



## **Committee of the Whole Meeting**

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, March 9, 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

**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.

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### **1. Call to Order:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

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

**THAT the agenda for Monday, March 9, 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 - 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 – Feb 9, 2026

Chair Kraft motioned for approval of the consent agenda.

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

**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 Student Success Update**

Superintendent Eby presented the Student Success Update. The presentation detailed the strategic plan alignment, growth in online learning, the role of Student Success Consultants, mathematics and literacy initiatives, pathways planning, re-engagement strategies, and experiential learning. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

##### **5.2 Math Action Achievement Plan (MAAP)**

Superintendent Ritsma introduced Petra LeDuc, Math Lead, to present the Math Action Achievement Plan. The presentation highlighted improvements in EQAO results for priority schools, the impact of coaching and board-wide strategies, the use of mock EQAO assessments, and professional development for math teachers. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

##### **5.3 Indigenous Education Update (BAP)**

Superintendent Ritsma introduced Jennifer Staats, Indigenous and Equity Consultant, to present the Indigenous Education Update. The presentation reviewed the rationale, mandates, and a wide range of initiatives structured around the medicine wheel, including spiritual, physical, emotional, and cognitive supports. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

##### **5.4 2026 Catholic Trustee Determination and Distribution Report**

Superintendent Maharaj reviewed the 2026 Catholic Trustee Determination and Distribution report for approval at the March board meeting. The presentation reviewed the options for Trustee numbers and area representation, the calculation methods, and the recommendation to maintain the current distribution. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

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

##### **6.1 Linkages Activity**

Trustee Sikora provided an update on the Linkages Activity, noting that letters of congratulations will be sent out. Additionally, guidelines will be distributed regarding Trustee attendance at upcoming events and

Secondary Convocations, considering factors such as cost and relevance. Lastly, that the list of event dates will be updated as necessary.

## **6.2 Pastoral Care Activity**

Trustee Guerin provided an update on the Pastoral Care initiatives, highlighting a tentative date for a community service event scheduled for the evening of Monday, April 20th, which will involve Trustees, Superintendents, and staff. Additionally, it was noted that Student Trustees are organizing an Elementary Student Leadership Conference.

## **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 - March review**

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

## **9. Policy Discussion**

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

## **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**

The Chair noted upcoming events.

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

14.1 The 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.

15.2 Trustees move into a Double In Camera meeting

**2026-09 -- It was moved by Trustee Sikora and seconded by Trustee Guerin:**

**That the Board of Trustees move into a Double In Camera meeting.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

Trustees moved into a Double In Camera meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Trustees reconvened the public meeting at 8:59 p.m. after rising from the Double In Camera session.

15.3 Trustees move into a Triple In Camera meeting

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

**That the Board of Trustees move into a Triple In Camera meeting.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

Trustees moved into a Triple In Camera meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Trustees reconvened the public meeting at 9:20 p.m. after rising from the Triple In Camera session.

**16. Closing Prayer**


16.1 Closing prayer led by all.

**17. Motion to Adjourn**

**2026-11 -- It was moved by Trustee Cuff and seconded by Trustee Sikora:**

**THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:23 p.m.**

  
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Chair of the Board

  
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Secretary