



December 13, 2023, 10:00 am

Catholic Education Centre, Terrace Bay, ON

Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioning Mass was held at St. Martin of Tours church in Terrace Bay at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting began at 10:07 am with Trustee Wawia in the Chair.

1. Opening Prayer and Acknowledgment

a. Prayer was read by Trustee Wawia.

Loving God,

We enter this Advent season with hearts full of hope.

In this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope, peace, joy and love you unfailingly offer us.

Let our lives be inspired by the power of hope as we welcome Jesus into our hearts once again.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by your joy, that we may walk in the peace and light of Christ as people of hope.

Amen.

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.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #79/23

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee Monks

THAT the agenda for Board meeting #11/23, being held on December 13, 2023, be accepted as received.

Carried.

3. Confidentiality Reminder

Members are 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 are 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
- Bill Harmon
- Shirley Jean
- Suzanne Lafrance
- Miranda McFarling (Excused Absence)
- Lawrence McParland
- Lilliana McPherson
- Tara Patterson

Administration:

- Maria Vasanelli, Director of Education
- Kerry Desjardins, Superintendent of Education
- Rima Mounayer, Superintendent of Education
- Paul Tsekouras, Superintendent of Education
- Chris Martin, Assistant 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
- Erin Roxborough, Indigenous Education Manager

Guests

- Sarah Clowes, Principal, St. Edward Catholic School
- Ben Jewiss, Vice Principal, St. Edward Catholic School

- Michelle Edmond, Attendance Counsellor
- Father Terry Sawchuk, Board Chaplain

Recorder:

- Deana Figliomeni, Executive Administrative Assistant and Communications Officer

Resolution #80/23

Moved by Trustee McFarling

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT the Board acknowledges and accepts the excused absence of Trustee McFarling from attending Board Meeting #11/23 held December 13, 2023.

Carried.

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #81/23

Moved by Trustee Harmon

Seconded by Trustee Patterson

THAT the minutes for the [Board Meeting #10/23 held on November 8, 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

Trustee Wawia thanked Father Terry for the beautiful service.

- a. **Principal Presentation**, Sarah Clowes, Principal and Ben Jewiss, Vice-Principal, St. Edward Catholic School

b. [Attendance Presentation](#), R.Mounayer/M.Edmond

a. [Director Report](#) - Maria Vasanelli

c. **Student Achievement**

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

Kindergarten Registration begins on January 15th and will continue throughout the school year. We will continue this ongoing registration process as it has shown it has increased our enrollment in our local communities.

The percentage of Educational Assistants who are not qualified is more than half. In the last round of negotiations, they must get qualified within three years of employment.

Emotional safe spaces are “Sensory” or “Snozalo” rooms. These areas are spaces where students can take a break quietly without the other students in their classrooms being able to see. These breaks can be structured throughout the day, and the students know they can take a break in these spaces for a preferred activity.

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

A lot is happening in Math and Student Achievement. Karly Baker is back with us and is visiting the schools. Aaron is also visiting more schools. Dates are already being planned for next year with Doug Duff. The math newsletter has been sent out to families. This newsletter is now being distributed by the Board. We can now collect data to see how many families these newsletters reach.

We are still awaiting feedback from the Ministry regarding the Math Action Plan - we will inform the Trustees once we hear something.

Continuing to do a lot of work in the Attendance portfolio.

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

Reach Ahead Pilot, which we began in the summer. Ongoing meetings with the Ministry of Education. We hope to offer a grade 9 credit during the summer and the school year, positioning ourselves to do this in 2024.

The Faith Ambassador meeting was held on November 16th. Use these opportunities to build faith ambassadors. Advent activities are happening in the schools, encouraging trustees to connect with schools and take part in these celebrations happening in their schools - Christmas concerts, community events giving back to the communities, etc.

Is there work being done with our Faith Ambassadors on returning to church and encouraging staff to attend masses? We are working that into future conversations. Build infrastructure with staff first and then address and encourage this.

