



Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

Trustees Present:

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

Student Trustees Present:

Rebecca Girolametto*, Jace Krysko*

*- left at 9:00 p.m.

Administrative Officials Present:

Patrick Eby, 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 6:06 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials

Deacon Richard Olson led prayer and provided a blessing for the new Student Trustees and Superintendent Eby. Trustee Francis read the gospel. Student Trustees recited and signed the Declaration of Oath.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

Territorial Acknowledgement declared by Chair Kraft.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Chair Kraft motioned for approval of the agenda with the following amendment:

- To move item 5.4 Holy Rosary CES French Immersion Program Relocation – Initial Report ahead to item 5.1 and move other items in section 5 down.

**2025-136-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
THAT the agenda for Monday, September 22, 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

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 – Jun 23, 2025

3.1.2 Special Board of Trustees Minutes – Sept 8, 2025

3.2 SEAC Minutes – June 10, 2025

3.3 Governance Minutes – Sept 8, 2025 (Approval of Minutes – Governance Committee)

3.4 Governance Minutes – Sept 8, 2025 (Approval of recommendations – All Trustees)

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

2025-137-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:

THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein from items 3.1 to 3.2 be now approved.

--- Carried by consensus

Vice-Chair Weiler motioned for approval of recommendations from September 8, 2025, Governance Committee minutes.

2025-138-- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

THAT the Governance Committee approve the Governance minutes from September 8, 2025.

--- Carried by consensus

Chair Kraft motioned for approval of recommendations from September 8, 2025, Governance Committee meeting from the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Phillips expressed concern that the policy lacks provisions for anonymous public complaints.

Vice-Chair Weiler raised a point of order clarifying that the motion on the floor is to approve the recommendation to bring the policy forward, not to approve the policy itself. Trustee Sikora emphasized that the Board is approving the recommendation for discussion under item 10.2, not the policy itself.

Trustees engaged in a roundtable discussion and considered whether formal approval under item 3.4 was required and discussed a motion to clarify what is being approved.

Trustee Phillips asked for a recorded vote.

2025-139-- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Guerin:

That item 3.4 Governance Minutes – September 8, 2025 (Approval of recommendations) be now approved. To clarify, approving this recommendation is not approving the Code of Conduct policy. This item will be discussed later under item 10.2 of the agenda.

By Recorded vote:

In Favour: Trustees Doherty-Masters, Weiler, Francis, Guerin, Sikora, Stanley, Kraft (7)

Opposed: Trustee Cuff, Phillips (2)

--- Motion Carried by Majority

4. Delegations

5. Advice from the CEO

5.1 Holy Rosary CES French Immersion Program Relocation – Initial Report

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning to present the initial report regarding the relocation of the French Immersion Program from Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School to St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School for informational purposes. The presentation outlined the rationale for this move due to ongoing enrolment growth at Holy Rosary—driven in part by the French Immersion (FI) program. It highlighted the challenges the school is likely to encounter in the future, including projections of overcapacity and site constraints, prompting the board to explore relocating the program to a more suitable location to ensure its long-term viability and equitable access to resources. Additionally, the presentation addressed the public engagement and feedback process, which includes written submissions and an open house on October 7, 2025. The input received will assist to form the final implementation plan set to be discussed at the upcoming board meeting on October 27, 2025. Superintendent Maharaj clarified this is an operational matter and the report brought forward is for the information of the Board. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.2 2025 Capital Priorities Submission

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Jennifer Passy, the Manager of Planning, to discuss the 2025 Capital Priorities Submission. The presentation highlighted a memo sent to school boards regarding the submission of Capital Projects from the Ministry, which outlined the criteria that must be met to be eligible. It also reviewed the Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Strategic Initiatives, detailing the schools identified for submission, including a new school in North Cambridge, the replacement project for St. Bernadette, and additions for Monsignor Doyle, St. David, and Monsignor Haller, as well as the new Doon South school. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

2025-140-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That staff be directed to submit Capital Priorities program requests for funding in the following order:

- 1. New North Cambridge CES**
- 2. St. Bernadette CES Replacement School**
- 3. Monsignor Doyle CSS Addition**
- 4. St. David CSS Addition**
- 5. Monsignor Haller CES Addition**
- 6. New Doon South CES**

--- Carried by consensus

5.3 2024-2025 Major Capital Projects

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Chandler Kinzie, the Supervisor of Construction & Renovations, to deliver the report on Major Capital Projects for 2024-2025. The presentation provided a brief overview of Ministry funding, project timelines, and a list of significant renewal and SCI projects along with their associated costs. It included visuals of recently completed construction projects, as well as updates on schools in the construction phase and the relocation of portables. The presentation concluded with an update on upcoming projects. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.4 Summer Learning and Transition Programs

Superintendent Foran delivered a report on the Summer Learning and Transition Program, highlighting the Summer Boost initiative and its various locations and staffing details. The presentation provided an overview of the St. Louis Summer Learning Programs, including a variety of secondary credit opportunities for students, as well as non-credit offerings like Summer Expedition, International and Indigenous Languages, and HeadStart. Additionally, the report covered the Secondary Transition to School Program for students with special needs moving from elementary to secondary education. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.5 Director's Report

Director Varano presented the Director's report for the month of September. The report included updates on leadership and the MYSPP development as well as meetings and events attended.

