



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

Trustees Present:

Linda Cuff (Vice-Chair), David Guerin, Renée Kraft, Marisa Phillips, Robert Sikora (Chair), Conrad Stanley, Tracey Weiler

*-joined via Teams

**-joined via Teams at 6:30 p.m.

Student Trustees Present:

Matteo Leone*

Administrative Officials Present:

Tyrone Dowling, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonça, Judy Merkel**, Kerry Pomfret, Jennifer Ritsma**

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets: Allison-Hannah Berwick, Winston Francis, Annalisa Varano

Recorder:

Stephanie Medeiros, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 4.7, when a decision is reached by consensus, the minutes of the Meeting shall indicate a decision by consensus with the notation in the minutes that consensus means the decision was supported by all Trustees present and eligible to vote on a matter. Under Board by-law 4.11 Whenever a vote is required, every Trustee present when a vote is taken, including the Chair but excluding any Trustee who has declared a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as required by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 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 6:04 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials

Trustee Guerin led prayer.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

Territorial Acknowledgement declared by Chair Sikora.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of the agenda.

**2025-07-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
THAT the agenda for Monday, January 27, 2025, 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 arising from the Double In Camera meeting of Monday, January 13, 2025.

Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder to approve the items for action from the Double In Camera meeting.

**2025-08-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the items for action arising from the Double In Camera meeting of Monday, January 13, 2025, regarding Trustee matters 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 Minutes– Dec 9, 2024

3.1.2 Special Board of Trustees Minutes – Jan 6, 2025

3.2 CPIC Minutes – Sept 18, 2024

3.3 SEAC Minutes – Nov 6, 2024

3.4 SEAC Minutes – Dec 4, 2024

3.5 Director's Report

Trustee Guerin noted that in item 7.2 of the September 18, 2024, CPIC minutes, the CPIC Meeting dates listed from January 22 to May 29 should be corrected to reflect the year 2025 instead of 2024.

**2025-09-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved.**

--- Carried by consensus

4. Delegations

4.1 Delegation Presentation – Chair Sikora invited Theresa Rose to discuss their concerns on library books and Catholic teachings in the education of children.

5. Advice from the CEO

5.1 Rosenberg Boundary Review – Final Recommendation Report

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning to present the Rosenberg Boundary Review – Final Recommendation Report. The presentation highlighted the main points and recommendations related to option 3 of the boundary review. Trustees engaged with clarifying questions and offered their comments. Chair Sikora then moved to seek a mover and seconder for the following motion.

2025-10-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That the Board of Trustees approve the following:

- 1. That the boundaries of John Sweeney Catholic Elementary School (CES) and St. Josephine Bakhita CES be modified, and the boundary of the new Rosenberg CES be established in accordance with Option 3, effective September 1, 2025, namely:**
 - a. Move Sub-Area E from John Sweeney to the new Rosenberg elementary school; and**
 - b. Move Sub-Areas L, M and N from St. Josephine Bakhita to the new Rosenberg elementary school.**
- 2. That Grade 7 students currently enrolled at St. Josephine Bakhita CES in the 2024/2025 school year, be granted legacy exception permission to finish Grade 8 at their current school. Further, said Grade 7 students will also be allowed to attend the new Rosenberg school in 2025/2026 for Grade 8.**
- 3. That current year Grade 7 students who opt to remain at their current school be provided with transportation if they qualify in accordance with board procedure APO012 – Transportation.**

4. That effective September 1, 2025, John Sweeney CES and St. Josephine CES remain capped in accordance with APA003 – Admission of Out of Boundary Students.
5. That new Out of Boundary admissions to St. Josephine Bakhita CES be considered by a special administrative level committee. Admission of Out of Boundary students in unusual and extraordinary circumstances will be considered if:
 - a. A student’s mental, physical, or academic well-being would likely be compromised if they were moved.
 - b. Upon the professional consideration of school and board staff, there is a determination that a student’s unique personal and educational needs are better served at the current school.
 - c. There are unique health and safety considerations pertaining to the student, which are better served at the current school, and which are verified by school and board staff.
6. That a Transition Planning Committee be formed to support all students who will be moving to the new Rosenberg school because of the Rosenberg Boundary Review.

--- Carried by consensus

5.2 Annual Report on Properties and Major Construction Projects

Superintendent Maharaj presented the Annual Report on Properties and Major Construction Projects. The presentation highlighted new property acquisitions and the progression on current major construction projects for new school facilities. It also covered the recently approved capital priorities. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.3 Approval of Budget Plan

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Laura Isaac, the Finance Manager, to present the report on the Approval of the Budget Plan. The report outlined the budget development process and timelines for the 2025-26 school year. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.4 FSL

Superintendent Mendonça introduced Jennifer Kruithof, FSL Consultant to present the French as a Second Language report. The report outlined three main goals for achieving success in FSL: the first goal focuses on building confidence, proficiency, and achievement; the second emphasizes the importance of continuing FSL studies through to graduation, which includes the introduction of new French immersion classes in various secondary schools; and the third goal aims to enhance engagement among students, educators, and parents in FSL. Additionally, there was a discussion regarding the staffing challenges related to French language teachers.

