



MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Conference Call

Trustees:	Sharon Hobin	Chair
	Luz del Rosario	Vice Chair
	Brea Corbet	Trustee
	Darryl D'Souza	Trustee
	Anna da Silva	Trustee
	Frank Di Cosola	Trustee
	Bruno Iannicca	Trustee
	Mario Pascucci	Trustee
	Stefano Pascucci	Trustee
	Thomas Thomas	Trustee
	Shawn Xaviour	Trustee
	Heather Fernandes	Student Trustee
	Alejandro Garcia Polo	Student Trustee
Staff:	Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D.	Director of Education, Secretary to the Board
	David Amaral	Associate Director, Instructional Services
	Daniel Del Bianco	Associate Director, Corporate Services
	Julie Cherepacha	Executive Superintendent, Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
	Wayne Brunton	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Deborah Finegan-Downey	Superintendent Special Education and Learning Services
	Silvana Gos	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Brian Hester	Superintendent, Financial Services
	Jodi Kuran	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Martine Lewis	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Cairine MacDonald	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Carmel Murphy	Superintendent, Program and Learning Services
	Lucy Papaloni	Superintendent, Well-Being, Experiential Learning and Learning Services
	Tammy-Lynne Peel	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Les Storey	Superintendent, Family of Schools
	Stephanie Strong	Superintendent, Human Resources and Employee Relations
	Mathew Thomas	Superintendent, Planning and Operations
	Max Vecchiarino	Superintendent, Policy, Strategy and Global Learning
	Margaret Beck	Counsel

	Richard Smith	Chief Information Officer
	Bruce Campbell	General Manager, Communications and Community Relations
	Theresa Davis	General Manager, Human Resources
	Christiane Kyte	General Manager, Clinical Services and Special Education
Recorder:	Richard Moriah	General Manager, Physical Plant Facilities
	Cindy Child	Board and Committee Information Officer

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
Chair Sharon Hobin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory
Chair Sharon Hobin acknowledged the sacred territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
3. National Anthem
The chair acknowledged and thanked Martina Ortiz-Luis, Kibwe Thomas and Sole Power Productions for permission to use their recorded version of the national anthem.
4. Opening Prayer
Chair Sharon Hobin led the Opening Prayer.
5. Approval of Agenda

Correction: H 2 Appendix X the Title should read: Addressing Anti-Black Racism.
Distributed at the Meeting: A 9, H 2, and M 4 a.

Motion 323 (21-01-26)

Moved by Thomas Thomas

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED, AS AMENDED.

CARRIED

- a. Approval of Calendar Items – Nil
6. Declaration of Interest

The following trustees declared an interest in agenda item: A 8 item L 1
 1. *Trustee Sharon Hobin —family members belong to OECTA*
 2. *Trustee Mario Pascucci—family member belongs to OECTA*
 3. *Trustee Bruno Iannicca—family members belong to OECTA and CUPE 2026*
 4. *Trustee Stefano Pascucci—family member belongs to OECTA*

Motion 324 (21-01-26)

Moved by Brea Corbet

Seconded by Bruno Iannicca

THAT THE DECLARED INTEREST ITEMS BE MOVED TO AGENDA ITEM L.

CARRIED

7. Approval of Minutes, Regular Board Meeting, December 8, 2020

Motion 325 (21-01-26)

Moved by Luz del Rosario

Seconded by Stefano Pascucci

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 8, 2020, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

- a. Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

8. Approval of Minutes, Special Board Meeting, December 15, 2020

Motion 326 (21-01-26)

Moved by Anna da Silva

Seconded by Shawn Xaviour

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2020, EXCLUDING L 1, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

- a. Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

9. Approval of Revised Minutes, Organizational Board Meeting, December 1, 2020

Motion 327 (21-01-26)

Moved by Darryl D'Souza

Seconded by Luz del Rosario

THAT THE REVISED MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 1, 2020, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

B. Pastor's Remarks - Monsignor Joseph Shiels

Video Presentation - Faith

Monsignor Shiels delivered Pastor's Remarks in video format on the theme of faith. The video has been posted to the DPCDSB YouTube channel, DPCDSBVideos.

