



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, held on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, by Google Meet.

PRESENT:

Trustees – Linda Ainsworth, David Bernier, Eveline Fisher (Student Trustee), Michelle Griepsma (Chair), Josh Hill (Student Trustee), Braden Leal, Kevin MacKenzie, Helen McCarthy and Emmanuel Pinto

Administration – Joan Carragher, Laurie Corrigan, Galen Eagle, Pepe Garieri, Isabel Grace, Tim Moloney, Michael Nasello, and Stephen O’Sullivan.

Guests – Eli McColl, Scott McColl, and Yvonne McColl.

Recorder – Michelle Kennedy

A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting:

The Board Chairperson, Michelle Griepsma, called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. and welcomed Eli McColl, student from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and his parents, Scott and Yvonne McColl. Also welcomed were principal representatives Arlene Robinson, from St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Lakefield and Sherry Davis, Principal from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, who were also in attendance online.

1. Examen

The Director of Education, Michael Nasello, led everyone in a daily examen.

2. Opening Prayer

Following the examen, Vice Chairperson, David Bernier opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Michelle Griepsma, Board Chairperson, respectfully acknowledged that the Board Meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg.

4. Singing of the National Anthem

The National Anthem was sung.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Linda Ainsworth, seconded by Emmanuel Pinto
that the Agenda be approved.

Carried.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

7. Approval of the Minutes.

MOTION: Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by David Bernier
that the minutes of the April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting be
approved.

Carried.

8. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

There was no business arising out of the minutes.

B. Reports from the Office of the Director and Student Trustees:

1. Report from the Director of Education, Michael Nasello.

Michael Nasello gave the Director's Report, including the following highlights:

- We continue to keep in our prayers all who are sick, have died or been affected by COVID-19.
- We remember Sister Ruth Hennessey, retired teacher and champion for newcomers to Canada in the Peterborough area who will be missed by the community and her sisters in the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- We welcome newly elected Junior Student Trustee, from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, Eli McColl, and his parents to the meeting tonight.
- The extension of the school closure to the end of June was announced today by the Premier and the Minister of Education.
- The PVNC Learn at Home program continues to engage teachers, educational assistants and students recognizing the importance of learning but also the mental health and well-being of our students.

- Human Resource Services continues to work with the unions to have all employee groups involved in or supporting our students' learning.
- Special Education Services continues to work to support the needs of our special learners. Social workers and mental health teams continue to support families with whom they normally support as well as those who have been referred.
- Regular communications with school administration and managers have kept everyone abreast of the latest information as it has been received.
- The Learn at Home program has kept students learning and will enable them to be in a place to be promoted to their next grade, acquire credits, and for graduates, be able to complete their requirements and not compromise their post-secondary plans. Final reports and grades will be based on the achievements as of mid-March per the Ministry of Education directives.
- Catholic Student Leadership Awards, were held virtually through Twitter thanks to the organizing committee led by Wayne Clark, Principal at St. Alphonsus and the technical expertise of Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications. It was an exciting way to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and a similar format is being planned for the Grade Eight Graduations at the end of June.
- We continue to support the local food banks with funds we would have normally spent on breakfast programs. Some schools are working on community gardening projects.
- 550 personal protective face shields were produced with financial help from the board and a generous donation from the Catholic Women's League from St. Martin, Ennismore. The PPE was delivered to seven community agencies including three hospitals.
- Thanks are extended to the senior team, managers, principals and vice-principals, teacher consultants and the many IT staff for their leadership and extra efforts to find solutions when needed.

Following his presentation, Michael Nasello invited questions from the trustees. There was a brief discussion about the graduation ceremonies that will take place in the fall of 2020 and the trustee participation in the Grade Eight Graduation virtual ceremonies.

2. Introduction of Eli McColl, 2020-2021 Junior Student Trustee.

Michael Nasello, Director of Education introduced the newly elected Junior Student Trustee for the 2020-2021 school year. Eli McColl is a student at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and was the successful candidate chosen by the current members of the Student Council Liaison Committee in a very close election on May 14, 2020.

Josh Hill, Junior Student Trustee and Eveline Fisher, Senior Student Trustee both welcomed Eli to the role and all trustees expressed their best wishes.

