



AGENDA

April Board Meeting

April 15, 2020 | 9:30 am

Attendance: Maria Vasaneli
Judy Wawia
Amanda Monks (Excused Absence)
Marline Ilijow
Shirley Jean
Kristy Lachance
Chereyl Marino
Lawrence McParland
Hugh McCorry
Lilliana McPherson
Kerry Desjardins
Rima Mounayer
Leah Vanderwey

Recorder: Deana Figliomeni

Opening prayer was read by Trustee McCorry.

1. Opening Prayer

God of light,
You bring joy amid our darkness.
Bring us ever deeper into Your presence,
so that we may know true happiness and true wisdom.
Clothe us in Your beauty.
Grant us the strength to be Your goodness in the world.
Grant us the wisdom to listen and then speak Your truth.
Grant us hearts that overflow with love and care for the most vulnerable.
Grant us courage to create the world You have blessed.
We ask for faith,
we ask to stand blessed by the name of Jesus, Light of the World. **Amen.**

Acknowledgement was read by Trustee McParland.

2. Acknowledgment

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the

"Together We Educate Heart, Mind and Soul."

ancestral territory of the Anishinaabe and the Métis. We wish to recognize and show respect to the long history and contributions of the First Nations and Métis Peoples in Ontario, as well as, the Inuit People of Canada

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution # 25/20

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee Ilijow

THAT the agenda for Board meeting #4/20 being held on April 15, 2020, be accepted as received.

Carried.

Resolution #26/20

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee McCorry

THAT the Board acknowledges and accepts the excused absence of, Trustee Monks from attending Board Meeting #4/20 held April 15, 2020.

Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #27/20

Moved by Trustee McParland

Seconded by Trustee Ilijow

THAT the minutes for the Board Meeting #3/20 held March 9, 2020, be accepted as received.

Carried.

Resolution #28/20

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee Ilijow

THAT the minutes for the Special Board meeting held March 25, 2020, be accepted as received.

Carried.

5. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

6. Presentations

a. Update from the Director of Education

- Ms. Vasanelli thanked the Trustees for their support during this challenging time. First weeks were a time of transition, and will continue to work with schools and the team on technology issues for students. Thank you to the Superintendents for being committed to what they do. Communication continues to be shared on our website and social media sites.
- Ben Jewiss has been leading the Catholicity portfolio.
- Premier Ford has noted the school closure will go beyond May 4th. We will continue to serve our students 100%.

b. Student Achievement Update on school closures due to COVID-19

i. Kerry Desjardins

- **Mental Health and Well-being** - An important piece as families face challenges during this time. Mental Health & Well-being team meet twice a week to determine path for each week. Weekly challenge - 1st one was for students to submit information "About Me". The team will continue to post weekly challenges and prizes will be sent to participants in mail.
- Weekly blogs are also being created by the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. These are posted each week on the website and Board social media.
- Professional development online continues at this time.
- Meetings are continuous with local mental health support partners. We have been able to assess our Mental Health Support that can be shared with our families.
- Empower programs will continue for the students that have been engaged in the program. Resource packages and supports will be offered for schools who cannot participate in Live sessions.
- Speech services - Tiny Eye and Superior Speech services continue through various platforms.

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- School rehab programs are being worked on to set up for online platforms.
- Weekly meetings with Thunder Bay District Health Unit - Currently no daycare in our schools have been deemed emergency.
- Food hampers continue to be offered to our families.
- Ministry has outlined the structure of the online hours per day. Teachers are currently taking attendance for which families are engaged in the online learning.
- EAs roles and responsibility are currently being explored. Many EAs are currently taking courses for Professional Learning.

ii. Rima Mounayer

- All online classrooms are set up for each school. Feedback will be received from each group to work on improvements as we go.
- Math team has been assisting with online resources and classrooms. Teachers books and student manuals can be accessed online. Created a sample of what online Balanced Math teaching looks like– this has been implemented in 2 classrooms (HS and STH) and will now be implemented in more classrooms.
- All families were contacted to see who required technology in order to access the online learning.
- Policy committee continues to meet during this time.
- FSL (French as a Second Language) teachers are also online. These activities are ones the students can do independently.
- School check-ins are done on a weekly basis.
- Attendance - Ministry has directed that students have been marked as excused absence “G” day. We are asking teachers to inform us if any students have not been online for 3 days. This process is done by informing their principal. The attendance counsellor will then contact parents to find solutions to get the student online.

iii. Leah Vanderwey

- Virtue of Month - Stewardship - Team has been excellent at supporting staff during this time.

- S. Clowes, TELT - Google Classroom. Chromebooks students grade 3-8. Collected Data to see where we were at as a Board to assist us with the process of implementing the Learning at Home using surveys for staff and Principals. A google Professional Learning Group has been developed to assist all teachers in this process. A framework to develop virtual learning was created.
- When we return to the regular school this Google learning will continue to be very helpful.
- 6 customized PD sessions are being created by Google Education Canada for our Board. These sessions will be offered online. We are the first Board Google has worked with during this COVID19 for customized PD.
- Indigenous Education - Google classrooms have been created for their NL teacher classrooms. Weekly meetings and contact with First Nation, coterminous Boards partners are continuous. C.Sheriff is also continuing her professional development learning during this time.
- Access for students with no internet continues to be worked on and next steps will be determined during the Principal meeting this week. There is a "Students Not Connected" PLG group created and the data has been collected. Currently one school is already sending learning in the mail for those who do not have access to technology.

C. Marino thanked the entire team for their work during this time and noted the importance of the Google Virtual classrooms to be in the strategic plan.

Catholic resources are included during this online learning time.

Managers will attend the next Board meeting and provide updates for each department.

7. Discussion/Information Items

- a. MEMO [Updates on Status of OCSTA Operations Amid COVID-19](#)
- b. Meetings with the Ministry of Education and Code continue on a weekly basis.

8. Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we come to the end of our time together, we thank You for what has been accomplished here today.

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May the matters discussed serve as a catalyst to move us forward, and cause us to advance and see growth in all areas of our lives.

May we leave here recognizing You are the God of all wisdom and You are willing to lead us forward.

This we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

The meeting ended at 10:42 am.