



December 7, 2020

Virtual Zoom Session 1:00 pm

## Opening Liturgy

The meeting began with a virtual [Opening Liturgy - December 7, 2020](#)

## Trustees:

- Judy Wawia
- Amanda Monks
- Marline Ilijow
- Shirley Jean
- Chereyl Marino
- Hugh McCorry
- Lawrence McParland
- Lilliana McPherson
- Kristy Lachance

## Administration:

- Maria Vasanelli, Director of Education
- Kerry Desjardins, Superintendent of Education
- Rima Mounayer, Superintendent of Education
- Paul Tsekouras, Superintendent of Education
- Barry Biggs, Plant & Field Services Manager
- Valerie Nakani, Human Resources Manager

- George Scott, Finance Manager
- Billy Luby, Information Technology Manager (Absent)
- Jim Salo, Assistant Plant & Field Services Manager

### Recorder:

- Deana Figliomeni, Executive Administrative Assistant & Communications Officer

### Inaugural Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Director of Education, M.Vasanelli. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. with an opening liturgy and the Identification of Ancestral Territories.

1) Appointment of Scrutineers - M.Vasanelli

- a) Mr. George Scott and Mrs. Deana Figliomeni

D. Figliomeni and G. Scott were appointed the Scrutineers if required.

2) Election of Chairperson for 2021 - M.Vasanelli

Nominations called from the floor. Trustee Jean nominated Trustee Judy Wawia as Chair. Trustee McPherson seconded it. No other nominations were brought forward. Trustee Judy Wawia was acclaimed Chair of the Board. Trustee Wawia accepted the position of Chair of the Board.

Trustee Wawia, the acclaimed Chairperson, assumed the position.

3) Comments by 2021 Chair

Trustee Wawia thanked Trustees for their nomination. "Thank you for your trust in me. We are a Board, and we all work together. We may have different opinions, but we all work together and are in unity with one another. Hopefully, in the new year, we can get together in person."

4) Election of Vice-Chairperson Election of Chairperson for 2021

Trustee Monks was nominated by Trustee McPherson and seconded by Trustee Jean. No other nominations were received, and Trustee Monks accepted the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

5) Comments by the 2021 Vice-Chair.

Trustee Monks thanked all Trustees and said she is excited to continue as Vice-Chair. "Last year was a trial year and a challenge with COVID. I wish for a great year - please be safe. We are a board that works together."

6) Process for Appointment to Legislated and Standing Committees. Report by Trustee Jean and McPherson.

- a) Accessibility Committee
- b) Audit Committee
- c) Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
- d) Director's Appraisal
- e) Faith Ambassadors Catholicity Team (FACT)
- f) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee
- g) Policy Review Committee
- h) Special Education Advisory Committee
- i) Staff Recognition
- j) Student Discipline Committee

All trustees will now be part of the Director Appraisal committee.

**Resolution #86/20**

Moved by Trustee McCorry

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT the Board approves the [Trustee Committee Memberships for 2021](#), as presented.

Carried.

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### 1. Approval of Agenda

#### Resolution #87/20

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee Jean

THAT the agenda for Board meeting #12/20 held on December 7, 2020, be accepted as received.

Carried.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

#### Resolution #88/20

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee Ilijow

THAT the [minutes for the Board Meeting #11/20 held November 9, 2020](#), be accepted as received.

Carried.

### 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of pecuniary interest.

### 4. Reports

#### Director's Report - updates

Holy Saviour Catholic School has been temporarily closed due to COVID-19. We worked together with Public Health. Our team worked on the process and completed the process efficiently. Director of Education Maria Vasanelli thanked the team for the work they did throughout the weekend to implement. At the end of the day, the staff shortage was the reason for the school closure. An evening zoom session was held with staff from the school, and the Principal and the team's efforts are appreciated. A media statement was provided to Al Cresswell and the Chronicle Journal.

A survey was sent out to parents and guardians regarding the extension of the Christmas Break. The survey closes on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

a. **Student Achievement**

i. [Kerry Desjardins - Superintendent of Education](#)

The Second Step Program is being used in our schools.