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

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

7.1 Student Trustee Update

Student Trustees Girolametto and Krysko 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 September.

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

8.1 Chair Kraft noted OCSTA Communications.

8.2 Chair's Report

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

Trustee Stanley requested a short recess. Chair Kraft asked if a recess was the will of the group.

**2025-141-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
That the Board of Trustees take a 5-minute recess at 8:27 pm.**

Trustee Cuff asked for a vote.

Vote by Show of Hands:

In Favour: 8

Opposed: 1

--- Motion Carried by Majority

Chair Kraft requested a motion to resume the meeting.

**2025-142- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
That the Board of Trustees move back to the Public Meeting at 8:32 p.m.
--- Carried by consensus.**

9. Policy Discussion

10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

10.1 Board Policy Review

10.1.1 Board Policy II 002 Governing Style. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Weiler confirmed the review of Board Policy II 002 Governing Style and confirmed compliance. The policy does require review at the Governance Committee.

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

**2025-143-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Doherty-Masters:
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 002 Governing Style and find that the Board is in compliance.
--- Carried by consensus**

Recommendation to send this policy to Governance to interpret and discuss language.

10.1.2 Board Policy III 006 CEO Compensation and Benefits. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Sikora confirmed review of Board Policy III 006 CEO Compensation and Benefits and confirmed compliance. The policy does not require review at the Governance Committee.

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

**2025-144-- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Weiler:
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy III 006 CEO Compensation and Benefits and find that the Board is in compliance.
--- Carried by consensus**

10.2 Board Policy II 007 Board Members' Code of Conduct

Vice-Chair Weiler noted that the amendments have been made to policy II 007, the Board Members' Code of Conduct, have been implemented to align with the recent legislative updates mandated by the Ministry. Following this, the Chair invited discussion among the Trustees, who engaged in a roundtable discussion about the specifics of the revised policy. Key topics included the procedures for addressing public complaints, the responsibilities of the Chair and the Director of Education, and the necessity for clear guidance on the board's website. Additionally, it was recommended that notice be added to the website, particularly in the governance section and on the Trustee photos page, outlining the process for the public to submit complaints against Trustees to the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Director of Education. After a comprehensive dialogue, the Trustees successfully passed an amended motion.

Vice-Chair Weiler moved to approve the updated policy as presented in the agenda, second from Trustee Guerin. Chair Kraft opened the floor for discussion.

The motion was tabled in the session to allow for a motion to extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m.

**2025-145-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
That the Board of Trustees table the motion currently on the floor.**

--- Carried by consensus

**2025-146-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
That the meeting be extended past 9:00 p.m.**

--- Carried by consensus

Trustees expressed differing opinions regarding the current motion and engaged in discussions to refine the wording of the amended motion aimed at approving policy II 007, which pertains to the Board Members' Code of Conduct. Therefore, the original motion no longer stands.

**2025-147-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
That the Board of Trustees approve the changes to policy II 007 Board Members' Code of Conduct as presented and to amend the motion to include locations on the website to communicate how a member of the public can bring forward complaints to the Chair and/or the Vice-Chair.**

Trustee Stanley moved that the vote be postponed until the next meeting, outlining the reasons for this suggestion. Trustee engaged in further discussions regarding additional amendments.

**2025-148-- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Phillips:
That the Board of Trustees defer this motion to the Board of Trustees meeting on October 27th, 2025.**

Vote by Show of Hands:

In Favour: 2

Opposed: 6

--- Motion Defeated

**2025-149-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
That the Board of Trustees approve the changes to policy II 007 Board Members' Code of Conduct as presented and to amend the motion to include locations on the website to communicate how a member of the public can bring forward complaints to the Chair and/or the Vice-Chair and the Director of Education.**

No objection from the group to add a recorded vote, requested by Trustee Phillips.

By Recorded vote:

In Favour: Trustees Weiler, Cuff, Doherty-Masters, Francis, Guerin, Sikora, Kraft (7)

Opposed: Trustees Phillips and Stanley (2)

--- Motion Carried by Majority

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

12. Potential Agenda Items

12.1 Notice of Motion – Letter to the Minister of Education

Chair Kraft provided a brief review of the motion being sought. Vice-Chair Weiler gave context on the purpose of the letter. Trustee Stanley called a point of order and referenced Bylaw item 4.1.6 “shall not be the subject of any debate or comment at the Meeting at which it is introduced.” Vice-Chair Weiler noted that context was needed before moving a motion to open it for discussion. Trustee Cuff noted a motion to accept motions is needed.

**2025-150-- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
That motions be accepted from the floor.**

--- Carried by consensus

**2025-151-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
That the Notice of Motion – Letter to the Minister of Education be opened for discussion.**

--- Carried by consensus

Trustees debated the content, tone, and timing of a proposed advocacy letter to the Minister of Education regarding the Trustee role, with suggestions to revise the letter to reflect recent ministerial statements and to position the board as proactive in shaping Trustee reform, ultimately deciding to revisit the letter at the next meeting after further review and input.

13. Announcements

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events

Chair Kraft 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 Kraft noted 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

**2025-152-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Stanley:
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 10:00 p.m.**



Chair of the Board



Secretary