

Celebration of the Eucharist

**Celebrant: The Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau
St. John XXIII Chapel, Catholic Education Centre**

**Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board
Tuesday, December 5, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

A Call to Order by the Secretary of the Board—M. Mazzorato

At 7:00 p.m. the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, M. Mazzorato, called the meeting to order. All elected trustees and students were in attendance.

B Opening Prayer – The Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau

The Most Reverend John A. Boissonneau led the opening prayer.

C Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory—M. Mazzorato

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, M. Mazzorato, acknowledged the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

D Approval of Agenda—M. Mazzorato

Motion 001 (17-12-05) by T. Thomas

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

E Director’s Address to the Board—M. Mazzorato

Director M. Mazzorato presented the Director’s annual year-end address to the Board.

Good Evening and welcome to the annual Organizational Meeting of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. I would like to welcome His Excellency, Bishop John Boissonneau, Vicar for Christian education in the Archdiocese of Toronto and our beloved Regional Bishop. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to any visitors and guests who have joined us.

Acknowledgement of the traditional territory is an important cultural protocol for many Indigenous peoples, nations and cultures, both in Canada and abroad. The practice demonstrates respect for the traditional custodians of a particular region or area, and serves to strengthen relationships. The Dufferin-Peel CDSB acknowledges the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as the stewards and traditional custodians of the land in which our schools and facilities are located and upon which this meeting takes place this evening.

It is fitting that the Director’s annual address is being delivered as we enter the season of Advent. This is a time of stillness and quiet, a time to remember that we are readying ourselves for Jesus to come. It is a time that we both look back at what has happened and look forward to what will happen, as we open our hearts and minds to the coming of our Lord. We ask for God’s grace to slow down and reflect on where we need the Lord most in our lives.

It is easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of Christmas, without stopping to take the time to reflect, to patiently wait for Jesus to make his presence known to us. As we serve the Catholic community, may we be renewed in our understanding that Jesus is with us now and forever.

Nobel Prize winning Irish poet, writer and lecturer Shamus Heaney asked the question; “Since when are the first line and last line of any poem where the poem begins and ends?”

In education, we do have distinct beginning and end points the first day of school, the last day of school. In reality, these are just typical days for many of us as there are countless tasks to be completed up to, during, and beyond opening and closing dates. Yet, we always seem to get those tasks done!

Each year, staff collectively collaborate to embark on ambitious plans focused on achieving the strategic goals this board of trustees has set, knowing that the faith formation, well-being and achievement of our students is central to our vocation. We rise to meet the challenges, the deadlines, and the multiple projects coming due at the same time. We do so with humility, compassion and a sacredness for dignity of life in all its forms from conception to natural death. And although, from time to time, circumstances might look unfavorable, there is always” hope”, because we are indeed people of Hope.

And, that’s a tribute to you ... to all of us, individually and collectively. Together, we are Dufferin-Peel and Dufferin-Peel stands for something extraordinary.

It stands for trustees, both past and present, whose strategic and fiduciary decisions have laid the firm foundation for the success we enjoy today.

It stands for the many parish priests whose pastoral guidance and support forged an unbreakable faith foundation that serves today as the rock to which we are firmly anchored.

It stands for staff serving in different capacities, whose passion and dedication to their vocation and commitment to Catholic education is extraordinary.

It stands for generations of students and families who chose a Dufferin-Peel Catholic education.

Last year at this time, I talked about the importance of telling our stories.

To borrow some text from a Ministry of education publication, our students are children, adolescents, adults, and they come to us with different connections to land and place. Our students are reflections of their histories and experiences, as well as of their potential and hope in the world. They come speaking many different languages. Some speak in sign language. Our students are differently abled. Some come ready to learn independently. Some need greater levels of support to reach their potential. All need support from their families, parishes, and friends and from all of us, serving in different capacities in this fine educational institution. And, it is our commitment to know each and every one of our learners and respond by creating the conditions for their gifts, graces and purposeful passion to flourish that results in the unfolding of the Dufferin Peel narrative each and every day.

It is these stories and, in particular, the human element of these stories, the “heroes” of these stories ... the people, that contribute to our awesome story, the story of us. I would reference

our Pastor's Remarks as an example. Wonderful, inspirational and faith-filled vignettes that tell the story of us as much as they do the thoughts, reflections and journeys of our parish priests and on occasion, visiting priests.

In the story of us, we are the elected trustee who represents the voice of our parents and the broader community to inform decisions, practices and policy and the student trustee elevating the importance of student voice.

We are the parishes, who pastor to our families and support the faith formation of our trustees, staff, students and families.

We are the educator or support staff who volunteer to lead extracurricular activities so students have opportunities to enjoy a broad educational experience.

We are the ERW who gets up extra early in the morning to ride the bus with a non-verbal special education student who is adjusting to an unfamiliar bus ride.

We are the ICT staff member or plant and operations staff who, from time to time, put in extra hours to ensure our network remains viable, to deal with unexpected issues such as burst pipes and to ensure all our facilities are ready to welcome our learners throughout the year.

