

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

Meeting #07 – Wednesday, April 10, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Clayton Ferguson called the meeting to order at 8:21 p.m., at Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church, 50 Essa Road, Barrie.

2. OPENING PRAYER / REFLECTION

The opening prayer and reflection were included in the Mass prior to the Board meeting.

3. ROLL CALL

Brian Beal, Director of Education, conducted the Roll Call of the Board of Trustees to establish quorum for the Meeting.

Present: Clayton Ferguson – Board Chair, Emily Cecchetti, Shawn Cooper, Carol Corriveau-Truchon, Maria Hardie, Catherine MacDonald, Connie Positano, Jeanny Salmon, Francis Smith, Kyle Young
Resource: Brian Beal – Director of Education, Steven Charbonneau, Glenn Clarke, Jane Dillon-Leitch, Ab Falconi, Mary Puopolo, Darren Schmidt
Regrets: Peter Derochie, Diane Legg
Recorder: Belinda Marcellus

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Meeting Agenda.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. DELEGATIONS

1. Innisfil Boundary Review

Diane Collins and Janet de Biasi, parents of students attending St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School shared their concerns with the process and final decision of the Board regarding the Innisfil Boundary Review. Their main concerns include:

- one open house was offered and it was the same evening as the grade two First Communion meeting

- the open house notice listed the streets that might be affected by the boundary review and their streets were not listed
- the final outcome did include their streets, which were not on the original list circulated to the community
- there was no opportunity for the community to hear more information once the committee had revised the proposed boundary changes after the open house
- there was no opportunity to address the board prior to trustees making their decision because the recommended boundary change information was posted to the board website at the beginning of March break and the Board's server was out of service for several days which was during the timeframe in which delegations would need to notify the Board of their intention to delegate at the March 20th board meeting
- families could choose to enroll their children at the nearby public school rather than take a longer bus ride to Holy Cross Catholic School
- felt the approved boundary changes would be a short term solution
- requested that trustees defer their decision and work with the community to develop a true balance.

Trustees had an opportunity to ask questions of clarification about the delegates' presentation.

Trustee Connie Positano asked how many children would have been involved in the grade two First Communion meeting. The delegates advised that two classes of 20-25 students each were involved in the First Communion meeting.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald asked when the parents received the notice of the open house. The delegates responded that they received the notice the day before the meeting and that the notice included a list of roads that would be affected and their roads were not included on the list.

Chair Ferguson thanked Ms. de Biasi and Ms. Collins and assured them that trustees would give consideration to their comments.

7. PRESENTATIONS

Living Our Faith – Head, Heart and Hands

1. 2013 Science & Technology Fair

Jane Dillon-Leitch, Superintendent of Programme and Services introduced Eric McMullen, a grade eight student at St. Monica's Catholic School, who was selected along with six other students to represent Simcoe County at the National Science and Technology Fair in Lethbridge Alberta, in May.

Eric told trustees that he created a black ice detector that would be placed on top of speed limit signs on roadways, in an effort to improve road safety and save lives.

Principal Barry Keogh, spoke about Alison Davidson, a teacher at St. Monica's Catholic School who has been involved in the science fair all of her 14 years at the school; and has served as Chair of the Simcoe County Science and Technology Fair for the past nine years. Mr. Keogh advised that Ms. Davidson works tirelessly year after year and is honoured to have the privilege to travel coast to coast to the various competitions in support of our future young scientists.

Chair Ferguson presented a certificate of recognition and Board pin to Eric and to Mr. Keogh for Ms. Davidson. He congratulated Eric on his success and wished him well at the national competition. Chair Ferguson recognized Ms. Davidson's contributions to student success by inspiring students to confidently present exceptional science fair projects through her leadership at the school, regional and national levels.

2. First Nation, Métis and Inuit Initiatives for 2012-2013

Steve Charbonneau, Superintendent of Education and Linda McGregor, Manager of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Initiatives presented the four initiatives that were piloted in schools this year.

Mr. Charbonneau noted that the previous model was to in-service teachers through a champion teacher from each school attending workshops at the board office and taking the information back to their school communities. This year the information was delivered directly in the schools to touch more staff, and gain more traction in a school and region. This also provided the opportunity to bring resources first hand to students.

