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## Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Open Meeting – 6:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.

Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street W., Peterborough

and by Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/pnk-mxar-qnb>

If you would like to join by telephone, please contact Michelle Kennedy  
by email - [mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca](mailto:mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca) or at 1-800-461-8009 ext. 1247  
Arrangements to join by phone must be made prior to 5:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting

Chairperson: Kevin MacKenzie

Vice-chairperson: Jenny Leahy

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Trustees who are unable to attend the meeting are asked to  
please notify Michelle Kennedy ([mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca](mailto:mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca)).

### A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting – 6:30 p.m.:

1. Opening Prayer.  
Loretta Durst, Trustee.
2. Land Acknowledgement.  
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.
3. National Anthem.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.
6. Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. Page 5
7. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

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

1. Report from the Director of Education, Stephen O'Sullivan.

2. Report from the Student Trustees: Claire Heitzner, Senior Student Trustee and Carter Peios, Junior Student Trustee.
3. Report from the Manager of Communications, Galen Eagle.  
Highlights of System Achievements.

**C. Presentations:**

1. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Student Achievement Plan.  
Jonathan Di Ianni, Superintendent of Special Education, Sheila Piggott,  
Superintendent of Learning, and Julie Selby, Superintendent of Learning, .
2. Nurturing Mental Health and Well-being: 2025 Mental Health and Well-being Updates.  
Jonathan Di Ianni, Superintendent of Special Education, Jennifer Angelo, Board  
Mental Health Lead, Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist.

**D. Programs and Services:**

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

1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Open Session Report.  
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.

**F. Human Resources:**

**G. Policy Development:**

1. R.A. Recommended Actions from the Policy Development Committee, April 8, 2025. **R.A.: Page 16**  
Kathleen Tanguay, Chairperson, Policy Development Committee.

**Report: Page 17**

**H. Old Business:**

**I. New Business:**

1. R.A. Director's Performance Appraisal Committee for 2025-2026. **R.A.: Page 19**  
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.

**J. Bring Forward:**

## **K. Information Items:**

1. Chairperson's Report.  
Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson.
2. Committee Reports.
  - 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.
3. Community Involvement Reports.
4. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and Ministry Information Items.
  - a. March 27, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Pilgrims of Hope Bulletin. Page 20
  - b. March 28, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Labour Relations Appointment. Page 30
  - c. March 28, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Anti-Black Racism Report. Page 31
  - d. March 31, 2025 – OCSTA 2025 Youth Day Virtual Event, May 7, 2025. Page 33
  - e. April 4, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Regional Meetings at AGM. Page 35
  - f. April 7, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, New Procurement Restriction Policy. Page 37
  - g. April 7, 2025 – OCSTA Memo, Executive Director Announcement. Page 38
  - h. April 11, 2025 – Updated Mandatory Training for Trustees. Page 40
  - i. April 21, 2025 – CCCB Statement on the Passing of Pope Francis. Page 43
  - j. April 23, 2025 – CEFO, Celebrating Catholic Students. Page 45
  - k. April 23, 2025 – OCSTA Revised Nominations Report. Page 47

## **L. Future Meetings and Events:**

1. Board Meetings:
  - a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, May 27, 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, Monday, May 12, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

- b. Committee-of-the-Whole, Monday, May 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
  - c. Policy Development Committee, June 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
- a. Special Education Advisory Committee, May 22, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
  - b. Student Council Liaison Committee, May 27, 2025, 4:15 p.m.
  - c. STSCO Governance Committee, June 4, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
  - d. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, June 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
  - e. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, June 12, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
  - f. Audit Committee, June 19, 2025.
  - g. Accessibility for All Committee, TBA.
  - h. Faith and Equity Committee, TBA.
  - i. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, TBA.
  - j. SAL Committee, TBA.
4. Board Events: (Listed in chronological order.)
- 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 Education Week - Virtual Mass - May 7, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Mass will be live-streamed from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, beginning at 11:00 a.m.
  - d. Catholic Student Leadership Awards, May 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m., Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.
  - e. 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, April 29, 2025.
- 2. Closing Prayer.  
John Connolly, Trustee.
- 3. Adjournment.





# 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 Gorgeatt, 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.

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Kevin MacKenzie  
Board Chairperson

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

**Recommended Action from the Policy Development  
Committee Meeting, April 8, 2025.**

**R.A.:** Mover: Kathleen Tanguay  
that the Board receive the reports and recommendations  
from the Policy Development Committee meeting dated  
April 8, 2025, for publication and implementation.

Policy Development Committee

April 8, 2025.

## **Report of the Approved Recommended Actions from the Policy Committee Meeting, April 8, 2025.**

### **1. Administrative Procedures.**

Moved by Board Chairperson MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Leahy, that the Policy Development Committee recommend to the Board that items C.1 c) through C.1 f), be received and posted as presented:

- C.1.a) Administrative Procedure #303 - Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)(New)  
that Administrative Procedure #303, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #300, Student Achievement and Well-Being.
- C.1.b) Administrative Procedure #309 - Cooperative Education and Other Forms of Experiential Learning  
that Administrative Procedure #309, Cooperative Education and Other Forms of Experiential Learning, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #300, Student Achievement and Well-Being.
- C.1.c) Administrative Procedure #510 - Conflicts of Interest  
that Administrative Procedure #510, Conflicts of Interest, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #500, Employee Relations.
- C.1.d) Administrative Procedure #513 - Reporting Children in Need of Protection  
that Administrative Procedure #513, Reporting Children in Need of Protection, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #500, Employee Relations.
- C.1.e) Administrative Procedure #706 - Service Animals in Schools  
that Administrative Procedure #706, Service Animals in Schools, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #700, Equity and Inclusive Education.
- C.1.f) Administrative Procedure #812 - Scent Awareness  
that Administrative Procedure #812, Scent Awareness, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #800, Healthy Schools and Workplaces.

