



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

Trustees Present:

Linda Cuff (Vice-Chair), Kathy Doherty-Masters, Winston Francis, David Guerin, Renee Kraft*, Marisa Phillips, Robert Sikora (Chair), Conrad Stanley, Tracey Weiler

*-left meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Student Trustees Present:

Bryanna Donoghue**, Xavier Petrie

**-left meeting at 9:47 p.m.

Administrative Officials Present:

Tyrone Dowling, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonca, Judy Merkel, Kerry Pomfret, Jennifer Ritsma, Annalisa Varano

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:

Recorder:

Stephanie Medeiros, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 4.7 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 4.11 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 Trustee Stanley.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

Territorial Acknowledgement declared by Chair Sikora.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Trustee Weiler motioned that the Student Trustees wanted to add a sixth OCSTA Resolution – *Responding to the Youth Mental Health Crisis in Canada* to item 8.2 for discussion. Trustees discussed if this should be added to the agenda. Student Trustee Donoghue advocated for their motion to be considered by the Board.

Chair Sikora asked for a mover and seconder of the motion. Decision was made by vote.

**2024-07-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Doherty-Masters:
THAT the Board of Trustees approve to amend item 8.2 of the agenda to add a sixth OCSTA resolution –
Responding to the Youth Mental Health Crisis in Canada brought by Student Trustees Donoghue and Petrie.
By Vote:
In Favour: 4
Opposed: 5
--Motion Defeated**

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of the agenda with the following amendments: N/A

**2024-08-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
THAT the agenda for Monday, January 22, 2024, be now approved.
--- Carried by consensus**

1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

- 1.4.1 From the current meeting – NIL
- 1.4.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting – NIL

1.5 Items for Action:

Items for Action: from the In Camera meeting of January 22, 2024, regarding HRS matters.
Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder to approve the items for action of the In Camera meeting regarding HRS matters.

**2024-09-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the items for action of the In Camera meeting regarding HRS matters of Monday, January 22, 2024, be now approved.
--- Carried by consensus**

2. Consent Agenda: Director of Education (e.g. day-to-day operational matters from the Ministry of Education that the board is required to do)

3. Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees (Minutes of meetings)

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings

- 3.1.1 Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes – Dec 11, 2023
- 3.1.2 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes – Jan 8, 2024
- 3.2 SEAC Minutes – Dec 6, 2023
- 3.3 Director's Report

Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder for approval of the consent agenda.

Trustee Weiler discussed an amendment on page five of the agenda to the Board of Trustees' Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2023, item 5.1, to move the line that reads '*Consensus was not reached, and Trustee Stanley requested a decision by vote.*' be moved below motion 2023-112.

**2024-10-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved, as amended.
--- Carried by consensus.**

4. Delegations

5. Advice from the CEO

5.1 Leadership Strategy Update

Superintendent Varano presented the Board Leadership Strategy for the 2023-2024 school year. The presentation highlighted work of Executive Coaching and the Catholic Leadership Program Parts I, II and III. Induction and training process for new administrators was also discussed as well as how NTIP is evolving. Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

5.2 Well-Being – Healthy Active Living

Superintendent Ritsma introduced Brigitte Webster, Healthy Active Living and Outdoor Education consultant, to present the Well-Being Healthy Active Living presentation. The presentation included information on student wellness and physical activity opportunities for students. Reviewed items on staff wellness and professional development. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.3 FSL

Superintendent Mendonça introduced Jennifer Kruithof, FSL consultant, to provide the FSL presentation. The presentation reviewed current programs and activities the students have been involved in and professional support for FSL teachers and retention. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.4 Annual report of Properties and Major Construction Projects

Superintendent Maharaj presented the Annual report of Properties and Major Construction Projects. The presentation highlighted progress on potential new properties and planning for the build of new schools. Superintendent Maharaj introduced Adrian Frigula, Senior Manager of Facility Services, to present updates on current plans and funding for the new schools opening in the next few years. Reviewed completion of the addition and renovation of St. Agnes school. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.5 Estimated Budget Plan

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Renee King, Manager of Budget and Financial Reporting, who presented the 2024-25 Estimates Budget Plan and timelines. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.6 Interim Financial Report #1

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Renee King, Manager of Budget and Financial Reporting to present the Interim Financial Report #1. Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder to approve the recommendation contained in the report.

2024-11-- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Guerin:

THAT the Board of Trustees receive this interim financial report as information on the financial well-being of the Board as at November 30, 2023.

--Carried by consensus

6. Board Education (at the request of the Board)

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

7.1 Student Trustee Update

Student Trustees Donoghue and Petrie presented the Student Trustee report and provided an update on events and activities happening in the secondary school community along with Student Trustee Role update for the month of January.

Chair Sikora put forth a motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. and requested a mover and seconder.

2024-12- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Stanley:

That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.

--- Carried by consensus.

8. Board Education (at the request of the Board)

8.1 Chair Sikora noted OCSTA Communications

Chair Sikora noted review of OCSTA communications.

8.2 OCSTA Resolutions

1. Permanent Funding Speech and Language Pathologists
2. Student Transportation Funding Formula
3. Teacher (Recruitment and Retention)
4. Cybersecurity Funding
5. Addressing the Voter Registration Default

Chair Sikora reviewed the motions for the OCSTA Resolutions and requested a mover and seconder for each.

**2024-13-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Permanent Funding Speech and Language Pathologists contained in the agenda of January 22, 2024, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 2, 2024, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 9, 2024.
--Carried by consensus**

**2024-14-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for the Student Transportation Funding Formula contained in the agenda of January 22, 2024, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 2, 2024, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 9, 2024.
--Carried by consensus**

Trustee Stanley expressed his concerns on the wording of the resolution for the Teacher (Recruitment and Retention) and is not in consensus. Director Dowling reviewed courses Catholic teachers must take. Trustee Doherty-Masters explained the background research that was done with the Faculty of Education at Wilfrid Laurier University to bring this resolution forward. Trustee Weiler made suggestions to revise the motion in the resolution to address Trustee Stanley's concerns. Trustee Stanley accepted the amendments.

**2024-15-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Teacher (Recruitment and Retention) contained in the agenda of January 22, 2024, as amended for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 2, 2024, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 9, 2024.
--Carried by consensus**

**2024-16-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Cybersecurity Funding contained in the agenda of January 22, 2024, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 2, 2024, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 9, 2024.
--Carried by consensus**

**2024-17-- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Kraft:
THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Addressing the Voter Registration Default contained in the agenda of January 22, 2024, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 2, 2024, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 9, 2024.
--Carried by consensus**

8.3 Chair's Report

Chair Sikora presented the Chair's report for January.

9 Policy Discussion

10 Assurance of Successful Board Performance

10.1 Board Policy Review

10.1.1 Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Doherty-Masters discussed Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence and confirmed compliance. The Chair requested a mover and seconder to confirm compliance. The policy is currently under review at governance.

**2024-18-- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence and find that the Board is in compliance.
--- Carried by consensus**

10.1.2 Board Policy III 002 Unity of Control. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Chair Sikora confirmed review of Board Policy III 002 Unity of Control and confirmed compliance. The Chair requested a mover and seconder to confirm compliance. The policy does not require review at Governance.

2024-19-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy III 002 Unity of Control and find that the Board is in compliance.
--- Carried by consensus

11 Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

11.1 Monitoring Reports

11.1.1 Board Policy IV 013 Leadership

Director Dowling gave his presentation on Board Policy IV 013 Leadership and confirmed compliance. Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder of the recommendation.

2024-20-- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the Board accept this report indicating compliance with General Executive Limitation Policy IV 013.
--Carried by consensus

12 Potential Agenda Items

12.1 Trustee Inquiry – Elementary School Food and Nutrition Policy

Trustees Phillips shared her concerns and research on the Elementary School Food and Nutrition policy versus PPM 150 on being able to sell chocolate products for school fundraisers. Director Dowling explained WCDSB is leading in nutritional guidelines in the province. Trustees shared their views, opinions and debated on pros and cons of selling chocolate products for school fundraisers. Trustee Phillips attempted to put a motion on the floor. Chair Sikora suggested that it could be brought forward at another meeting to fulfil By-law obligations.

13 Announcements

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events

Trustees discussed upcoming events.

13.2 Pending Items: N/A

13.3 Pending Items for OCSTA Consideration: N/A

14 Items for the Next Meeting Agenda

Trustees discussed upcoming agenda items.

15 Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.

15.1 Confirm Decisions made tonight.

16 Closing Prayer

17 Motion to Adjourn

2024-21-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:10 p.m.



Chair of the Board



Secretary