



Minutes

The Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting, held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough, and virtually, by Google Meet.

Present:

Trustees – John Connolly, Loretta Durst, Claire Heitzner (Senior Student Trustee)(online), Jenny Leahy, Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson)(online), Mary Ann Martin(online), Carter Peios (Junior Student Trustee)(online), and Kathleen Tanguay(online).

Administration – Jeannie Armstrong, Jonathan Di Ianni(online), Galen Eagle, Sean Heuchert, Darren Kahler(online), Stephen O'Sullivan, Sheila Piggott(online), and Julie Selby.

Recorder – Michelle Kennedy

A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting:

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Chairperson MacKenzie welcomed guests in attendance in person and guests who were joining the meeting online by Google Meet. The Chairperson welcomed principal and vice-principal representatives at the meeting: Adam White, Vice-principal at St. Anne Catholic Elementary School and Mark Collins, Principal at St. John Catholic Elementary School. Morgan Ste. Marie, trustee from Durham Catholic District School Board, was acknowledged as an online guest who joined to observe the meeting.

1. Opening Prayer

Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson invited Trustee Mary Ann Martin, to open the meeting with prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, gave a land acknowledgment to respectfully recognize that the land on which we gather is the treaty and traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg.

3. Singing of the National Anthem

The National Anthem was sung.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by John Connolly
that the agenda be approved with a change in order of the
agenda, moving Section D to before Section B, and with the
addition under New Business, item I.1, Funding for Notre Dame
Catholic Elementary School

Carried.

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. Approval of the Minutes from the December 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Mary Ann Martin
that the minutes of the December 17, 2024, Regular Board
Meeting be approved.

Carried.

7. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

D. Programs and Services:

1. Student Excursions.

MOTION: Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by John Connolly
that items D.1 a) through D.1 e) be approved as presented:
D.1 a) the proposed Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School wilderness

excursion to Silent Lake Provincial Park, from May 12-14, 2025, be approved in principle and that the trip will meet the required Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE).

D.1 b) that the proposed Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School wilderness excursion to Algonquin Provincial Park, from May 26-29, 2025, be approved in principle and that the trip will meet the required Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE).

D.1 c) that the proposed Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School international excursion to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and London, from March 12 to March 20, 2026, 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.

D.1 d) that the proposed St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School international excursion to Algonquin Provincial Park, from September 30 to October 3, 2025, be approved in principle and that the trip will meet the required Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE).

D.1 e) that the revisions to the itinerary for the Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School international excursion to Guatemala, approved at the regular board meeting on March 26, 2024, scheduled to take place from March 11 to March 19, 2025, be approved.

Carried

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

1. Report from the Director of Education.

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, presented the Report from the Director of Education, which included the following points:

- Several schools were visited since the last board meeting, enabling meaningful connections to students and staff.
- Attended the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association's seminar and engaged in professional development with trustees and directors from across the province. The PVNC Catholic Manager of Communications, Galen Eagle was a presenter at an excellent workshop on Crisis Response.
- Attended the annual CEO/CFO Conference for school boards and had the opportunity to hear Education Minister Jill Dunlop speak as well as the Deputy Minister and other Assistant Deputy Ministers.
- Participated in director of education mentorship sessions offered by the English Catholic Council of Directors of Education (ECCODE) and appreciate the importance and benefit of these sessions.
- Gratitude was extended to each of the Superintendents, Jeannie Armstrong, Julie Selby, Jonathan Dilanni, Darren Kahler, Sheila Piggott, and Sean Heuchert were recognized for their ongoing work in their portfolio areas and their commitment to excellence.
- A special Jubilee Door has been created by Michelle Kennedy and is on display at the Catholic Education Centre. This door connects to the Holy door of the Vatican and instils a sense of unity symbolizing renewal, grace and faith.
- Anticipating the Black History Month celebrations which are being planned for the month of February throughout the board.
- Prayers for support for students who are in the middle of their semester one exams.
- The Director's Office is preparing for the creation of the next five-year strategic road map for the board. The timeline for the planned consultations and creation of the proposed plan is February to June, 2025 and the new set of strategic priorities will be in place following board approval, from the fall of 2025 to 2030.

Stephen O'Sullivan invited and answered questions from the trustees at the conclusion of the report.

2. Report from the Student Trustees.

Senior Student Trustee, Claire Heitzner and Junior Student Trustee, Carter Peios, gave the Student Trustee report which included the following highlights:

- Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School welcomed Grade 8 students and parents to an evening orientation. The school held a 'Lets Talk Day to support mental health. A 'Pink Shirt Day' and assembly for anti-bullying are planned for February. A newly formed archery club will be attending their first competition soon.

