



# Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. by Google Meet.

**PRESENT:**

Trustees – Linda Ainsworth, David Bernier (Chairperson), Michelle Griepsma, Josh Hill (Student Trustee), Braden Leal, Kevin MacKenzie, Helen McCarthy, Eli McColl (Student Trustee) and Emmanuel Pinto.

Administration – Jeannie Armstrong, Joan Carragher, Laurie Corrigan, Pepe Garieri, Galen Eagle, Isabel Grace, Father Paul Massel, Tim Moloney, and Stephen O’Sullivan.

Recorder – Michelle Kennedy

**A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting:**

The Board Chairperson David Bernier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked Father Paul Massel to lead the Daily Examen and begin the meeting with prayer.

1. Examen

Father Paul Massel, Board Chaplain and Faith Animator, led everyone in a daily examen.

2. Opening Prayer

Following the examen, Father Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Land Acknowledgement

David Bernier respectfully acknowledged that the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board’s geographic area and the people attending the virtual Board Meeting, with all areas represented, was taking place on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg.

4. Singing of the National Anthem

The National Anthem was sung by Trustee Linda Ainsworth.

David Bernier, Board Chairperson, welcomed everyone including guests, who had joined the meeting online. Lisa Gemmiti-Folz, Principal at St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Lakefield was introduced as the principal representative at the meeting.

5. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by Braden Leal, seconded by Linda Ainsworth  
that the Agenda be approved.

Carried.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no of conflicts of interest declared.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Emmanuel Pinto, seconded by Braden Leal  
that the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Regular Meeting be  
approved.

Carried.

8. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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

1. Report from the Director of Education.

Joan Carragher gave the Director's Report, including the following highlights:

- The return to school after Christmas was a switch to remote learning for all students and the following of the required number of online minutes set out in Ministry regulation, PPM 164.
- Thanks to all principals and the Information Technology department for their quick turnaround to coordinate the distribution of technology to families in time to begin school at home on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Voluntary Professional Development sessions to enhance teachers' ability to offer program online were offered before the Christmas break in anticipation of

school closures and then daily during the first two weeks of January. Thanks to Superintendents Laurie Corrigan, Jeannie Armstrong, Pepe Garieri and their consultant staff members and the Information Technology staff who designed and delivered the sessions to meet the needs of staff.

- Principals and Vice-principals were supported by Senior Administration with weekly meetings to share information on the continuity of learning. As well, the annual Principal and Manager retreat was held on January 8<sup>th</sup> which focused on faith development and Christian meditation. Thanks to Stephen O'Sullivan and Father Paul Massel for their organization of the day. Monthly meetings with Dr. Joti Samra continue to provide strategies for board leaders to deal with these tumultuous times.
- The Ministry continues to provide updates with weekly calls with the Minister of Education and School Board Chairs and other calls where Directors receive regular updates.
- As of January 25, students from 27 of our 36 PVNC Catholic schools returned to face to face learning. The nine Clarington schools within the Durham Public Health region remain learning remotely until further notice. Special Education students in the nine Clarington schools who are not able to be accommodated in learning at home can continue to attend in person.
- Three of our child care partners were approved by the Ministry of Education to provide nine Emergency Child Care (ECC) programs to provide full-time care in our schools for essential families who qualified. With the return to face to face learning, the child care partners have resumed their regular operations in Northumberland, City of Kawartha Lakes and Peterborough and the ECC programs that were operating in those areas closed. ECC programs at three Clarington schools are still operating as schools in that area remain closed.
- Mandated enhanced screening procedures for employees and secondary students is to be put in place by February 10. Work is being done to coordinate the details of these new safety enhancements. In addition, safety glasses have been provided to employees at all schools and are required to be used when staff are unable to maintain six feet of distance and/or there is a likelihood of coming into contact with a person who is unmasked.
- The Board's response to the school closure and re-opening with additional safety measures has been smooth from a communications perspective thanks to the excellent work by Galen Eagle, Communications Manager and Tim Moloney, COVID-19 Board Lead.
- A number of anecdotal comments that were received from principals regarding the first day back to in-person learning were shared. The comments had an

overall theme of gratitude to be back at school, the children and staff were happy to be back and the new requirement of masks worn by students in Grades 1 through 3 has been well received and the children are complying.

- The Student Council Liaison Committee hosted the second Voices that Heal session, this time with guest speaker, Anne Taylor from Curve Lake First Nation. Anne's presence and message was impressive as was the student engagement and participation in the session about Environmental Health.
- Work will begin on the renewal of the Board's Strategic Priorities. An advisory group will be formulated that will include trustees, superintendents, principals, managers and other board staff. The group will meet to advise the structure of the consultation and analyze the outcomes. Virtual consultation meetings will be scheduled with school-based staff, board committees, parents and stakeholders. One on one consultations will also be offered. The process will take place between February and June and with the approval of the Board, be implemented in September, 2021.

Following her presentation, Joan Carragher answered questions from the trustees. Joan was thanked for her comprehensive and detailed report.

## 2. Report from the Student Trustees.

Student Trustees Josh Hill and Eli McColl gave the Student Trustee report:

- After Christmas, students returned to school in a virtual setting and then further readjusted with school re-openings for a large portion of our board. Schools within the jurisdiction of two out of three of the board's health units went back to face to face learning and students reported a positive adjustment to in-person learning and are hopeful they can continue in-person learning. Students within the Durham Health region remain hopeful to return to physical classrooms in the coming weeks.
- Despite the challenges, there are many virtual events and activities that are taking place to encourage participation and school spirit in an attempt to maintain student mental health.
- The second session of the student leadership retreat series 'Voices that Heal' featured guest speaker from Curve Lake First Nation, Anne Taylor who spoke to us about environmental health. It was a successful session that informed participants of the health of the environment through the lens of First Nations teachings.
- The Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) has launched a new project in which students have a platform to have their voices heard. Students are invited to submit their stories at the website which in turn will be shared by

OSTA-AECO under the themes of impacts of COVID-19, race, ethnicity, nationality and cultural background, and gender and sexual orientation. The link to the website was shared with the trustees: <https://osta-aeco.org/our-work/the-volume-of-our-voices/>

- The students thanked everyone for their ongoing work to ensure students are able to continue to learn in a secure and healthy environment.

Following the report, the student trustees answered questions from the trustees.

### 3. Report from the Manager of Communications.

The Manager of Communications, Galen Eagle shared positive stories from around the Board.

- PVNC Catholic staff have adapted to the world of connecting online. Father Paul Massel has embraced the online experience and has begun a weekly prayer gathering for all staff on Google Meet.
- Peterborough Reframe Festival is a film festival that is featuring St. Anne Catholic Elementary School, teacher Anne Corkery and her Grade 7 and their experiential outdoor education and environmental studies. A short clip of the film was shared with trustees.
- A number of parent commentaries about positive experiences with virtual learning and expressions of gratitude for teachers and administrators during the latest school closure was shared.
- Galen Eagle sent a survey out to invite teachers to share about their positive experiences in virtual learning and received a great response to the questions What has been the most inspiring moment? and What has been the most surprising thing that they have learned about themselves? A small sample of the responses were shared with trustees. A link was shared to the web where more responses could be found: <https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/dispatches-from-the-virtual-learning-frontlines/>

At the conclusion of his report, Galen Eagle invited questions and comments from the trustees. The trustees thanked him for bringing forward the good news stories.

#### **C. Presentations:**

#### **D. Programs and Services:**

#### **E. Business, Finance and Governance:**

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

David Bernier, Board Chairperson, thanked senior administration for the provision of information and the assistance with the draft resolution being proposed for submission to the OCSTA for consideration for the 2021 Annual General Meeting. The draft resolution was shared with trustees by email and was read aloud by Mr. Bernier.

MOTION: Moved by Braden Leal, seconded by Linda Ainsworth

that the resolution on the topic of Ontario Regulation 191/11 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA), as presented at the Board Meeting on January 26, 2021, be sent to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association for inclusion in the meeting package for consideration by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in May, 2021.

Carried.

The resolution will be forwarded to the OCSTA office prior to the deadline of January 29, 2021.

It was reported that members of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association took part in Human Rights training on January 15. It was reported that the seminar was well done and the learning was excellent.