Ms. McGregor explained the four initiatives undertaken through a regional approach:

1. Canoe Literacy
 - canoe builder Marcelle Labelle uses traditional materials of spruce and birch bark and roots
 - Marcelle Labelle brought a canoe to Monsignor Castex Catholic School, in Midland
 - students and champion teachers in the region learned about how to build a canoe through a the labour of love, and sense of being at one with nature and wanting nothing
 - in the afternoon children built a mini canoe
 - 6 pilot schools in the canoe literacy project
 - each champion teacher took away their canoe
 - went away with story board to develop oral literacy and supplies and canoe stamp to make the activity fun and engaging
 - promote literacy and Aboriginal education
2. Circle of Life
 - whole school involved at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School in Parry Sound

- drumming ceremony
 - mini pow wow
 - weaving FNMI through everything we do was the theme for the day
 - unity button – universal symbol that represents all nations in the world
 - champion teachers spent the afternoon working on symbols
 - inclusive model
 - allows everyone to have a voice
3. Shannen and the Dream for a School
- entire student body of St. Joseph’s Catholic High School heard guest speaker and author Janet Wilson who talked about the dream of Shannen, a young girl who advocated for a school in Atiwapiskat
 - presentation around social justice
 - in the afternoon champion teachers met with Dr. Chris Patchie who was instrumental in putting together a Métis toolkit and a native studies text book for Aboriginal people
 - Janet Wilson has written her forth book and will present it at St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School on April 24th – information will be forwarded to trustees
4. Alison Bradshaw
- champion teachers met at St. Paul’s Catholic School in Alliston
 - book publishing activity
 - go back to their schools and take students through the activity
 - create a teacher book bag to pilot in six schools
 - book bag includes book by Robert Munsch “*A Promise is a Promise*”
 - inviting the co-author of “*A Promise is a Promise*”, Rhoda Insook to speak and help us build literacy

Linda McGregor also distributed a list of project highlights for 2012-2013. These projects have been developed to guide teachers in infusing Aboriginal content. She explained that we are learning about Aboriginal people in a new way that will dispel myths, and untrue, missing and inaccurate information. She noted that some of the resources developed in our board are being showcased on a provincial level. Linda has been invited to present in partnership with *Me to We*, the Sacred Circle program; and has also been selected to receive a bursary to support a junior achievement day at St. Theresa’s Catholic High School on April 25th. The Board’s Dream Catcher project of last year has been nominated for a national award.

Through the *Making Good Tracks* program which was developed in our Board, a Youth Council will be developed in partnership with student leadership, such as student senate and student trustees; to build bridges with Aboriginal students.

Linda thanked the Board and Darren Schmidt and Steve Charbonneau, Superintendents, for their support to allow her and teachers to continue their work and move beyond champion teachers to principals and vice-principals.

Mr. Charbonneau extended an invitation to everyone to attend activities planned for National Aboriginal Day on June 21st at 80 Bell Farm Road. There will be displays, activities, lunch and conversation. More information will be forwarded to trustees. Chair Ferguson thanked Steve and Linda for the wonderful work they continue to do with passion and sincerity to bring an inclusive and faith-filled education to all Simcoe Muskoka Catholic students including our First Nation, Métis and Inuit friends.

3. New Religion Program – Grades 1-8

Karen Pond, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator provided an overview of the new curriculum policy document developed by ACBO, ICE and the education policy development branch of the Ministry of Education. Simcoe Muskoka Catholic's own Sherry Chapman, Adult Faith Animator, was one of the document writers. The document is based on religious literacy, critical thinking and reflection; by weaving together the strands of religious education: believing, celebrating, living a moral life, living in communion, living in solidarity and praying; with Hope permeating all strands. This new approach recognizes that teachers are laity and their walk with Christ lives in our secular world and its influences. Our young people face so many challenges in the secularized multicultural global world and must learn to discern what they hear to live openly and faithfully, with many opportunities for prayer, celebration and reflection. The document will be launched next year. All teachers will receive a copy of the document that was distributed to trustees this evening, at their Faith day on April 19th.

Chair Ferguson spoke for his fellow trustees to thank Karen and all of our staff who are working tirelessly to bring religious education curriculum to all grade levels as well as to infuse Catholic teachings across all curriculum disciplines through innovative and creative ways that prepare our students to be contributing faith-filled members of our new global community.

4. 2013 Catholic Education Week Activities

Karen Pond presented this year's theme for Catholic Education Week: Growing Together in Faith. Stephanie Maher, Religious Education Consultant with Simcoe Muskoka Catholic has worked with OCSTA for several years to build the resources that support Catholic Education Week.

Chair Ferguson commented that it looks like Catholic Education Week will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Catholic education, our school communities, and our staff and students. On behalf of all of the trustees he extended appreciation to everyone involved in planning the many activities that will be taking place with the theme Growing Together in Faith, and that trustees look forward to visiting the schools to participate during the week of May 6-10th.

Discussion ensued to encourage connecting with our parishes during Catholic Education Week. A letter will be provided to all parishes to be read to launch

Catholic Education Week. Director of Education Brian Beal also suggested that he could connect with priests at their zone meetings as a means to invite them into the celebration of Catholic education.