- Students at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School sent over 4,000 Christmas cards to Canadian Forces personnel in December. The boys basketball team has enjoyed a successful season this year. Recently, the school hosted future Grade 9 students and their families to help prepare for September.
- The Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School sports teams continue to succeed and the boys hockey team remains undefeated. The Gr 9 students participated with LINK leaders in the 'Cookies and Cram' sessions to talk about upcoming exams. Grade 8 students were welcomed at the school for an orientation. The school looks forward to hosting the board's Black History Month opening ceremony.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School also hosted a Grade 8 night to welcome future students. Grade 12 students welcomed the Grade 8 students for a badminton and chess tournament. The LINK crew at St. Thomas Aquinas CSS also held 'Cookies and Cram' sessions to familiarize Grade 9 students with exam season.
- The spirit at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School was evident as they hosted a wrestling tournament with numerous teams attending. The senior students and teachers were also helpful to the Grade 9 students who are new to exams and culminating activities with their 'Cocoa and Cram' sessions during the lunch hour.
- St. Peter Catholic Secondary School is highly anticipating their upcoming musical production 'Newsies'. LINK leaders also held 'Cookies and Cram' sessions giving help to junior students. The annual Winter Classic Hockey tournament hosted several teams from the area.

Student trustees Claire Heitzner and Carter Peios invited questions and comments from the trustees at the conclusion of their report.

3. Report from the Communications Department.

Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications, shared the following system highlights and initiatives:

- The board will be moving forward with the process of renaming the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board. During the recent engagement through the board website with students, staff, parents, guardians and community members, 71% of the respondents agreed that it was time for a name change.
- The next steps in the process will be forming a committee, which will have trustee representation, and presenting the public with a shortlist of possible names for consultation.
- The PVNC Catholic United Way campaign wrapped up very close to its \$60,000 goal.

- A sewing club has been established at St. Martin Catholic Elementary School
- A Christmas card initiative resulted in more than 4,500 cards being sent from students at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School to members of the Canadian Armed Forces in December.
- A video previewing the St. Peter Catholic Secondary School musical 'Newsies' was viewed. The musical will run at Showplace Performance Centre from February 12-15, 2025.

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

C. Presentations:

1. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Literacy Program.

Superintendent of Learning, Sheila Piggott introduced Learning Consultant Lindsay Bowen, who gave a presentation to update the board on the Literacy Program at PVNC Catholic. Ms. Bowen explained that the literacy program was initiated and formed under the leadership of Sheila Piggott and as in response to the calls to action of the Ministry of Education's PPM and the Right to Read report which was released in the spring of 2022.

Lindsay Bowen described the literacy initiatives implemented in elementary schools as well as the screening tools used by educators in kindergarten through to Grade 3. The screener tool cites the levels of achievement to be assigned to the students based on their abilities. Colour-coded data allows teachers to see and respond to student needs in large group and small group learning.

Extensive training sessions have been delivered to English and French Immersion classroom teachers, and 'Data Days' have been implemented, which allow time for literacy coaches to work with principals and special education resource teachers to analyze data and determine additional support for some students.

The principal support of the programs in the junior and secondary levels was also noted as there has been active participation and uptake in employing the Acadience screening tool and with program at the Grade 9 and Grade 10 level in the locally developed classrooms.

The trustees had the opportunity to comment and ask Lindsay Bowen questions, which were answered at the end of the presentation.

E. Business, Finance and Governance:

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

Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie highlighted information received from the OCSTA over the previous month that included correspondence on the Ministry of Education Advisory Council on Special Education and their request for feedback. Kevin MacKenzie also noted that the trustees who attended the OCSTA Catholic Trustees' Seminar in Toronto from January 16 to 18 would have the opportunity to share their experiences of the seminar.

2. Trustee Report from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Catholic Trustees' Seminar, January 16-18, 2025.

Trustees Kathleen Tanguay, Mary Ann Martin and Jenny Leahy each spoke about the OCSTA Catholic Trustees' Seminar and the sessions which they attended. Overall, the sessions were thought to be informative and the benefit of meeting other trustees in other boards from different parts of the province was noted. A hope for new workshop topics with more in-depth learning was expressed for next year's seminar.

3. STSCO Governance Committee, Open Session Report, January 8, 2025.

Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson, reported on the activities and discussions of the STSCO Governance Committee meeting held on January 8, 2025. The meeting included a report on the Ministry of Education transportation funding framework and the resulting funding gaps experienced by the member boards. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, all boards must use an opt-in/opt-out process. A communication strategy will be developed to ensure families receive information regarding the process.

It was reported that Roy Wierenga delivered a presentation about STSCO's desire to expand the use of public transit in all areas due to the benefits that its use is fully funded by the Ministry of Education.

It was noted that the Ministry of Education provided funding for safety training for elementary schools and that STSCO has contracted Intertrain to provide safe rider programming.

At the end of the report, the trustees discussed inclement weather cancellations and differences between the need for cancellations in rural areas versus city areas and the possibility of changing the decision process to considerations of area or routes rather than blanket cancellations.