Motion 328 (21-01-26)

Moved by Bruno Iannicca

Seconded by Shawn Xaviour

THAT THE PASTOR'S REMARKS FROM MONSIGNOR JOSEPH SHIELS, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

C. Awards and Presentation

1. Expression of Gratitude to Bishop John A. Boissonneau - Director Mazzorato

Chair Sharon Hobin paid tribute to Bishop Boissonneau.

Tonight, it is my honour, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, to thank His Excellency Bishop John Boissonneau for his exceptional pastoral guidance and stewardship to our staff, students and trustees alike over the past 20 years.

If I may begin by providing some background. Bishop Boissonneau was ordained to the priesthood in 1974. He began his journey serving at the Chancery office, and after graduate studies, served in the education of priests at St. Augustine's Seminary.

In 2001, Pope John Paul II appointed him Titular Bishop of Tambeae, an *overseer* of a community of the faithful, and Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto. The Archbishop of Toronto at that time, Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic, gave him the episcopal ordination that same year. As Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Bishop Boissonneau has been responsible for the Western Region of the Archdiocese, a responsibility that includes 70 parishes in the western part of the City of Toronto and the Regional Municipality of Peel-Dufferin.

His Excellency has recently been given a new assignment and has been transferred to the Northern Regional Municipality. While he has a new role, Bishop Boissonneau will retain his regional responsibilities as Vicar for Christian Education, Vicar for Liturgy, and Archdiocesan Liaison within the Catholic Faculties of Theology.

For the past 20 years, the DPCDSB has had the great honour and privilege of having his Excellency serve as our guiding light, and our shepherd in Catholic Education. He has encouraged us and guided us through the revisions to Family Life and Religious Education. He has helped us frame and guide sacramental preparation, Catholic Education Week, the sacredness, and reverence of our liturgical years and has helped us understand the importance of our church's history.

Our Dufferin-Peel community has been touched by his dedication, thoughtfulness, warmth, and great sense of humour – all of which have sustained us and encouraged us through the many challenges we have faced during the time Bishop Boissonneau has served as Auxiliary Bishop of the Western Region.

Bishop Boissonneau has truly been an exceptional builder, sustainer, and supporter of our Catholic faith. He has been a spiritual and pastoral shepherd who, through his steadfast guidance and support of Dufferin-Peel students, staff, administration, and trustees alike, has been a beacon of hope and a guiding light. A true shepherd.

We will continue to see him in his role as Vicar of Christian Education. Please join me in thanking Bishop Boissonneau and wishing him God's richest Blessing as he embarks on his new journey.

Bishop Boissonneau thanked Chair Sharon Hobin. He remarked that when he began working with Dufferin-Peel 20 years ago with Director Mike Bator, he was welcomed and guided in his new role. He added that he owes a debt of gratitude to the board for his education. The education of our community does not stop at Grade 12, they guided him in

the complexities of parish and school relationships. DPCDSB is blessed with great cooperation between pastor, parish workers, deacons and he has enjoyed these relationships. Dufferin-Peel is a leader in pedagogy and provides the very best in Catholic education.

A sign of God's blessings in your work at Dufferin-Peel is the number of vocations that have come through DPCDSB to the religious life. In the past ten years, the majority of men have come from Dufferin-Peel and reflect the racial diversity of the diocese. God has used the DPCDSB to produce many good priests, good Catholic educators. Bishop Ivan Camilleri will greatly appreciate the constant cooperation and collaboration received from this board. You have made me the Bishop I have become. Thank you.

Motion 329 (21-01-26)

Moved by Anna da Silva

Seconded by Brea Corbet

THAT THE PRESENTATION, EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO BISHOP JOHN A. BOISSONNEAU, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

D. Delegations - Nil

E. Updates/Information/Reports from Trustees for Receipt

1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Report - Verbal Report - Trustee Luz del Rosario

Resolutions for the OCSTA AGM 2021 are due Friday, January 29, 2021.

On Saturday, May 1 (9 a.m. to noon) OCSTA will convene a virtual Annual General Meeting.

