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The Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting, held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough, and virtually, by Google Meet.

Present:

Trustees – Linda Ainsworth, David Bernier, Loretta Durst, Madelyn Gaskell (Junior Student Trustee), Jenny Leahy, Braden Leal (Chairperson), Kevin MacKenzie, and Siobhan Marie (Senior Student Trustee).

Administration – Jeannie Armstrong, Joan Carragher, Jonathan Di Ianni, Galen Eagle, Isabel Grace, Father Paul Massel, Stephen O’Sullivan, Sheila Piggott, and Julie Selby.

Recorder – Michelle Kennedy

Regrets: Helen McCarthy

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

The Board Chairperson Braden Leal called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. and welcomed guests who had joined the meeting in person, as well as online. Mr. Leal welcomed principal representatives, Lisa Gemmiti-Folz, from St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Lakefield, and Rebecca Brady, from St. Alphonsus Catholic Elementary School.

1. Examen and Opening Prayer

Father Paul Massel, Board Chaplain and Faith Animator, was invited by the board chairperson to lead a daily examen and open the meeting with prayer.

2. Singing of the National Anthem

A video of the National Anthem was played.

3. Moment of Silence

Board Chairperson Braden Leal invited everyone to observe a moment of silence in remembrance and mourning, acknowledging the passing of Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II.

4. Land Acknowledgement

Braden Leal, Board Chairperson, respectfully acknowledged that the board meeting was taking place on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg.

5. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by David Bernier, seconded by Linda Ainsworth  
that the Agenda be approved.

Carried.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the June 28, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Linda Ainsworth, seconded by Jenny Leahy  
that the minutes of the June 28, 2022 Regular Board Meeting  
be approved.

Carried.

8. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

There was no business arising out of the minutes.

9. Swearing-in of Junior Student Trustee, Madelyn Gaskell.

The swearing-in ceremony for the Junior Student Trustee, Madelyn Gaskell, was officiated by the Director of Education, Joan Carragher, the Board Chairperson, Braden Leal, and Father Paul Massel. Madelyn Gaskell made a pledge of commitment to the service of Catholic Education and fellow students. Madelyn was welcomed to the Board with a prayer and blessing by Father Paul Massel and presented with a board pin from the Director to symbolize her call to service with PVNCCDSB.

**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, which included the following points:

- Welcome back, the 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start with many activities taking place in all of the schools.
- Thank you to trustees who were able to attend the opening Mass for Principals, Vice-principals, Superintendents and Managers where our new administrators were commissioned to their roles.
- The facilities projects that were completed in a number of schools over the summer months were noted and thanks were extended to Richard Driscoll, Manager of Facilities, the entire Maintenance Department and Isabel Grace, Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities for their work on the impressive number of projects.
- The board welcomes Benjamin Tenesia who has been permanently hired to the board in the position of Equity Advisor.
- Respectfully acknowledge the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and thank PVNCCDSB school communities who participated in prayer services on the day of her funeral and who flew the flag at half-mast.
- The Canadian flag was also flown at half-mast to honour Police remembrance and Firefighter remembrance on September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>, respectively.
- The Region One Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association members met in Peterborough in September. Bishop Meihm celebrated mass with the senior administrators from eastern Ontario.
- Best wishes were extended to all candidates who have put their names forward to run as trustees in the upcoming Municipal elections on October 24, 2022.
- Catholic Virtual Online courses (CVO) has established 35 online courses with catholic context and content, written by Catholic educators. This course offering is meaningful for our students who will be able to register for these Catholic online courses to meet the new Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements to earn a minimum of two courses online. The promotional video from the CVO was viewed by the trustees.

Joan Carragher invited questions and comments from the trustees at the conclusion of her report.

## 2. Report from the Student Trustees.

Senior Student Trustee, Siobhan Marie and Junior Student Trustee, Madelyn Gaskell, gave the Student Trustee report which included the following highlights:

- Students are excited to be back in person for the 2022-2023 school year and are happy to learn in a face-to-face environment.
- Introduction of Madelyn Gaskell, Junior Student Trustee who has been appointed

Co-chair of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association's Student Wellbeing Working Group.

- At the Student Council Liaison Committee meeting, representatives from the six secondary schools shared the many activities that are taking place in all of the secondary schools this month.
- The committee collaborated to discuss the goals for the year which are to focus on engaging and reconnecting youth with their school and church communities and the committee will be planning in-person retreats this year.
- Some school activities that are happening are Link Crew welcoming activities for Grade 9s, Orange Shirt Day activities and other National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events, plans for school dances, Terry Fox fundraising events, and school council retreats.
- Siobhan noted her involvement with the Executive Council of OSTA-AECO and their recent meeting with Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education where there was an opportunity for the students to engage and share their priorities.
- Both student trustees plan to participate in the upcoming OSTA-AECO Fall General Meeting being held in Toronto in October.

Siobhan Marie and Madelyn Gaskell invited questions and comments at the conclusion of their report.

