

Board of Trustees' Special Board Meeting

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, April 6, 2009 at the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre.

Trustees Present:

Denise Blum; Wayne Buchholtz; Manuel da Silva; Louise Ervin; Joseph Gowing; Judy Nairn; Greg Reitzel; Marion Thomson Howell (Chair)

Student Trustees Present:

Alex Chmura; Thomas Slabon

Senior Administration Present:

Roger Lawler; Gerry Clifford, Shesh Maharaj, Bryan Mahn, Bruce Rodrigues, Glenn Sheculski

Special Resources For The Meeting:

John Shewchuk

Regrets:

Rick Boisvert; Heather Cullen; Fr. Robert Héту

Recorder:

Barb Pilsner, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 5.7 all Board decisions made by consensus are deemed the equivalent of a unanimous vote. A consensus decision is therefore deemed to be a vote of 9-0. Under Board by-law 5.11 every Trustee "shall vote on all questions on which the Trustee is entitled to vote" and abstentions are not permitted.

1. *Call to Order:*

The Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1.1 -- **Opening Prayer & Memorials**

The opening prayer was led by L. Ervin. Intentions were offered for Manuel's godmother, Michele Thomson.

1.2 -- **Approval of Agenda**

2009-38-- It was *moved* by **M. da Silva** and *seconded* by **L. Ervin**:
THAT the agenda for April 6, 2009 be now approved. -- Carried by consensus.

1.3 -- **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

- 1.3.1 From the current meeting
- 1.3.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting

2. *Agenda Items*

2.1 **Discussion on School Year Calendar Decision of March 30th**

Trustees reviewed the guiding principles used when making the decision about the school year calendar: alignment with the WRDSB board and neighbouring schools boards and even distribution of the six PD days. They reviewed the process of consultation with employee groups and Waterloo Region District School board and advised letters were sent home to all parents in February informing them of a possible September 1st start date. They were informed several boards had already made a decision on the start date of 2009-10 school year calendar. Several chose

September 1 others chose September 8. The WRDSB was informed of our Board's decision prior to making their decision to start on September 8. Student attendance and the additional transportation costs incurred by both boards were concerns. The trustees compared the approved school year calendars for both boards and were presented with option 2 having students begin after Labour Day. After further deliberations the Trustees were asked if they support the decision of March 30th or move to reconsider.

2009-39--It was *moved* by **J. Nairn** and *seconded* by **G. Reitzel**:

THAT we reconsider our decision from the March 30th Board meeting on the school year calendar --- No consensus.

J. Gowing, L. Ervin, W. Buchholtz, D. Blum and M. da Silva declined consensus.

In Favour: J. Nairn, G. Reitzel, M. Thomson Howell

Opposed: J. Gowing, L. Ervin, W. Buchholtz, D. Blum, M. da Silva

Motion DEFEATED: Vote 3 – 5

The meeting recessed at 7:19 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:24 p.m.

Trustees in agreement the Chair will convey our deliberations to the Chair of the public board. The Chair will also send a letter on the trustees' behalf to the Minister of Education stating the difficult position our board and other boards have been placed in due to the Minister not making the decision for all boards when the school year would begin.

2.2 Student Trustees and Attendance at OCSTA

The trustees were informed that at some school boards an adult trustee takes responsibility for a student trustee attending overnight events. Many boards support student trustee attendance at overnight events with their parent accompanying them. Our board currently has a parent attend as the supervisor. Trustees discussed whether this should be changed. The Director of Education recommended maintaining the current practice. Our trustees were informed that OSBIE does not recommend that student trustees attend events unsupervised and that supervision must be adequate.

2009-40--It was *moved* by **J. Nairn** and *seconded* by **M. da Silva**:

THAT for the 2009 OCSTA conference we allow student trustees to attend overnight with adult trustee supervision subject to the approval of the student trustee's parents. --- No consensus.

W. Buchholtz, D. Blum and L. Ervin declined consensus

In Favour: M. da Silva, J. Nairn, J. Gowing, G. Reitzel, M. Thomson Howell

Opposed: W. Buchholtz, D. Blum, L. Ervin

Motion **CARRIED**: Vote of 5 – 3

3. *Adjournment*

The Secretary of the Board reviewed the meeting decisions.

4. *Motion to Adjourn*

2009-41-- It was *moved* by **J. Gowing** and *seconded* by **G. Reitzel**:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:46 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary