



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING, held on Tuesday, February 23, 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 6:38 p.m.

David Bernier, Board Chairperson, welcomed Julie Selby, Principal at St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough and Andy Sawada, Principal at St. John Catholic Elementary School, Peterborough as well as Catherine Whitnall, a member of the media. David Bernier then 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.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Emmanuel Pinto, seconded by Braden Leal
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 January 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Linda Ainsworth, seconded by Braden Leal
that the minutes of the January 26, 2021 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:

- Clarington schools resumed in-person learning as of February 8 and now all schools are back to in-person learning
- Through partnerships with the Ministry, voluntary asymptomatic testing is now available for all staff at designated pharmacies in Cobourg, Peterborough, Clarington.
- Enhanced screening requirements have been put into place for all students and staff. Students must complete a google form that includes the assessment prior to their attendance each day. Staff sign off to verify that they have completed and passed the self-assessment. Implementation has been due to a lot of work

from the senior team and Information Technology staff.

- Changes to symptom screening protocols now require individuals to stay home with a single symptom. In addition, people in the household must isolate as well. These new measures may present staffing challenges and further strain on shortages of replacement staff.
- Targeted asymptomatic testing for students will begin in the near future. Clinics will be set up in various locations week to week with a requirement to have 5% of schools tested and a target of 2% of students participating. Participation rates will be reported to the Ministry weekly. We plan to begin with the Clarington area and more details will be shared.
- Announcement of the delay of March break to April 12-16 has caused the reorganizing of the school year calendars to reflect the change.
- Thanks to Father Paul Massel for arranging a virtual Ash Wednesday paraliturgy for the schools to engage in the beginning of our Lenten journey.
- February is Black History Month and many activities are taking place including a number of presentations to our principals and our six secondary schools by Nadine Williams, award-winning poet, author and entrepreneur. Thanks to Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent for organizing these events.
- On the February 1st PA Day, teachers participated in assessment and evaluation activities and various special education workshops were organized by Special Education department staff under the leadership of Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent.
- Sessions with psychologist Dr. Joti Samra continue with principals, vice-principals, managers and superintendents. These sessions support our leaders as they navigate these complex times.
- Minister of Education Stephen Lecce virtually visited a classroom at St. Catherine Catholic Elementary on February 17. It was a successful visit where Mr. Lecce noted that it was the most dynamic experience he has had in a virtual visit. Thanks were expressed to David Bernier, Board Chairperson and Helen McCarthy, Trustee for their participation and to Julie Selby, Principal and Genevieve O'Grady for their preparation and facilitation of the visit.

Following her presentation, Joan Carragher answered questions from the trustees.

2. Report from the Student Trustees.

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

- February has been slow and yet an exciting month as students move back to the routine with all schools returned back to in-person learning.
- At this month's Student Council Liaison Committee meeting we heard from students about school spirit initiatives and realize the importance on mental and wellbeing in school
- An awareness video by students at St. Peter about Pink Shirt Day emphasizes the importance of being kind to one another. Other social justice initiatives included buying chickens for families in need around the world; food drives and donations to local organizations from dress down days.
- The Student Council Liaison Committee continued planning the fourth session of student liaison retreat, 'Voices that Heal'. Inspirational musician, Peter Katz has been booked.
- Josh Hill and Eli McColl attended the OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference in February which included many sessions about student advocacy and safety in schools and presentations from education stakeholders. The promotion of the 'Volume of our Voices' initiative continues to be promoted for students in PVNCCDSV and all over the province.
- Gratitude was extended to everyone for their work to continue learning for all students in PVNCCDSB.

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 system highlights from all areas of the board which included the following highlights:

- Black History Month activities at elementary and secondary schools which included guest speakers who brought their talents and knowledge to students in various areas of curriculum such as literacy, music, visual arts, and financial literacy and business.
- Education Minister Stephen Lecce's virtual classroom visit to Genevieve O'Grady's Grade 5 class at St. Catholic Catholic Elementary School. Mr. Lecce participated with Grade 5 students in collaborative lesson about the levels of government.
- Upgrades to welding facilities in PVNCCDSB secondary schools have resulted in the Canadian Welding Bureau designating St. Peter CSS and St. Mary CSS as official testing facilities. About 35 Grade 11 and 12 students have received certification while testing in their own facilities. Having the CWB certification has been a large benefit to students in seeking out coop placements and part-time jobs.

- Pink shirt day will be held on February 24th. This year the theme is “Lift Each Other Up”.
- Students at St. Peter CSS recently were making the most of February by snowshoeing and participating in outdoor physical activities with gratitude for outdoor spaces and outdoor education funding.

At the conclusion of his report, Galen Eagle invited questions and comments from the trustees.

C. Presentations:

1. Mental Health and Well-being – PVNCCDSB Updates

Superintendent of Special Education, Laurie Corrigan introduced Board Mental Health Lead Jennifer Angelo and Board Mental Health Lead Mandy Hamu who gave an update on Mental Health and Well-being Initiatives in our board.

Jennifer Angelo and Mandy Hamu presented a slideshow which gave detailed information about initiatives and activities in three areas of focus: students, staff and families.

Work has begun on the renewal of the Be Well Strategy with the development of a survey to gather data from the Wellness Advisory Group and Wellness Integration Group, senior administration, school administration, managers and staff members. The renewal will align with the board’s strategic plan renewal.