Motion Carried.

### **2. Administrative Procedures.**

Moved by Board Chairperson MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Martin, that the Policy Development Committee recommend to the Board that item C.1. g), be received and posted as presented.

- C.1.g) Administrative Procedure #826 - School Community Events  
that Administrative Procedure #826, School Community Events, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #800, Healthy Schools and Workplaces.

Motion Carried.

3. Administrative Procedure.

Moved by Trustee Leahy, seconded by Board Chairperson MacKenzie, that the Policy Development Committee recommend to the Board that item C.1. h), be received and posted as presented.:

C.1.h) Administrative Procedure #1301 - Student Eligibility

that Administrative Procedure #1301, Student Eligibility, be received and posted as revised under Directional Policy #1300, Student Transportation.

Motion Carried.

**Establishment of the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee for July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.**

**R.A.:** that, in compliance with Ontario Regulation 83/24 Director of Education Performance Appraisal, the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington District School Board establish a Director Performance Appraisal Committee responsible for conducting a performance appraisal of the Director, during the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, composed of at least 3 and no more than 7 board members, one of who shall be elected by a majority of the committee to act as chair.



## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

March 27, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustees and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**CC:** Catholic District School Board Chaplains  
OCSTA Directors and Staff

**FROM:** Anne O'Brien, Director of Catholic Education

**SUBJECT:** Catholic Education Pilgrims of Hope Bulletin for April 2025

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Please click on the link below or see attached for our monthly Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope Bulletin for April 2025.

<https://www.ocsta.on.ca/ocsta/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/8-April-2025-CEW-2025-Together-in-Faith-Bulletin.pdf>

Thank you.

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Marino Gazzola, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



*L'éducation catholique: Pèlerins de l'espérance*

*~ April 2025 Bulletin*

*As we continue to journey through this sacred season of Lent, we are invited to embark on a spiritual pilgrimage—one of hope, renewal, and deep trust in God's mercy. This month's bulletin will highlight our pilgrim journey as we prepare our hearts for the joy of the Easter season. As April is the month dedicated to the Holy Eucharist (The Blessed Sacrament), our Catholic identity focus will highlight the seven sacraments with a special focus the significant role the Eucharist plays in our lives as we celebrate the upcoming canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis later this month.*

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN HOPE

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year as hopeful pilgrims, let us remember this time is an opportunity for us to journey together in hope. In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that ... *hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.*

In his Lenten message the Holy Father tells us that the Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope, reminds us that the season of Lent is a journey. As Pilgrims in this life each of us is invited to stop and reflect on our journey asking ourselves:

*Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone?*

*Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that impact my dignity?*

*Am I able to sympathize with others whose journeys are more challenging than my own? How can their Lenten journey become one of hope?*

Pope Francis' Lenten message also reminds us of the importance of journeying together. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. We are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs.

Finally, this Lent, let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint, the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter.



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

## Reflection Question

This Lent, how will you embrace your call as a pilgrim of hope, and carry the light of Christ into the world?

Let us continue to walk this Lenten path together, trusting in the hope that Christ brings. May we journey together, in our homes, schools and parishes, toward Easter where the dawn of resurrection renews all things.

## EASTER JOY

For Christians, Easter, commemorating Jesus' resurrection, is a time of renewal and hope, signifying victory over death and offering the promise of new life and a fresh start.

The Easter season offers each of us a chance to renew our commitment, regardless of where we are on our spiritual journey. We do this by reaffirming our faith, as professed in the Creed during Easter Masses.

Christians are often called Easter people. We acknowledge the significance of Christ's resurrection in our lives, embracing the message of hope, renewal, and the promise of life that Easter represents. Through Christ's example and His ongoing presence in the Church, especially in the Holy Eucharist, we have the power to share the light of Christ with everyone we encounter.

“ ———  
Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11. 25-26  
————— ”



## EASTER PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
On this joyous Easter day, we celebrate the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We give thanks for His victory over death, His endless love, and the hope He brings to all believers.

May His resurrection fill our hearts with renewed faith, hope, and love.  
Help us to live in the light of His grace, sharing His love with others, and walking in His footsteps each day.  
In the name of our risen Lord and Saviour. Amen.





## OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY: THE SACRAMENTS

The sacraments play a central role in the spiritual life of Catholics and are a way to receive God's grace in different stages and aspects of life.

In the Catholic Church, there seven sacraments:

- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Confirmation
- Penance (Reconciliation)
- Anointing of the Sick
- Matrimony
- Holy Orders

Each of the sacraments serves a specific role in the spiritual life of a Catholic.

Through these sacraments, we are invited into deeper communion with God and with one another as the Church. They mark significant moments in a believer's life, such as initiation into the faith (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), healing and forgiveness (Penance/Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick), and vocations (Marriage and Holy Orders).

The sacraments are integral to Catholic life and identity. Through the sacraments, we grow in holiness and are continually shaped into the image of Christ.

“

The Sacraments are not mere appearances, they are not rituals; they are the power of Christ; Jesus Christ is present in the Sacraments. When we celebrate the Eucharist it is the living Jesus who brings us together, forms us into a community, allows us to adore the Father. Each one of us, in fact, through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, is incorporated into Christ and united to the entire community of believers. Therefore, if on the one hand it is the Church that “makes” the Sacraments, on the other, it is the Sacraments that “make” the Church, that build her up, by generating new children, by gathering them into the holy people of God, by strengthening their membership. ~ Pope Francis

”



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

These sacraments that make us become part of God's family lay the foundation for every Christian life and enable us to carry out the mission of Christ in the Church and in the world.

