



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

Trustees Present:

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

*- attended virtually via Teams

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:

Absent:

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 Vice-Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials

Trustee Guerin led opening prayer.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

Territorial Acknowledgment declared by Vice-Chair Cuff.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chair Cuff motioned for approval of the agenda.

**2025-49-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Francis:
THAT the agenda for Monday, March 24, 2025, be now approved.**

- No consensus

Trustee Kraft requested to switch around items 12.1 and 12.2, Trustees agreed. Vice-Chair Cuff motioned for approval of the amended agenda.

Trustee Weiler raised a point of order and requested the removal of item 12.3 Notice of Motion – Update to Flag Protocol and Political Symbol Policy from the agenda before approval of the agenda, providing explanations for this request, including that it is a violation of the Trustee governance policy. Director Dowling outlined the risks associated with adopting this motion. Trustee Stanley gave his rebuttal against Trustee Weiler’s proposal, while Trustee Kraft emphasized that operational decisions fall under the Director's purview, not the Trustees' voting responsibilities. Trustee Cuff added that it is the Trustees who establish the policies in question. Trustee Weiler reiterated the necessity of addressing policy changes through the Governance Committee before any amendments can be made. Vice-Chair Cuff decided to keep item 12.3 in the agenda allowing only for the amendment requested by Trustee Kraft. Trustee Weiler will not support the agenda as it stands.

Vice-Chair Cuff asked for a show of hands for approval of the amended agenda.

2025-50-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Phillips: THAT the agenda for Monday, March 24, 2025, be now approved, as amended.

By Show of Hands:

In favour: 5

Opposed: 3

--- Motion passed by Majority

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 In Camera meeting of Monday, March 24, 2025, regarding Trustee awards. Vice-Chair Cuff requested a mover and seconder to approve the items for action from the In Camera meeting.

2025-51-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

THAT the items for action arising from the In Camera meeting of Monday, March 24, 2025, regarding Trustee awards 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 Special Board of Trustees Minutes – Feb 19, 2025

3.1.2 Board of Trustees Minutes – Feb 24, 2025

3.1.3 Special Board of Trustees Minutes – Mar 3, 2025

3.2 SEAC Minutes – Feb 5, 2025

3.3 Director’s Report

Vice-Chair Cuff requested a mover and seconder for approval of the consent agenda.

**2025-52-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved.
--- Carried by consensus**

4. Delegations

- 4.1 Delegation Presentation – Vice-Chair Cuff invited Gregory Tomchyshyn to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.
- 4.2 Delegation Presentation - Vice-Chair Cuff invited Noah Van Alphen to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.
- 4.3 Delegation Presentation - Vice-Chair Cuff invited Mark Geier to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.
- 4.4 Delegation Presentation - Vice-Chair Cuff invited Lyco Kelly to the podium to give a presentation regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ literature in schools. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5. Advice from the CEO

5.1 Education Development Charge (EDC) Update

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning to present the Education Development Charge (EDC) Update. The presentation outlined the rationale behind EDC rates, which are applicable to most new residential and non-residential developments. Currently, residential land values are approximately 20% lower than their peak in early 2022, leading to the decision that WCDSB rates will remain unchanged as of June 1, 2025.

5.2 2025-2026 Estimates Budget Plan: Trustee Update #3

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Laura Isaac, Senior Manager of Finance to present the 2025-2026 Estimates Budget Plan – Trustee Update #3. 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.

5.3 Parent Engagement Update

Superintendent Merkel delivered the Parent Engagement Update, highlighting the ways the WCDSB Promotes Parent Engagement. The presentation outlined strategies implemented to connect with Catholic School Advisory Councils and reviewed next steps to guide the efforts of CPIC. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.4 Naming Rosenberg School

Superintendent Merkel delivered a report regarding the naming of the new Rosenberg school. The presentation outlined the criteria for naming schools, the inspired names for consideration, input from the families in the feeder schools and detailed the consultation process along with feedback received. A survey was conducted to gather responses from stakeholders, and the results indicated a preference for the name Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School as the most favoured choice for the name of the Rosenberg school.

Vice-Chair Cuff requested that the Trustees cast their votes by show of hands on the preferred name, which they proceeded to do. Five were in favour of Holy Trinity CES and three were in favour of Light of Christ CES.

**2025-53-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Weiler:
That the Board of Trustees endorse Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School as the new school's name to be forwarded to Bishop Crosby at the Diocese of Hamilton for final approval.
---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 Trustee Leone and Berwick 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 March.

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

8.1 Chair Sikora noted OCSTA Communications

Vice-Chair Cuff noted review of OCSTA communications.

8.2 Chair's Report

Vice-Chair Cuff delivered the Chair's report for March on Chair Sikora's behalf, 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 008 Role of the Chair. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Guerin confirmed review of Board Policy II 008 Role of the Chair and confirmed non-compliance.

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder to affirm non-compliance.

2025-54-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 008 Role of the Chair and find that the Board is not in compliance.

--- No consensus

Trustees engaged in a round table discussion on whether the motion for non-compliance should be tabled due to uncertainty.

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder for tabling the motion.

2025-55-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

That the Board table the motion that the Board is not in compliance with Board Policy II 008 Role of the Chair.

--- No consensus

Trustee Weiler requested a recorded vote.

By Recorded Vote:

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

Opposed: Trustees Guerin, Phillips, Weiler

--Motion passed by Majority

Non-binding vote from Student Trustee Berwick opposing the motion.

10.1.2 Board Policy II 013 Cost of Governance. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Weiler confirmed review of Board Policy II 013 Cost of Governance and confirmed compliance. It was recommended that it be reviewed at the Governance Committee as it does not cover parameters around fiduciary costs.

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder to affirm compliance.

2025-56-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Guerin:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 013 Cost of Governance and find that the Board is in compliance.

--- Carried by consensus

10.1.3 Board Policy II 014 Trustee Expenses. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustees confirmed review of Board Policy II 014 Trustee Expenses and confirmed compliance. The policy to be referred to the Governance Committee for review.

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder to affirm compliance.

**2025-57-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 014 Trustee Expenses and find that the Board is in compliance.
--- Carried by consensus**

10.1.4 Board Policy III 005 Monitoring CEO Performance. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Kraft confirmed review of Board Policy III 005 Monitoring CEO Performance and confirmed compliance. The policy does not require review at Governance Committee.

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder to affirm compliance.

**2025-58-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Weiler:
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy III 005 Monitoring CEO Performance and find that the Board is in compliance.
--- Carried by consensus**

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

11.1.1 Monitoring Report IV-005 – Hiring and Promotions

Superintendent Pomfret presented on Board Policy IV-005 – Hiring and Promotions and confirmed compliance. Vice-Chair Cuff opened the floor to discussion. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

**2025-59-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
That the Board accept this report indicating compliance with Hiring and Promotions Policy IV 005.
--- Carried by consensus**

11.1.2 Monitoring Report IV-010 – Facilities Accommodation

Superintendent Maharaj presented on Board Policy IV-010 – Facilities Accommodation and confirmed compliance. Vice-Chair Cuff opened the floor to discussion. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

**2025-60-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:
That the Board of Trustees approves this report as demonstrating compliance with Board Policy IV 010 for the 2024-25 school year.
--- Carried by consensus**

Vice-Chair Cuff requested for a mover and seconder to refer this policy to the Governance Committee, aiming to revise item 3 to align with the current practice of the provincial government providing some level of funding.