8. ACTION ITEMS

1) **Report 8. 1) 07-2013: 2013-2014 School Year Calendar**

Regulation 304 of the Education Act provides direction to school boards in the preparation and submission of the school year calendar to the Ministry of Education for approval. It is required that the school year include a minimum of 194 school days. Up to 6 of these days may be designated by the Board as professional activity days (PA Days). The remaining school days shall be instructional days. Up to 10 instructional days may be used as examination days.

The 2013-2014 school year provides for 195 possible school days from September 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. A board holiday is proposed for June 30, 2014, providing the necessary 194 days from the day after Labour Day, September 3, 2013, to June 27, 2014.

As a result of the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Education and OECTA; three of the PD days will be voluntary days without pay for teachers; then of the three remaining days - two days at elementary will be designated for reporting writing; and one day will be designated for parent-student-teacher conferencing.

The Board is required to submit the proposed calendars to the Ministry of Education by May 1st. In the event that changes are required to the calendars through further discussions with the Ministry; the Board would address further approvals as may be required.

Staff are looking at identifying the unpaid days so that the community is aware that staff will not be in the schools.

Creative approaches to delivery of professional development to staff will be pursued.

Recommendation: That the Board approve the proposed Elementary and Secondary 2013-2014 School Year Calendars for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, as presented, for submission to the Ministry of Education for final approval.

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the recommendation.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

1) **Report 9. 1) 07-2013: Science Fair 2013**

Trustees received a report which included a list of all Simcoe Muskoka Catholic

elementary students who received recognition at 2013 Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair.

Chair Ferguson commented that Simcoe Muskoka Catholic schools were well represented at this year's regional science and technology fair, and that he had a chance to see their presentations when he attended the awards ceremonies.

Chair Ferguson suggested that the Board send a congratulatory letter to each student, signed by the Board Chair and area trustee. The letters will be prepared for trustees to sign at the May 1st Board meeting.

Chair Ferguson also thanked the Catholic educators across the board that support learning in the sciences and provide valuable opportunities for their students to compete, network with their peers, and build confident presentation skills.

2) Report 9. 2) 07-2013: French Immersion Survey in Muskoka

Superintendent of Programme and Services, Jane Dillon-Leitch explained that the Board currently offers Core French (French as a Second Language) from grades one to eight in elementary and at the secondary level. She noted that over the years there have been many conversations with principals about an extended French or French immersion program. Staff are currently looking at the feasibility of offering a French immersion program in Muskoka, as a pilot. A survey would be conducted to ascertain interest. The program would only be feasible if confirmed registrations were received for a minimum of 40 students. This is a base recommended by other school boards so that through attrition the program would remain viable to grade eight.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon expressed that this was great news and expected to have a good response from Muskoka families.

Trustee Jeanny Salmon, who is herself a graduate of a French immersion program, felt the program should be offered board-wide.

Staff explained that they are not ruling out other areas, but to offer a sustainable program a strong business case would be required and because the bussing would not need to change in Muskoka, that is one element that is already in place. The Ministry of Education does not provide additional funding to provide transportation for students to travel to a French immersion program.

The survey would be disseminated to the broader community through Catholic parishes; schools; childcare centers and the media. No decisions are being made at this time. The survey results will be important as the Board determines next steps.

Chair Ferguson, on behalf of the Board of Trustees looks forward to hearing the results and hope that we can offer our Muskoka families this enhancement to Catholic education.

- 3) **Report 9. 3) 07-2013: Grants for Student Needs Update**
Director of Education, Brian Beal, spoke to the report provided by Peter Derochie, Associate Director of Education (Business & Finance). He advised that staff were surprised for that for the first time in history; the GSN's were announced on March 27, 2013 for the 2013/14 school year (i.e. prior to the Provincial Budget). The GSN regulations are approved and not subject to the Provincial Budget. The EPO funds for student success, literacy and numeracy, safe schools, etc., were also provided in advance of the provincial budget with a slight decrease in funding. However, further announcements are expected. This information will help board staff plan for the 2013-2014 school year and staffing in particular. Once the detailed analysis is complete, a full report will come forward to the Board.

Chair Ferguson was pleased to receive the information which will certainly help to guide trustees through their budget deliberations over the next few months.

- 4) **Report 9. 4) 07-2013: Plant Department Projects – Summer 2013**
The report from Glenn Clarke, Controller of Plant, provided an overview of the plant department projects that are underway or planned for implementation during the summer of 2013. The funding for the projects is provided from a number of sources: School Renewal, School Condition Improvement, Plant Department operational budgets, Ministry of Education Energy and Capital allocations, Full Day Kindergarten grants and energy rebates from utility companies. Major capital projects include: the construction of the replacement facility for Our Lady of Grace Catholic School; and design concepts for the Ministry of Education approved new Catholic elementary school in Bradford. Minor capital and operational projects, academic program retrofits, full day kindergarten modifications, portable relocations and disposals, field property improvements, and building maintenance will all occur this summer as outlined in the report

Chair Ferguson commented that the Board's plant services staff have another busy summer ahead of them, and he extended the appreciation of the Board of Trustees to all those who will be working on improvements and enhancements to our student learning facilities this summer.