5.5 Well-Being – Healthy Active Living

Superintendent Ritsma introduced Brigitte Webster, Healthy Active Living & Outdoor Education consultant, to present the Well-Being – Healthy Active Living report. The presentation covered topics related to student wellness and available physical activity options, along with a review of the menstrual equity report, updates on the PALs program, and educational resources regarding cannabis and vaping for teachers. Additionally, it addressed outdoor education recertification for secondary schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

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

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

7.1 Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Leone 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.

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. Addressing Funding Needs for Faculties of Education
2. Cost of Sick Leave
3. Cyber Security Funding
4. Student Transportation
5. Temporary Accommodation
6. Voter Registration
7. Creation of a dedicated Catholic Faculty of Education and/or Catholic educational worker training program in the Province of Ontario

Trustee Weiler consulted with Trustee Doherty-Masters, who consented to allow another Trustee to second the motions initially proposed by her during her absence.

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

2025-11-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Kraft:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Addressing Funding Needs for Faculties of Education contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.

--Carried by consensus

2025-12-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Cost of Sick Leave contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.

--Carried by consensus

2025-13-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Cyber Security Funding contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.

--Carried by consensus

2025-14-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Student Transportation contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.

--Carried by consensus

2025-15-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Temporary Accommodation contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.

--Carried by consensus

2025-16-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Voter Registration contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.

--Carried by consensus

Trustee Weiler noted that the voter registration resolution was drafted by Trustee Doherty-Masters for this year and the previous year.

**2025-17-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the resolution for Creation of a dedicated Catholic Faculty of Education and/or Catholic educational worker training program in the Province of Ontario contained in the agenda of January 27, 2025, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2025, and that this be submitted by the deadline of February 7, 2025.**

--Carried by consensus

8.3 Chair's Report

Chair Sikora delivered the Chair's report for January, highlighting the events in which Trustees engaged in across the Region.

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 Weiler confirmed review of Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence and confirmed compliance. The policy does not require review at Governance Committee.

Chair Sikora called for a mover and seconder to affirm compliance.

2025-18-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler 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 policy does not require review at Governance Committee.

Chair Sikora called for a mover and seconder to affirm compliance.

2025-19-- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Cuff:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy III 002 Unity of Control and find that the Board is in compliance.

--- Carried by consensus

10.2 Trustee Code of Conduct Concern

Chair Sikora asked for a mover and seconder for the following motions in the matter of a Trustee breach regarding Board Policy II-007 - Board Members' Code of Conduct.

2025-20-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Guerin:

THAT the Waterloo Catholic District School Board of Trustees find Trustee Francis in breach of Board Policy II-007 - Board Members' Code of Conduct.

--- Carried by consensus

2025-21-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

THAT the Waterloo Catholic District School Board of Trustees request a written apology from Trustee Francis.

--- Carried by consensus

11 Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

11.1.1 Board Policy IV-13 – Leadership

Director Dowling presented on Board Policy IV-13 – Leadership and confirmed compliance. Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder of the recommendation.

2025-22-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That the Board accept this report indicating compliance with Policy IV 013 Leadership.

--- No consensus

Trustee Stanley requested a recorded vote

By Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Trustees Cuff, Guerin, Kraft, Weiler, Sikora

Opposed: Trustees Phillips, Stanley

--- Motion passed by Majority

12 Potential Agenda Items

13 Announcements

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events

Chair Sikora reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

13.2 Pending Items: N/A

13.3 Pending Items for OCSTA Consideration: N/A

14 Items for the Next Meeting Agenda

14.1 Chair Sikora reviewed upcoming agenda items.

15 Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.

15.1 The Recording Secretary confirmed decisions made tonight.

15.2 Trustees move into Triple In Camera meeting

2025-23-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Stanley:

THAT the Board of Trustees move into a Triple In Camera meeting.

--- Carried by consensus

Trustees moved into Triple In Camera meeting at 8:10 p.m.

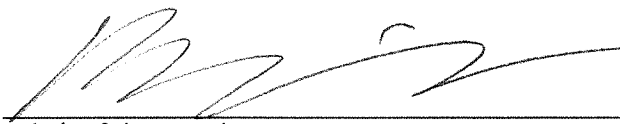
16 Closing Prayer

16.1 Closing prayer.

17 Motion to Adjourn

2025-24-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Guerin:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:47 p.m.



Chair of the Board



Secretary