



Minutes

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

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 6:30 p.m. and welcomed guests in attendance in person and guests who were joining the meeting online by Google Meet. The Board Chairperson welcomed the Principal/Vice-principal representatives, Kerri-Lee Langer, Vice-principal from St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School and Karl Pelude, Vice-principal from Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School.

1. Opening Prayer

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, invited Anne Taylor, Indigenous Education Advisor to lead the opening prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Learning Consultant Michael Mooney gave the land acknowledgment using a visual time-line representation of Indigenous curation and inhabitation of the lands of this area. The treaty territories, history, knowledge, and teachings of the Michi Saagiig Anishnabeg was respectfully acknowledged.

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 two changes to the order of the
agenda, moving agenda items D.1, Student Excursions and K.1,
Chairperson's Report, before Section B.

Carried.

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the February 25, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Mary Ann Martin
that the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on
February 25, 2025, 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 the proposed Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School
international excursion to Wales and Ireland, from March 27 to
April 5, 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

K. Information Items:

1. Chairperson's Report.

Board Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie welcomed the newly appointed Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Calandra to his new cabinet role. Chairperson MacKenzie is hopeful that the new minister will engage in updates with the Board Chairpersons as was done previously.

The trustees look forward to the collaborative community engagement sessions being held to gather feedback in support of the development of the new Multi-year Strategic Plan. In addition, the results of the name change surveys are anticipated as it is an important process of determining the future identity of the board.

Kevin MacKenzie reported that he recently met MP Jamil Jivani at a community event in the former Durham Riding which is now named Bowmanville-Oshawa North.

At the conclusion of his report, the Chairperson wished God's blessings on the staff and students of PVNC Catholic.

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:

- The board is recruiting Principals and Vice-principals and Senior Administration looks forward to interviewing high-calibre applicants.
- The Multi-year Strategic Planning process is underway and a series of staff and public Town Hall meetings will be held through the latter part of March: Northumberland on March 19, 2025, at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School; Peterborough on March 24, 2025, at St. Peter Catholic Secondary School; Clarington on March 27, 2025, at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School; and City of Kawartha Lakes on March 31, 2025, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School.

- Consultations have already taken place with seven board committees. Parents and the broader community are encouraged to provide feedback through the engagement platform found on the board website.
- Consultations were also held through school visits to St. Anthony CES, Notre Dame CES, St. Mary CES, Grafton and St. Mary CES, Campbellford, and St. Peter CSS.
- Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications and Mark Giunta, Communications Officer were thanked for their contributions and leadership throughout the consultation process.
- Four potential names have been shortlisted in the Board's naming process: Holy Trinity Catholic District School Board, Lakeside Catholic District School Board, Oak Ridges Catholic District School Board, and Sacred Waters Catholic District School Board. Public consultation on the naming process continues through the public engagement platform.
- Gratitude was extended to the Rosary Apostolate and the numerous dedicated volunteers who continue their work in our schools to bring staff and students together in prayer.
- Congratulations to students from our school board who have demonstrated a passion for innovation and have enjoyed success at Robotics Competitions. Thanks were extended to staff and volunteers who have assisted in preparations and supported the students.
- Congratulations to the St. Peter Catholic Secondary School girls hockey team who recently brought home the OFSAA gold medal.
- Congratulations to Andrew Miller, teacher at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School for being selected as the recipient of the Archbishop Philip Pocock Award for Excellence in Religious Education.
- Our journey through Lent invites us to slow down and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

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:

- Students at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School will host Jeff Martin who will speak about Black culture. An upcoming dress-down day is being held in benefit of the Bowmanville downtown fire victims who have been displaced from their homes.

- Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School students are participating in the annual Development and Peace 'ThinkFast' social justice initiative. Students are also collecting gently used shoes for their Soles for Souls campaign. Activities for Autism Awareness Month have been planned, and athletic teams have participated in OFSAA tournaments.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School student council cooked up pancakes for the students on Shrove Tuesday. Grade 5 students from St. Thomas' feeder schools cheered on the Titans Hockey team recently and the Gr 9 students enjoyed a leadership retreat to a sugar bush.
- The Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School's Gr 12 basketball team played an exhibition game against members of the Peterborough Police. Student travellers returned from March break destinations of Greece and Guatemala. Rehearsals are underway for the drama production "Radium Girls".
- Various sports teams from St. Mary Catholic Secondary School enjoyed success and took part in OFSAA championships. Construction students are taking part in a Habitat for Humanity building project which will benefit the community.
- Some St. Peter Catholic Secondary School students enjoyed international excursions over the March break and the Girls' Hockey team celebrated OFSAA gold and the law team competed at the 'Ethics Bowl' in Toronto.

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:

- St. Mary Catholic Secondary School construction students are working with Habitat for Humanity Northumberland on a six-week construction partnership on a seven-unit townhouse build. The opportunity will provide an invaluable experience for students seeking on the job experience in the trades.
- St. Michael Catholic Elementary School French Immersion students hosted a Valentine's Day inspired café for the school community. The students engaged in a culinary event where students served students and parents in a French-themed atmosphere.
- St. Paul Catholic Elementary School students held a Valentine Bingo fundraising activity which was the result of a deep learning project about student nutrition which led to discovering the importance of local food banks and how their kindness could assist others in academic success.
- St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School organized creative ways to raise

school spirit by engaging students in a week of fun and creative activities to brighten the days as they look forward to spring.

- In the spirit of the month of kindness, Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School students wrote letters of appreciation to the members of the Peterborough Police Service. In return, the Chief of Police, Stu Betts, paid a surprise visit to the students to thank them for their positive impact on the community.

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

C. Presentations:

1. Ensuring Equity: Indigenous, Faith and Equity Education, 2024-2025.

Julie Selby, Superintendent of Learning, introduced the other presenters: Benjamin Tenesia, Equity Advisor, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Learning Consultant, Cydney Habraken, Indigenous Education Coach, Anne Taylor, Indigenous Education Advisor, and Jennifer Eaton-Koch, Learning Consultant.

Through the presentation, the group explained how each of their areas of focus intersect and come together to create a culture of accompaniment in which they are collectively building awareness, responsibility and action towards accomplishments in the Indigenous Action Plan, the Equity Action Plan, and the Pastoral Plan which are all accountable to the Board's strategic priorities.

The presenters explained their actions and activities which build the pathways for accompaniment throughout the system. The team expressed passionately how their work is intimately intertwined with each other and that these relationships amongst their areas of focus is unique in our province. Other boards are now looking for guidance and understanding about the deep collaboration that has happened within PVNC Catholic's Indigenous, Faith, and Equity Education.

At the conclusion of the presentation the trustees had the opportunity to have their questions answered by the panel of presenters.

E. Business, Finance and Governance:

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

Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie reported on the highlights of the communications and memoranda which were received from the OCSTA throughout the month of March which included:

- The Catholic Education Pilgrims of Hope Bulletin
- The Provincial Election Platform Commitments
- OCSTA Annual General Meeting Registration Package
- Catholic Education Week Resource Kit
- Nominations for the OCSTA Region Directors
- Notification of the Premier Ford change in cabinet positions

2. STSCO Governance Committee, Open Session Report, March 5, 2025.

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie reported on the discussions from the STSCO Governance Committee meeting held on March 5, 2025, which included the following highlights:

- The committee was updated on the route planning process for the 2025-2026 school year which will again include the requirement for parents to 'opt-in' to receive transportation.
- The success of using public transportation, which is funded by the Ministry of Education, for some eligible students in Clarington and Peterborough. STSCO will explore further expanded use for more Holy Cross CSS and St. Peter CSS students.
- Discussions about increasing the number of inclement weather zones from the current three zones of Clarington, Northumberland and Peterborough City/County.

