



February 14 2024, 9:00 am

Catholic Education Centre, Terrace Bay,
ON

Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am with Trustee Wawia in the Chair.

1. Opening Prayer and Acknowledgment

a. Prayer read by Judy Wawia

God our Father, as we begin this holy season of Lent, help us to see that your merciful love is with us always, even when we wander far from you. We ask you to change our hearts, that we might become better followers of your Son Jesus. With the help of your grace, may our prayers and sacrifices over the next forty days lead us to welcome Him in each other, in the poor, sick and lonely so that together, we can greet Him as one family at Easter. We make this prayer to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

b. Acknowledgement read by Trustee McFarling

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 #8/24

Moved by Trustee McFarling

Seconded by Trustee Jean

THAT the agenda for Board meeting #1/24, being held on February 14, 2024, 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
- 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

- Aaron Baker, Principal, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Recorder:

- Deana Figliomeni, Executive Administrative Assistant and Communications Officer

6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #9/24

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT the [minutes for the Board Meeting #1/24 held on January 10, 2024](#), 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

- [Principal Presentation, Aaron Baker, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School](#)

Aaron Baker's presentation highlighted the programs and priorities happening at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Marathon, including the areas of Student

Achievement: literacy and Math, Catholicity, Indigenous Education, Student Leadership, Extracurricular Sports and activities and Parent Engagement.

b. Director's Report

i. [Maria Vasanelli, Director of Education](#)

M. Vasanelli's report highlighted the key message takeaways from the annual CEO/CFO conference in January in Toronto. Key topics include Human Rights, the Obligations of Senior Leaders in Education, and the Future of Education in a Digital Era.

The blueprint of where you start with Artificial Intelligence (AI) is similar to how we started with technology. AI is changing so fast that day to day and month to month; it can do more – specific programs on how to use AI in the classroom are available through apps and GPT chat. The Senior Team will look at the policy and how to safely use this information in the classroom.

Better Schools and Better School Outcomes - notice it is difficult for our small Boards in the North. NOEL is restructuring itself to be a better advocates for our Boards in the North. Starting at a regional level is a good place to create change and publish positive articles about Trustee governance in the papers.

D. Figliomeni will inquire with OCSTA about all Trustees attending the Indigenous Leads gathering attending the sessions in Thunder Bay in June 2024.

c. Student Achievement

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

February 2nd Professional Development Day allowed our Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Workers and Mental Health and Wellbeing team to join in school teams. Worked with Educators to view the Autism Spectrum Disorder and the role of the Educational Assistant.

Early Years educators have been working together to review the Early Years document on Early reading. Working on foundations that Kindergarten teachers are working on their plans to ensure our early learners are successful. The structure will be in place when the new Kindergarten curriculum begins.

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

Will have a breakdown of Math improvements for the next Board meeting once all the data is collected.

A virtual professional development session with Doug Duff and the Math team was held for all school Principals.

It was noted that three students were removed from the attendance files for improved attendance.

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

The first Elders Council meeting was held on January 29th. Thank you to Erin Roxborough, Indigenous Education Manager, for all her work to get this meeting in place, and thank you to Judy Wawia and Marilyn Netemegesic for starting the meeting in a good way.

Reach ahead credit will be offered during the school year. Registration closes on Friday, and we currently have 11 grade 8 students in the program. It is a new model, but there will be follow-up and exit surveys to help inform our next steps.

The Bright Space campaign was held last month to have students' artifacts in preparation for the report card piece. We will continue this over the next six weeks to artifact Xello pathways.

Cara Figliomeni, Technology Enabled Learning Teacher (TELT), delivered a presentation during the TELO webinar to all her colleagues and showcased what we are doing in the area.

School Faith teams will now be helping our schools throughout the Lenten season. We provide faith development for our school Faith Teams as they develop their faith.

Moving forward, we are looking at sharing recordings of Fathers' messages with our schools. Father will be on CFNO tomorrow for this week's Focus on the Future episode.

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

OPHEA is a resource now being used at all of our schools. We must balance and support programs and ensure activities are offered with safety in mind. Resources have been shared with schools so students can share them in their classrooms.

TBDHU is a partner; all educators have received the Healthy Schools Program Resource

Guide.

[Meeting break for Ash Wednesday Lenten service at St. Martin Catholic School.]

[Meeting resumed at 11:55 am]

d. Indigenous Education

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

Focusing on the Anishinaabemowin Revival Program to translate to the local dialect will be shared with teachers once completed. Working with Greenstone language specialist working with ABA to support language program teachers and an after-school language program is happening after school at St. Edward Catholic School in Nipigon.

We are looking at doing short skits in the language at St. Edward Catholic School. Wonderful extension projects are underway at our schools, and our Native as a Second Language (NSL) teachers welcome these extensions.

Finalizing Education Service Agreement (ESA) between Red Rock Indian Band (RRIB) and SNCDSB.

Submitted application for Indigenous Arts program. This program connects us with local artists who come in and share their teachings with us.

SNCDSB Elders Council hosted its first meeting at St. Edward Catholic School. Ginnogaming, RRIB and Plays Plant. Members in our schools all the time share the vision for the council and very good outcomes from it. Elders have agreed they want to start an Elder in Residence program where they would visit our schools regularly.

