

AGENDA

Special Board Meeting

Monday, September 29, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre

Mission: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body, and soul to the fullness of life.

Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.

Pages

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order and Attendance
2. Opening Prayer
3. Land Acknowledgment
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Declaration of Interest

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B. Awards and Presentations

C. Delegations

D. Reports from Trustees for Receipt

E. Updates/Information/Reports from Committees for Receipt

F. Updates/Information/Reports from Administration for Receipt

G. Update/Information/Reports from Administration Requiring Action

1. Renaming of St. Ruth Catholic Elementary School - Superintendent Odo

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H. Additional Business

1. Notices of Motion

I. Questions Asked by Trustees

J. Declared Interest Items

K. In Camera Session

L. Report from the In Camera Meeting of the Committee of the Whole

M. Adjournment

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In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gracious and generous God,

Creator of the Earth, our common home.

Guide our steps as we journey together as pilgrims of hope this year.

Teach us to act now for the good of all future generations and creatures.

*Fill us with gratitude for your abundant gifts of creation and remind us to use
these gifts wisely and to share them generously.*

*Strengthen us to be good stewards of this earthly home and help us understand
that care for creation is an act of discipleship.*

*Inspire us to live out your call to protect people and the planet, and to live our
faith in relationship with all of God's creation.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Special Board Meeting
September 29, 2025
<i>RENAMING OF ST. RUTH CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</i>
Strategic Goals: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, Trust

*"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold."*

Proverbs 22:1

BACKGROUND

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) named its newest school St. Ruth Catholic Elementary School (CES), in accordance with policy *P-8003 Naming of Schools, New and Amalgamated*. The Archdiocese of Toronto has advised DPCDSB to re-name the school.

DISCUSSION

At the April 29, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, Trustees approved the naming of St. Ruth Catholic Elementary School. In September 2025, the Archdiocese of Toronto advised that St. Ruth Catholic Elementary School was to be renamed. The Archdiocese of Toronto pre-approved a list of names and two were provided for community consultation: St. Carlo Acutis and St. Joseph Vaz.

Community feedback demonstrated support for both names, with 63% of respondents favouring St. Carlo Acutis and 37% of respondents favouring St. Joseph Vaz. Appendices 1 and 2 of this report provide a brief biography for each of the proposed names.

CONCLUSION

DPCDSB shall rename St. Ruth Catholic Elementary School to St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Elementary School.

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION IS PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION:

1) THAT ST. RUTH CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BE RENAMED IN HONOUR OF ST. CARLO ACUTIS.

Prepared by: Kathy Russell-Kwan, Researcher – Policy, Strategy, Research, Safe Schools
Viviana Varano, Superintendent – Brampton West Family of Schools
Laura Odo, Superintendent – Policy, Strategy, Research, Safe Schools

Submitted by: Marianne Mazzorato, Ed.D., Director of Education

APPENDIX 1: BIOGRAPHY OF ST. CARLO ACUTIS

Carlo Acutis, an Italian computer-coding teenager who died of cancer in 2006, is known for his great devotion to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Born in 1991, Acutis is the first millennial to be canonized by the Catholic Church. Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, Acutis told his mother: “To always be united to Jesus: This is my life plan.” To accomplish this, Acutis sought to attend daily Mass as often as he could at the parish church across the street from his elementary school in Milan. Acutis called the Eucharist “my highway to heaven,” and he did all in his power to make this presence known. His witness inspired his own parents to return to practicing the Catholic faith and his Hindu au pair to convert and was baptized.

Acutis was a tech-savvy boy who loved computers, animals, and video games. His spiritual director has recalled that Acutis was convinced that the evidence of Eucharistic miracles could be persuasive in helping people to realize that Jesus is present at every Mass. Over the course of two and a half years, Acutis worked with his family to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that premiered in 2005 during the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul II and has since gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes on five continents. Many of Acutis’ classmates, friends, and family members have testified how he brought them closer to God. Acutis was a very open person and was not shy about speaking with his classmates and anyone he met about the things he loved: the Mass, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and heaven. He is remembered for saying: “People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints.”

Acutis died at the age of 15 in 2006, shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. Before he died, Acutis told his mother: “I offer all of my suffering to the Lord for the Pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven.” Thousands of people visited Acutis’ tomb in Assisi following his beatification in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi on October 10, 2020. Carlo Acutis was canonized by Pope Leo XIV on September 7, 2025, at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. His Feast Day is October 12.

APPENDIX 2: BIOGRAPHY OF ST. JOSEPH VAZ

Father Joseph Vaz was born on April 21, 1651, in India. When he grew up, his father sent him to a school at Benaulim to learn Latin as a preparation for his priestly studies. Joseph Vaz made such rapid progress in his studies that his father decided to send him to the city of Goa, to the Jesuit College of Saint Paul. After completing his studies with the Jesuits, Joseph Vaz entered the Academy of Saint Thomas Aquinas for his philosophical and theological studies. In 1676 he was ordained a priest.

Father Joseph Vaz worked for religious freedom in Sri Lanka at the risk of his life and gained the protection of the Buddhist King of Kandy because of his deep dedication to people in need. He nursed and aided the abandoned victims of smallpox in Kandy, established a network of underground schools, chapels, and health clinics throughout the large island. In addition to his Oratory in Goa, he left 17 major Catholic Churches, 400 chapels, and 70,000 people openly professing their Catholic faith. He translated into Sinhalese and Tamil, the local languages, various prayers and a catechism, thereby equipping them to withstand 150 years of persecution by Dutch colonial rulers. He totally engaged himself in deep meditation and prayer while also working to solve the real-life problems and difficult circumstances of the people. He is a saint who communed with nature and wild elephants.

Father Joseph Vaz served all the people, not just Catholics. His ancestors were Hindu and he kept his Indian heritage, language, and culture. His lifestyle was that of a true Indian Sannyasi. He studied with the Buddhist monks of Sri Lanka and taught meditation to children. He won the lifelong love and protection of the Buddhist King of Kandy from Dutch colonial forces who persecuted Sri Lankan Catholics for political reasons. At one point of his life, he was rescued by the Muslim physician of the King. During a serious drought in his kingdom in 1694, the King, Vimaladharmasuriya, asked Buddhist monks to pray for rain but no rain came. Then he turned to Father Joseph Vaz and asked him to pray for rain. The saintly priest prayed and rain fell in abundance. This won him the admiration and respect of the Buddhist King who protected him and granted him freedom to preach.

In Kandy, Father Joseph Vaz died of a fever before the age of sixty, on January 16, 1711. During his last breath, he held a candle in his hand as was the custom. His eyes were fixed on the crucifix, and with his last breath, he uttered the one word, the one name, that had guided his entire life: Jesus. Joseph Vaz was beatified on the January 21, 1995 by Pope (now Saint) John Paul II in Colombo, Sri Lanka and canonized by Pope Francis on the January 14, 2015 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. His Feast day is January 16.