F. Human Resources:

G. Policy Development:

H. Old Business:

I. New Business:

J. Bring Forward:

K. Information Items:

2. Committee Reports

a. Accessibility for All Committee, February 27, 2025.

Vice-chairperson Jenny Leahy reported that PVNCCDSB is 92 per cent accessibility compliant with respect to information technology. The committee learned about special transportation requests and heard a presentation by the Board's Wellness Coordinator, who arranges accommodation plans for staff throughout the board which results in about 200 meetings a year. The committee also heard a presentation about artificial intelligence and upcoming guidelines for teachers to impart on students when and how it is appropriate to use artificial intelligence in their learning and assessments.

Accessibility Week is May 25-31. The committee will be striking a sub-committee and will have a student representative from the Student Council Liaison Committee to bring forward the student voice with respect to accessibility.

b. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, March 18, 2025.

Trustee John Connolly deferred his report to Julie Selby, Superintendent of Learning, as he was not able to be present at the last meeting.

Superintendent Julie Selby reported that the committee engaged in the Strategic Priorities Planning consultation with Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications and Mark Giunta, Communications Officer.

The committee also engaged in consultations regarding the Director of Education's performance appraisal process and concluded the meeting with updates from all of the committee members bringing greetings from their communities.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee, March 20, 2025.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that the Director of Education spoke to the committee about the multi-year strategic consultation and the committee was given time to fill out the survey. Karen Spencely, Vice-principal of Special Education gave a presentation about the Board Special Education plan and a new program called Project Search which will have six PVNC Catholic students participants next year.

3. Community Involvement Reports

Kathleen Tanguay reported that she attended the Strategic Planning Consultation session that was held in Northumberland at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School on March 19, 2025.

Loretta Durst reported that she and Vice-chairperson, Jenny Leahy attended the Peterborough Strategic Planning Consultation that was held at St. Peter Catholic Secondary School on March 24, 2025. Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications and Mark Giunta, Communications Officer, were thanked for leading the session and guiding the group through consultation questions.

4. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Information Items:

- a. February 27, 2025 – Provincial Election Platform Commitments.
- b. February 28, 2025 –Catholic Education Week Resources.
- c. March 3, 2025 – 2025 OCSTA Award Winners.
- d. March 7, 2025, Together in Faith Bulletin, March.
- e. March 19, 2025 – OCSTA Regional Director Nominations.
- f. March 19, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Ford New Cabinet Members.

L. Future Meetings and Events:

2. Board Meetings:

- a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, April 29, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)

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

- a. Chairperson's Committee Meeting, April 7, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
- b. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, April 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- c. Policy Development Committee Meeting, April 8, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

- a. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 1, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
- b. Faith and Equity Committee, April 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- c. Special Education Advisory Committee, April 17, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- d. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, April 24, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- e. Student Council Liaison Committee, April 29, 2025, 4:15 p.m.
- f. Accessibility for All Committee, May 8, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
- g. STSCO Governance Committee, June 4, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

- h. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, June 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- i. Audit Committee, June 19, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- j. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, TBA

5. 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:

2. Report from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera Session, held March 25, 2025.

MOTION: Moved by John Connolly, seconded by Jenny Leahy
that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising
from the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session, held on
March 25, 2025, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
 - 1. Opening Prayer.
 - 2. Motion for the approval of the agenda.
 - 3. No conflicts of interest were declared.
 - 4. Approval of the minutes of the February 25, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
 - 1. OCSTA In-camera Report.
 - 2. STSCO Governance Committee, In-camera Report, March 5, 2025.
- I. Conclusion:
 - 1. Closing Prayer.
 - 2. Motion to convene in open session.

Carried.

3. Closing Prayer.

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

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Jenny Leahy
that the open session meeting be adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Carried.

Kevin MacKenzie
Board Chairperson

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