

The Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole held on Monday, October 10, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Present

* = (via video conference)

- Trustees: Chair Martin, Trustee MacKenzie (Board Chairperson), Trustee Connolly, Trustee Durst, Trustee Glover, Trustee Tanguay, Trustee Leahy, Student Trustee Gaskell (Senior Student Trustee), Student Trustee Heitzner (Junior Student Trustee)*.
- Administration: Director O'Sullivan, Superintendent Armstrong, Superintendent Di Ianni, Superintendent Heuchert, Superintendent Kahler, Superintendent Piggott, Superintendent Selby.
- Guests: Ms. Hamonic*, Ms. Whitnall*
- Regrets:
- Recorder: Mrs. McLeod

A. Call to Order:

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Armstrong led the committee in opening prayer.

2. Superintendent Heuchert provided a territorial recognition, acknowledging that the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting was taking place on the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnaabeg.

3. Approval of Open Meeting Agenda.

Chair Martin added an additional item, C6 - When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference to the agenda.

Motion: Moved by Trustee MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Leahy, that the Open Meeting Agenda be accepted with the proposed amendment.

Carried.

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

Trustee Connolly shared with the committee that his son is an employee of the Board.

5. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole – Open Meeting held on Monday, June 12, 2023.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Durst, seconded by Trustee MacKenzie, that the Draft Minutes of the Committee-of-the-Whole – Open Meeting, held on Monday, June 12, 2023, be approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Recommended Actions / Presentations:

1. 2023-2024 Trustee Honoraria Superintendent Heuchert

Superintendent Heuchert reviewed the trustee honoraria for the 2023/24 year mentioning the calculated formula is based on provincial regulation. It was also noted that Administrative Procedure 616 also addresses the administration and communication of honoraria to Board trustees. There was discussion around Board bi-laws and how the honoraria would be impacted by adding an additional trustee at this time however, Superintendent Heuchert clarified the numbers are all formula driven and could easily be re-calculated. It was suggested that further questions around the addition of a new trustee be held for discussion during the next agenda item.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Tanguay, seconded by Trustee Durst, that the Committee of the Whole Meeting recommends that the Board approve Honoraria for Board members as outlined in the following report for the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024.

Carried

2. Appointment of First Nations Trustee - Report to the Board

Superintendent Selby

There was a request to defer the agenda item and/or defer the recommended action to allow more time to retrieve and review information. It was decided by Chair Martin to move forward with hearing the report for information purposes however the recommended action would be postponed. Superintendent Selby presented the report pertaining to the appointment of a First Nations Trustee. Superintendent Selby shared extensive data around relevant legislation, provincial policy framework and also touched on the Board's strategic plan and commitment to truth and reconciliation. Superintendent Selby reviewed the requirements and appointment process of appointing a First Nation trustee and also highlighted their responsibilities within the Board. Currently PVNCCDSB has an Education Service Agreement with Curve Lake First Nation and is also in the process of establishing an Education Service Agreement with Hiawatha First Nation and Alderville First Nation. Superintendent Selby advised the committee that there are currently 25 out of 76 school boards in the province who have made the decision to appoint a First Nation Trustee. Although the appointment of a First Nation trustee is not currently a legislative mandate based on our school population demographics, Superintendent Selby feels this step would prove beneficial. Several trustees shared their thoughts around this initiative, highlighting equity amongst marginalized groups within the Board as well as trustee honoraria, budget and Board bylaws. There were alternate ideas shared and conversations had around the board's Indigenous Advisor and Indigenous Education team. It was suggested that Anne Taylor, Indigenous Advisor for PVNC Catholic, attend board meetings to provide insight and act as a resource. It was also suggested that Father Paul be included in these meetings to provide his perspective on equity issues and discussions.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Tanguay, seconded by Trustee Glover, that the Committee of the Whole Meeting accept the report.

Carried

After continued discussion the general consensus of the committee members was that the recommended action that was intended to follow the report should move forward. Timelines and plans should be created as a pathway forward.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Tanguay, seconded by Trustee Durst, that the Senior Administration recommends to the Board of Trustees that they proceed with the process of appointment of a First Nations Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Carried

Motion: Moved by Trustee MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Leahy that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be extended to 9:00 p.m.