We are the custodian who takes pride in keeping the school property neat and clean.

We are the school secretary whose smile and positive disposition radiates a warm welcome to a new parent or student.

We are the principal who works to create faith-filled, communities

Together, we are Dufferin-Peel, a community where we strive to ensure all who enter our doors, whether to work, learn or visit, experience faith-filled, compassionate, safe, healthy and inclusive environments.

Next week, the board of trustees will receive the Director's Annual Report, which outlines some of the tangible progress made this past year, as well as an account of how we met the goals of their multi-year strategic plan, which is in itself a success story. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to briefly highlight a few of these accomplishments.

I am very pleased that we were able to recognize the dedication and commitment of all staff when the board of trustees proclaimed May 1, the Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker, as Staff Recognition Day in Dufferin-Peel.

Our EQAO scores continue to meet or exceed the province in most assessment areas. But, we know we have work to do, particularly in mathematics, and we are working on a comprehensive strategy, entitled "We are all part of the equation", to address this particular issue.

Our graduation rates continue to be among the highest in the province.

I was pleased that we were able to enhance community engagement this year, through the use of webcasts, as we sought input from our community as part of our public budget consultation process.

This week, we will inform and hopefully engage our parents on our Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle and Multi-year Strategic Plan as we broadcast two additional webcasts.

We will continue to use this forum on a variety of topics moving forward.

In 2017, we, once again filed a compliant budget with the province, a budget of approximately \$1 Billion. While our year-end financial position was strong, continued fiscal prudence and thoughtful decisions across all sectors of the organization will continue to be a priority.

Over the past year, trustees incorporated into board by-law, the acknowledgement that we are located on the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. I am very pleased that this acknowledgement has seamlessly become part of our culture throughout our schools and facilities. I am also very pleased that the Ministry has recognized our work with Indigenous education.

David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, said following a recent visit to St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School: "The Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board has shown real commitment to reconciliation by hosting many Living Library events during the recent Treaties Recognition Week. The Board has also shown outstanding leadership by providing innovative programming throughout the year to improve student learning about the histories, cultures, perspectives and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Canada."

And, on a broader scale, I must say that I am particularly proud of our equity-related work.

In his November 2017 Pastoral Letter, His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington wrote: *"The human race is rooted in the loving, creative act of God, who made us and called us to be a family – all God's children – made in God's image and likeness. There is no basis to sustain that some are made more in the image of God than others."*

We must be ever vigilant to ensure that we hold human dignity at the forefront of our practices, procedures and policies.

Our overall enrolment continues to be stable with growth areas, particularly in the northern jurisdiction of the board. In September, we opened St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Elementary School in Brampton, and in September 2018, we will open two additional elementary schools in Brampton and Caledon.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the loss through retirement of our pastors, educators, support staff, senior staff and administrators over the past year who evangelize our schools, inspire our students and serve our communities. Sadly, we have lost a few of our members through death. We remember them and all the faithfully departed at our weekly mass here at the Catholic Education Centre.

We feel the loss of experience and appreciate the commitment and dedication to Dufferin-Peel, our school communities and to Catholic education.

Today, Father Benoit from Haiti celebrated mass here at the CEC. He spoke about the importance of gratitude and a loving, giving heart and taking every opportunity to express it. It is my great privilege and honour to serve you, the Board of Trustees, our parishes, our exceptional

staff, our students, families and the greater community as we collectively work to preserve and advance the gift we call Catholic education.

At this time of Advent, let us give thanks as we enter into this period of anticipation of the arrival of Jesus Christ, our hope for redemption and eternal life.

May God continue to bless you all.

M. Mazzorato
Director of Education

Motion 002 (17-12-05) by M. Pascucci

Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS TO THE BOARD BE RECEIVED AND RECORDED INTO THE MINUTES.

CARRIED

F Election of Chair of the Board In Accordance with By-Law

Elections were conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law.

Associate Director of Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, J. Hrajnik, Associate Director of Instructional Services, D. Amaral and Counsel M. Beck were appointed scrutineers.

Nominations for Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District Board of Trustees were opened by Secretary of the Board, M. Mazzorato.

Trustee S. Hobin was nominated by Trustee A. Abbruscato. Trustee S. Hobin was asked by the Secretary of the Board, M. Mazzorato, if she wished to allow her name to stand in nomination. Trustee S. Hobin accepted the nomination.

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee S. Xaviour. Trustee M. Pascucci was asked by the Secretary of the Board, M. Mazzorato, if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee M. Pascucci accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Secretary of the Board, M. Mazzorato, requested further nominations three times. 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. Chair Pascucci assumed the chair in order to conduct the remainder of the proceedings.

Motion 003 (17-12-05) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by S. Xaviour

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

G Election of Vice-Chair of the Board In Accordance with By-Law

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

Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee D. D’Souza. Trustee T. Thomas was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee T. Thomas accepted the nomination.

Trustee F. Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin. Trustee F. Di Cosola was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished his name to stand in nomination. Trustee F. Di Cosola accepted the nomination.

