



Special Board of Trustees' Board Meeting

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 2, 2026, 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)

*- attended virtually via Teams

Student Trustees Present:

Rebecca Girolametto, Jace Krysko

Administrative Officials Present:

Patrick Eby, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonça, Judy Merkel, Kerry Pomfret, Annalisa Varano

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets: Jennifer Ritsma

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 Trustees Krysko and Girolametto led prayer.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment

Territorial Acknowledgement declared by Chair Kraft.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Chair Kraft motioned for approval of the agenda:

2026-01-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Francis:

THAT the agenda for Monday, February 2, 2026, 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 In Camera meeting of Monday, February 2, 2026, regarding infrastructure matters.

**2026-02-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Stanley:
THAT the items for action arising from the In Camera meeting of Monday, February 2, 2026, regarding infrastructure 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 8, 2025

3.2 Governance Committee Minutes – Oct 20, 2025

3.3 Governance Committee Minutes – January 19, 2026

3.4 French as a Second Language (FSL)

3.5 Healthy Active Living

2026-03-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Cuff:

THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein, excluding item 3.3, be now approved.

--- Carried by consensus

2026-04-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Guerin:

That the Governance Committee approve item 3.3 Governance Committee minutes of Monday, January 19, 2026.

--- Carried by consensus

4. Delegations

5. Advice from the CEO

5.1 Annual Report on Properties and Major Construction Projects

Superintendent Maharaj delivered the Annual Report on Properties and Major Construction Projects, highlighting updates on property dispositions and usage, regarding St. Boniface in Maryhill, which has been repurposed for storage. The report also detailed current and potential property acquisitions, including five elementary schools, and one secondary school. Additionally, updates on construction projects were provided, specifically for the Notre Dame CSS and Southeast Galt Cambridge CES, both of which are on track for a September 2026 opening. The presentation concluded with information on approved funding for new additions to five elementary schools and one secondary school.

5.2 Estimates Budget Plan

Superintendent Maharaj welcomed Laura Isaac, the Senior Manager of Finance, to present the Estimates Budget Plan. The presentation outlined the preliminary timeline and process for the budget of the 2026-2027 school year, along with Ministry announcements and assumptions.

5.3 RNEF School Listing Update

Superintendent Maharaj delivered the report on the updates to the RNEF School Listing. The report examined the current schools on the list and provided revisions to the Rural and Northern Education

Allocation (RNEA), which supports provincially identified rural schools. To ensure the eligibility list remains accurate, it was recommended to remove the closed St. Boniface (Maryhill) and St. Agatha schools while adding Holy Family (New Hamburg), St. Boniface (Breslau), and St. Teresa of Avila (Elmira) based on criteria related to rural enrollment and community needs. The new Baden school will be added upon its opening. These changes will be reported to the Ministry.

2026-05-- It was moved by Trustee Guerin and seconded by Trustee Stanley:

That the Board of Trustees approves the following changes to the Waterloo Catholic District School Board's list of schools eligible to benefit from the RNEA grant:

- **The removal of St. Boniface School in Maryhill as it is closed**
- **The removal of St. Agatha School in St. Agatha as it is closed**
- **The addition of Holy Family School in New Hamburg as a large portion of the student population comes from rural communities**
- **The addition of St. Boniface School in Breslau as it is the only school operated by WCDSB in that community**
- **The addition of St. Teresa of Avila in Elmira as it is the only school operated by WCDSB in that community**

--- Carried by consensus

5.4 Naming of new Southeast Galt Cambridge school

Superintendent Eby presented the Naming of the new Southeast Galt Cambridge school. The report outlined the boundaries of the nearby schools including St. Vincent de Paul, St. Anne Cambridge and Holy Spirit. The report detailed the naming process, and community consultation while highlighting approval of the names for consideration by his excellency, Bishop Crosby, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton. The report reviewed discussions about potential names and the rationale behind them. Feedback from the consultation indicated strong support for the name Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School as the preferred choice for the new Southeast Galt Elementary School. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

2026-06-- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation of the Naming Committee, Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School to be the name of the Southeast Galt Elementary School. The approved name will then be sent to the Minister's office as per Bill 33.

--- Carried by consensus

5.5 New MYSP presentation

Director Varano introduced Lema Salaymeh, Senior Manager of Communications, and Courtney Brewer, Research Coordinator, to present the new MYSP presentation. The presentation outlined the development, structure and stages of activity of the Monitoring Strategy, highlighting its goals and indicators through visually engaging branding and color-coded icons. Visual identity was crafted in partnership with a graphic designer, emphasizing the fusion of faith and strategic priorities through stained glass motifs and distinctive icons for each objective. The session also explored the significance of these visuals in relation to the goals and indicators they represent. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.6 Director's Report

Director Varano presented the Director's report for the month of January. The report provided an overview of recent activities, including school initiatives, partnerships with local institutions, and participation in professional development and community engagement events.

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 January.

7.2 Governance Recommendations of Board Policies – Jan 19, 2026

Chair Kraft acknowledged the Governance Committee's recommendations for approval. The Chair inquired whether the group agreed to approve the recommendations collectively, except for board policy II 004, which contains a grammatical error and will be addressed separately.

2026-07-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That the Board of Trustees approve the amendments outlined in Appendices A through J, excluding Board Policy II 004 Advocacy and Advertising – Appendix I

--- Carried by consensus

2026-08-- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

That the Board of Trustees approve the Board Policy II 004 Advocacy and Advertising – Appendix I, with a grammatical amendment to remove 'An' in the second paragraph and capitalizing 'Advocacy'.

--- Carried by consensus

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 January.

9. Policy Discussion

10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

10.1 Board Policy Review

10.1.1 Board Policy I 001 Ends. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustees confirmed the review of Board Policy I 001 Ends and confirmed compliance. The policy does not require review at the Governance Committee.

Chair Kraft moved the motion and called for a seconder to affirm compliance.

2026-09-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Doherty-Masters:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy I 001 Ends and find that the Board is in compliance.

--- Carried by consensus

10.1.2 Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Trustee Phillips confirmed the review of Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence and confirmed compliance. Recommendation to send it to the Governance Committee to update the name of the Pope.

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

2026-10-- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Cuff:

THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 006 Celebration of Excellence and find that the Board is in compliance.

--- Carried by consensus

10.1.3 Board Policy III 002 Unity of Control. Is there a need to review the Policy?

Chair Kraft confirmed the review of Board Policy III 002 Unity of Control and confirmed compliance. The policy does not require review at the Governance Committee.

Chair Kraft moved the motion and called for a seconder to affirm compliance.

2026-11-- It was moved by Trustee Kraft 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 OCSTA Resolutions

Vice-Chair Weiler briefly reviewed the final nine OCSTA Resolutions and recommended that the resolutions be approved as a group.

1. Ensuring fiscal sustainability through Inflation-Indexed School Board Funding
2. Full year funding of Mental Health Lead Role
3. Increased funding for devices used by students
4. Integrating Summer Special Education supports into the Core Education Fund
5. Providing funding to staff “Developmental Disabilities Student Transitions – Project SEARCH”
6. Support for Permanent Core Funding of the Special Education Needs Transition Navigator
7. Sustainable funding for Short-Term Staffing Pressures
8. Sustainable funding for Student Success and Achievement: Graduation Coaches Core Funding
9. Sustainable funding for Student Success and Achievement: Math Special Assignment Teachers

2026-12-- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Cuff:

THAT the WCDSB Board of Trustees submit the following resolutions contained in the agenda of February 2, 2026, for consideration at the OCSTA AGM of May 1, 2026, and that they be submitted by the deadline of February 6, 2026.

1. Ensuring fiscal sustainability through Inflation-Indexed School Board Funding
2. Full year funding of Mental Health Lead Role
3. Increased funding for devices used by students
4. Integrating Summer Special Education supports into the Core Education Fund
5. Providing funding to staff “Developmental Disabilities Student Transitions – Project SEARCH”
6. Support for Permanent Core Funding of the Special Education Needs Transition Navigator
7. Sustainable funding for Short-Term Staffing Pressures
8. Sustainable funding for Student Success and Achievement: Graduation Coaches Core Funding
9. Sustainable funding for Student Success and Achievement: Math Special Assignment Teachers

---Carried by consensus

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

11.1 Monitoring Reports

11.1.1 Board Policy IV-13 – Leadership

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

2026-13-- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Francis:

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

--- Carried by consensus

12. Potential Agenda Items

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.

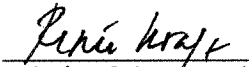
16. Closing Prayer

16.1 Closing prayer.

17. Motion to Adjourn

2026-14-- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Francis:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:36 p.m.



Chair of the Board



Secretary