

Celebration of the Eucharist

**Celebrant: The Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau
Board Chapel**

Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Board Room, Catholic Education Centre

A Opening Prayer and Call to Order by the Secretary of the Board - J. B. Kostoff

At 7:00 p.m. the Director of Education and Secretary to the Board, J. B. Kostoff, called the meeting to order.

Bishop Boissonneau, Trustees, Families and friends of Dufferin-Peel. Let me begin by welcoming you to this evening's proceedings.

Director J. B. Kostoff asked everyone to join in the Advent Prayer.

B Approval of Agenda – J. B. Kostoff

Motion 001 (11-12-06) by A. Abbruscato

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

C Welcoming of Guests and Presentation of the Director's Report – J. B. Kostoff

Good Evening and welcome to the annual Organizational Meeting of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. I would like to extend a special welcome to the visitors and guests who have joined us, and a particular welcome to Bishop John Boissonneau, who celebrated our Advent Liturgy. Bishop Boissonneau has been a stalwart around this table for many years in supporting the work of Catholic education and has attended many of our Organizational Meetings in the past.

The end of the year review is meant to be a summary of many of our board's accomplishments. It will be followed by the Director's Annual Report, which will be brought forward next week.

This has been a very successful year for Dufferin-Peel because of the good work of the men and women elected as Trustees who sit around this table and also because of the men and women who flank me, as Superintendents and Associate Directors. But

success is achieved as a result of many other areas as well: Because of the administrators, teachers and support staff who work in our schools and other facilities, the 85,000 plus students who attend our schools, plus the additional 40,000 in our Adult and Continuing Education Programs. We are successful because of the support of Catholic education by our parents and guardians, our clergy and our rate-payers, many of whom no longer have children in our system, but believe strongly in the value of what a distinctive Catholic education offers. This includes the parents and guardians who choose a Catholic education for their children at the secondary level through Open Access.

The framework from much that we have done this year can be found in the Advent reading of the first Sunday which calls us to be watchful, mindful and to listen. I think that those three words that we, as a community, are called at this time to be attentive to, are the three words that would identify with much of the work that has taken place over the past year. We have been watchful, mindful and attentive to many areas in our community and to many projects, activities and events.

I will not delve into a litany of the successes that this board has achieved, and that Trustees received in the September Director's Report, and the Director's Annual Report, which will come forward next week, as well as the monthly Dashboard Reports from Superintendents on a variety of topics so I am confident that Trustees and the community are well informed about the successes here in Dufferin-Peel. I will, however, highlight a few that I think are worth noting today.

I begin with the acknowledgement of our board in bringing to completion "Our Story. Our Tradition. Our Journey", a student resource that identifies the history of Catholic education and the role that local churches and communities played in the establishment, development and growth of the Peel and Dufferin Regions, since prior to Confederation, to this day.

This is a community studies resource that is used in our Grades 7 and 10 programs. It is a tribute to the work of many in this board. Early indications are that this has been a resource that has been well appreciated and is being supported in our schools.

I look at the Award of Merit recognition that our Trustees recently gave to a number of Religious and Diocesan orders that were instrumental in the foundation of our school system. I look at the infusion of monies by the board to our Family Life education program and our commitment to supporting students and our communities in a variety of social justice activities both inside and outside our country. I look at our success in opening up our Full-Day Kindergarten sites. I note with pride that our policies that made it equitable for communities to access these programs have been followed by many boards around the province. I look at the creation of our Student Voice, made up of School Prime Ministers.

I look at the opening of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School, Integrated Ridership, Re-engagement Strategies for Grade 12 students and beyond, our Catholic Culture Community and Caring climate surveys, policies passed by this board on Equity and Inclusion Strategies, the publication of documents outlining the Role of the Trustees in dealing with complaints, which bring greater clarity to the roles and to the process for the community. I look at changes in walking distances, the establishment of budget priorities for the year 2010- 2011, additional grades at Cardinal Ambrozic, St. Roch and St. Michael's secondary schools, schools that are well subscribed and valued in the community. I look at our agreement with the City of Mississauga regarding Track & Field Facilities at Loyola, the outstanding EQAO tests results in Grades 3,6 and 10, Strategies to improve the Grade 12 graduation rates, the massive amount of work that Trustees undertook this year to review 86 by-laws and procedures to bring our practices in line with current changes, the strong call by trustees for the expansion of our French Immersion Programs, the creation of our Internal Audit Committee and the receipt of internal audit reports which have demonstrated, again and again, our compliance, not only to legislation but to best practices and our ability to respond when those practices are not followed. I look at our energy savings initiatives, which saw solar panels installed on five rooftops, energy efficient thermostats and lighting systems installed in schools, upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems in over 24 schools and our growing number of our Eco-certified schools. The support for Specialist High Skills Majors programs, the revision of the policy on school and beverage programs, policies with regard to pupils with anaphylactic allergies, revisions to our school graduation document and revisions to our advertising policies. All have helped further define the culture of success here in Dufferin-Peel.

In addition, I look at the leadership that this board has taken within the province on funding issues, on meeting with MPPs, on our Equity & Diversity strategies, and one sees that this is a board that has heeded the Advent message to listen, be mindful and be watchful.

Where the board has been able to respond financially, we saw the utilization of \$1.5 million for science textbooks and \$2 million in other subject textbooks. As well, we witnessed the largest infusion of money into Special Education last year, in addition to the over expenditure that we already carry to meet the needs of our students.

