



May 24, 2023, 10:00 am

St. Edward Catholic School, Nipigon

Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with Trustee Wawia in the Chair.

1. Opening Prayer and Acknowledgment

a. Prayer

We are many, we are one; we all form one body in Christ.

Lord,

when we see the one before us, let us reverence your presence within;

when we listen to one another, let us hear with our hearts;

when we reflect on each encounter, may we discern to understand;

when we learn from those around us, let us respect our differences with joy;

and when we act, may we be kind and generous to all,

for each person is a member of your body, with all that they are.

We are many, we are one.

Amen. – *Catholic Education Week Prayer*

b. Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the ancestral lands and waterways of the Anishinaabe and the Métis. We wish to recognize and show respect to the long history and contributions of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples of Canada.

c. St. Edward Catholic School Drumming Group performed two songs to open up the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #39/23

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Tara Patterson

THAT the agenda for the Board meeting #6/23, being held on May 24, 2023, be accepted as received.

Carried.

3. Confidentiality Reminder

Members were reminded that proceedings of the Committee of the Whole Meetings shall be considered as confidential unless and until dealt with at a public session of the Board.

4. Code of Conduct at Meetings

Members were reminded of the Board-approved [Code of Conduct](#) in place to promote a positive environment.

5. Roll Call

Trustees:

- Judy Wawia, Chair of the Board
- Amanda Monks, Vice-Chair of the Board (Excused Absence)
- Bill Harmon
- Shirley Jean
- Suzanne Lafrance (Excused Absence)
- Miranda McFarling
- Lawrence McParland
- Lilliana McPherson (Excused Absence)
- Tara Patterson

Administration:

- Maria Vasanelli, Director of Education
- Kerry Desjardins, Superintendent of Education
- Rima Mounayer, Superintendent of Education
- Paul Tsekouras, Superintendent of Education
- Barry Biggs, Manager of Plant & Field Services Manager
- Darren Myshok, Manager of Plant & Field Services Manager
- Billy Luby, Information Technology Manager

- Valerie Paris, Manager of Human Resources
- George Scott, Finance Manager

Recorder:

- Deana Figliomeni, Executive Administrative Assistant and Communications Officer

Guests:

- Carlo Porretta, Principal, St. Joseph Catholic School

Resolution #40/23

Moved by **Trustee Harmon**

Seconded by **Tara Patterson**

THAT the Board acknowledges and accepts the excused absence of Trustee McPherson, McParland, Monks and Lafrance from attending Board Meeting #6/23 held May 24, 2023.

Carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #41/23

Moved by **Trustee Jean**

Seconded by **Trustee Harmon**

THAT the [minutes for the Board Meeting #4/23 held on April 5, 2023](#), be accepted as received.

Carried.

Resolution #42/23

Moved by **Trustee Harmon**

Seconded by **Trustee McFarling**

THAT the minutes of the [email recommendation on April 12, 2023](#), be accepted as received.

Carried.

Resolution #43/23

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee Patterson

THAT the [minutes for the Special Board meeting #5/23 held on May 3, 2023](#), be accepted as received.

Carried.

7. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Members are reminded of their duty to declare a conflict of interest should awareness of conflict arise at any time during the meeting.

8. Presentations

- a. [Principal Presentation, Carlo Porretta, Principal St. Joseph Catholic School](#)

Judy Wawia thanked Carlo for all the hard work happening at St. Joseph Catholic School. The schools continue to include the parents in the activities and learning. The heartfelt passion that is put into leadership at the school, the Indigenous and Catholic piece stands out in the images and words that were shared. Promise parents to have a vibrant community and have gone above and beyond that promise. Students are the priority at St. Joseph, which is evident in everything the school does.

- b. Director Update

A two-day Principal meeting is scheduled for next week. Topics include Math on the first day and Legal Counsel Jennifer Trapanier on the second. J.Trapanier has spoken to every Principal and Senior Team on Conflict Resolution and Human Resources as an area of focus. The Principals have had a chance to discuss with J.Trapanier about issues and how they can be addressed and resolved. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled with Principals in June to allow them the opportunity to share practices within their school.

An Indigenous PD Day is being planned for August 31, 2023. Sinclair is a professor of Indigenous teachings at the University of Manitoba, and we were hoping to have him be the guest speaker. However, he is not available for those PD Days, Trustee Wawia and Paul Tsekouras will be attending an Indigenous Leads meeting in Toronto, and he will be a speaker there. The hope is for teachers and administration to listen to what he is saying and the message he is sharing regarding Truth and Reconciliation.

Research was completed during Covid by Dr. Christina van Barneveld from Lakehead University, and this work will be presented by our Senior Team at the Canadian Association of School System Administrators (CASSA) Conference in July. An article will be published with the assistance of Dr. Christina van Barneveld. A meeting will be held in mid-June with Dr. Christina van Barneveld.

c. Student Achievement

i. [Kerry Desjardins, Superintendent of Education Monthly Report](#)

K. Desjardins recently attended the Regional Special Education Council (RSEC) regional meeting to get together to discuss Special Education.

As the year wraps up, there are several Summer Learning opportunities occurring throughout the summer. Respecting that students with Special Education and Mental Health have struggled throughout the pandemic, 13 students will continue Speech and language during the summer months. Partnered with Ignite Consulting and George Jeffery for transitions through the month of August to ensure goals are maintained and can transition in September.

The Summer Learning Virtual program has already had 23 registrations. This model has provided equity for all students to be part of the Program. Registration is open until June 2, 2023.

Moving forward with Kindergarten registration and Kindergarten nights are happening. Schools have increased their registration numbers for September. Already 50 registered for Junior Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 School year.

