



# Minutes

The Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting, held on Tuesday, February 25, 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), Jenny Leahy, Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson), Mary Ann Martin, Carter Peios (Junior Student Trustee), and Kathleen Tanguay.

Administration – Jeannie Armstrong, Jonathan Di Ianni, Galen Eagle, Sean Heuchert, Darren Kahler, Stephen O'Sullivan, Sheila Piggott, 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 6:31 p.m. and welcomed guests in attendance in person and guests who were joining the meeting online by Google Meet. Principals Rebecca Brady from St. Luke Catholic Elementary School and Michael DeMaeyer from St. Pope John Paul II Catholic Elementary School were welcomed as the principal representatives.

### 1. Opening Prayer

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, began the meeting by leading the opening 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 John Connolly, seconded by Jenny Leahy  
that the agenda be approved with the removal of agenda item E.4,  
“Resolution for OCSTA Annual General Meeting: Promoting  
Collaboration Between Schools and Parishes for Enhanced  
Sacramental Preparation, and with a change in the order of the  
agenda, moving Section D to before Section B.

Carried.

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. Approval of the Minutes from the January 28, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay  
that the minutes of the January 28, 2025, 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 Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Jenny Leahy  
that items D.1 a) through D.1 c) be approved as presented:  
D.1 a) that the revisions to the itinerary for the Holy Cross  
Catholic Secondary School international excursion to  
Greece, approved at the regular board meeting on  
February 27, 2024, scheduled to take place from March 5

to March 15, 2025, be approved.

D.1 b) that the proposed Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School international excursion to Italy, from March 12 to March 19, 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 c) that the proposed Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School international excursion to Guatemala, from March 17 to March 24, 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.

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:

- We will keep Pope Francis in our prayers as he struggles with health issues. May his words and actions continue to inspire us in our daily lives.
- Participated in a professional development session with other directors from around the province about government relations, presented by the Council of Directors of Education (CODE).
- A new sign is in place at the future site of the new Catholic school to be built in the Northglen neighbourhood in Bowmanville. We look forward to progressing toward the building of the new school.
- The Black History Month ceremony was a powerful tribute to the constant contributions Black communities make to our lives. The participation of the students was inspiring as we endeavour to continue to foster an equitable environment.
- Expressed gratitude to the equity team for honoring and giving resources for participation in Black History Month learning and activities.

- Thanks was extended to Trustee Loretta Durst for her leadership as the chairperson of the committee tasked with the Director's Performance Appraisal. A consultation process seeking feedback will be launched in the coming month.
- Enjoyed visiting the Catholic schools in the City of Kawartha Lakes during February. Our schools are alive and vibrant, and their spirit is uplifting.
- A strategic planning advisory group has been established to determine engagement and begin the consultation process with respect to forming the next strategic plan for the board. As part of the consultation process, town hall meetings in all four regions of the board will be held. The sessions will be for staff and parents/guardians to have the opportunity to provide insights into the strategic direction of the board.
- Congratulations to Nick Milenetti, Executive Director of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association in his retirement.
- Participated in a meeting with public health officials from all areas of the board, continuing the strong partnership and collaborations between school boards and our public health authorities.
- Work has begun to further investigate a name change for PVNC Catholic. A committee has been formed to review data from the consultation. Thank you to Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications and Mark Giunta, Communications Officer for their work to coordinate this endeavour.
- Acknowledge the passing of Kevin Sullivan, former Trustee for PVNC Catholic who served our board for seven years in the early 1990s and left a lasting impact on those who knew him.
- Gratitude extended to the senior administration team for their continued efforts and leadership in our system and a collective gratitude on behalf of them to the administrative assistant team of Sarah Barker, Shannon Carr, Ashleigh Faulkner, Magdalene Graham, Erin Sturzenegger, and the Executive Assistant, Michelle Kennedy, who consistently support the departments daily.
- The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> when all are encouraged to take the opportunity to deepen their faith and extend kindness to others.
- Best wishes to staff and students as they look forward to the March Break as an opportunity for rest and renewal.

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:

- Semester 2 is underway with new courses and activities and March Break is just around the corner. All schools will be taking part in Pink Shirt Day on February 26 to promote kindness and symbolize zero tolerance for bullying.
- The students at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School unveiled their art quilt “The Fabric of our Being” which was revealed as part of the board’s official opening ceremony of Black History Month. Other highlights at Holy Trinity CSS included Valentine celebrations and SHSM program excursions.
- The St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School Black History Month committee planned a multitude of activities such as a cultural fashion show, black culture food fair, and a black hair workshop. The St. Stephen swim team led by Trevor Campbell were very successful at LOSSA competitions. Anticipation is building for the drama production of ‘You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown’ to be staged in May.
- Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School enjoyed their Semi Formal dance. The school’s equity team held Black History Month scavenger hunt around the school to bring awareness to significant contributions made by Black Canadians. The girls volleyball and hockey teams have celebrated season success and the drama production, ‘Radium Girls’ auditions are taking place.
- At St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School, students have been participating in a social justice sock drive in partnership with the City of Kawartha Lakes. The Grade 9 students look forward to a retreat at a maple syrup farm and the Grade 12 religion class enjoyed a trip to the Peterborough Mosque and St. Peter-in-Chains Cathedral.
- St. Mary Catholic Secondary School has introduced new lunch-time intramurals which include staff-student challenges. The dance team participated in their first festival and the choir is preparing for their upcoming trip to Ireland.
- The students from St. Peter Catholic Secondary School celebrated the success of their musical production of ‘Newsies’ and their ethics team will compete in Toronto following their defeat of Lakefield College School in their region competition. The alpine ski team was successful at the OFSAA meet.
- The student trustees attended the Education Action Conference in Ottawa put on by OSTA-AECO from February 13-16. The conference provided the opportunity to network with other student trustees and to receive professional development. The student trustees participated in the Indigenous Influencers Project which is a important step to advancing truth and reconciliation.
- The student trustees thanked the board for allowing them the opportunity to attend the conference and gain advocacy skills.