**2025-61-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
That the Board of Trustees refer Policy IV-003 – Facilities Accommodation to be reviewed at the Governance Committee.
--- Carried by consensus**

11.1.3 Monitoring Report IV-002 – Treatment of the Public

Director Dowling discussed Board Policy IV-002 – Treatment of the Public and Board Policy IV-003 – Treatment of Students, addressing their non-compliance as determined at the Board of Trustees meeting on February 24, 2025. Director Dowling emphasized that these are Trustee policies and recommended that they be referred to the Governance Committee for review. Specifying the focus of this review would be to assess the CEO interpretation and clarify expectations around the policies.

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder to move policy IV-002 – Treatment of the Public to the Governance Committee.

**2025-62-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
That the Board of Trustees send Policy IV-002 – Treatment of the Public to the Governance Committee for review.
--- No consensus**

By show of hands:

In Favour: Trustees 5

Opposed: Trustees 3

--- Motion passed by Majority

11.1.4 Monitoring Report IV-003 – Treatment of Students

Vice-Chair Cuff called for a mover and seconder to move policy IV-003 – Treatment of Students to the Governance Committee.

2025-63-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Kraft:

That the Board of Trustees send Policy IV-003 – Treatment of Students to the Governance Committee for review.

--- Carried by consensus

12. Potential Agenda Items

12.1 Notice of Motion – Live Streaming

Trustees Weiler and Phillips brought forward a Notice of Motion for consideration.

Vice-Chair Cuff indicated that this motion is for informational purposes and consensus, or a majority vote is required to initiate discussion. Vice-Chair Cuff requested a mover and a seconder to facilitate discussion on the proposed Notice of Motion.

2025-64-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

That the board of Trustees open Notice of Motion – Live Streaming for discussion.

--- No consensus

Vote by show of hands:

In Favour: 4

Opposed: 4

--- Motion Defeated

12.2 Notice of Motion – Public Recording of Meetings

Trustee Stanley provided a brief overview of the motion's purpose. The Trustees engaged in a roundtable discussion focused on public recording during board meetings, examining the potential use of personal recordings and setting guidelines for safety and minimizing disruptions. Trustee Stanley welcomed necessary amendments to the motion. Director Dowling raised past safety concerns and mentioned that live streaming could potentially be implemented before September 1, 2025, while questioning how the board would operationalize public recordings into a policy without the senior staff's ability to update it. Trustee Phillips proposed postponing the decision until the next meeting. The Board of Trustees agreed to table the decision on Public Recording of Meetings to the meeting of April 28, 2025, and requested this item to be added to the next Committee of the Whole meeting of April 14 for discussion.

2025-65-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

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

--- Carried by consensus.

12.3 Notice of Motion – Update to Flag Protocol and Political Symbol Policy

Vice-Chair Cuff indicated that the Notice of Motion - Update to the Flag Protocol and Political Symbol Policy is intended for informational purposes and will be subject to a vote at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for April 28, 2025. Trustee Kraft inquired about the possibility of securing a legal opinion before the vote takes place. In response, Vice-Chair Cuff confirmed that the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Director will consult legal counsel and examine the bylaws ahead of the next meeting.

13. Announcements

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events: N/A

Vice-Chair Cuff 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 Vice-Chair Cuff reviewed upcoming agenda items.

15. Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.

- 15.1 The Recording Secretary confirmed decisions made tonight.
- 15.2 Trustees move into a Double In Camera meeting

**2025-66-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Francis:
THAT the Board of Trustees move into a Double In Camera meeting.
--- Carried by consensus**

Trustees moved into a Double In Camera meeting at 9:12 p.m.

16. Closing Prayer

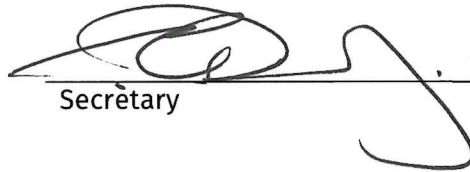
- 16.1 Closing prayer led by all.

17. Motion to Adjourn

**2025-67-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Francis:
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:20 p.m.**



Chair of the Board



Secretary