



## **Committee of the Whole Meeting**

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, January 12, 2026, 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street West, 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

### **Administrative Officials Present:**

Patrick Eby, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonça, Judy Merkel, Kerry Pomfret\*, Jennifer Ritsma, Annalisa Varano

\*- joined via Teams

\*\* - arrived at 6:24 p.m.

### **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 Chair called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

### **1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials**

Opening prayer led by Trustee Guerin.

### **1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement**

Territorial Acknowledgment declared by Chair Kraft.

### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

Chair Kraft motioned for approval of the agenda as amended:

- Move item 10.1 up after item 5.3

**2026-01 -- It was moved by Trustee Stanley and seconded by Trustee Guerin:  
THAT the agenda for Monday, January 12, 2026, 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 - NIL**

**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 Committee of the Whole Minutes – Nov 10, 2025

Chair Kraft motioned for approval of the consent agenda.

**2026-02 -- It was moved by Trustee Francis and seconded by Trustee Sikora:**

**THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved.**

**--- Carried by consensus.**

#### **4. Delegations**

#### **5. Advice From the CEO**

##### **5.1 Leadership Strategy Update**

Superintendent Eby presented the Leadership Strategy Update. The presentation highlighted the Leadership Strategy Identification Program, the Induction Program designed for principals and vice-principals, the NTIP Mentorship initiative, as well as aspects of Innovation and Deep Learning. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

##### **5.2 EQAO**

Superintendent Ritsma introduced Petra LeDuc, the Math Lead Consultant, along with Student Achievement Consultants Kim DeGasperis, Amy Healy, and Sarah Gonzalez-Day, who provided an update on the EQAO results for the 2024-2025 academic year within the WCDSB. The presentation highlighted trends in the scores for both elementary and secondary levels, discussed confidence data, and outlined the next steps for improvement. Additionally, the team reviewed the OSSLT results, survey data, and Math Achievement outcomes, clarifying the meaning of the "provincial standard" while examining scores across primary, junior, intermediate, and grade 9 math. The discussion also focused on interventions, professional development opportunities, and strategies to address achievement gaps. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

##### **5.3 Literacy Report**

Superintendents Eby and Ritsma introduced Kim DeGasperis and Amy Healy, Student Achievement Consultants, to present the Literacy Report. The presentation focused on the alignment with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP), emphasizing the integration of the new language curriculum, professional development initiatives, resource investments, early intervention programs, and the implementation of digital tools such as Lexia Power Up. Additionally, the presentation included support for intermediate and secondary literacy, and the incorporation of faith-based resources. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

## **6. Ownership Linkage** (Communication with the External Environment)

### **6.1 Linkages Activity**

Trustee Sikora delivered an update on the Linkages Activity, including a congratulatory letter sent to newly appointed Bishop, Joseph Dabrowski. The update included a recap of recent events attended by the Trustees, such as the Christmas pageants at schools. Additionally, upcoming events were reviewed, along with the attendance of the Director and Chair at the Installation Mass for the new Bishop.

### **6.2 Pastoral Care Activity**

Trustee Guerin shared an update on the Pastoral Care initiatives, emphasizing the potential for Trustees to engage in a charitable event or group volunteering before the school year concludes. Encouraged Trustees to share their ideas for a community event. Trustee Phillips suggested volunteering at a nursing home.

## **7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces**

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

#### **8.1 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications**

Chair Kraft briefly discussed OCSTA/CCSTA Communications.

#### **8.2 Trustee Work Plan - January review**

Chair Kraft reviewed the Trustee Work Plan for the month of January.

#### **8.3 Work of the Board – Progress Update**

Chair Kraft provided an update on the progress of the Work of the Board plan, highlighting four key priorities: Governance Education, Advocacy, Community Outreach, and Policy Review. The Chair affirmed that the Trustees are making steady progress toward achieving the goals in each category.

## **9. Policy Discussion**

## **10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance**

### **10.1 Draft OCSTA Resolutions review**

Vice-Chair Weiler, with input from Trustees and senior staff, led a review of the draft OCSTA Resolutions and the rationale behind each submission. The resolutions addressed areas including funding for a Graduation Coach, the role of Math Special Assignment Teachers, inflation-indexed school funding, technology and device financing, Project Search, and the Special Education Transition Navigator, as well as short-term staffing challenges. Trustees engaged in roundtable discussions around the resolutions presented and provided feedback.

## **11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance**

## **12. Potential Agenda Items**

## **13. Announcements** (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated)

### **13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Chair noted upcoming events.

## **14. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda/Pending Items**

14.1 Chair noted upcoming items on the next agenda.

## **15. Adjournment** – Confirm decisions made tonight.

### **15.1 Confirm Decisions**

The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

**16. Closing Prayer**

16.1 Closing prayer led by all.

**17. Motion to Adjourn**

**2026-03 -- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Stanley:**

**THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:31 p.m.**



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Chair of the Board



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Secretary