Catholic Education Centre staff have been attending weekly services to model what we want to see from all our staff.

Trustees would like to see the portfolio in action. Call the superintendent, and they can set up to view these activities in their classrooms. This can also happen before a Board meeting and is led by the students. This will be planned for February.

iv. [Chris Martin, Assistant Superintendent of Education Monthly Report](#)

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, the new chair is Candace Cheneski of Marathon. The first meeting was held, and we are looking at new ways of getting more parents involved in this committee.

TLI Allocation initiative (Formerly called LIFT). This project went out to all teachers and all schools, and all could put in an application to participate. 8 approved projects were approved.

Recruitment piloted a project at Holy Angels Catholic School. Chris Martin, Kim Figliomeni and Cheryl Speziale hosted a recruitment event, three individuals attended the event and were able to tour the school and review the application process.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was discussed, and we want to ensure that we are ethical with these tools and teach our staff and students to use them responsibly and respectfully.

d. Indigenous Education

i. [Erin Roxborough, Indigenous Education Manager](#)

Is there an opportunity for Parent engagement and exposure to the Indigenous portfolio? There are currently three parents on the IEAC committed. We are looking for more ways for parent engagement. SNCDSB is the banker board of the Anishinaabe committee, and Maria Vaanelli has been integral in the formation of the committee.

e. Finance

i. George Scott, Manager of Finance Monthly Report

1. [Audited Financial Statements](#)
2. [Statement of Financial Position - Variances](#)

3. [Statement of Operations - Variances](#)

Resolution #82/23

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT the Board approves the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2023, as presented.

Carried.

Resolution #83/23

Moved by Trustee Monks

Seconded by Trustee Jean

THAT the Board approves the reduction of \$28,962 from the Committed Capital Projects Reserve.

Carried.

Resolution #84/23

Moved by Trustee Lafrance

Seconded by Trustee Patterson

THAT the Board approves the reduction of \$7,049 from the Committed Sinking Fund Interest Earned Reserve.

Carried.

Resolution #85/23

Moved by Trustee Harmon

Seconded by Trustee McPherson

THAT the Board approves the transfer of \$200,164 from the School Renewal Reserve – to the Other Purposes – Capital Reserve for the purposes of the St Hilary addition project.

Carried.

f. Information Technology

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

g. Plant & Field Services

- i. [Barry Biggs and Darren Myshok, Plant & Field Services Managers Monthly Report](#)

9. Decision and Action Items

a. [Review of Trustee Committees for 2023-24](#)

Resolution #86/23

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee Patterson

THAT the Board approves the Trustee Committee Memberships for 2023, as presented.

Carried.

b. Purchase Orders

Resolution #87/23

Moved by Trustee McParland

Seconded by Trustee Jean

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the purchase order to VIP Energy Services Inc. for the amount of \$106,480.00 (+hst).

Carried.

*This is for consolidated billing for a number of services that occur throughout the year-quarterly invoices. This is a two-year agreement beginning January 1, 2024, for 8 schools. Billed on a quarterly basis and a shared cost of 23-24% with the French Board.

A presentation on what VIP does for our Board will be provided to the Trustees at the next meeting.

10. Information and Discussion Items

a. OCSTA: 2024 AGM & Conference Registration Package

- [AGM Preliminary Program](#)
- [Registration Package](#)

Trustees Jean, Lafrance, Monks and Maria Vasanelli will attend the AGM Conference in May in Niagara. We will check with Trustee McFarling on her plans.

11. Committee of the Whole

Resolution #88/23

Moved by Trustee Harmon

Seconded by Trustee Patterson

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 #89/23

Moved by Trustee McParland

Seconded by Trustee Monks

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.

12. 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 #90/23

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee Jean

THAT the Superior North Catholic District School Board meeting on December 13, 2023, adjourn at 3:06 pm.

Carried.

Originally signed by

Judy Wawia,
Chair of the Board

Maria Vasanelli,
Director of Education