**Baptism** – In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are welcomed into the Church and become children of God.

**Eucharist (Holy Communion)** – In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we receive Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, in Holy Communion and are nourished by the Word of God.

**Confirmation** – In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Through Confirmation, we become more Christ-like and are strengthened to be active witnesses of Jesus.



“

*"The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity."*  
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1212)



## THE SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

The Church celebrates two Sacraments of Healing: Penance (Reconciliation) and Anointing of the Sick. In these sacraments, the Church celebrates Jesus' healing power.

**Penance (Reconciliation or Confession)** – In the Sacrament of Penance, members of the Church are reconciled with God and with the Church. This sacrament strengthens or renews grace.

**Anointing of the Sick** – The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered to those who are very sick or near death. Family, friends, and parish members gather to pray for God's healing and mercy. Those who receive the sacrament are given the grace to respond to their illness with hope and strengthens their faith in a loving God.



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

## SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE

The Sacraments of Service are meant to strengthen us as we choose a path of life that we will follow the rest of our lives.

**Holy Orders** – In the Sacrament of Holy Orders, baptized men are ordained to serve the Catholic Church as deacons, priests, and bishops. Through this sacrament, the Catholic Church continues the mission of that Jesus Christ first gave to the Apostles---the special mission of preaching the Good News and leading and serving the Catholic Church.

**Matrimony** – In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a man and woman become husband and wife and promise to be faithful to each other for the rest of their lives. Matrimony unites a married couple as loving partners and strengthens them to live out their promises to Christ and to one another.

*“Sacraments are “powers that comes forth” from the Body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are “the masterworks of God” in the new and everlasting covenant.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1113 & 1116



## APRIL ~ MONTH DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each month of the year has a special dedication the Church honours. Since the Sacred Triduum and Easter usually fall in April, the month is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, which was given to us on Holy Thursday at the Last Supper.

During the month of April, we devote special prayer and adoration to the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist is the foundation of the Catholic faith – the belief that the unleavened bread and wine we consume every Sunday, through transubstantiation, becomes the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ.

During the month of April, the Church invites Catholics to deepen their understanding and devotion to the Resurrected Christ and what he left his Apostles – the Eucharist. Spending time at adoration or even sitting before the tabernacle in prayer is a great way to grow in your connection with Christ.





# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. It represents the real presence of Christ in the world. During the month of April, Catholics are encouraged to deepen their devotion to the Eucharist through various practices, such as attending Eucharistic Adoration and participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration is a practice that involves spending time in prayer and contemplation in front of the Blessed Sacrament, which is a consecrated host that represents the real presence of Christ. This practice allows Catholics to deepen their relationship with Christ and express their love and gratitude for His sacrifice.



For if the sacred liturgy holds first place in the life of the Church, then the Eucharistic Mystery stands at the heart and center of the liturgy, since it is the font of life that cleanses us and strengthens us to live not for ourselves but for God and to be united to each other by the closest ties of love.

*Mysterium Fidei, Encyclical of Pope Paul VI on the Holy Eucharist*

St. Paul writes about the Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, echoing what every priest says during the consecration of the Eucharist at Mass.

*“For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.”*

(1 Corinthians 11:23-29)



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

Blessed Carlo Acutis was an Italian teenager known for his deep faith, love for the Eucharist, and dedication to spreading the message of God through modern technology. Born on May 3, 1991, in London and raised in Italy, Carlo developed a strong devotion to the Catholic faith from a young age. He was particularly passionate about the Eucharist and often attended Mass and spent time in adoration.

*"The Eucharist is the highway to heaven. When people sit in the sun, they become tan, but when they sit before Eucharistic Jesus, they become saints."*  
Blessed Carlo Acutis



Carlo was a gifted computer programmer and used his skills to create a website that cataloged Eucharistic miracles from around the world, showcasing his commitment to the faith and his desire to share the beauty of the Eucharist with others. He was also known for his love of technology and for using it in a positive way, encouraging young people to do the same.

According to his website ([carloacutis.com](http://carloacutis.com)), Carlo volunteered at a church-run soup kitchen, helped the poor in his neighbourhood, assisted children struggling with their homework, played saxophone, soccer and videogames, and loved making videos with his dogs and cats.

Sadly, Carlo died on October 12, 2006, at the age of 15 from leukemia. Despite his young age, his life and witness of faith left a lasting impact. He was beatified on October 10, 2020, and is considered a model for young people, showing how to live a holy life in the modern world, combining faith with contemporary tools and technology.

His beatification recognized his virtuous life and the miracle attributed to his intercession—the healing of a young boy in Brazil from a rare pancreatic disease. The second miracle attributed to him involved a Costa Rican student who, after suffering a head injury, awoke from her coma after her mother prayed at Carlo Acutis' shrine in 2022.



*"God has written for each of us a unique and unrepeatable story, but he has left us free to write the end of the story."*  
Blessed Carlo Acutis



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



## OUR FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT

Blessed Carlo Acutis will soon become the Catholic Church's first 'millennial saint'. He will be canonized during the Jubilee of Teenagers. April 25-27, 2025, with the canonization Mass to take place on April 27th.