Supporting teachers with connecting with community members. Share teachings on medicine and dates established, make medicine bags together and be able to follow up and enforce those teachings. Parent engagement in Paguashine is in planning to see what they are learning. St. Joseph will be doing community visits, and St. Hilary will be working with trapping and making martin boxes. Anishinaabemowin Boodawe is also helping the language program at St. Hilary and Judy Wawia, who has visited grade 7/8 classrooms and discussed the seven teachings.

Native Second Language teachers are attending language conferences and hosting a professional development season on Friday.

e. Finance

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

The Building Ontario Business Initiative, which took effect on January 1, 2024, is intended to encourage provincial entities to procure goods and services from Ontario Businesses whenever possible.

Capital Project Signage is now required at schools where \$250,000 in projects have been undertaken or any project that lasts 90 days or more.

Funding announcements for 2024-2025 will be out in March/April.

Bill 124 remedies payments from 2018-2021: Our bargaining groups have not reached an agreement. Retroactive payments will be made once an agreement has been reached.

As of February 6, 2024, the Financial Report was presented to the Trustees.

Enrollment numbers and a comparison to coterminous boards were shared with Trustees. The numbers shared were provincially funded students.

Ensure we continue to be intentional in the programs we highlight on the radio and social media.

f. Information Technology

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

Starlink is being installed at three schools as a backup solution – Holy Angels, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Hilary.

We want to ensure we vet programs for use in schools and educate students and staff about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its use in classrooms.

g. Plant & Field Services

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

Current project updates were shared with Trustees.

The emergency generators are at St. Edward, St. Martin, and St. Joseph.

ii. [Darren Myshok, Plant & Field Services Manager Monthly Report](#)

D. Myshok updated the Trustees on the current status of the work orders being completed.

[Break for lunch at 12:36 pm]

[Meeting resumed at 1:20 pm]

9. Decision and Action Items

a. Policies and Administrative Procedures

Resolution #10/24

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee McFarling

THAT the Board approve the following **revised** Policies and Administrative Procedures for distribution.

- i. [P-ES 330 Bear and Other Animal Threat Protocol*](#)
- ii. [AP-ES 330 Bear and Other Animal Threat Protocol*](#)
- iii. [P-HR 502 Admission of Students](#)
- iv. [AP-HR 502 Admission of Students](#)

*Bear and Other Animal Threat Protocol Policy and Administrative Procedure were formerly numbered under Operations.

Carried.

Resolution #11/24

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee McParland

THAT the Board approve the following **new** Policy and Administrative Procedure for distribution.

- v. [P-CP 216 External Presenters](#)
- vi. [AP-CP 216 External Presenters](#)

Carried.

S. Lafrance noted that the awards committee would like to bring the “Guiding Light Award” forward; it has been drafted and will be sent to the Policy review committee and brought forward. S.Lafrance can send it to Cheryl Speziale to get the process started.

b. 2024-25 School Year Calendar

Resolution #12/24

Moved by Trustee Patterson

Seconded by Trustee Harmon

THAT the Board approve the [2024-2025 School Year Calendar](#) with the following professional activity days, to be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval, as presented:

All students begin school on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, and end on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.

Professional Activity Days

1. Thursday, August 29, 2024
2. Friday, August 30, 2024
3. Friday, October 4, 2024
4. Friday, November 8, 2024
5. Friday, January 31, 2025
6. Friday, April 11, 2025
7. Friday, June 6, 2025

Christmas Break: December 23, 2024, to January 3, 2025

March Break: March 10 - 14, 2025

Carried.

10. Information and Discussion Items

- a. OCSTA Business Seminar Thursday, May 2, 2024 (10:30 am - 3:30 pm)
 - i. [MEMO](#) and [Business Seminar](#) Program

No Trustees will be attending the Business seminar portion of the conference.

- b. OCSTA AGM & Conference May 2 - 4, 2024 (begins at 4:30 pm May 2)
 - i. [Tentative Program](#)
 - ii. Trustees Wawia, Monks, Lafrance, Jean and Director Vasanelli have been registered to attend. Travel will be on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, returning on Saturday, May 4, 2024.
 - iii. OCSTA has noted that the workshops may be changed, and we will have to re-choose closer to the conference.
- c. CCSTA 2024 AGM & Convention, Thursday, May 30 to Saturday, June 1, in Calgary, AB. - Registration Now Open
 - i. [Registration Information Poster](#)
 - ii. Two trustees are interested in attending. Trustee Patterson and McFarling.

11. Committee of the Whole

Resolution #13/24

Moved by Trustee McPherson

Seconded by Trustee Monks

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 #14/24

Moved by Trustee McPherson

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.

12. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Lord God,
Strengthen Your gift of faith in us.
Please help us to have confidence in Your goodness and Your faithfulness.
Help us to overcome life’s challenges and lead us along the path You have prepared for us.
May we find courage and peace in Your love, and may our faith in You serve as an example for others.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Resolution #15/24

Moved by Trustee Jean

Seconded by Trustee McFarling

THAT the Superior North Catholic District School Board meeting on February 14, 2024, adjourn at 2:04 pm.

Originally signed by

Judy Wawia,
Chair of the Board

Maria Vasanelli,
Director of Education