Nominations for 2021 OCSTA Trustee Award of Merit are due on March 31. Boards or individual trustee members are encouraged to submit nominations. This award recognizes current and former Catholic trustees who have rendered exceptional service to Catholic education over the years. Reviewing the list of previous recipients, we noticed that there was only one Dufferin-Peel former trustee that received this award. Please consider nominating former colleagues or current colleagues.

Nominations for the 2021 OCSTA Student Trustee Alumni Award are due on March 31. This award is designed to recognize the achievements of former student trustees who have graduated at least five years prior to nomination. This award also celebrates the impact of Catholic education on their lives and the communities they reach. We would like to request that the superintendent responsible for student trustees consider a recommendation for this award.

OCSTA Board of Directors are also encouraged to nominate a recipient for the 2021 OCSTA Special Award. This award recognizes an individual, other than a sitting trustee, who has made significant contributions to the Catholic education community of Ontario. Former trustees who are nominated are to be recognized for contributions other than those made while serving as a trustee. Deadline for submission is March 31.

OCSTA has organized a seminar for all Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Directors of Education to be held on Thursday, January 28. This seminar is designed to support the distinct leadership roles they fulfill in Catholic education.

We had a very successful Trustees Seminar on January 16. The seminar included guest speakers, workshops, and a visit with the Minister of Education. Thank you to the trustees who were able to attend and to the staff who helped with seminar presentations.

Trustee Hobin and I attend and participate on various committees. Trustee Hobin sits on the Political Advisory, Catholic Education and Trustee Enrichment, and Resolutions Committees. I sit on the Budget, Human Resources and Labour Relations Committees. We will provide a summary report once the minutes have been approved at the OCSTA Board.

Motion 330 (21-01-26)

Moved by Frank Di Cosola

Seconded by Thomas Thomas

THAT THE VERBAL REPORT, ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

2. Student Voice - Student Trustees Heather Fernandes and Alejandro Polo Garcia

We are excited to present today's Student Voice Report and present to you our progress within Student Senate and their tenets.

Black Futures Speakers Series 2021: Nurturing Hope: We have collaborated with the Black History committee. The seminar topics will be: Mental Health, Equity, Well-Being, and Financial Literacy. Student Senate members will be invited to moderate sessions with the guest speakers which will then be recorded and shared. The sessions will be shared privately with teachers across DPCDSB to share with students in their classes. The hope is that these seminars will open meaningful discussions and engage youth. Our first recording will be held on February 1.

We held a Student Senate meeting on January 6 where Student Voice representatives had the opportunity to discuss some of their school initiatives and events. We had meaningful dialogues about our working group progress and plans for the months to come and discussed the upcoming Student Trustee elections. Information was provided regarding the position and we encouraged members to share this information in their schools for possible candidates.

On January 17 we attended the OCSTA meeting where we were able to hear updates from Catholic school boards across the province and join a student trustee workshop.

Motion 331 (21-01-26)

Moved by Stefano Pascucci

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE VERBAL REPORT, STUDENT VOICE, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

3. Good News Items

Trustee Brea Corbet
Wards 9 and 10 Mississauga

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Secondary School

Last week student leader Kiya Busby, was recognized for being instrumental in getting the new Black Futures Lab group up and running for the student body at the school. The group had an overwhelming turnout for their first meeting and are making some fantastic plans. I extend my thanks to the teachers: N. Armstrong, A. Cernjul, J. Skjold-Pettersen, and C. McFarlane, for providing their guidance and support to our students on this journey.

St. Edith Stein Catholic Elementary School

Students are spreading joy to senior citizens. Students and their families are creating Valentines cards which will be delivered to the Amica Senior Lifestyles home in Mississauga. Our school community is sharing joy and nurturing hope to those in our community, during this time of isolation and lockdown.

Trustee Bruno Iannicca
Ward 7 Mississauga

St. Martin Catholic Secondary School

Everything that we do in DPCDSB is rooted in our faith, our students, and the education we provide so that students may succeed and be exceptional. I would like to highlight Philip Tomasino a graduate of St. Martin CSS, he played recently for Team Canada in the World Junior Hockey games. The proud students of St. Martin made a banner for him and he represented Canada well. The team won silver. Many of our graduated students make us proud every day, doctors, plumbers, hockey players etc. - Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

Chair Sharon Hobin commented that our Communications and Community Relations department does a great job of highlighting graduates in the *Distinguished Alumni Series* by sharing stories on various social media platforms.