“

*"All of us are born as originals, but most of us die as photocopies. We model ourselves on others in their mundane superficiality rather than unite ourselves to God, which not only makes us holy but fully human."* Blessed Carlo Acutis

## PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

God, Our Father, thank you for giving us Carlo,  
a life example for the young and a message of love for everyone.  
You made him become enamoured with Your Son Jesus,  
making of the Eucharist his "Highway to Heaven".  
You gave him Mary, as a most loving Mother,  
and, with the Rosary, you made him a poet of her tenderness.  
Receive his prayer for us.  
Above all, gaze upon the poor, whom he loved and helped.  
Grant for me too, by his intercession, the grace that I need  
and make our joy fulfilled, placing Carlo among the Saints  
of your Church, so that his smile  
may shine again for us in the glory of your name.  
Amen.



“

*"The Eucharist is at the root of every form of holiness, and each of us is called to the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. How many saints have advanced along the way of perfection thanks to their eucharistic devotion! ... Holiness has always found its center in the sacrament of the Eucharist." (Sacramentum Caritatis 94).*





# CATHOLIC EDUCATION: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



## Jubilee Year 2025 Resources

**GOODNEWSFORALL.CA RESOURCES:**  
**Catholic Education Week Resource Kit - Elementary and Secondary**

**CCCB Adult Faith Resources on the Jubilee Year 2025**

**CCCB Catechetical Activities for Children and Youth**

## Blessed Sacrament Resources

**MYSTERIUM FIDEI - ENCYCLICAL OF POPE PAUL VI ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**SACRAMENTUM CARITATIS OF THE HOLY FATHER BENEDICT XVI  
ON THE EUCHARIST AS THE SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF THE CHURCH'S LIFE AND MISSION**

**Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis**

## † Our Catholic Identity Series (Posters)

These posters will be made available to Catholic school boards to celebrate Catholic Education Week.



Stay  
tuned

**NEXT MONTH'S FEATURE**

Pilgrims of Hope and Our Catholic Identity: Sacred Scripture

**Jubilee Year  
Calendar  
of Major Events**



Interested in sharing what your school community is doing to promote the Jubilee Year ~ Pilgrims of Hope? Email: [julie.webster@dpcdsb.org](mailto:julie.webster@dpcdsb.org)



## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

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Michael Bellmore, *President*  
Marino Gazzola, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

March 28, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
**CC:** OCSTA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Michael Bellmore, President  
Nick Milanetti, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of OCSTA Manager, Labour Relations

We are pleased to announce that *Joseph Cull* will be joining the OCSTA team effective April 14<sup>th</sup> as the new Manager, Labour Relations replacing Percy Toop. Joseph brings a wealth of experience in labour relations, collective bargaining, and stakeholder engagement, making him a valuable addition to OCSTA.

Joseph joins us from the Ministry of Education, where he served as an Education Labour Relations Officer. In this role, he participated in provincial negotiations with teacher federations and education worker unions. He has provided expert analysis and strategic development in collective bargaining, collective agreement administration, grievance management and arbitration proceedings. Prior to that, he served as a Union Business Representative for LIUNA Local 3000, overseeing negotiations, mediations, and labour management committee meetings while representing over 700 members.

With a strong educational background, including specialized negotiation training from Harvard's Program on Negotiation he has developed exceptional skills. His expertise and knowledge in labour relation/legislative frameworks such as the Labour Relations Act, the Employment Standards Act, the School Board Collective Bargaining Act and the Education Act will be invaluable.

In addition to his technical expertise, Joseph is highly skilled in fostering collaboration, developing relationships, and leading teams in high-paced environments. His ability to develop and implement strategic solutions will undoubtedly contribute to maintaining our approach to positive and effective labour relations with all our stakeholder partners.

He can be reached at [jcull@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:jcull@ocsta.on.ca). Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Joseph. We look forward to his contributions and leadership as we continue to build a strong, positive labour relations and workplace culture.



## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

March 28, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**CC:** OCSTA Directors and Staff  
Board Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

**FROM:** Michael Bellmore, President

**SUBJECT:** **Ontario Human Rights Commission Report on Anti-Black Racism in Education**

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On March 27, 2025, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (the “Commission”) released its final report on anti-black racism in Ontario’s education system. The report is entitled “Dreams Delayed: Addressing Systemic Anti-Black Racism and Discrimination in Ontario’s Public Education System”. This report represents three years of work by the commission that included consultations with education and community stakeholders across Ontario, an advisory group of educators.

The report contains 29 recommendations in three key areas: Accountability and Transparency; Monitoring and Evaluation; and Student Well-Being. These actions are categorized into immediate and intermediate goals. If implemented, commission believes the proposed actions will substantially improve Black students’ and Black educators’ experience in the education system.

In summary, the recommendations state:

#### **Accountability and Transparency (Actions #1 – #14)**

Accountability is essential to ensure equality and non-discrimination for Black students in Ontario's publicly funded education system. It is essential that duty-holders shift from process-focused to outcome-focused accountability with committed leadership and systemic support for anti-Black racism initiatives which aim for positive outcomes for students.

Transparency ensures that the public can see if and how the Ministry of Education, school boards, administrators, educators, unions, and Faculties of Education are upholding their respective human rights obligations. It increases the public’s awareness and understanding of existing information and mechanisms to confront anti-Black racism and discrimination.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation (Actions #15 - #23)**

Monitoring in education should focus on achieving outcomes and progress in addressing anti-Black racism and discrimination. It involves measuring whether these outcomes are being met using clear agreed upon criteria. Effective monitoring requires collecting and analyzing data to understand and address systemic barriers. Consistent monitoring ensures transparency, accountability, and the ability to evaluate system performance on human rights issues, including well-being and student experiences.