Carried

3. Long Term Growth - Capital Priorities Superintendent Heuchert

Superintendent Heuchert informed the committee that part of the Capital Priority submission requested that the Board provide details of their long term growth projections. The Board has been able to document those numbers with the help of both Clarington and Northumberland municipalities as well as Watson & Associates. Superintendent Heuchert reviewed enrolment numbers which were detailed up until 2040. There was discussion amongst the committee about the enrolment projections, accommodation planning and the capital priority submission. Superintendent Heuchert informed the committee the Ministry will be looking at several variables in the approval process for a new school and that our proposal will adhere to guidelines they have outlined in hopes of bolstering our submission.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Connolly, seconded by Trustee Glover, that the Board approve the Long Term Growth Needs and staff include the needs as part of the Board's Capital Priorities submission as required by the Ministry.

C. Information Items:

1. Clarington New School Update Superintendent Heuchert

Superintendent Heuchert was pleased to inform the committee that today was the closing day on the purchase of the Northglen property. Director O'Sullivan and Superintendent Heuchert signed the transfer of deed. This was exciting news amongst the committee members.

2. Northumberland Capital Priority Plans

Superintendent Heuchert

Superintendent Heuchert mentioned there was minimal update for this standing agenda item. He informed the committee that we are nearing the end of the preparations for the board's capital priority submission which details plans on building a new school on the Notre Dame property. As part of the process the team had to price out renewal needs compared to the price of a new school build. Superintendent Heuchert is feeling positive about the proposals the board is putting forward and is hopeful.

Motion: Moved by Trustee MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Connolly, that the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting accept the report.

Carried

3. Enrolment Update - October 4, 2023

Superintendent Heuchert

Superintendent Heuchert provided a summary of the Enrolment Update report. He highlighted that our enrolment is higher than projected at our elementary schools and we have staffed accordingly. Superintendent Heuchert also noted we have hit all elementary staffing targets. The discussion was then shifted to secondary where enrolment levels are less than projected and may continue to decline before the October 31 count date. This would result in less revenue than expected for the board. There were a few questions asked which Superintendent Heuchert answered.

Motion: Moved by Trustee MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Durst, that the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting accept the report.

Carried

4. 2023 - 2024 Staffing Report

Superintendent Kahler

Superintendent Kahler provided an overview to the committee on the 2023/24 staffing. He highlighted the number of retirees as well as the number of occasional and retired teachers on the board's roster. Superintendent Kahler also advised that the recruitment for the Principal and Vice Principal pool is underway. The committee asked a couple of clarifying questions which Superintendent Kahler answered. It was also asked how many CUPE and OECTA positions have not yet been filled, Kahler did not have the data on hand but advised he would prepare and make the information available to trustees.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Leahy, seconded by Trustee Glover, that the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting accept the report.

Carried

5. Trustee expenses for the fiscal period 2022-2023

Superintendent Heuchert

Superintendent Heuchert reviewed trustee expenses for the previous fiscal year highlighting that the expenses will be posted on the Board's website for 12 months, as per Administrative Procedure 617. Superintendent Heuchert also noted the report does reflect some of the Covid restrictions which limited in person events and meetings. A suggestion was brought forward to add geographic regions to the report to provide context to some of the expenses such as mileage. There was discussion on the trustee budget highlighting that mileage as well as conferences contribute the most to the allocated budget and perhaps limiting the number of events trustees attend could be considered. Superintendent Heuchert advised that AP 617 also addresses trustee attendance at conferences and noted these are important for our trustees to attend for educational and networking purposes. There was also discussion around the potential of adding a new trustee and budget concerns. Superintendent Heuchert advised that several of these factors mentioned would be taken into consideration when the board budget was reviewed however he also noted that this is enveloped GSN funding therefore there are limitations to changes in the budget.

Motion: Moved by Trustee MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Durst that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be extended to 9:30 p.m.

Carried

Motion: That the Committee of the Whole Meeting accept the report with the minor amendment of adding geographic area.

Carried

6. When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference

Mary Ann Martin

Motion: Moved by Trustee Glover, seconded by Trustee Durst, that the Committee of the Whole Meeting approve two trustees to attend when Faith meets Pedagogy conference on October 26-28.

Carried

D. Old Business:

There was no old business.

E. New Business:

There was no new business.

F. Next Meeting:

Monday, November 13, 2023
6:30 p.m.

G. Conclusion:

1. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Trustee Tanguay, seconded by Trustee Glover that the
Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting adjourn at 9:23 p.m.

Carried

2. Closing Prayer

Superintendent Armstrong led the committee in closing prayer.

Mary Ann Martin
Committee Chairperson
/am

Sean Heuchert
Superintendent of Business and Finance