Motion 332 (21-01-26)
Moved by Bruno Iannicca
Seconded by Luz del Rosario

THAT THE GOOD NEWS REPORT, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

F. Updates/Information/Reports from Committees for Receipt

1. Minutes of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting, November 3, 2020

Motion 333 (21-01-26)
Moved by Darryl D'Souza
Seconded by Stefano Pascucci

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING,
NOVEMBER 3, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

2. Minutes of the Faith and Program Committee Meeting, November 10, 2020

Motion 334 (21-01-26)
Moved by Frank Di Cosola
Seconded by Shawn Xaviour

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING, NOVEMBER 10,
2020, BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, November 11, 2020

Motion 335 (21-01-26)
Moved by Bruno Iannicca
Seconded by Luz del Rosario

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING,
NOVEMBER 11, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, December 2, 2020

Motion 336 (21-01-26)
Moved by Stefano Pascucci
Seconded by Shawn Xaviour

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING,
DECEMBER 2, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

5. Minutes of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Meeting, November 19, 2020

Motion 337 (21-01-26)
Moved by Mario Pascucci
Seconded by Thomas Thomas

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS
MEETING, NOVEMBER 19, 2020, BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

6. Minutes of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Meeting, December 3, 2020

Motion 338 (21-01-26)

Moved by Anna da Silva

Seconded by Stefano Pascucci

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS MEETING, DECEMBER 3, 2020, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

G. Updates/Information/Reports from Administration for Receipt – Nil

H. Trustee/Committee/Administration Reports Requiring Action

1. Nominations for Membership on the Special Education Advisory Committee - Superintendent Finegan-Downey

Motion 339 (21-01-26)

Moved by Brea Corbet

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Motion 340 (21-01-26)

Moved by Bruno Iannicca

Seconded by Luz del Rosario

THAT THE NOMINATIONS OF LAURIE-ANN CLARKE AND KARINA HERNANDEZ FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

2. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Resolutions 2021 - Superintendent Vecchiarino

Motion 341 (21-01-26)

Moved by Mario Pascucci

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS 2021, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

Motion 342 (21-01-26)

Moved by Mario Pascucci

Seconded by Thomas Thomas

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE FOR SUBMISSION THE ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS 2021.

CARRIED

- a. Funding for Students with Diverse Learning Needs, including Special Education Needs

Moved by: Trustee Luz del Rosario
Seconded by: Trustee Thomas Thomas

Whereas: the principles of the draft ministry resources *Learning for All: K-12*, the aligned Inter-Ministerial Provincial Transition Framework and commitments to supporting successful transitions for all students (PPM 156) are founded on beliefs that all students can succeed that student well-being, achievement, student voice and engagement need to be supported in an inclusive learning environment; and

Whereas: school boards continue to be challenged in their ability to design effective school and system improvement plans when funding and other pressures may arise in delivering a ministry-mandated criterion-referenced curriculum with related expected practices while adhering to a universal design for learning approach which honours success for all through personalized instruction; and

Whereas: building capacity of staff through professional learning in support of all diverse learners is critical to student well-being and student achievement; and

Whereas: the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Child and Youth Services and Ministry of Health's mental well-being, special education and renewed mathematics strategies will need sustainable commitments to keep pace with growth communities and to respond to changing needs; and

Whereas: school boards continue to be faced with challenges related to providing specialized programming, support, and human resources to ensure that all students achieve their fullest potential.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association petition the Ministry of Education to review on-going equitable and sustainable funding and continue to address the changing nature and complexity of student needs and required supports by providing adequate funding that reflects the actual need and not just a reallocation of funding from other budget lines.