Update regarding Early Years - The EarlyOn Manager indicated they are focusing on opening the daycares, and she would provide us with communication about what EarlyOn will look like - to date have not heard back from EarlyOn. Mrs. Desjardins has reached out to confirm what the programs are looking like or what the plans are moving forward.

Jordan's Principle applications have increased for this school year. Currently, four applications are approved. Last year, we received funding for two Education Assistants in our schools.

Ms. Vasanelli thanked Mrs. Desjardins for her continued work to support the Mental Health of our students and staff, including Catholic Education Centre staff. Together Tracy Bryson, Mental Health Lead, and Kerry Desjardin have been working together to provide our team with tools and resources.

Funding was received for COVID to add additional EAs in our classrooms to support within our cohorts. In addition to Jordan Principale funding, EAs are also supplied through Northern Supports initiatives and Plays Plat First Nation. For the most part, EAs are only in one classroom. Some with the exception are in two classes.

ii. [Rima Mounayer - Superintendent of Education](#)

Continue to work with Principals on Student Achievement and Mental Health & Well-being.

Safe Arrival will call parents/guardians until the call is answered. Parents will call back the school to provide a reason why the child is not at School. Michelle Legacy is the Attendance Lead. C.Denby works on contract with our Board on a need basis and is the expert for Trillium Data. Conversations will continue with Chris as we move to PowerSchool.

The opening of the school gyms is going well, following guidelines put in place on using the gyms. Community centres are closed in Manitouwadge and are now looking at an alternative. Students are currently still engaging in activities outside. The gym at Our

Lady of Lourdes is presently being used as a classroom.

Lakehead University Achievement Program is a program that starts in Grade 4 and follows students to grade 12. With Parent' approval, students accumulate credit to attend University, with the tuition being totally or partially paid for some of them. Currently have 20 students we can enrol in the program per year. Lakehead University is extending it to the east of Thunder Bay. We hope to increase the number of students from other communities that we can offer the program.

Pre-registration students are students who are registered but have never shown up to school. After 15 days, they are removed from registration. As a Board, we do not demit students to ensure they are receiving an education, and they come back to school. Fifteen days is for all students, except for JK/SK students. A flag is sent to the Principal and Attendance Counsellor when the student is absent for 11 days—also flagged at the mark of 3 days. The principal will call in after three days to check to see how we can support to get the child back into school.

iii. [Paul Tsekouras - Superintendent of Education](#)

Mr. Tsekouras is currently part of a virtual school committee. This committee comprises a group of Superintendents who oversee remote learning programs - who come together to go over issues they see in their remote learning. Regarding attendance, there are a small number of students that we are working with to ensure they are engaged. The principal is doing a fantastic job engaging with brick n mortar school and those parents that are not logging in and as a team are working with students to ensure engagement.

Indigenous Education Professional Development (PD) Day - An update will be brought to the next meeting. The first planning meeting was held, and it is great to have so many voices at the planning table.

Xello is a digital career pathway program that allows students to bring conversations home to their parents about what they want for their future plans. Who they are and what they want to become. More information will be obtained at future Board meetings. Experiential learning opportunities will be aligned with the knowledge and feedback they get from students in Xello.

Remote Learning is open to all grades. Our Board has provided our parents and educators with five days for the transition from one program to another. We have been very accommodating, and this has been important in providing our students with their education.

Catholicity Newsletters can be shared with the Parish Priests.

Trustee Monks thanked Superintendent Tsekorous for the work he has done with our Board in the short time he has been with us. The SNCDSB team is very proactive in the planning for the Board.

b. **Finance** - [Mr. George Scott, Manager of Finance](#)

George reviewed the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations with Trustees.

Transportation - If a student is eligible to take the bus, the Board pays for it regardless of if they take the bus or not. The eligibility policy indicates kilometres away from school and the age of the student. Due to driver shortages, they have implemented the policy's enforcement regarding eligibility to ride the bus.

Continue to work with Ginnogaming First Nation on a Payment Plan. We are following up with the Ministry to see who supports and what envelopes can be accessed to support the debt.

**Resolution #89/20**

Moved by Trustee Ilijow

Seconded by Trustee McCorry

THAT the Superior North Catholic District School Board of Trustees approve the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2020, as presented.

Carried.

