



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 24, 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

**-left the meeting at 9:03

Student Trustees Present:

Allison-Hannah Berwick*, Matteo Leone

Administrative Officials Present:

Tyrone Dowling, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonça, 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, 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 6:02 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials

Student Trustee Berwick led prayer.

1.1.1 Winston Francis declared the oath.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

Territorial Acknowledgement declared by Chair Sikora.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

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

- Item 5.1 is for approval, not information.

2025-30-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Kraft:

THAT the agenda for Monday, February 24, 2025, be now approved, as amended.

--- 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 Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

Items for action arising from the In Camera meeting of Monday, February 24, 2025.

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

**2025-31-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Kraft:
THAT the items for action arising from the Double In Camera meeting of Wednesday, February 19, 2025, regarding Trustee matters and the In Camera meeting of Monday, February 24, 2025, regarding financial 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 – Jan 27, 2025

3.2 CPIC Minutes – Dec 11, 2024

3.3 SEAC Minutes – Jan 8, 2025

3.4 Director's Report

3.5 Governance Minutes – Jan 20, 2025 (Approval of Minutes)

3.6 Governance Minutes – Jan 20, 2025 (Approval of recommendations)

Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder for approval of the consent agenda from items 3.1 to 3.4.

**2025-32-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Cuff:
THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees items 3.1 to 3.4 and the recommendations contained therein be now approved.**

--- Carried by consensus

Chair Sikora turned it over to Vice-Chair Cuff to review the details of the January 20th, 2025, Governance Committee minutes.

Vice-Chair Cuff motioned for approval of recommendations from January 20th, 2025, Governance Committee minutes.

**2025-33-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
THAT the Governance Committee approve the Governance minutes from January 20th, 2025.**

--- Carried by consensus

Chair Sikora motioned for approval of recommendations from January 20th, 2025, Governance Committee meeting from the Board of Trustees.

**2025-34-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the Board of Trustees approve the recommendations of the Governance minutes from January 20th, 2025.**

--- Carried by consensus

4. Delegations

4.1 Delegation Presentation – Chair Sikora invited Joshua Hayek to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

4.2 Delegation Presentation – Chair Sikora invited Brenda Gosse to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

4.3 Delegation Presentation – Chair Sikora invited Alicia Hailu to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

4.4 Delegation Presentation – Chair Sikora invited Jack Fonseca to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5. Advice from the CEO

5.1 Audit Report on Trustee Expenses

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Shane Durham, Auditing Officer to present on the Audit Report on Trustee Expenses. The presentation provided a brief overview of appendices A and B of the report. It concluded that the expenses claimed by the Trustees adhered to Board policies, are complaint and were deemed reasonable in nature.

2025-35-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the 2023-2024 Trustee Expense Audit Report for information purposes only and recommends that the public Statement of Trustee Expenses be posted to the WCDSB website.

--- Carried by consensus

5.2 2025-2026 Estimates Budget Plan – Trustee Update #2

Laura Isaac, Senior Manager of Finance to present the 2025-2026 Estimates Budget Plan – Trustee Update #2. The update provided Trustees with insights into the budget preparation process for next year so far and the associated timelines for the upcoming school year. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.3 Guarding Minds Update

Superintendent Pomfret delivered the Guarding Minds Update, marking the third year of the Guarding Minds survey implementation, noting the evolution of the trend analysis over time. It covered participant data, demographics and trends. In response to the findings, a recognition program named WCDSB Cares is set to be introduced for the 2025-26 school year. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.4 School Year Calendar

Superintendent Ritsma presented the Trustees with the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar report for approval. Trustee Kraft inquired about the designated date for Faith Day and how the district plans to ensure staff attendance on that day. Superintendents and Director Dowling offered insights into an ongoing process to address this matter. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

2025-36-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Cuff:

That the Board of Trustees approve the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar as presented.

--- Carried by consensus

5.5 Administrative Procedure Update

Director Dowling provided a brief overview of the Administrative Procedure Update, highlighting the list of updates shared with the Trustees. This list offered a high-level summary of the changes made to the Administrative Procedures.

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 February.

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 Chair's Report

Chair Sikora delivered the Chair's report for February, 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 007 Board Members' Code of Conduct. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Stanley confirmed review of Board Policy II 007 Board Members Code of Conduct and identified areas of non-compliance as well as expressed concerns and offered recommendations for achieving compliance.

During a roundtable discussion, Trustees deliberated on the Board's adherence to the policy considering distinction of compliance as a whole Board versus individual Trustees. Director Dowling pointed out that the anticipated changes from the Ministry, effective January 1, 2025, have not yet been communicated, resulting in the policy remaining unchanged. This matter is reserved for discussion on the governance agenda in March to align with the forthcoming ministry requirements.