3. Report from the Student Trustees, Eveline Fisher and Josh Hill.

Student Trustees Eveline Fisher and Josh Hill gave the Student Trustee report:

- At the Student Council Liaison Committee meeting on May 26, the members discussed how online learning has been going in the last month.
- The students have noted that a great effort is being given to accommodate various learning styles in the learn at home program. This is an important task to ensure equity for students as everyone is in different positions and at different levels of learning right now. Students are unclear as to how learning will look next year.
- Student councils and their advisors are working on ways to keep igniting hope. There have been online spirit weeks and events through their social media accounts to keep students uplifted and involved.
- The Student Trustee Election was successfully held online for the first time and we look forward to Eli McColl from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School taking on the role for the next two years.
- Due to the pandemic the Ontario Student Trustees Association held their Annual General Meeting and conference online this year. This was well attended by student trustees from across the province and the association was able to put together a solid and insightful program.
- Despite the many challenges, the perseverance of our board has been igniting hope for us all.

Following their presentation, Eveline Fisher and Josh Hill answered questions from the Trustees.

4. Report from the Manager of Communications, Galen Eagle.

Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications shared and highlighted good news stories as PVNC learns from home:

- Lego Build Challenge at Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School sends out a weekly challenge that involves the whole school. There are virtual Lego resources to ensure students who do not have Lego in their home can participate.
- Holy Family Catholic Elementary School shared the fruits of the Holy Spirit and sent uplifting video messages to students with the Catholic Education Week theme of Igniting Hope.
- Monsignor O'Donoghue Catholic Elementary School is connecting daily using

Adobe Spark Video to share stories and celebrations with the school community. They also recently celebrated the retirement of their Custodian, Chris Condon.

- The Arts continue to be celebrated at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School with their participation in “Music Monday” which happens yearly on the first Monday in May where students across Canada simultaneously join together in music. Visual art recreations of famous paintings by students were also shared.
- St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School intermediate students participated in an artistic challenge to visually represent the theme of Catholic Education Week “Igniting Hope”. The compilation of the cross-curricular assignment was a moving presentation that was shared in the school community.
- St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Lakefield took part in a virtual variety show to showcase their talents. Staff members made a video compilation to show their school spirit.

Following his presentation, Galen Eagle answered questions from the trustees.

C. Presentations:

1. COVID-19 School Closure Update.

The Director of Education, Michael Nasello gave a power point presentation which explained the status of the board in relation to the mandated school closures and the Learn at Home program.

Teachers continue to grow their technical knowledge to support online sessions and there have been between 500 and 5,000 Google classroom posts per day in the period of April 10 through May 9. In the same time period, 650 out of 900 teachers led Google Meet sessions and other teachers used various forms of synchronous learning.

Statistical and anecdotal information was shared that indicated the majority of students remain fully engaged or somewhat engaged in learning at home and only a very small number of students are not engaged.

Report Cards will be sent home at the end of June and the Grade Eight students will participate in Virtual Graduation ceremonies while the Grade Twelve students will celebrate in October.

Mr. Nasello also shared information about the Ministry of Education framework document to plan for the upcoming school year and the plans for enhanced Summer Learning Programs. The Ministry has invited feedback to the framework document and senior administration will be preparing a response. Trustees were invited to share their comments for the response.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Michael Nasello answered questions from the

Trustees.

D. Programs and Services:

E. Business, Finance and Governance:

1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Open Session Report.

Board Chairperson Michelle Griepsma reported that all correspondence received from OCSTA has been forwarded to the trustees. Trustees were reminded about the additional legal insurance being offered through OCSTA and if desired, to express interest to OCSTA by June 19, 2020. The cost will be approximately \$100 per year and is in addition to coverage that is in place through OSBIE.

Trustees were notified that there was a change to the OCSTA AGM package and an update has been sent. Michelle Griepsma also reported that she has withdrawn her nomination for President of the OCSTA and a new nomination list was distributed by OCSTA as of May 26. Director Michael Nasello acknowledged Michelle's leadership as Vice-President at the OCSTA and wished her well in her decision to withdraw from the nomination.

F. Human Resources:

G. Policy Development:

1. R.A. Recommended Actions from the Policy Development Committee, May 13, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Emmanuel Pinto, seconded by David Bernier

that the Board receive the report and recommendations from the Policy Development Committee dated May 13, 2020, for publication and implementation.

Carried.

H. Old Business:

I. New Business:

1. Institute for Catholic Education Memo, 'Affirming our Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusive School Communities'.