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:

- A video was viewed by the Trustees which highlighted the activities of the St. Stephen CSS students-led activity 'Hair is Your Crown' workshop which celebrated Black History Month and was a celebration of culture.
- The Black History Month opening ceremony for the board included a quilt display created by students called 'The Fabric of Our Being'.
- Holy Trinity celebrated Black History Month with a door decorating activity that visually displayed and honoured Black Heroes.
- A special 'Wear Glasses Day' was encouraged in a kindergarten class at St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Norwood to show support for a kindergarten student who didn't like to wear her glasses
- The Everyday Hero staff recognition program is accepting nominations once again.
- Grade 7 and 8 students from St. John Catholic Elementary School help each week at the Sacred Heart Foodbank demonstrating their giving spirit in the community.
- Newcomer students enjoyed a snowshoeing outing in Jackson Park. The event, which brought together new Canadians from St. Peter CSS and Holy Cross CSS to be introduced to winter activities and created connections and friendships.

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

## **C. Presentations:**

### 1. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Student Success.

Julie Selby, Superintendent of Learning, introduced the other presenters, Derek Abrams, Principal of Adult and Continuing Education, and Alex Duketow, Learning Consultant. Secondary school students Jillian Urie and Quinten Fowler, were also introduced.

The presenters gave an overview of the Student Success programs which included information about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), the Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM), the Dual Credit Program, the Centre for Success Program, and the Continuing Education Program.

Each of the programs were explained and examples of initiatives and activities from each of the programs were shared, as well as statistics of participation and success rates.

The new 'Pathways to Success' transition guide was introduced which provides students with information as they leave Grade 8 and transition to secondary school. An integral part of the transition is the LINK Crew program at each of the secondary schools. LINK Crew is a student leadership program that helps guide Gr 9 students who are new to secondary school.

Summer school programming was also highlighted and once again, programs will be hosted at elementary and secondary schools during the summer of 2025.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the trustees were invited to ask questions, which were answered by the presenters.

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

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

Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie highlighted three pieces of information that were received from the OCSTA and were shared to the trustees during February. The first was a memo from the Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education (FACE), the second was a Region 9 update that was received from Morgan Ste-Marie, and the third was a summary of the OCSTA key election priorities for the provincial election.

##### **2. Trustee Professional Development, Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association, 2025 Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Mary Ann Martin

that up to two trustees wishing to do so, be authorized to attend the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) Annual General Meeting and Conference, being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Carried.

##### **3. Recommended Actions from the Committee-of-the-Whole, February 10, 2025: 2025-2026 School Year Calendar, Interim Financial Report, Northglen Boundary Implementation.**

**MOTION:** Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay

- a) that the draft 2025-2026 school year calendar be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval, as required.
- b) that the Board receive the report on the Interim Financial Report Q1.
- c) that the Board receive the Northglen boundary report.

Carried.

**F. Human Resources:**

**G. Policy Development:**

**H. Old Business:**

**I. New Business:**

**J. Bring Forward:**

**K. Information Items:**

1. Chairperson's Report.

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie reported that he was in attendance and brought greetings at the Black History Month opening ceremony and at the recent Math at Home presentation. The Chairperson also noted his participation in the Strategic Planning Advisory Group which is forming the plan to gather collaborative input from the system to form the next Multi-year Strategic Plan. Kevin MacKenzie thanked everyone who reached out to him and his family to offer prayers and sympathy with the passing of his father. At the conclusion of his report, he wished God's blessings on the staff and students of PVNC Catholic.

2. Committee Reports:

- a. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, January 30, 2025.



Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee heard a presentation from community development coordinators who facilitate student nutrition programs in our board and explained how the funding and programs work. The committee also discussed planning for future meetings and a guest speaker event that will take place in May.

b. Faith and Equity Committee, February 13, 2025.

Loretta Durst reported that the Faith and Equity Committee meeting that was scheduled for February 13, 2025, was postponed due to inclement weather.

3. Community Involvement Reports

Mary Ann Martin reported that parish and school connections have been enhanced by the sharing of upcoming events in newsletters and parish bulletins.

4. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Information Items:

- a. February 3, 2025 – Together in Faith Bulletin
- b. February 3, 2025 – Media Spokesperson Training for Catholic School Board Chairs.
- c. February 6, 2025 – OCSTA - Assessment Awareness and Ratepayers Information.
- d. February 12, 2025 – OCSTA Memo – Key Election Priorities.

**L. Future Meetings and Events:**

1. Board Meetings:

- a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, March 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, March 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, March 17, 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. Accessibility for All Committee, February 27, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

- b. STSCO Governance Committee, March 5, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
- c. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, March 18, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- d. Special Education Advisory Committee, March 20, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- e. Student Council Liaison Committee, March 25, 2025, 4:15 p.m.
- f. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 1, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
- g. Faith and Equity Committee, April 3, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- h. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, April 24, 2025, 6:30 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.
- c. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee Guest Speaker Special Event: Dr. Jody Carrington, Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, May 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

**M. Conclusion:**

1. Report from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera Session, held February 25, 2025.

**MOTION:** Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Loretta Durst  
that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising  
from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session, held on  
February 25, 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 January 28, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
  - 1. OCSTA In-camera Report.
- I. Conclusion:
  - 1. Closing Prayer.
  - 2. Motion to convene in open session.

Carried.

2. Closing Prayer.

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

3. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Jenny Leahy  
that the open session meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Carried.

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Kevin MacKenzie  
Board Chairperson

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