Chair Sikora called for a mover and seconder of the motion being sought to affirm non-compliance of the policy.

2025-37-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Phillips:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 007 Board Members' Code of Conduct and find that the Board is not in compliance.

--- No consensus

Trustee Phillips requested a recorded vote.

By Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Trustees Cuff, Francis, Phillips, Stanley, Sikora

Opposed: Trustees Guerin, Kraft, Weiler

--- Motion passed by Majority

Recommendation that the policy requires review at Governance Committee.

10.1.2 Board Policy III 003 Accountability of the CEO. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Kraft confirmed review of Board Policy III 003 Accountability of the CEO and confirmed compliance. The policy does not require review at Governance Committee.

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

2025-38-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Stanley:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy III 003 Accountability of the CEO and find that the Board is in compliance.

--- Carried by consensus

10.1.3 Board Policy III 004 Delegation of the CEO. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Phillips confirmed review of Board Policy III 004 Delegation of the CEO and identified areas of non-compliance as well as expressed concerns. During a roundtable discussion, Trustees deliberated on the Board's adherence to the policy and whether they are in compliance.

Chair Sikora called for a mover and seconder of the motion being sought to affirm non-compliance of the policy.

2025-39-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Cuff:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy III 004 Delegation of the CEO and find that the Board is not in compliance.

--- No consensus

Trustee Phillips asked for a recorded vote.

By Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Trustees Stanley, Phillips, Francis, Cuff, Sikora

Opposed: Trustees Weiler, Kraft, Guerin

--- Motion passed by Majority

Recommendation that the policy requires review at Governance Committee.

11 Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

11.1.1 Monitoring Report IV-002 – Treatment of the Public

Director Dowling presented on Board Policy IV-002 – Treatment of the Public and confirmed compliance. Chair Sikora opened the floor to discussion. Trustees engaged in a roundtable discussion identifying areas of non-compliance.

Chair Sikora called for a mover and seconder of the recommendation.

**2025-40-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:
That the Board accept this report indicating compliance with Policy IV-002 – Treatment of the Public.
--- No consensus**

Trustee Phillips asked for a recorded vote.

By Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Trustees Guerin, Weiler

Opposed: Trustees Cuff, Francis, Kraft, Phillips, Stanley, Sikora

--- Motion Defeated

**2025-41-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.
--- Carried by consensus**

11.1.2 Monitoring Report IV-003 – Treatment of Students

Director Dowling presented on Board Policy IV-003 – Treatment of Students and confirmed compliance. Chair Sikora opened the floor to discussion. Trustees engaged in a roundtable discussion identifying areas of non-compliance.

Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder of the recommendation.

**2025-42-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:
That the Board accept this report indicating compliance with Policy IV-003 – Treatment of Students.
--- No consensus**

Trustee Phillips asked for a recorded vote.

By Recorded Vote:

In Favour: Trustees Weiler, Guerin

Opposed: Trustees Stanley, Phillips, Francis, Cuff, Sikora

--- Motion Defeated

11.1.3 Monitoring Report IV-011 – Emergency CEO Replacement

Director Dowling presented on Board Policy IV-011 – Emergency CEO Replacement and confirmed compliance. Chair Sikora opened the floor to discussion. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

Chair Sikora requested a mover and seconder of the recommendation.

**2025-43-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
THAT Part 1 of this report will be implemented by the CEO when the Director is out of the Province or Country.
Part 2 through 4 will be implemented as indicated.
That this report be accepted as evidence of compliance with Policy IV 011 - Emergency CEO Replacement.
--- Carried by consensus**

12 Potential Agenda Items

12.1 Notice of Motion – Public Recording of Meetings

Trustee Stanley brought forward a Notice of Motion for consideration that will be voted on at the next meeting. Trustees engaged in a roundtable discussion focused on the need and differences between public recordings, live streaming of board meetings as well as amendments to the motion being considered. Trustee Weiler emphasized the necessity for a more extensive dialogue on this issue and mentioned that she has prepared a draft motion advocating for live streaming. Chair Sikora proposed an amendment to the motion to include a safety provision. Additionally, Trustee Phillips indicated that she has also drafted a motion in favor of live streaming and expressed desire to collaborate with Trustee Weiler. Chair Sikora confirmed this motion will be brought forward for decision at the next board meeting.

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.

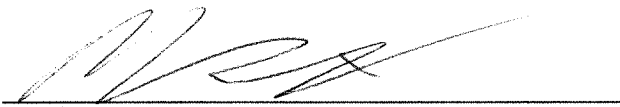
16 Closing Prayer

16.1 Closing prayer.

17 Motion to Adjourn

2025-44-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Stanley:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:51 p.m.



Chair of the Board



Secretary