## **Student Well-Being (Actions #24 - #29)**

Well-being is a cornerstone of a successful education system, vital for fostering achievement and success aligned with students' interests, capacities, and ambitions. Discriminatory practices that limit these elements negatively impact well-being. It is essential that systemic change focus on altering the education system to support Black students instead of expecting them to adapt to a discriminatory environment.

The full report can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/dreams-delayed-addressing-systemic-anti-black-racism-and-discrimination-ontarios-public-education>

### **Next Steps:**

OCSTA will consult with the Ministry of Education as it moves to implement these recommendations to ensure our Catholic system's perspective on these issues (respect for the dignity of the human person and the policies boards have developed to date) are factored into any policy decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [mbellmore@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:mbellmore@ocsta.on.ca) or Steve Andrews at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca)

Sincerely,



Michael Bellmore  
President



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association



March 31, 2025

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons, Directors of Education & Student Trustees  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Michael Bellmore, President

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day Virtual Event for Students – May 7<sup>th</sup>

We are pleased to announce that on May 7<sup>th</sup>, during Catholic Education Week (CEW), Catholic school board communities throughout our province will once again celebrate Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day (OCSYD). The provincial Catholic student leadership team has taken on the task of planning an engaging and interactive virtual event centered on our CEW theme, *Pilgrims of Hope*.

All Catholic secondary school students are invited to attend (with appropriate permission) and to participate in this year's virtual OCSYD event which will begin at 9:15 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m. This event will be offered at no cost to CDSB students.



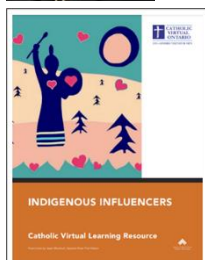
### Featured Speaker: Theland Kicknosway

Consistent with the provincial student trustee Catholic Board Council's goal of advancing Truth and Reconciliation, the featured speaker for this year's event is Theland Kicknosway, Indigenous leader, singer and advocate from the Wolf Clan of the Potawatomi and Cree Nations who will share "Walking the Path of Leadership – Theland Kicknosway's Journey."



### Provincial Mass with His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby

The Catholic Education Week Provincial Mass will be celebrated by the Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton. Mass will be live-streamed from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The link to join the live-stream will be shared once it becomes available.



### Indigenous Influencers

Student Trustees will present their research on over 40 new Indigenous Leaders across various disciplines.

School or designated board contacts are asked to register each individual student for this event by completing an online form which can be accessed [here](#). A separate Zoom link to join the OCSYD Seminar will be sent to registered students prior to the event.

An OCSTA Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day certificate will be provided to each registered student attending the Seminar and will be mailed to your Board office.

### **Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day Event Schedule**

Catholic Education Week Theme: *Pilgrims of Hope*

9:15 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Monica Galstyan, OSTA-AECO VP Catholic Education</i> <i>OCSTA President/OCSTA Executive Director</i>
9:30 am	Featured Speaker Walking the Path of Leadership – Theland Kicknosway’s Journey <i>Theland Kicknosway, Indigenous Leader, Singer and Advocate from the Wolf Clan of the Potawatomi and Cree Nations</i>  <i>As a powerful voice for Indigenous youth, Theland speaks about the importance of representation, cultural identity, and the role of Indigenous Influencers in shaping the future. Through music, storytelling, and activism, he empowers all young people to embrace their roots, share their voices and create positive change in their communities. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear his message and be inspired!</i>
10:30 am	Tribute to Blessed Carlo Acutis <i>Carlo Acutis, a young Italian who died at the age of 15 in 2006, was known for his deep faith, his love for the Eucharist, and his use of technology to spread the word of God. Acutis is considered the first millennial Saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church. Blessed Carlo Acutis, was canonized as a Saint on April 27<sup>th</sup> during the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year 2025 and specifically during the Jubilee of Teenagers.</i>
11:00 am	Provincial Catholic Education Week Mass <i>Celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby</i>
12:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Brothers Wilde (musical group) - Kettle &amp; Stony Point First Nation</i>
12:45 pm	Indigenous Influencers & Contributors – Student Trustees’ Presentations
1:45 pm	Raffle & Closing Remarks
2:00 pm	Adjournment

We look forward to celebrating this special day and are grateful to the members of the OSTA-AECO Catholic Board Council for their vision and valuable partnership.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Anne O’Brien at OCSTA ([aobrien@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:aobrien@ocsta.on.ca)).





## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 3, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**CC:** OCSTA Directors and Staff  
Board Secretaries and Administrative Assistants

**FROM:** Nick Milanetti, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** **Topics for Discussion at Regional Meetings during AGM/Conference**

An OCSTA Regional Meeting session will be offered to members during the pre-Conference portion of this year's 2025 AGM and Conference, on *May 1<sup>st</sup> from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites, 8500 Warden Ave., Markham, ON, L6G 1A5.*

OCSTA's Regional Meetings serve as timely opportunities for trustees to engage in regional discussions that can surface important issues and opportunities to be addressed by the Association.

As you know, our membership is organized into 5 Regional Meeting groups – Central, East, West, North East and North West. For reference, please see the attached list of OCSTA Regions and the Catholic school boards in each of those regions.

In preparation for these meetings, Catholic trustees are asked to come prepared to discuss topics of concern to their respective boards. While we understand the timeline for these preparations is limited, we greatly value the effort you can dedicate to this important process ahead of the 2025 Regional Meetings on May 1st.

Regional meetings will be held concurrently in five breakout rooms as follows and will be facilitated by an OCSTA Director with OCSTA staff providing note-taking support at each of the meetings.