4. Recommended Actions from the Committee-of-the-Whole, January 13, 2025: Revised Estimates Update Report, Resolutions for OCSTA Annual General Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Jenny Leahy

- a) that the Board receive the Revised Estimates Update report for the 2024-2025 budget as at November 30, 2024; and
- b) that the Board receive the Resolution for the Need for Greater Communication and Collaboration among Ministries to Ensure Efficient and Timely Services for Students with Special Needs, to be presented at the OCSTA AGM in May, 2025.

Carried.

MOTION: Moved by Jenny Leahy, seconded by Mary Ann Martin

that the motion from the Committee-of-the-Whole from January 13, 2025, recommending that the Board prepare a resolution, to be submitted to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association for consideration, regarding the sacramental preparation program be rescinded; and,
that the preparation of the resolution be discussed in the future.

Carried.

F. Human Resources:

G. Policy Development:

1. Recommended Actions from the Policy Development Committee, January 21, 2025.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Mary Ann Martin

that the Board receive the reports and recommendations from the Policy Development Committee meeting dated January 21, 2025, for publication and implementation.

Carried.

H. Old Business:

I. New Business:**1. Funding for Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School**

With the announcements of capital funding for schools in the area and the denial of funding to PVNC Catholic for a new school building in Cobourg, there was discussion about the accommodation needs and the Board's options regarding Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School and the unsafe roof, which has prohibited the use of a significant portion of the school by the students and staff.

There was frustration expressed with the idea that a substantial amount of funds would have to be put into the building to prolong its use when it would be more cost effective to tear it down and build a new school.

Sean Heuchert, Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services, stated that following the notification that there would not be funding for a new school building, Facilities Services has been working with engineers to put forward a report on the options available for making Notre Dame CES a fully functioning building. The report will be brought to the February Committee-of-the-Whole meeting for further discussion.

J. Bring Forward:**K. Information Items:****1. Chairperson's Report.**

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie reported that he attended the Mayor of Clarington New Year's Levee and the grand opening of a new skating rink. The Chairperson wished secondary students well in their semester culminating tasks and exams and wished all students success in the upcoming semester.

Chairperson MacKenzie wished God's blessings upon the students and staff of PVNC Catholic.

2. Committee Reports:**a. Special Education Advisory Committee, January 23, 2025.**

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that the Special Education Advisory Committee met virtually for the January meeting. The committee reviewed the proposed resolution that the board intends to put forward for the Ontario Catholic School

Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting. The committee heard a presentation from Jeff Hockett, Learning Consultant about executive function, which is a term to explain skills that involve memory, planning and self-regulation.

3. Community Reports

Trustee Mary Ann Martin reported that she visited St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School and Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that she has attended the St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School knitting club.

4. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Information Items:

- a. December 16, 2024 – OCSTA Pre-Budget Presentation
- b. December 16, 2024 – OCSTA 2025 Business Seminar Registration
- c. January 6, 2025 – Catholic Education Week – Together in Faith Bulletin.
- d. January 9, 2025 – Catholic Education Week, Elementary Book List.
- e. January 20, 2025 – OCSTA Short Video Contest Winners.

L. Future Meetings and Events:

1. Board Meetings:

- a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, February 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)

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

- a. Chairperson's Committee Meeting, February 10, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, February 10, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- c. Policy Development Committee Meeting, April 8, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

- a. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, January 30, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- b. Faith and Equity Committee, February 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- c. Student Council Liaison Committee, February 25, 2025, 4:15 p.m.
- d. Special Education Advisory Committee, February 26, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- e. Accessibility for All Committee, February 27, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

- f. STSCO Governance Committee, March 5, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
- g. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, March 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- h. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 1, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
- i. Audit Committee, June 19, 2025.
- j. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, TBA

4. Board Events:

- a. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference, Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites Conference Centre, Markham.
- b. Catholic Education Week, May 4-11, 2025.

M. Conclusion:

- 1. Report from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera Session, held January 28, 2025.

MOTION: Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay
that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising
from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session, held on
January 28, 2025, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
 - 1. Opening Prayer.
 - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
 - 3. No conflicts of interest were declared.
 - 4. Approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
 - 1. OCSTA In-camera Report.
 - 2. STSCO Governance Committee, In-camera Session Report.
 - 3. Approval of a Recommended action from the Committee-of-the-Whole In-camera Session, January 13, 2025: Property Matter.
- I. Conclusion:
 - 1. Closing Prayer.
 - 2. Motion to convene in open session.

Carried.

- 2. Closing Prayer.

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, invited Trustee John Connolly to lead the closing prayer to end the meeting.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay
that the open session meeting be adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Carried.

Kevin MacKenzie
Board Chairperson

Stephen O'Sullivan
Director of Education, Secretary-Treasurer
per M.K.