

**Celebration of the Eucharist**

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

**Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board**

**Tuesday, December 3, 2013 - 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 and invited everyone to join in the Advent Prayer.

**B Approval of Agenda—J. B. Kostoff**

**Motion 001 (13-12-03) by T. Thomas**

**Seconded by S. McLauchlan**

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

***CARRIED***

**C Welcoming of Guests—J. B. Kostoff**

On behalf of the trustees, Director J. B. Kostoff welcomed guests and extended an invitation to attend the social that followed the meeting.

**D Presentation of the Director's Report—J. B. Kostoff**

Director J. B. Kostoff presented the Director's annual address to the Board. Each year at this time the director is asked to give, under the Education Act, a report to the community in terms of the year's perspective. A more detailed report will come forward at the December Board Meeting. This evening I would like to begin by thanking Bishop Boissonneau for joining us once again. I think this is the sixth or seventh organizational meeting you have attended with us. We appreciate you arranging your schedule to be with us for such an important event.

Good evening and welcome to our 44<sup>th</sup> year of Organizational Board meetings. On behalf of the trustees a special welcome to our Bishop, John Boissonneau, and to the guests who have joined us this evening.

This year, we are in the final year of our existing Board mandate and elections will be held in early fall of next year.

Given this, it is only fitting that we look back at this year and the many successes that the Board has achieved, in large part to the men and women who serve as Trustees. But, I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge the senior administrative staff of this Board, who assist me every day, not to mention the teachers and support staff who, each, day create a future of positive memories for our students.

The Director's Annual Report will be presented at the December board meeting so I will address three successes that the Board has celebrated this past year.

In student engagement and achievement, we have seen continued increase in student achievement, increase in student participation in SHSM's, the growth of SHSM's, increased graduation rates, and the creation of the first, soon to be announced, IB elementary school in our region, St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre. We have also seen increased options for those seeking French Immersion in our system, specialty programs linking our secondary schools to our community colleges, new approaches to engaging students who have not obtained the required number of credits to graduate, expansion of our continuing education programs, and the success of our Identified students. Our destination as a school of choice for open access to students at the secondary level continues to be strong.

Our outreach to our Aboriginal community in Peel and the strategies that we are employing to engage those students is one of increased understanding of the importance of this community in the region. In short, we have gained by supporting this community with resources and curriculum, but we have also gained with a greater understanding of the role that aboriginal communities have played and continue to play in this country. In short, our Board continues to meet the needs of all learners in a financially responsible fashion. This strategy has worked and is continuing to work for this Board.

Secondly, in the area of technology, we have had on ongoing concern in this Board. Some years back, this Board was seen as one of the leaders in technology in this province, and I believe we are poised to re-capture that title. It was only a few years ago that we engaged in two costly platforms, (Windows and Apple) had little connectivity for forms and policies, we were unable to have students access the internet, our data center would overheat regularly, regular breakdowns in service were expected, limited bandwidth made it impossible to deal with the internet, YouTube, larger documents or any type of web discussions, and we had students with no service in portables or portapaks in the area of technology. We accessed our system through dial-up, which was a very weak platform. There was no VPN to allow administrators and teachers to access information outside the school day. Often these would not work in certain weather conditions. Our telephone system was antiquated and no longer supported. SMART boards could be ordered, but could not be installed in a timely fashion, there was little

professional development in the area of technology, computers had to be left on 24 hours a day because we did not have the ability to power or manage them, we could not control our electrical costs, we had to install programs directly on machines one at a time instead of remotely, and we only had labs in our schools. We could not collect central data to help design practices and inform our decisions, nor did we have a central management system for our libraries. Viruses continued to shut down the system for a day or up to two weeks – that may have been alright now that I think about it, we had multiple versions of programs that made it difficult to share documents with other members inside and outside of the Dufferin-Peel community, we had a Trillium system that was out of date and no longer supported our needs, and we had a system that could not provide financial tools or monitoring of school and Board budgets. In some five years we have witnessed significant changes in the improvements of our system. At a time of reduced budgets, this Board of Trustees has found ways to support the expansion of technology while being financially prudent. All those problems listed earlier are, for the most part, gone. We are poised to begin this January with the development of lab carts with tablets as we migrate away from school labs, which will allow greater access for our students in technology in their classrooms, regardless of their grade or location in the school. The creation of Wi-Fi in our schools and the installation of over 20 kilometers of wiring in our schools this past year has assisted us in recapturing the lead in technology. This past year, we upgraded more than 5,300 computers. No computer in our elementary system is more than two years old. We have installed more than 550 SMART boards in this year alone and we have redesigned the Board web page, developed a web registration for French immersion, redesigned the school web page and developed a management system for libraries. We have upgraded to Office 2013 and addressed more than 50,000 system requests as we have moved towards the Windows platform and specialty programs for Apple. Teachers can now bring in their devices to the schools and soon we will be reviewing our student device policy but only when we have addressed the issues of equity so that we do not create in our schools technological “haves” and “have nots”. That cannot be allowed to happen in our Catholic schools.

Is this good enough? Of course not. We will always be relentless in seeking to provide our students with the tools needed in the area of technology to assist our students in their learning but should give us pause to recognize the accomplishments. These accomplishments are the results of Trustees supporting technology and monitoring our progress and placing budgets in the appropriate area. To those who serve on the Governance Committee, who review technology and approve pilots, to the ICT staff, and to all of our teachers and students who embrace this new technology, I say thank you.