REGIONAL MEETINGS	REGIONAL MEETING LOCATION
Northwest Regional Meeting	Primrose Room
West Regional Meeting	Holly Room
East Regional Meeting	Butternut Room
Central Regional Meeting	Conference Centre 1
Northeast Regional Meeting	Maple Room

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Sharon McMillan ([smcmillan@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:smcmillan@ocsta.on.ca)).

Attachment



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

## OCSTA REGIONS

AREA	BOARDS/OCSTA REGION #
West	Bruce-Grey (4) Huron-Perth (4) London (5) Waterloo (4) Wellington (4) St. Clair (5) Windsor/Essex (5)
East	Algonquin & Lakeshore (10) Eastern Ontario (10) Peterborough-Victoria-Northumberland & Clarington (9) Ottawa (12) Renfrew (10) Simcoe-Muskoka (9)
North East	Huron-Superior (1) Nipissing-Parry Sound (1) Northeastern (1) Sudbury (1)
Central	Brant-Haldimand Norfolk (11) Dufferin-Peel (7) Durham (9) Halton (13) Hamilton-Wentworth (11) Niagara (11) Toronto (6) York (8)
North West	Kenora (2) Northwest (2) Superior North (2) Thunder Bay (2)



**MEMORANDUM**

**Memorandum to** Directors of Education  
Secretaries/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Denise A. Cole  
Deputy Minister of Education

**Subject:** **New Procurement Restriction Policy to restrict procurement from U.S. businesses**

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I am writing to inform you about the new Procurement Restriction Policy, part of the government's response to the tariffs imposed on Canada by the U.S. This policy restricts U.S. businesses from accessing public sector procurements in Ontario by restricting public sector buyers from procuring from U.S. businesses.

The new policy is currently in effect for Ontario government entities and for designated Broader Public Sector (BPS) organizations.

This policy is available on [Ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca). We encourage you and your staff to also visit [SupplyOntario](https://supplyontario.ca) for more information. You may also contact Supply Ontario at [doingbusiness@supplyontario.ca](mailto:doingbusiness@supplyontario.ca).

Existing procurement direction in the BPS Procurement Directive continues to apply, including rules to support the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI) and the Interim Measures.

The policy includes a definition of a U.S. business (see under "Application and Scope"), and to ensure critical goods and services can still be obtained, the policy allows procurement from U.S. businesses in very limited situations: where the U.S. business is the only viable source, and the procurement cannot be delayed (e.g. risks to public health and safety, etc.) Both criteria must be met.

Materials supporting implementation have been prepared and will be shared soon.

Thank you for your support as we roll out these changes to this important government initiative. Please contact Didem Proulx, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Capital and Business Support Division, at [didem.proulx@ontario.ca](mailto:didem.proulx@ontario.ca) if you have any questions.

Regards,

Denise A. Cole  
Deputy Minister



## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 7, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Michael Bellmore, President

**SUBJECT:** Patrick Daly Appointed OCSTA Executive Director

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I am pleased to announce the appointment of Patrick Daly to the position of Executive Director for our Association. As many of you know, for over 36 years Patrick has demonstrated outstanding servant leadership as a Catholic School Trustee and Catholic School Board Chair serving the needs of students, families and staff at the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board. From a provincial perspective Pat has also demonstrated a commitment to servant leadership having served the members of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association as President of the Association for an historic 4 terms (8 years) and contributing in various ways to several OCSTA working committees, provincial legislative committees and commissions.

Patrick brings to this position not only first-hand experience of the needs and priorities of democratically elected Catholic School Trustees, but an exceptional understanding of OCSTA's operations and mission gained through extensive work with staff during his terms as President and as the Association's representative in initiatives involving the provincial government and Ontario's education partners.

Patrick's varied related experience also includes:

- Chair of OCSTA's Labour Relations Committee
- Member of Ministry of Education Transportation Advisory Group (2021-2024)
- Member of the Ontario College of Teachers Governing Council (2000- 2007)
- Member of the Board of Directors for the Completion Office Separate Schools (1996-1997)
- Member of the Provincial Education Finance Reform Work Group (1995-1997) –  
Recommendations from the work group contributed to the introduction of fair and equitable education funding formula in the Province of Ontario

Patrick has been recognized provincially and nationally for his outstanding leadership in Catholic education. He is a recipient of the OCSTA Trustee Award of Merit, a Past President of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association and a recipient of the group's Higgins Award, and has received the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario's esteemed Fr. John Redmond Award.

In recognition of Patrick's faith-filled leadership and distinguished service to the Church he was awarded a papal knighthood by His Holiness, Pope Francis and was presented with The Honour of the Knight of St. Gregory the Great.

Patrick and his wife Carol have four children Michael (wife Robyn), Kyle, Colleen and Monica and are members of the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King Parish, Hamilton.

In response to his appointment, Patrick shared the following statement:

*"I am deeply grateful to the members of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Board of Directors for the trust they have placed in me. I am particularly honoured to receive the appointment having witnessed and admired the strong and faith filled leadership of current Executive Director, Nick Milanetti. My service will be guided by the conviction that publicly funded Catholic education is a jewel in the crown of the Church in Ontario and that it makes a significant positive contribution to the lives of students and the fabric of our society. I look forward to working with the OCSTA Board of Directors, its dedicated staff, Catholic School Trustees throughout Ontario and Provincial partners in support of our shared commitment to protect, promote and celebrate the precious gift entrusted to us."*

This is the second time in OCSTA's history that a Catholic School Trustee has been selected to serve as the Executive Director of the Association. We welcome Patrick and believe he will serve well our mission as an organization of Catholic School Trustees established to promote and protect publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors who participated in the selection process. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.