- b. Student Transportation Funding

Moved by: Trustee Darryl D'Souza
Seconded by: Trustee Frank Di Cosola

Whereas: funding for student transportation by the Ministry of Education has not been reviewed in a comprehensive manner for several years; and

Whereas: the provision of student transportation services is paramount in ensuring school safety and safe arrival of students to and from school; and

Whereas: issues related to driver retention, late bus routes and cancelled bus routes have impacted many families who rely on student transportation services to transport their children, including some of our most vulnerable students with special needs; and

Whereas: costs associated with transportation have increased substantially across the province (i.e., fuel costs, cap and trade program, fleet costs, etc.); and

Whereas: cost adjustment increases have been provided only to school boards with transportation deficits.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association petition the Ministry of Education to review transportation funding in an effort to increase funds to allow school boards to provide a level of service that meet the needs of all eligible students and families within their respective districts.

c. Qualified French Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Moved by: Trustee Thomas Thomas

Seconded by: Trustee Brea Corbet

Whereas: school boards across the province are experiencing persistent challenges with the recruitment of qualified French Teachers; and

Whereas: Catholic District school boards have a smaller pool for recruitment of teachers as they must be Catholic and qualified to teach French; and

Whereas: despite the repeal of Regulation 274, the central agreement with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) still requires Catholic school boards to hire based on seniority (consistent with Regulation 274) and thus, all new French teachers in Catholic school boards must still be placed on the occasional teachers list for daily supply work as one of the eligibility requirements for full time consideration; and

Whereas: teachers are able to request assignments outside of French (within their areas of qualification) as soon as they are offered permanent placement; and

Whereas: all school boards have difficulty in recruiting and retaining teachers who are qualified to teach French in volumes that are consistent with the increasing demand for the expansion of French language programs across the province.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association petition to the Ministry of Education to repeal the integration of Regulation 274 from all collective agreements that reference seniority-based hiring. The removal of regulation 274 from all collective agreements would ensure consistency with processes already implemented in public school systems and eliminate some of the disadvantages that Catholic school boards face in attracting candidates who are qualified in French and from diverse backgrounds.

d. Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Moved by: Trustee Bruno Iannicca

Seconded by: Trustee Shawn Xaviour

Whereas: the Ministry of Education recognizes and acknowledges that parents are a key part of their children's learning and has supported Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants to school councils since 2006; and

Whereas: PRO Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being; and

Whereas: Catholic School Councils rely on the PRO Grants to offset the costs of parent engagement events; and

Whereas: the Ministry of Education has reduced funding for a number of programs, including the PRO grants; and

Whereas: the long-term effects of this funding reduction will have a detrimental effect on parent council activity and support of increased community engagement.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

OCSTA advocate on behalf of Catholic School Councils to increase the PRO Grant funding to support Catholic School Councils in providing community engagement activities, outreach programs and opportunities to keep families informed and active in their children's education experience.

e. Technology Funding

Moved by: Trustee Anna da Silva
Seconded by: Trustee Bruno Iannicca

Whereas: technology is progressively more prevalent and infused throughout curriculum delivery; and

Whereas: technology is increasingly linked to equity of access and student engagement; and

Whereas: the Ministry of Education funding for technology and related infrastructure fluctuates from year to year and previously provided Technology Learning Funds (TLF) have been discontinued; and

Whereas: board technologies, related programs, and overall board infrastructure need to be updated and/or replaced on a regular basis, particularly vis-à-vis aging hardware; and

Whereas: the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding does not address technology needs for corporate functions, including Financial, Plant and Maintenance work order systems, payroll systems, student information systems and Human Resources and Employee Relations reporting; and

Whereas: the Ministry of Education has a stated focus on increasing the amount of e-learning in secondary schools.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to support learning through sustainable technology and infrastructure funding. Aligned to the province's focus on modernizing learning and modernizing classrooms, school boards would benefit from increased and stable funding to support technology priorities.

f. Funding for Retrofitting/Renovating Schools

Moved by: Trustee Luz del Rosario
Seconded by: Trustee Mario Pascucci

Whereas: keeping schools in a state of good repair is essential to providing safe and healthy learning environments for students and staff; and

Whereas: funding levels for school renewal, repairs and retrofits have not been sufficient to reduce the overall deferred maintenance backlog; and

Whereas: stable and reliable school renewal funding is necessary to make strategic, long-term investments to ensure that learning environments can support high levels of student achievement and well-being; and