Five schools have fully completed the Early Development Instrument (EDI), and all other schools will be finished next week. Mental Health Week was celebrated May 1-5, 2023. Nipigon held a Health Fair, and Tracy Bryson and Ophelia Amponsah attended to provide opportunities for students to better understand mental health and provide coping mechanisms to deal with issues. Hats off to Delico for organizing a wonderful event for the community.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Manitouwadge's production of The Wizard of Oz was a huge success. The professionalism of the production was evident, and both the community and the school were invested in the production's success. This was the seventh play that the school has produced and directed.

ii. [Rima Mounayer, Superintendent of Education Monthly Report](#)

Fact Fluency is a fun way for students to improve their math skills. A challenge was implemented throughout the school, and incentives for Pizza and now Sundays and progress bulletin boards are displayed in the hallways. This will continue throughout the

Month of June.

We were able to secure Douglas Duff, who worked with Marian Small, to work with schools to find ways to increase math in their schools for the next school year. D.Duff will attend the Principal meeting next week and work with Principals to look at data and discuss the next steps for the next school year.

The woodworking project is successful. These building skills students are acquiring. There are four schools taking part in the project this year. Four schools were offered these projects last year. At the end of June, all schools will of had this opportunity.

CFNO June 7th, Tara Patterson will be interviewed by Al Cresswell about the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC). The goal of the interview is to increase the number of parents attending CPIC meetings. The key messages will the importance of parents attending and the role of the committee.

iii. [Paul Tsekouras, Superintendent of Education Monthly Report](#)

Catholic Education Week activities occurred, and in the final edition of the Halo, there will be pictures and recaps of what happened throughout the week.

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ Kindergarten is now available and will be used. The Board team attended the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) Symposium on May 8-10, 2023. Ben Jewiss was assigned to be a careful listener and had the opportunity to share and listen to the promising practices other Boards are doing throughout. We will look at the intentionality of prayer and how we can have Catholicity visible throughout the schools, and how to support Principals in the faith development plans in their SIPSAs for the next school year.

Reaching out to Parents around Brightspace so they can see what students are adding to their portfolios. Held a technology Champion meeting on March 23 to discuss how to move forward in the Technology portfolio.

Indigenous PD Day was successful, and we would like to recognize Marlo Beaucage, who did an excellent job with Catholicity and Indigenous education during that day. Many opportunities to support professional development in Indigenous Education throughout the school. Support for Native as a Second Language Teachers was held with the SGDSB and was successful.

Trustee Wawia would like to open the August 31 Professional Development Day on how the Indigenous and Catholic culture connects.

d. Finance

i. [George Scott, Manager of Finance Monthly Report](#)

Enrolment numbers are key as they drive our funding. Enrolment is up by three students, for what we estimated. These numbers are added to the system and audited to ensure no errors are made. 60 grade eight students are graduating this year.

March reporting submitted to Ministry. First seven months and submitted as a mini year-end. A report was received from the Auditors, and there were no concerns, so the report has been submitted. New this year was the reporting of Accounted Asset Retirement obligations if you were to sell or demolish a school, how much value this is added to our books as a liability. All school boards had to do this this year. Estimates are ongoing at this time.

Our Board will receive a 40 % increase in funding for transportation (not 70% as indicated in the financial report provided)

An audit committee meeting will be scheduled for the next few weeks. External vendor Request for Proposal (RFP) has gone out for a vendor for our external audit.

- [Financial Report as of May 12, 2023](#)

e. Information Technology

i. [Billy Luby, IT Manager Monthly Report](#)

f. Plant & Field Services

i. [Barry Biggs, Plant & Field Services Manager Monthly Report](#)

Barry Biggs welcomed Darren Myshok to the team. Darren and Barry are co-managing a succession plan for the future.

All playgrounds and equipment at all of the schools are now open for use by the students.

Accessibility requirements are being completed at the schools for doors and doorway openings entering classrooms and gyms. Smoke detectors and strobes are required to be installed in every classroom.

The St. Hilary Catholic School addition tender is out and due on June 8, 2023. The schedule has been modified, and the new target is completion by August 2024.

All school playgrounds are open to the community for use. Vandalism was done to the playground at St. Edward Catholic School, and cameras have been added to the problem areas.

9. Decision and Action Items

Resolution #44/23

Moved by Trustee Harmon

Seconded by Trustee McFarling

THAT the board approves the use of an additional \$64,062 of Accumulated Surplus to support the St Hilary Catholic School addition.

Carried.

9. Information and Discussion Items

- a. Save the Date: OCSTA Regional Meeting - October 6, 2023, in Thunder Bay.
 - i. Trustees have been invited to save the date for the annual OCSTA regional meeting in Thunder Bay on October 6, 2023.

10. Committee of the Whole

Resolution #45/23

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee Harmon

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 #46/23

Moved by Trustee Harmon

Seconded by Trustee Patterson

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.

Carried.

11. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

God our Creator and Sustainer,
present in all of our differences and diversity,

remind us of the power of people working together in your name.
When we may be weary, renew our idealism and hope.
Help us to trust that the seeds of justice and change we strive to sow
will bear their fruit in your time and your way.
Let not the challenges of the task make us indifferent or discouraged.
Guide us together toward a future of promise and new life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen. +

Resolution #47/23

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee McFarling

THAT the Superior North Catholic District School Board meeting on May 24, 2023,
adjourn at 12:50 pm.

Carried.

Originally signed by

Originally signed by

Judy Wawia,
Chair of the Board

Maria Vasanelli,
Director of Education