Dufferin-Peel continues to be a board that demonstrates prudence with balancing its budget ... in making decisions that, while not always popular, are in the long run beneficial to the board.

And at the age where self-interest and individual concerns populate the public agenda, the men and women serving as your Trustees have put aside local interest for the broader public good of the board. That form of leadership is courageous leadership at its finest.

The role of governance and oversight demonstrated by the Trustees is an essential component of the success of this board and has been consistent in the past year. Our Strategic Plan continues to govern our actions, and from that plan have flowed: the System Directions, the Corporate and Instructional Learning Plans and the Smart Goals at each school. We have an integrated approach to management and leadership that has been successful.

Vision without clear direction is dreaming, although direction without vision is a recipe for frustration. But this past year, we have been able to blend our strategic vision with operational directions that have benefited the system and ultimately our students and our schools. This change in approach, coupled with honest assessments of the year's achievements by Trustees, has resulted in the outstanding overall success of Dufferin-Peel.

I would thank our outgoing chair, Anna Abbruscato, for her leadership over the past two years and for the opportunity to work closely with her, as the Director does with every chair. I would also acknowledge the good work done by the chairs and vice chairs of committees, OCSTA representatives, and community representatives. The time spent at this table represents only a fraction of the time that Trustees spend on behalf of Dufferin-Peel and Catholic education and it often goes unnoticed.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the men and women who serve as Superintendents and Associate Directors. These are committed educators with a strong sense of public service on behalf of Catholic education and to the common good. It is a privilege and an honour to work with them on your behalf. To all of our employees in Dufferin-Peel, I thank you.

While I get to acknowledge the successes of the system, I am not blinded by the fact that these successes are the results of many; people who serve in our staff, working in our schools and our facilities, our departments and our board office, each and every day. We are blessed with outstanding students, a strong and engaged parent community that is supportive of our system, with Priests, Pastors, a Bishop and an Archbishop, who support the work that we do. It truly is a community.

We know that words and plans are not enough. As leaders, we have to stand up for our beliefs. The leaders around this table practice what they preach. They show others, by their own example, the values they profess and the beliefs they hold. Trustees and other leaders in the system may hold the title of authority; we know that it is our behaviour that earns respect. The consistency between our words and actions builds credibility in the community. This has been, and continues to be, the hallmark of what we try to do each and every day.

Be mindful, watchful and listen. As always, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve Trustees and the community of Dufferin-Peel.

D Election of Chair of the Board In Accordance with Bylaws

Elections were conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Board Bylaws.

Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, J. Hrajnik, Associate Director of Instructional Services, R. Borrelli and , Acting Assistant Superintendent for the School Effectiveness Framework and MISA, M. DeVellis were appointed scrutineers.

Nominations for Chair of the Board were opened by Secretary to the Board J. B. Kostoff.

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas
Trustee S. Hobin was nominated by Trustee S. McLauchlan

Trustees M. Pascucci and S. Hobin accepted the nominations.

In accordance with Board practice, the Secretary of the Board, J. B. Kostoff, requested further nominations. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

Ballots were counted and Trustee M. Pascucci was elected by a clear majority on the first ballot.

Motion 002 (11-12-6) by T. Thomas

Seconded by A. da Silva

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

Chair M. Pascucci assumed the chair in order to conduct the remainder of the proceedings. Chair M. Pascucci thanked trustees for their support and for allowing him the privilege of serving the Board.

E Election of Vice-Chair of the Board In Accordance with Bylaws

Chair M. Pascucci called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

Trustee L. Zanella was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas
Trustee B. Iannicca was nominated by Trustee P. Ferreira

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations. There being none, nominations were declared closed.

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

Ballots were counted and Trustee L. Zanella was elected by a clear majority on the first ballot.

Vice-Chair L. Zanella took the seat next to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. Vice-Chair L. Zanella thanked her fellow trustees for their support and the opportunity to serve the Board in this new capacity.

Motion 003 (11-12-06) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by S. McLaughlan

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

F Appointment of Auditors - J. B. Kostoff

Motion 004 (11-12-06) by E. O'Toole

Seconded by T. Thomas

1. THAT THIS REPORT ENTITLED "APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS" DECEMBER 6, 2011 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Motion 005 (11-12-06) by E. O'Toole

Seconded by T. Thomas

2. THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPOINT DELOITTE & TOUCHÉ LLP, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AS THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS OF THE BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 AT A FEE OF \$81,990 (EXCLUDING TAXES) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE AT THEIR IN CAMERA MEETING OF NOVEMBER 29, 2011.

CARRIED

G Remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Board – L. Zanella

Good evening your Excellency, honoured guests, staff and fellow trustees. Thank you for electing me to represent the board as Vice-Chair. I look forward to working with the chair and all trustees with the issues this board will face in the coming year. In particular, I am very pleased to bring the perspective from the northern part of the board.

H Remarks from the Chair of the Board – M. Pascucci

Good evening your Excellency, honoured guests, staff and fellow trustees. Thank you all. Thank you to the parish priests, to my fellow trustees and to all staff. Thank you for making Dufferin-Peel the excellent board that it is. In my role as Chair, I am committed to an open door policy. To my colleagues and staff, I won't let you down.

I Adjourment

Motion 006 (11-12-06) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by E. O'Toole

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. (7:45 p.m.)

CARRIED

Secretary of the Board

Chairperson