Whereas: retrofits and renovations in schools are necessary to support modernized, 21st century learning and technologies that will enable our students to have the knowledge and skills required for advanced education and careers of the future; and

Whereas: improving ventilation and maintaining optimal air quality in school buildings are known to complement other public health measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission and enhance the general health and comfort of all students and staff.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association petition the Ministry of Education to provide stable, reliable multi-year funding to support school renewal, renovations and retrofits that will keep schools in a state of good repair and provide students and staff with environments to support 21st century learning.

g. Hard Caps in Kindergarten Classes

Moved by: Trustee Bruno Iannicca
Seconded by: Trustee Stefano Pascucci

Whereas: school boards are staffing Kindergarten classes based on an average class size of 26; and

Whereas: school boards across the province are experiencing inequitable distribution of students in Kindergarten classes; and

Whereas: some classes are very small, with less than 16 students, so that a Designated Early Childhood Educator is not required; and

Whereas: school boards are dealing with safety issues in large Kindergarten classes.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association petition the Ministry of Education to impose a hard cap for Kindergarten classes and funding to sustain increased space requirements within schools to ensure equitable, consistent staffing in all Kindergarten classes.

h. COVID-19 Recovery Funding

Moved by: Trustee Brea Corbet
Seconded by: Trustee Darryl D'Souza

- Whereas:** the safety of students and staff is essential in maintaining a positive learning environment and is the number one priority of school boards, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Whereas:** additional staff, technology and equipment have been required to meet the demand for an increased number of students participating in remote learning; and
- Whereas:** board technologies and infrastructure have needed to be updated and/or replaced due to the increased demands of remote learning; and
- Whereas:** funding levels for boards to meet the demands of remote learning and other COVID-19 impacts on infrastructure and resources have not been sufficient: and
- Whereas:** the Ministry of Education has a stated mandate that school boards provide opportunities to engage in synchronous learning, even when not physically present at school.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to support COVID-19 related shortfalls due to the requirements for increased numbers of staff, technology, equipment, and other resources. Aligned to the province’s mandate that school boards provide, synchronous, remote learning opportunities for students, school boards would benefit from additional funds to make up for financial shortfalls related to this endeavour.

i. STEM Funding

Moved by: Trustee Luz del Rosario
Seconded by: Trustee Frank Di Cosola

- Whereas:** the importance and impact of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are ever increasing in society and in education; and
- Whereas:** the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has identified and highlighted the importance of skills and competencies required of young people to be successful throughout the 21st century; and
- Whereas:** the skills and competencies highlighted by OECD are crucial for young people to acquire in order to be successful in careers and vocations related to STEM subject areas; and
- Whereas:** school boards do not have enough funds to meet the technological demands of ensuring students have learning opportunities that will

adequately foster all of the skills necessary for 21st century careers and vocations; and

Whereas: to ensure students have the access to technology that is required for developing technological skills, as well as to ensure that curriculum resources are as up-to-date as possible by leveraging digital and/or online resources; and

Whereas: the Ministry of Education has a stated focus on STEM learning to meet the demands of the global economy and society.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to support STEM related learning through the additional funding of technology for schools and student use. Additional funding would help fill current technological gaps and allow boards to address: students missing out on advancing their technological skills; the usage of outdated curriculum resources, financial inefficiencies of using outdated physical resources; and the efficiency of more convenient access to resources and materials for both staff and students.

j. Funding to Address Anti-Black Racism

Moved by: Trustee Shawn Xaviour

Seconded by: Trustee Frank Di Cosola

Whereas: removing systemic barriers ensures that school and classroom practices reflect and respond to the diversity of students and staff; and

Whereas: the safety of students and staff is essential for the maintenance of a positive learning environment and is the number one priority of school boards; and

Whereas: anti-Black racism is contrary to Catholic social teachings and is a direct contributor to disproportionality in representation of Black students in the areas of discipline, course streaming, regional programs, and achievement; and

Whereas: the Provincial government has prioritized developing and implementing anti-Black racism capacity- and competency-building programming for government employees and its institutions; and