Patrick will officially begin his role as Executive Director on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We extend our prayerful best wishes to Nick Milanetti who has served as OCSTA's deeply faithful and dedicated Executive Director since 2015, following an exemplary career as educator, principal and superintendent with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.



## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 11, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Nick Milanetti, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Updated Mandatory Training for Trustees

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The Ministry of Education has revised the requirements of its “Essential Governance Training” mandate previously announced and shared by OCSTA at the recent Catholic Trustees Seminar. The Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC), which works collaboratively with all trustee associations in Ontario, has been selected by the Ministry of Education to develop and deliver a mandatory professional development training program designed for school board trustees and directors of education. This program will support sector implementation of the recent regulatory amendments set out in *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*.

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

OESC’s *Essential Governance 2025* professional development program will focus on these key areas of governance:

- Mediation and Conflict Resolution
- Financial Management and Governance
- Effective Community Engagement to Promote Student Achievement
- Director of Education Performance Appraisal

*Continued...*

All Ontario school board trustees and directors of education are expected to complete the training program as follows:

### **Part 1 – Essential Governance 2025 Self-directed Online Modules**

All Ontario school board trustees and directors of education are expected to complete the new **Essential Governance 2025** self-directed **online learning modules** which will be made available on OESC’s Good Governance website by April 28, 2025. The program includes six modules, each available in English and French:

- Module 5: Director of Education: Hiring and Performance Appraisal (*the “Hiring” content in this module is new*)
- Module 8: Understanding Conflict and Managing it Effectively
- Module 9: Effective Community Engagement to Support Student Achievement
- Module 13: Education Finance
- Module 17: Trustee Code of Conduct
- Module 19: Audit and the Role of Audit Committees

Each trustee association and CODE has contributed to the creation of the modules. Upon completion of the modules, trustees and directors of education will receive a certificate of completion in recognition of their commitment to the good governance of their boards. Data on participant completion will be made available to the Ministry of Education.

### **Part 2 – Essential Governance 2025 Webinars**

OESC and the trustee associations will develop a series of facilitated professional development webinars focused on the four key governance areas. The sessions will build on the learning provided in the online modules.

OPSBA and OCSTA trustees will join English-language directors of education for webinars delivered in English. ACÉPO and AFOCSC trustees will join French-language directors of education for webinars delivered in French. Webinars will be facilitated by experts with experience in both public and Catholic education (*see webinar presenters names in chart below*).

**The webinars will take place in Spring 2025— OCSTA will provide registration information and dates when details are confirmed.** Participants are encouraged to attend the online/synchronous learning sessions; however, sessions will be recorded and made available on OESC’s Good Governance website. Participant data on both synchronous and asynchronous webinars will be shared with the Ministry of Education.

## REQUIRED TRAINING AT-A-GLANCE

Required Training	School Board Trustees	Directors of Education	Deadline to complete
Six self-directed online modules available on OESC's Good Governance Website	✓	✓	Modules available by April 28, 2025. Complete online by August 31, 2025.
Webinar: <i>Mediation and Conflict Resolution</i> <b>Presented by:</b> <b>Sheila MacKinnon, Partner</b> <b>Shibley Righton LLP</b>	✓	✓	Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025
Webinar: <i>Financial Management and Governance</i> <b>Presented by:</b> <b>Tracy McLellan, Associate Director, Wellington CDSB;</b> <b>Brian McKay, Associate Director,</b> <b>Lambton Kent DSB</b>	✓	✓	Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025
Webinar: <i>Effective Community Engagement to Promote Student Achievement</i> <b>Presented by:</b> <b>Marion Thomson-Howell</b> <b>Former Chair, Waterloo CDSB</b>	✓	✓	Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025
Webinar: <i>Director of Education Performance Appraisal*</i> <b>Presented by:</b> <b>Nancy Crawford, Catholic Trustee,</b> <b>Former TCDSB Chair;</b> <b>Robin Pilkey, Former TDSB Chair;</b> <b>Ted Doherty, Exec. Director - OESC</b>	✓		Attend live online in Spring 2025 (exact date TBD) or watch asynchronously on OESC's Good Governance Website by August 31, 2025. <b>NOTE for OCSTA members:</b> this revised Module on the Director of Education Performance Appraisal contains new content on the topic of "hiring", which was not included in the Module content delivered to members at the 2025 Catholic Trustees Seminar.

\*At the Ministry of Education's request, this webinar is designed for school board trustees only.

# Statement by the Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary, and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Passing of Pope Francis

*Monday, April 21 2025*

It is with profound sadness that I join my brother Bishops, as well as the Catholic faithful in Canada and those around the world, to mourn the loss of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025 in Rome at the age of 88. When the Cardinals elected him to the See of Peter in March 2013, Pope Francis invited us on that first night to “always to pray for one another, for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity.” Over the past 88 years of his Petrine Ministry, his pastoral witness and leadership of the Catholic Church as the 266<sup>th</sup> Successor of Saint Peter marked the Church, the world and our Canadian society with the values of the Gospel. Francis’ frequent consoling image of the Church as “a field hospital” brought us a message of hope, peace, compassion and mercy. He desired the Church to be close to the people, to be present in ways that reflected the mercy, forgiveness and care of Christ. He challenged us to become missionary disciples of faith, hope and love and announce the joy of the Gospel to the world.