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

The Manager of Communications, Galen Eagle shared system achievements from all areas of the board which included the following highlights and initiatives from the PVNC Inspires newsletter:

- The United Way fundraising campaign will be launched at PVNCCDSB on September 28. A video message from the Director of Education that will be sent to all staff was previewed.
- The PVNC Staff Census is scheduled launch on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Principals and Senior Administrators will facilitate the distribution of the survey in all work locations.
- A Day in the Life of a Principal is a feature that will put a spotlight on the work that takes place in PVNC schools.
- St. Anne Catholic Elementary School recently celebrated Franco-Ontarian Day with a school-wide assembly and collaborative activities led by the Grade 5 classes taught by Mme O'Reilly and Mme Lackey.
- A report on the outcomes from the first year of the Everyday Hero awards was presented. The data was obtained from surveys about the program that were

completed by the recipients and nominators.

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

### **C. Presentations:**

1. Delegation: Access to Education – Student Transportation to Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School.

The Board Chairperson, Braden Leal, welcomed Angela McReelis, parent from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School and invited her to the board table for her delegation. It was noted that Ms. McReelis' presentation was anticipated to be slightly longer than the allotted time of fifteen minutes. It was agreed that the presentation would be timed but allowance would be made for her to give the presentation in its entirety. A five-minute question period during which trustees had the opportunity to seek clarification of any points in the presentation followed.

Ms McReelis delivered a prepared presentation which outlined the concerns of parents and students from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School who are seeking resolution to their concerns of what they feel is a lack of public transit, a lack of safe walking routes, and excessive walking distances for students. In particular, the group is seeking an immediate review of the policy that pertains to walking distances, partnerships with public transportation in Durham Region, and a review of the utilization of existing bus routes servicing Holy Trinity CSS.

At the end of the presentation, the trustees thanked Angela McReelis for taking the time to prepare and present her information at the board meeting.

2. Proposed Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Excursion to Scotland, March 22-30, 2023.

Jonathan Di Ianni introduced Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Principal, Sherry Davis, and teachers, Jake Fowler and Chris Paige, who gave a video presentation to demonstrate visually the locations and experiences that students who embark on the proposed excursion will have. Following the video presentation, the group reviewed the details of the planned excursion and the trustees had an opportunity to ask questions.

**MOTION:**

Moved by Linda Ainsworth, seconded by Kevin MacKenzie

that the proposed Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School student excursion to Scotland, March 22-30, 2023, be approved in principle and that the trip will include mandatory insurance for all travelers. Such insurance must cover school board or principal

rulings for cancellation of the trip.

Carried.

3. Inspiring Faith: Board Pastoral Plan.

Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Special Education, Faith and Equity, introduced Father Paul Massel Board Chaplain and Faith Animator who presented the Board's new pastoral plan. The plan, which was collaboratively developed by a committee, has the mission to 'Ignite Faith, Hope and Love through Conversation, Celebration and Community to create a culture of belonging'.

Father Paul Massel gave detailed examples of how the three overarching goals will be carried out to invite conversation and sharing, to celebrate the diverse charisms by understanding the school community's identity, and to see God's presence in each other in the witnesses found in our community by inviting members of the communities to share their vocation. The theme of the first three years of the plan are 'Being Creative' (Faith) in the first year, 'Being Well' (Hope) in the second year, and 'Being Community' (love) in the third year.

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

4. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: 2022 Summer Learning Programs.

Superintendent of Learning and Student Success, Jonathan Di Ianni, introduced fellow presenters, Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Special Education Services, Lisa Gemmiti-Folz, Principal from St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, Lakefield, and Jennifer Angelo, Mental Health Lead.

Jonathan Di Ianni reviewed the programs that took place over the summer months and highlighted the activities that took place in the Focus on Youth Program (secondary grades), Camp Aim (Grades 1-8), and Welding Camps (Grades 7-8). Programs that provided traditional secondary credit course offerings, credit recovery programs for secondary students were also noted. There were special education supports provided to students delivered through four special education resource teachers and five educational assistants.

Jeannie Armstrong introduced the special education transition programs that took place during the summer months, through the provision of Ministry funding. Lisa Gemmiti-Folz gave further detail about the programs that were available for 96 student participants. The program was well received and positive feedback was received from parents and school staff who note that the students are transitioning well into school routines this September.

Jennifer Angelo described the program that was offered to support students who

transitioned from virtual school back to in-person school this September. The goal of the program was to reduce anxiety for students and families who had been away from their physical classroom for a prolonged period. The support was delivered through virtual sessions (four in total) and a visit to the home school for an in-person school tour.

Finally, a brief overview of the Summer Institute was given. Summer Institute, held in August, provided a voluntary learning experience for educators in a wide variety of topics.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Trustees were invited to ask questions of the presenters.

Siobhan Marie left the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

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

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

1. Recommended Action from the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, September 12, 2022, Amendments to Trustee Code of Conduct.

The recommended changes made at the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting were implemented and were reviewed by legal counsel.

**MOTION:** Moved by Linda Ainsworth, seconded by Kevin MacKenzie  
that the Trustee Code of Conduct be approved as amended.