Trustee A. da Silva was nominated by Trustee E. O’Toole. Trustee A. da Silva was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if she wished her name to stand in nomination. Trustee A. da Silva accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair of the Board, M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were closed.

Motion 004 (17-12-05) by A. Abbruscato

Seconded by S. Xaviour

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

Associate Director of Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, J. Hrajnik, Associate Director of Instructional Services, D. Amaral and Counsel M. Beck were appointed scrutineers.

Ballots were counted and Chair Pascucci announced a clear majority was not reached. Trustee A. da Silva and T. Thomas went forward for the next vote.

The ballots were counted and Trustee A. da Silva was elected by a clear majority on the second ballot. Vice-Chair A. da Silva took the seat next to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Motion 005 (17-12-05) by A. Abbruscato

Seconded by E. O’Toole

THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.

CARRIED

H Remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Board

Vice-Chair A. da Silva thanked her fellow trustees for their support and articulated that she will do her best to serve the board of trustees and represent Catholic education.

I Remarks from the Chair of the Board

Chair of the Board M. Pascucci thanked trustees for their support and their support of Catholic education.

J Election of Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee

Elections were conducted in accordance with the Board's Procedural By-Law. Nominations for Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee were opened by Chair M. Pascucci.

Trustee A. Abbruscato was nominated by Trustee F. Di Cosola. Trustee A. Abbruscato was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if she wished to allow her name to stand in nomination.

Trustee A. Abbruscato accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 006 (17-12-05) by B. Iannicca

Seconded by S. Xaviour

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee A. Abbruscato was acclaimed Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

K Election of Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee

Chair M. Pascucci called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

Trustee S. Hobin was nominated by Trustee F. Di Cosola. Trustee S. Hobin was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if she wished to allow her name to stand in nomination. Trustee S. Hobin accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 007 (17-12-05) by L. del Rosario

Seconded by E. O'Toole

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee S. Hobin was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.

L Election of Chair of the Faith and Program Committee

Nominations for Chair of the Faith and Program Committee were opened by Chair M. Pascucci.

Trustee L. del Rosario was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin. Trustee L. del Rosario was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if she wished to allow her name to stand in nomination. Trustee L. del Rosario accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 008 (17-12-05) by T. Thomas

Seconded by B. Iannicca

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee L. del Rosario was acclaimed Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

M Election of Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee

Chair M. Pascucci called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

Trustee S. Xaviour was nominated by Trustee A. Abbruscato. Trustee S. Xaviour was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee S. Xaviour accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 009 (17-12-05) by D. D'Souza

Seconded by F. Di Cosola

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee S. Xaviour was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Faith and Program Committee.

N Election of Chair of the Contract and Negotiations Committee

All trustees without a declared interest were eligible for nomination to the Contract Negotiations Committee. Nominations for Chair of the Contract and Negotiations Committee were opened by Chair M. Pascucci.

Trustee F. Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee L. del Rosario. Trustee F. Di Cosola was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee F. Di Cosola accepted the nomination.

Trustee E. O'Toole was nominated by Trustee A. da Silva. Trustee E. O'Toole was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if she wished to allow her name to stand in nomination. Trustee E. O'Toole declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci requested further nominations three times.

Motion 010 (17-12-05) by S. Hobin

Seconded by A. Abbruscato

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee F. Di Cosola was acclaimed Chair of the Contract and Negotiations Committee.

O Election of Vice-Chair of the Contract and Negotiations Committee

Chair M. Pascucci called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Contract and Negotiations Committee.

Trustee D. D'Souza was nominated by Trustee T. Thomas. Trustee D. D'Souza was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee D. D'Souza accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 011 (17-12-05) by L. del Rosario

Seconded by S. Xaviour

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee D. D'Souza was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Contract and Negotiations Committee.

P Election of Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee

Nominations for Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee were opened by Chair M. Pascucci.

Trustee B. Iannicca was nominated by Trustee F. Di Cosola. Trustee B. Iannicca was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee B. Iannicca accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 012 (17-12-05) by S. Xaviour

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee B. Iannicca was acclaimed Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee.

Q Election of Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee

Nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee were opened by Chair M. Pascucci.

Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee E. O'Toole. Trustee T. Thomas was asked by Chair M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee T. Thomas accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, Chair M. Pascucci, requested further nominations three times.

Motion 013 (17-12-05) by S. Xaviour

Seconded by L. del Rosario

THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.

CARRIED

Trustee T. Thomas was acclaimed Vice-Chair of the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee.

R Closing Remarks from the Chair of the Board

M. Pascucci, Chair of the Board, extended thanks to Bishop Boissonneau for presiding over the mass and thanked everyone for their support of Catholic education.

Chair M. Pascucci welcomed all to a reception.

S Adjournment

Motion 014 (17-12-05) by S. Hobin

Seconded by T. Thomas

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 7:50 p.m.

CARRIED