**Resolution #90/20**

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee Monks

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the **reduction of \$7,049 from the Committed Sinking Fund Interest Earned Internally Appropriated Accumulated Surplus.**

Carried.

**Resolution #91/20**

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee McPherson

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the **reduction of \$32,075 from the Committed Capital Projects Internally Appropriated Accumulated Surplus.**

Carried.

**Resolution #92/20**

Moved by Trustee Ilijow

Seconded by Trustee McCorry

THAT the Board of Trustees approves the **decrease of the retirement gratuities surplus in the amount of \$44, 823**

Carried.

c. **Information Technology - [Billy Luby Monthly Report](#)**

Decided to move to PowerSchool as our new platform. The majority of school Boards are also moving to this platform, and this will create consistency. Senior Team and IT attended a demonstration on Friday, December 4, to see what PowerSchool has to offer and the platforms that are offered. A proposal was submitted for upgrades to the networks. Equipment will be distributed to prepare to pivot to remote leaning.

d. **Plant & Field Services - [Mr. Barry Biggs, Plant and Field Monthly Report](#)**

Updates of work in process and completed at all schools was shared with Trustees. Infrastructure Grant 7 million that we applied for. 2.2. Million dollars of capital projects. Some funding for computer requirements.

With extension at St. Hilary Catholic School in Red Rock, the portable will be removed from St. Edward Catholic School in Nipigon, and staff will work in offices out of St. Hilary Catholic School.

**5. Decision and Action Items**

n/a

**6. Information and Discussion Items**

a. OCSTA "An Advent Evening of Reflection"

All OCSTA members are invited to attend “**An Advent Evening of Reflection**” with His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, on **Wednesday, December 9 at 7 p.m.** on the Zoom video conferencing platform. This live event is part of OCSTA’s 90th Anniversary Speaker Series – a series of events designed specifically for OCSTA members to support, inspire and inform Catholic school board leaders, especially during these challenging times.

There is no charge for this event, but advance registration is required.

b. Catholic Trustees Seminar - January 16, 2020, Virtual

Registered to attend are Trustee Marino, Trustee McPherson, Trustee Jean, Trustee Wawia, Trustee McParland, Trustee Ilijow, Trustee Lachance and Director Maria Vasanelli.

c. Education Equity Secretariat/OCSTA Trustee Equity Training Program

The Trustees Equity Training Program will be delivered in two segments – Part A and Part B – and each segment will be offered on a different date. OCSTA is working with the Secretariat to finalize Part A of this program for Catholic Trustees, which will occur on Friday, January 15, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This first segment of the Trustees Equity Training Program will include:

- remarks from a representative of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario
- a presentation by an Ontario legal expert on equity in education
- an interactive case study discussion session for trustees, and;
- a presentation by the Catholic Board Council of the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association.

OCSTA kindly asks that you reserve the morning of January 15 in your calendar for this event. A detailed agenda will be sent in the coming weeks.

d. Schedule of Board Meetings - 2021

- i. January 12, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- ii. February 8, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual

- iii. March 8, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- iv. April 12, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- v. May 10, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- vi. June 14, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- vii. September 13, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- viii. October 13, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual
- ix. November 8, 2021 - Terrace Bay/Virtual

## 7. Committee of the Whole

### Resolution #93/20

Moved by Trustee McCorry

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT we resolve into Committee of the Whole with Trustee Wawia in the chair and that the meeting shall not be open to the public pursuant to Section 207 (2) of the Education Act (R.S.O., 1980).

Carried.

### Resolution #94/20

Moved by Trustee McCorry

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT the Board moves out of the Committee of the Whole and reconvenes as a Board in public session and accepts all recommendations contained therein.

THAT the Superior North Catholic District School Board extends the Christmas closure break until January 11, 2021, due to Covid-19 and the negative impact it might have on the health of staff and students and that during the week of January 4 to 11 2021 the Board will pivot to remote learning.

Carried.

## 8. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Jesus, Saviour and Friend,  
During this season of Advent,  
bless us with insight, humility and presence.  
Help us keep our focus on preparing our hearts and  
minds for your return.  
During this season of winter, may we keep our relationship with all creation,  
full and healthy.  
Amen.