiry with respect to the possibility of renovations or addition to that school, the matter is being handled through the Superintendent of the Planning Department. That school is not on the Capital Plan.

The information is to be forwarded to Trustee M. Pascucci prior to Thursday.

4. In response to Trustee S. Hobin's question with respect to registration of secondary students, R. Borrelli, Associate Director of Instructional Services advised that it is expected that students would register at one school only and that administration relies on the good faith and trust of Principals.

L Business/Questions/Information In Camera

Motion 960 (07-12-11) by T. Thomas

Seconded by E. O'Toole

THAT THE BOARD RESOLVE INTO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
FOR THE IN CAMERA SESSION.

CARRIED

M Rise and Report

Motion 961 (07-12-11) by S. Hobin

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA
BE PRESENTED AND THAT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS
BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

N Future Meetings

Regular Board Meeting, January 29, 2008

Regular Board Meeting, February 26, 2008

Regular Board Meeting, March 25, 2008

Regular Board Meeting, April 22, 2008

Regular Board Meeting, May 27, 2008

Regular Board Meeting, June 10, 2008

O Adjournment

Motion 962 (07-12-11) by T. Thomas

Seconded by S. Hobin

THAT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

CARRIED