The weekly calls with the School Board Chairs and the Minister of Education continue on Monday afternoons. The calls are an opportunity to receive information directly from the minister, his deputy minister or assistant deputy minister. Following the briefing, there is an opportunity to ask questions. David Bernier stated that in the future, he will share the information received in the call with trustees to ensure they receive the information more regularly.

Trustee and OCSTA Regional Representative, Linda Ainsworth shared that part two of the Human Rights training will take place on February 19, 2021. Trustee Ainsworth also reported that the OCSTA Catholic Trustees Seminar was held on January 16 and included information about the keynote address given by Father James Mulligan. One of the available workshops featured Jennifer Angelo, PVNC Catholic Mental Health Lead and a presentation about Home, School, Parish connection included David Bernier and Michael Nasello. It was noted that reports and slideshows from the seminars are available to trustees on the OCSTA website.

2. Draft School Year Calendar, 2021-2022.

Superintendent of Human Resource Services, Stephen O'Sullivan presented the draft school year calendar options and shared the results of the public consultation survey.

The trustees were given the opportunity to ask questions about the report.

**MOTION:** Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by Braden Leal  
that the proposed Elementary and Secondary School Year  
Calendars for 2021-2022 (Option 2) be approved and submitted to  
the Ministry of Education for approval, as required.

Carried.

**F. Human Resources:**

**G. Policy Development:**

**H. Old Business:**

**I. New Business:**

**J. Bring Forward:**

**K. Information Items:**

1. Chairperson's Report

David Bernier, Board Chairperson thanked everyone in the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board for their efforts in making the transition to a virtual learning setting during the recent school closure and back again, with the exception of the schools under the jurisdiction of the Durham Health Unit. Gratitude was extended to senior administration and principals and vice-principals and all other staff as well. He commended parents who have endured the many challenges of the pandemic, such as inadequate internet. Everyone has worked hard to make it work for the students.

2. Committee Chairperson's Report:

a. Special Education Advisory Committee, January 14, 2021.

Trustee Helen McCarthy shared information about individual transition plans which are noted to be very helpful to special education students. It was noted that these plans are included in Individual Education Plans (IEP) for all students who are exceptional.

**L. Future Meetings and Events:**

1. Board Meeting
  - a. Board Meeting Open Session, February 23, 2021, 6:30 p.m.  
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)
  
2. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
  - a. Policy Development Committee, February 2, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
  - b. Chairperson's Committee, February 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
  - c. Committee-of-the-Whole, February 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
  
3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.):
  - a. Accessibility for All Committee, February 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
  - b. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, February 11, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
  - c. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, February 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
  - d. Special Education Advisory Committee, February 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
  - e. Student Council Liaison Committee, February 23, 2021, 4:15 p.m.
  - f. First Nation Métis and Inuit Advisory Committee, March 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
  - g. STSCO Governance Committee, March 31, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
  - h. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 21, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
  - i. Audit Committee, TBA.
  - j. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, TBA.
  
4. Board Events:
  - a. Catholic Leadership Development Series, Session #3, April 22, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
  - b. OCSTA Virtual Annual General Meeting, May 1, 2021.
  - c. Catholic Education Week, May 2-7, 2021.
  - d. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee Event, May 19, 2021.

**M. Conclusion:**

1. Report from the In-camera Meeting

MOTION: Moved by Emmanuel Pinto, seconded by Braden Leal

that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising



from the January 26, 2021, in-camera session, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
  - 1. Opening Prayer
  - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
  - 3. No conflicts of interest declared.
  - 4. Motions for the approval of the minutes from the December 15, 2020 Regular In-camera meeting.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
  - 1. OCSTA In-Camera Report.
  - 2. STSCO Governance Committee In-Camera Session Report.
  - 3. Approval of the Recommended Action from the January 11, 2021, Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.
- I. Convening in Open Session:
  - 1. Closing Prayer.
  - 2. Motion to convene in Open Session.

Carried.

2. Closing Prayer

Trustee Emmanuel Pinto was called upon to conclude the open meeting with prayer.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Braden Leal, seconded by Linda Ainsworth  
that the open session meeting be adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Carried.

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David Bernier  
Board Chairperson

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