Whereas: addressing anti-Black racism in all its forms requires specific, targeted, and sustainable efforts at all levels of the organization.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to support funding specifically allocated to addressing anti-Black racism in education through regular collection and analysis of

identity-based data, and community consultation supporting development of appropriate professional learning, policy, and mentoring resources. The provision of funding to support appropriate responses to identify and eliminate anti-Black racism and other oppressions would benefit all school boards.

k. Future Enrollment Decline

Moved by: Trustee Mario Pascucci
Seconded by: Trustee Anna da Silva

Whereas: students may gain admittance to Catholic elementary schools on the basis of their own baptismal certificate; and

Whereas: students may also gain admittance to Catholic elementary schools on the basis of a parent's baptismal certificate; and

Whereas: an increasing number of children are not moving forward with baptism; and

Whereas: it is anticipated that a continued decline in baptisms will have a detrimental impact on the future of Catholic education in Ontario.

Therefore, be it Resolved that:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to support Catholic education in Ontario and change the admission requirements for entry into Catholic elementary schools.

3. Motion Recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting, January 20, 2021

Motion 343 (21-01-26)

Moved by Bruno Iannicca

Seconded by Stefano Pascucci

CARRIED

I. **Notices of Motion - Nil**

J. **Additional Business - Nil**

K. **Questions Asked of, and by, Trustees**

1. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Has there been any feedback regarding the special needs students from the self-contained classes who did not attend in-class today, as the buses were cancelled due to inclement weather.

Superintendent Finegan-Downey: Through our Family of Schools consultants and several department heads, we had feedback that students did access remote learning and the day

went very well. It is important to note that we have had several students opt for remote learning.

2. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: Would that be the first day that these students worked remotely?

Director Mazzorato: Yes, for many of these students it would have been their first time since September. Remember that all students had an opportunity to access remote learning in the March to June school closure.

3. Trustee Bruno Iannicca: If we had to go remote only, these students and their parents/guardians may not have the comfort level needed. Is it possible to have teachers work with the students one day per week remotely so they can experience and feel more comfortable with remote learning?

Director Mazzorato: There was considerable discernment regarding virtual teaching for student with special needs; staff and parents/guardians were involved in the process. We determined that the students would do best in-class. Today, the connection that students experienced at home did not replicate what they would experience in the classroom, hence the reason self-contained students attend in-person. We can review the possibility of more use of technology in the classroom to help students become more comfortable.

4. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Is it possible to provide an overview of the leadership process for Principals and Vice-Principals?

Director Mazzorato: We will bring a report to a Faith and Program Committee meeting.

5. Trustee Mario Pascucci: Is it possible to set up a virtual meeting for the Board of Trustees to meet with the local MPPs to discuss the realities of the pandemic?

Chair Sharon Hobin: Yes, we can organize a meeting.

6. Trustee Anna da Silva: Why did we close schools today?

Director Mazzorato: The recommendation comes through our Transportation department; they have a process of consulting to make cancellation decisions. A reminder that currently only the students in self-contained classes would attend school. Given the amount of snow that Peel had there were concerns that some of the busses would have a difficult time on side roads and residential streets if the snow plowing were not completed.

7. Trustee Anna da Silva: A lot of teachers and administrators work from schools. Why not just cancel busing?

Director Mazzorato: Trustees may remember back in the fall we had identified that if the buses were cancelled that in-person learning at schools would be cancelled, and that all board technology should go home nightly should we have to pivot to online learning. Today, principals and secretaries answered phone calls and emails remotely. We acknowledge your concern and comments regarding educators who prefer to work from a classroom. Staff have been given the technology needed to teach remotely, we must be adaptable and able to pivot as needed.

8. Trustee Anna da Silva: How long is the pilot program for the Edwin device? Do we know how effective the program has been?

Director Mazzorato: The pilot was one year. The program has been highly successful with our educators for both Grades 7 and 8 curricula. We have moved into the commitment phase and have committed to providing to all Grade 7 and 8 students moving forward.