Pope Francis desired the Church to be more effective in its pastoral outreach. To promote greater communion, participation and mission in the life of the Church. Francis began by renewing the process and outcome of synods, involving mutual listening and dialogue in which everyone has something to learn. He often stated that to be synodal is the conversion that God expects of the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

During his pontificate he made over 40 apostolic journeys around the world and issued many Encyclical Letters and Apostolic Exhortations on contemporary themes such as evangelization in modern society (*Evangelii Gaudium*), love within marriage (*Amoris Laetitia*), environmental stewardship (*Laudato Si'*), human fraternity (*Fratelli Tutti*), as well as young people and vocational discernment (*Christus Vivit*). He advanced the Church’s ongoing commitment to address sexual abuse, in meeting with victims around the world in order to promote both justice and healing in their lives. He initiated processes to improve accountability and transparency in the management of the Vatican’s finances. He restructured the Roman Curia (the administrative departments of the Holy See) around the priority of evangelization, the Church’s central mission, and promoted a more participatory, synodal Church.

“Trust in God’s infinite mercy” was the guiding vision throughout Francis’ papacy, as captured succinctly in his final Encyclical Letter “*On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ*” (*Dilexit Nos*). Pope Francis yearned for the Church’s message of mercy to be ever



present among marginalized people, those on the existential and geographical peripheries of society. He was a tireless advocate for the poor, migrants, the disabled, the elderly, and those struggling to find their place within the Church.

A defining moment for Canadians of Pope Francis' papacy took place during his five-day Apostolic Journey to Canada in 2022 when he [apologized to Indigenous Peoples for the abuse, cultural destruction, and forced assimilation associated with the former Indian Residential Schools](#). In his [own] words, it was a “penitential pilgrimage” – a journey of 5,700 km with events in Edmonton, Quebec City, and Iqaluit. It reflected his respect for Indigenous Peoples, and the Church's commitment to continue walking together on the path of truth, justice, healing, reconciliation, and hope.

Pope Francis opened two Jubilee Years during his pontificate: an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy in 2015 and the Holy Year of Hope which began on Christmas eve, 2024. As Bishop of Rome, Francis demanded much while preaching about a God of mercy, by engaging joyfully with nonbelievers, atheists, agnostics, skeptics, and those on the peripheries of life – many who thought that Christianity has nothing left to offer in the circumstances of life. His was truly *“a journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us.”* We thank God for the legacy Pope Francis has given us – one that encourages us to live our faith with greater conviction and that guides us as Christians to build relationships of trust and greater compassion with others.

In this time of grief, I invite the Catholic faithful to join their local Ordinary and their pastoral ministers in praying for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. Let us give thanks to God for giving us such a good shepherd, an eloquent teacher of the joy of the Gospel, a humble witness, and a fellow pilgrim of hope. May the love and hope that Pope Francis found in the Risen Lord continue to radiate through our lives, and may he receive the reward promised to good and faithful servants who were heralds of the Good News of the Kingdom of God.



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## OCSTA Memo: CEFO - Celebrating Catholic Students

1 message

**OCSTA - Connie DeMelo** <CDeMelo@ocsta.on.ca>  
To: OCSTA - Connie DeMelo <CDeMelo@ocsta.on.ca>

Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 9:39 AM



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

April 23, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education

- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Nick Milanetti, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** CEFO – Celebrating Catholic Students

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The following is forwarded on behalf of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO).

This information can also be found on the OCSTA website: [CEFO](#).



Help us celebrate Catholic Education.

For more than 40 years, CEFO has been celebrating Catholic students, staff and leadership and continues to provide monetary awards to schools for projects that support the Catholic School Graduate Expectations and community support. Please assist us through purchasing **50/50 tickets** so that we can continue and extend these supports within Catholic Education.

Order your tickets here: <https://cefo.rafflenexus.com/>

### Important dates

**Deadline: Friday, May 30, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

Draw date: Friday, May 30, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

### Ticket packs

**50/50 tickets are:**

5-Ticket Pack for \$10,

15-Ticket Pack for \$20,

100-Ticket Pack for \$50,

250-Ticket Pack for \$100.

### Contact us

[cefo@tcdsb.org](mailto:cefo@tcdsb.org)

<https://cefontario.ca/>

Tel: 416-229-5326

**CONNIE ARAUJO-DE MELO** | Executive Assistant | Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association | 1510-2 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto, ON M2N 5Y7 | t 416-932-9460 ext. 226





## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

April 23, 2025

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Trustees & Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**SUBJECT:** **REVISED** Nominations Report

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### **THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO ALL TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION**

**Following is a revised Nominations Report. Please note that an election will not be required at the AGM & Conference.**

<b>Region 1</b>	Huron-Superior, Nipissing-Parry Sound, Northeastern, Sudbury <b>Colleen Landers, Northeastern CDSB</b>
<b>Region 2</b>	Kenora, Northwest, Superior North, Thunder Bay <b>Paul Landry, Kenora CDSB</b>
<b>Region 3 (at Large)</b>	Northern Regions 1 & 2 <b>Glenn Sheculski, Northeastern CDSB</b>
<b>Region 4</b>	Bruce-Grey, Huron-Perth, Waterloo, Wellington <b>Lori Di Castri, Bruce-Grey CDSB</b>
<b>Region 5</b>	London, St. Clair, Windsor-Essex <b>John Van Heck, St. Clair CDSB</b>
<b>Region 9</b>	Durham, Peterborough Victoria, Northumberland & Clarington, Simcoe-Muskoka <b>Morgan Ste. Marie, Durham CDSB</b>
<b>Region 10</b>	Algonquin & Lakeshore, Eastern Ontario, Renfrew County <b>Brian Evoy, Algonquin &amp; Lakeshore CDSB</b>
<b>Region 11</b>	Brant Haldimand Norfolk, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara <b>Danny Di Lorenzo, Niagara CDSB</b>