Michael Nasello, Director of Education reviewed the memo received from the Institute for

Catholic Education which addresses equity, diversity and inclusivity. It is recognized that students who identify as LGBTQ are often at risk and vulnerable and have traditionally felt ostracized and bullied. Our board has a duty to ensure that all students feel welcome and safe in our schools. The messages from ICE have been reviewed by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario with no concerns, and the images presented in the memo were viewed by trustees, which included graphics with the statement “We are All Wonderfully Made”. Mr. Nasello confirmed that the messaging and images will be launched in the schools in PVNC in the fall, with positive messages to be integrated with our philosophy of respect for all persons equally. A plan for implementation will be developed and executed in the fall of 2020. The trustees, including the student trustees, verbally shared their support for this program and thanked the Director and all who had participated in creating these long-awaited resources.

J. Bring Forward:

K. Information Items:

1. Chairperson’s Report

Board Chairperson Michelle Griepsma reported on her participation in the Catholic Student Leadership Awards during Catholic Education Week. She expressed her thanks to all who helped to organize the event that received such a positive response and was happy to give greetings to the award recipients when they participated in a follow up Student Leadership Congress. Stephen O’Sullivan was invited to give the trustees a brief overview of the format and purpose of the Student Leadership Congress.

Michelle Griepsma also reported that she witnessed the student trustee election on May 14. It was an impressive event and she offered congratulations to Eli McColl on his election as Junior Student Trustee.

The Minister of Education has offered to the Chairs of School Boards to participate in conference calls with the Deputy Minister to directly receive information from the province and provide an opportunity to ask questions. An update was given on some of the topics that have been discussed at the teleconferences.

2. Committees Chairpersons’ Reports

a. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, April 30, 2020.

b. Accessibility for All Committee, May 7, 2020.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee, May 21, 2020.

Helen McCarthy shared that at the last meeting gratitude was extended to our board for the donation of masks to Community Living.

3. Correspondence - Thank you letter from Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay.

The trustees reviewed and acknowledged the letter of thanks from Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay in response to the board's donation of personal protective equipment.

L. Future Meetings and Events:

1. Board Meeting

- a. Board Meeting Open Session, June 23, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.) – to be held by virtually

2. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)

- a. Chairperson's Committee, June 8, 2020, 4:30 p.m. – to be held virtually
b. Committee-of-the-Whole, June 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m. – to be held virtually
c. Policy Development Committee, September 29, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.):

All meetings to be held virtually until further notice.

- a. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee Meeting, June 1, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
b. First Nation, Métis and Inuit Advisory Committee, June 2, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
c. Audit Committee Meeting, June 4, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
d. Special Education Advisory Committee, June 18, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
e. Student Council Liaison Committee, June 23, 2020, 4:15 p.m.
f. STSCO Governance Committee Meeting, October 7, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
g. Accessibility for All Committee, TBA.
h. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee Meeting, TBA.
i. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, TBA.
j. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee Meeting, TBA.

4. Board Events:

- a. Elementary School Grade 8 Graduation Ceremonies, to be held virtually during the week of June 22-26, 2020.
b. OCSTA 2019-2020 AGM, June 27, 2020, 8:00 a.m. – to be held virtually by GetQuorum.
c. Secondary School Graduation Ceremonies for Class of 2020, Thursday, October 8, 2020.

M. Conclusion:

1. Report from the In-camera Meeting

MOTION: Moved by Helen McCarthy, seconded by Kevin MacKenzie

that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising from the May 26, 2020, regular in-camera session, as follows:

- A. Call to Order: The in-camera meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
 - 1. Opening Prayer
 - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
 - 3. No declarations of Conflict of Interest
 - 4. Motion for the approval of the minutes from the April 28, 2020 Regular In-camera meeting.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
 - 1. OCSTA In-camera Session Report
- E. Human Resources:
 - 1. Staffing Updates
- G. Old Business:
 - 1. Former St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Student Matter.
- I. Convening in Open Session:
 - 1. Closing Prayer
 - 2. Motion to convene in Open Session at 6:38 p.m.

Carried.

2. Closing Prayer

The Board Chairperson, Michelle Griepsma called on Trustee Helen McCarthy who concluded the open meeting with prayer.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Emmanuel Pinto, seconded by Linda Ainsworth

that the open session meeting adjourn at 8:41p.m.

Board Chairperson

Director of Education, Secretary-Treasurer
per M.K.

Carried.