I could speak about our climate surveys that continue to show our schools are safe environments, the installation of cameras at our elementary school doors, new policies and procedures to ensure greater security of our students, revisions to our suspension and discipline codes, workshops on cyber bullying, and most recently the creation of anonymous reporting at our secondary and elementary levels. Our association with the Safe School Network, Peel Regional Police, the OPP and our community is a beneficial

relationship and one that we are continuing to see develop. Are we satisfied with the safety of our students as being a paramount concern? The answer is no. We recognize often that we must continue to be vigilant on behalf of our students.

Finally, I would like to comment on the on-going Catholic nature of our schools. We are a system that believes in values and that part of our education is not just the accumulation of skills and knowledge, but also the development of a moral and spiritual person, a person who knows what to do with the knowledge and understanding they have achieved in school. We have grown as a system beyond seeing the students simply as receptacles that should be filled with knowledge and then sent out to the world. The ethical and moral complexities of our society, the world that our students are living in now, are deep and winding and without a value system or a moral compass to navigate them in, then we would have failed these students. Whether it is in religion courses, retreats, the use of resources, our curriculum, before and after school activities, our school taking time to reflect on the sacredness of life, the celebration of liturgies, we all use these to develop the moral compass that is a sign of a truly educated person. For those who claim that education should be value-neutral, these people neither know the meaning of values nor the meaning of neutral. A sign of an educated person is a person who has a moral compass and has that time to reflect and develop that moral awareness. For those in our system, it is based on our Catholic teachings and Christian principles. To the priests, parents/guardians, teachers, administrators and Trustees, and to the school board senior staff, I thank you for your tireless efforts on their behalf. But, we still cannot be satisfied.

I could go on talking about our growth projection for the next 15 years making us one of the largest boards in Ontario, our eco-school leadership with 100% of our schools applying for certification or re-certification, our work in hospitality, inclusion, diversity and equity, and the excitement of creating our new strategic plan, but time does not permit.

Bob Dylan, from my vintage, once said, "If you aren't busy being born, then you are busy dying". In this Board, we are being busy being born, trying new approaches, solidifying, learning, scaffolding successful practices, standing up for what we believe, reaching out to new directions, demonstrating what governance and leadership is every day. To the Trustees around this table and to the staff and to our students and our support workers and to the community, you have our commitment that we will continue to be a system that you can be proud of because each day parents send us the most valuable gift, their children, and those children have an appointment with destiny. Our task is to prepare them, and it starts every day all over again.

Thank you all who have gathered here today for being strong supporters of Catholic education. It is an honor and privilege to serve you as Director of Education and to work with so many in this room on a daily basis.

J. B. Kostoff  
Director of Education

**E Election of Chair of the Board In Accordance with Bylaws**

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

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas. Trustee M. Pascucci accepted the nomination.

Trustee S. Hobin was nominated by Trustee A. da Silva. Trustee S. Hobin declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Secretary of the Board, J. B. Kostoff, requested further nominations. There being none, nominations were declared closed and Trustee M. Pascucci was acclaimed Chair of the Board.

Chair M. Pascucci assumed the chair in order to conduct the remainder of the proceedings. The Chair thanked trustees for their support and their confidence.

**F Election of Vice-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, S. McWatters and Superintendent of Program, D. Oude-Reimerink were appointed scrutineers.

Chair M. Pascucci called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Trustee L. Zanella was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas  
Trustee S. Hobin was nominated by Trustee A. Abbruscato

Trustees L. Zanella and S. Hobin accepted the nominations.

**Motion 002 (13-12-03) by B. Iannicca**

**Seconded by S. McLauchlan**

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

***CARRIED***

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

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

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

**Motion 003 (13-12-03) by P. Ferreira**

**Seconded by F. Di Cosola**

**THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.**

***CARRIED***

**G Appointment of Auditors—J. B. Kostoff**

**Motion 004 (13-12-03) by E. O’Toole**

**Seconded by L. Zanella**

**THAT THE REPORT ENTITLED “APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS”, DATED DECEMBER 3, 2013, BE RECEIVED.**

***CARRIED***

**Motion 005 (13-12-03) by E. O’Toole**

**Seconded by S. Hobin**

**THAT THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPOINT DELOITTE LLP, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AS THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS OF THE BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 AT A FEE OF \$84,300 (EXCLUDING TAXES) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE AT ITS IN-CAMERA MEETING OF NOVEMBER 11, 2013.**

***CARRIED***

**H Remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Board—S. Hobin**

I appreciate your support and I really look forward to working with our chair and working together in representing the board of trustees and will work very hard on behalf of Dufferin-Peel, I promise.

**I Remarks from the Chair of the Board—M. Pascucci**

One thing that we can’t lose sight of the fact that the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has almost 150 schools, 10 000 employees and 84,000 students. We are one of the largest employers in the region and by virtue of our 150 schools, we are neighbors to many people in the community.

We recognize that we have a brand that is second to none. Dufferin-Peel stands for something and everyone knows what we stand for; that is excellence in education.

Bishop Boissonneau, I want to thank you for your unwavering support, and would you please thank the priests and churches that help our schools.

I’d like to thank the system for your dedication to Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel. I would also like to thank my fellow trustees for making Catholic education so important. We are there every day, if not at a school, we are at a board meeting. And, if we are not

in a meeting we are thinking about it, making sure Catholic education goes on to the next generation.

Thank you for your support. All I can say is I will do the best I can. With God's will, we will have a wonderful year.

God Bless you.

**J      Adjournment**

**Motion 006 (13-12-03) by A. da Silva**

**Seconded by T. Thomas**

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. (7:30 p.m.)**

***CARRIED***