Following the presentation, the trustees were invited to ask questions of the presenters.

2. Strategic Priorities Planning

Joan Carragher, Director of Education reported to the trustees about the strategic planning to take place in the upcoming months to renew the board’s Strategic Priorities for the years 2021-2025. The presentation included the planned timelines and the consultation process to be engaged. It is expected that the consultations will take place between March and June, review of data in July and August, and plan finalization and approval in September 2021.

D. Programs and Services:

E. Business, Finance and Governance:

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

David Bernier, Board Chairperson, reported that there were numerous memos received

from OCSTA this month. He highlighted that information was distributed about daily meditations for Lent and there was a request for information from boards about their ecological initiatives that will be compiled in a resource to be distributed in May. A response to the request was sent from our board. David Bernier also reported that he attended a seminar for Board Chairpersons and Vice-chairpersons on board governance organized by OCSTA. He noted that the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on June 3 and 4.

It was reported that the nominations for the OCSTA elections for the positions of president, vice-president and regional directors are due by April 9, 2021. There will be a process to register for proxy voting for those who will not be able to attend the Annual General Meeting.

Linda Ainsworth gave her Regional Representative report and stated that the professional development sessions that have been recorded are available for viewing on the OCSTA website under the member portal that trustees can view at their convenience by logging into the site. Mrs. Ainsworth also reported on the second part of the Human Rights Training and summarized the presentations of Grace Fox and Tracey O'Donnel, who provided perspective on human rights from the indigenous community.

F. Human Resources:

1. Ontario College of Teachers, Temporary Teaching Certificates.

Stephen O'Sullivan, Superintendent of Human Resource Service gave a presentation on the trends of retiring teachers and the number of teachers coming out of the faculty of education ready for hire. Province-wide there is a shortage of occasional teachers which has resulted in the Ontario College of Teachers allowing for temporary teaching certificates for teachers in their final stages of the Bachelor of Education. The criteria and timelines of candidates who are eligible to apply were reviewed.

For PVNCCDSB, this new opportunity allows for teacher candidates who are available to fill a gap, to be employed as an occasional teacher. Candidates seeking regular employment with our board will still be required to go through the robust interview process for permanent hiring.

G. Policy Development:

1. Recommended Actions from the Policy Development Committee Meeting, February 2, 2021.

MOTION: Moved by Emmanuel Pinto, seconded by Braden Leal

that the Board receive the report and recommendations from the Policy Development Committee dated February 2, 2021, for publication and implementation.

Carried.

H. Old Business:

I. New Business:

J. Bring Forward:

K. Information Items:

1. Chairperson's Report

David Bernier, Board Chairperson reported that the weekly teleconference calls with the Minister of Education continue. It was noted that there are often other senior Ministry staff on the calls who add valuable information. Questions are asked by board chairpersons which adds context to the information that is given. It was noted that the Minister has committed to having the GSN funding information sent to boards within the traditional timelines.

Board Chairperson David Bernier officially welcomed Jeannie Armstrong to the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board and to the Superintendent team. Mr. Bernier expressed his best wishes on behalf of the trustees for long and successful service with PVNCCDSB.

2. Committee Chairperson's Report:

a. Accessibility for All Committee, February 2, 2021.

It was reported that 95% of classrooms are equipped with FM systems. It is expected that 100% of classrooms will be accessible and therefore compliant by the end of the year.

b. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, February 11, 2021.

c. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, February 16, 2021.

d. Special Education Advisory Committee, February 18, 2021.

Helen McCarthy reported that a presentation was made by Autism Ontario at the February meeting. April is Autism Awareness month which aims to promote a kinder and more inclusive world.

L. Future Meetings and Events:

1. Board Meeting
 - a. Board Meeting Open Session, March 23, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)
2. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
 - a. Chairperson's Committee, March 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
 - b. Committee-of-the-Whole, March 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - c. Policy Development Committee, April 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.):
 - a. First Nation Métis and Inuit Advisory Committee, March 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - b. Student Council Liaison Committee, March 23, 2021, 4:15 p.m.
 - c. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, March 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - d. Special Education Advisory Committee, March 25, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - e. STSCO Governance Committee, March 31, 2021, 3:00 p.m.
 - f. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 21, 2021, 4:30 p.m.
 - g. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, April 28, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
 - h. Accessibility for All Committee, May 6, 2021, 1:00 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.
 - e. Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association Virtual Annual General Meeting, June 3-4, 2021.

M. Conclusion:

1. Report from the In-camera Meeting

MOTION: Moved by Braden Leal, seconded by Kevin MacKenzie
that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising
from the February 23, 2021, in-camera session, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
 - 1. Opening Prayer
 - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda as amended.
 - 3. No conflicts of interest declared.
 - 4. Motions for the approval of the minutes from the January 26, 2021 Regular In-camera meeting.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
 - 1. OCSTA In-Camera Report.
- E. Human Resource Services:
 - 1. OECTA Central Grievance
 - 2. Personnel Update
- F. Other Urgent Matters:
 - 1. Legal Matter
- I. Convening in Open Session:
 - 1. Closing Prayer.
 - 2. Motion to convene in Open Session.

Carried.

2. Closing Prayer

Trustee Braden Leal was called upon to conclude the open meeting with prayer.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Braden Leal, seconded by Helen McCarthy
that the open session meeting be adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Carried.

Carried.

David Bernier
Board Chairperson

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