9. Trustee Anna da Silva: How are we paying for this?

Executive Superintendent Cherepacha: The cost has been phased in over a few years. We have been able to work the cost into our annual operating budget through use of Grants for Student Needs (GSN). The cost of the Edwin devices is not a straight tradeoff for textbook costs. The Edwin devices have a lot of resources built into them, however there is a cost for these imbedded programs. Each year the Program department will discern and determine which to continue, and which to discontinue. We have managed to cover the costs for most of the online resources this year with the additional COVID-19 funding. The approximate cost of the Edwin device is \$250 per student per year. This is an annual cost for the term of the contract; however, staff are reviewing the possibility of front-ending the cost of the hardware.

10. Trustee Anna da Silva: Have we done a survey to determine if the educators are using the software included?

Superintendent Murphy: We have had great feedback from educators. The Program department does track specific usage of the Edwin. We have had enhanced training for educators as needed. Nelson tracks the teacher interface. Teachers report that it has increased student technology capacity. The student feedback is favorable; students can access the work, complete the work independently and report that they feel prepared for the transition to secondary. In secondary, the textbooks they will primarily use will be Nelson. We are conducting longitudinal research on how the Edwin has impacted students' success. Our Finance department has been able to manage the costs to provide this opportunity to our students.

11. Trustee Anna da Silva: Are other school boards using the Edwin?

Director Mazzorato: The province of Nova Scotia has adopted the Edwin. TCDSB is piloting Grades 6, 7, 8 and 9, and Niagara Catholic, as well as other school boards within the province are using Edwin.

12. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: We understand that some publishers have increased their pricing unreasonably. Is it possible to provide a report in Issue and Events regarding publisher pricing?

Director Mazzorato: The Council of Directors has raised the issue of the increased cost of acquisition of resources to the Deputy Minister of Education. We will provide our observations of digital resources in Issues and Events.

13. Trustee Stefano Pascucci: Do we have everything in place for students and teachers to make the transition from Quadmester 2 to 3?

Director Mazzorato: In our weekly meetings with the public health authorities we have discussed operational plans for the transition. Associate Director Amaral has communicated the plans for collection and distribution of the resources. This Thursday is the drop off day of

resources, and on Monday and Tuesday school administrators are scheduling distribution of needed resources for Quadmester 3.

Trustee Sharon Hobin passed the Chair to Trustee Luz del Rosario.

14. Trustee Sharon Hobin: I recently received an email from a student regarding recycling food waste/composting in our schools. She provided many links for other school boards who presently recycle food waste. TCDSB has implemented a successful program. Do we have a plan for green recycling? Would we consider plans to include our Hospitality programs?
15. Superintendent Thomas: Currently we are involved with the Region of Peel to work on a organics pilot program. Discussions have been underway for some time, unfortunately the pandemic has delayed the start. The Region of Peel was hoping for September 2020 to begin, but now we are looking at September 2021 or January 2022. We will be pleased to share an update in Issues and Events.

Trustee Sharon Hobin resumed the Chair.

L. Declared Interest Items

Trustees with declared interest were moved into the waiting room.

The Motion was carried.

Trustees with declared interest returned to the meeting.

Motion 344 (21-01-26)

Moved by Thomas Thomas

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES, A 8 ITEM L 1, BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

M. In Camera Session

Motion 345 (21-01-26)

Moved by Anna da Silva

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING BE ADJOURNED AND THE TRUSTEES IMMEDIATELY CONVENE AN IN CAMERA, AN IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND TRUSTEES, AND AN IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING - TRUSTEES AND DIRECTOR ONLY.

CARRIED

N. Report from In Camera

Approval of Minutes, Administrative Appointments and Transfers, and Personnel Matters.

Motion 346 (21-01-26)

Moved by Frank Di Cosola

Seconded by Anna da Silva

THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEIVE THE CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING, IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND TRUSTEES, AND IN CAMERA PRIVATE MEETING - TRUSTEES AND DIRECTOR ONLY, APPROVAL OF MINUTES, ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS, AND RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS SET OUT THEREIN.

CARRIED

O. Future Meetings

February 23, 2021

March 23, 2021

April 27, 2021

May 25, 2021

June 15, 2021

P. Adjournment

Motion 347 (21-01-26)

Moved by Bruno Iannicca

Seconded by Darryl D'Souza

THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 10:30 P.M.

CARRIED