Carried.

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

Board Chairperson Braden Leal reported that representatives from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association have met with the Minister of Education and also the education critics which represent all of the political parties in the legislature to express current issues and concerns.

In her Regional Report, Trustee Linda Ainsworth reported that she recently attended an online presentation by Catholic Virtual Ontario. Catholic Virtual Ontario have worked to establish the collection of uniquely Catholic virtual courses which are being taught by Catholic educators, which was made possible by the leadership of the OCSTA.

Trustee Jenny Leahy reported on her attendance at the recent OCSTA Fall Regional Meeting, that included a presentation by Anne O'Brien on Adult Faith Formation.

Linda Ainsworth also reported that the OCSTA Catholic Trustees' Seminar is being planned to take place in person at the Delta Marriott Toronto Airport from January 19-21, 2023.

3. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Annual Membership Fees, Friends, and Advocates of Catholic Education (FACE) Levy, and Central Bargaining Fees.

**MOTION:** Moved by Linda Ainsworth, seconded by Jenny Leahy

that the payment of the 2022-2023 Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association membership fees and FACE Levy 2021-2022 in the amount of \$66,413.15 be approved;

and,

that the payment for the 2022-2023 Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association GSN Funding for Central Bargaining fees in the amount of \$55,384.00 be approved.

Carried.

4. Student Trustee Professional Development, Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) Fall General Meeting, October 20-23, 2022.

**MOTION:** Moved by David Bernier, seconded by Loretta Durst

that student trustees wishing to do so, be authorized to attend the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) Fall General Meeting, October 20-23, 2022, in Toronto, Ontario.

Carried.

**F. Human Resources:**

**G. Policy Development:**

**H. Old Business:**

**I. New Business:**

1. Trustee Matter



**MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Jenny Leahy

that the resignation received from David Bernier as Trustee for Northumberland County, effective September 28, 2022, be accepted with regret.

Carried.

**J. Bring Forward:**

**K. Information Items:**

1. Correspondence from the Premier, the Minister of Education, and Members of Provincial Parliament.
2. Chairperson's Report

Board Chairperson, Braden Leal thanked Joan Carragher, Galen Eagle and the Student Trustees, Madelyn Gaskell and Siobhan Marie for their positive reports of a successful in person start to the school year this September.

Braden Leal noted that with the acceptance of the resignation of Trustee David Bernier, that it would be David's final meeting at the table and took the opportunity to give his best wishes for an enjoyable retirement. He offered his gratitude for Mr. Bernier's years of dedication to the Board.

Joan Carragher, Director of Education made a gift presentation on behalf of the board and extended her best wishes on behalf of staff and students. Joan Carragher noted David's exceptional service and commitment to student and staff well-being since 2006 and his involvement with the hiring of four Directors of Education and many senior administrators and principals.

David Bernier reflected on his 16 years as a trustee and noted that he has had a great number of memories. He thanked the senior team and leadership in the board that has made PVNCCDSB and its accomplishments notable amongst boards across the province.

3. Committee Chairperson's Report:
  - a. First Nation Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Committee, September 13, 2022.
  - b. Special Education Advisory Committee, September 22, 2022.

**L. Future Meetings and Events:**

1. Board Meeting
  - a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, October 25, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)
  
2. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
  - a. Policy Development Committee, October 4, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - b. Chairperson's Committee, October 11, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
  - c. Committee-of-the-Whole, October 11, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  
3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.):
  - a. Accessibility for All Committee, October 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
  - b. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, October 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - c. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, October 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - d. Special Education Advisory Committee, October 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - e. Student Council Liaison Committee, October 25, 2022, 4:15 p.m.
  - f. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, November 9, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - g. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, December 6, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - h. Audit Committee, November 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.
  - i. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL), TBA.
  
4. Board Events:
  - a. Catholic Leadership Development Series, Session #1, October 20, 2022.
  - b. Board Retirement Dinner, Friday, November 4, 2022, Holiday Inn, Peterborough.
  - c. Inaugural Board Meeting and Mass, November 15, 2022, 4:00 p.m., Catholic Education Centre.

**M. Conclusion:**

1. Report from the In-camera Meeting, September 27, 2022.

**MOTION:** Moved by David Bernier, seconded by Loretta Durst

that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising from the September 27, 2022, in-camera session, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
  - 1. Opening Prayer
  - 2. Motion to excuse Trustee Helen McCarthy.
  - 3. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
  - 4. There were no conflicts of interest declared.
  - 5. Approval of the June 28, 2022 Regular In-camera minutes.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
  - 1. OCSTA In-Camera Report.
- G. Old Business
  - 1. Correspondence
- I. Convening in Open Session:
  - 1. Closing Prayer.
  - 2. Motion to convene in Open Session.

Carried.

2. Closing Prayer

Trustee Kevin MacKenzie led the closing prayer to end the meeting.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by David Bernier  
that the open session meeting be adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Carried.

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Braden Leal  
Board Chairperson

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