- 5) **Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee**
i) **Meeting #02 – Wednesday, February 06, 2013**
The minutes were provided for the information of trustees.
- 6) **Minutes – Board Policy Review Committee**
i) **Minutes #01 – Wednesday, January 30, 2012**
The minutes were provided for the information of trustees.

10. **ROUTINE**
1) **Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings**

- i) **Minutes – Meeting #06 – Wednesday, March 20, 2013**
Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Minutes.

11. TRUSTEE ENQUIRIES

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon was advised that positive responses were forthcoming later in the week regarding the greenhouse which students are to build this semester; and the “Pilgrimage for B Students” at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School in Bracebridge.

Trustee Jeanny Salmon requested and it was agreed that further discussion take place regarding the Innisfil Boundary Review at a future board meeting.

Director of Education Brian Beal also suggested that the process be reviewed to ensure that consultation with the community is offered when information changes, such as occurred in Innisfil when new families were proposed for boundary change that were not on the initial list provided to families and which the open house addressed. It was also suggested to keep trustees in outlying areas of the boundary review informed along the way as constituents in those areas could be affected. For example, the review in northwest Barrie also covered an area represented by Trustee Shawn Cooper. As a result of these discussions a review of the boundary review process will go to the Board Policy Review Committee for consideration and then to the Board for approval.

12. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti reported that she and Student Trustee-Elect Kyle Young; and two student senators are traveling to Ottawa for the second annual Ontario Catholic Student Leadership conference. She also reported that her school Holy Trinity Catholic High School is planning to hold a tent city event to try to live a life of solidarity and see what it is like to be homeless.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon reported on attending the *Respecting Differences* training on Monday with Vice-Chair Maria Hardie. It was a great day and she congratulated those who put the day together.

Trustee Corriveau-Truchon also reported that on the previous Friday, female students participated in the Power of Being a Girl Event at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School. She also sat in on a Reading Recovery session at Monsignor Michael O’Leary Catholic School and witnessed the progress that a student can achieve through the program.

Trustee Corriveau-Truchon also serves on the Accessibility Committee and encouraged everyone to complete the survey which will assist the committee in creating an accessibility plan for Simcoe Muskoka Catholic.

Dr. Patrick Carney will be the guest speaker at a dinner event hosted by the Catholic School Community Council at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School on May 6th. He will talk about resiliency and mental health; and the hospitality students will provide the dinner. May

4 and 5, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic School in Parry Sound will celebrate its 25th anniversary by holding a golf tournament and dinner on May 4th and a Mass and open house on May 5th. All are invited.

Vice-Chair Maria Hardie commented that she enjoyed Father Frank McDevitt's talk at the *Respecting Differences* training. She attended the OCSTA Labour seminar where discussion occurred around having people assigned to full time research in preparation for bargaining with unions and noted that discussion will continue at the AGM in May.

Motion to Extend the Meeting

Motion 01-07-2013:

Moved by Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon

Seconded by Trustee Jeanny Salmon

That the Board meeting be extended to no later than 10:45 p.m.

Carried

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees received a list of correspondence and Chair Ferguson drew their attention to:

- OCSTA Resolution 2012 as brought forward by SMCDSD and proposed by Trustee Connie Positano - OCSTA has taken action and the Ministry of Education will initiate dialogue about the importance of food allergy lists and cafeteria staff training.
- Graduation dates – lists of elementary and secondary graduation dates were provided.

14. MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 16, 2013	Discipline Committee is cancelled	
Wednesday, April 17, 2013	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17, 2013	Board Policy Review Committee - cancelled – reconvene at the next meeting on May 15 th at	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 24, 2013	SEAC	5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 01, 2013	Board Meeting #08	7:30 p.m.

Chair Ferguson polled trustees for their availability to continue their discussions of the first budget in-service meeting on Thursday, April 25th. The date will be confirmed with trustees via email shortly.

15. PRIVATE SESSION

16. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no report.

17. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting #08:	Wednesday, May 01, 2013	7:30 p.m.
Agenda Deadline Date:	Wednesday, April 24, 2013	4:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:45 p.m.

19. CLOSING PRAYER

Trustee Jeanny Salmon led the closing prayer with the following special intentions:

For the sick:

Linda and Fred Graham

Alexandra MacKay

Kayla Johnson

St. Theresa's Catholic High School students who were passengers on the school bus that was involved in a fatal collision on Tuesday.

For the deceased:

Marcie Blackburn

Jane Peterson

Nuno Azevedo

Kevin Healey

Jeevadass Cathamuthu