

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

Meeting #05 – Wednesday, February 27, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Clayton Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., in the Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 46 Alliance Boulevard, Barrie.

2. OPENING PRAYER / REFLECTION

Vice-Chair Maria Hardie and Trustee Connie Positano led the opening prayer and reflection with remembrances for the following special intentions:

For the sick:

Linda and Fred Graham
Alexandra MacKay

For the deceased:

Theresa Cannon
Ann Dunn
Kaitlyn Ann Johnson
James McCullough
John Edward Detta Sr.
Margaret Rosalind Theriault
John William Graham
David Avery
Germaine Lachance
Louis Priest
Wilfrid Belanger
Solange Beausoleil
Roderick (Rod) Kelly

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, Francis Smith, Kyle Young

Regrets: Jeanny Salmon

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. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. **DELEGATIONS**

1. **Mary Flynn and Amy St. John** – North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review

Mary Flynn and Amy St. John are members of the St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School community.

Amy St. John thanked the board for the opportunities to speak at board meetings on May 14 and this evening. She felt that trustees were presented with a hybrid option that addresses declining enrolment and allows all six north Barrie Catholic schools to remain open, which was in keeping the Pupil Accommodation Committee's (PAC) recommendation.

Mary Flynn noted the Board's commitment to arrive at an outcome that had the least impact to students. She commended trustees and board staff for making every effort to avoid school closure through an innovative solution to declining enrolment and surplus space. She concluded by thanking trustees for all that they do for Catholic education.

There were no questions of clarification posed by trustees to the delegation.

Chair Ferguson thanked the delegates and advised that their comments would be considered in the trustees' deliberations.

2. **Margaret Sergi and Virginia Formoso** – North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review

Virginia Formoso advised that she represented a group of parents guardians and family members from the Monsignor Clair Catholic School community. She read a petition that those families had signed:

We, the undersigned, agree that the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board should not be allowed to relocate their offices into the top floor of Monsignor Clair Catholic Elementary School. We feel that in doing so it poses a number of significant safety concerns for the children attending the school and would negatively affect the Monsignor Clair community. We sign this petition because we care about the children, the school and the community and feel they will be permanently and negatively impacted by this change.

She relayed concerns around security and safety with regard to entry to the school; the health and safety concerns of construction during school hours, citing situations that arose during construction of the childcare facility; and the presence of construction workers. She questioned the ability to comply with the Premier's announcement about a "locked door policy" for elementary schools. Ms. Formoso raised a query about how the second floor would be accessible to visitors to the board office who might require to

use the elevator.

Ms. Formoso also felt the hybrid option was not given enough time for consideration or for public input.

Margaret Sergi addressed further concerns related to security, sufficient parking for employees and visitors; and that Monsignor Clair was not provided with a forum for public input when the hybrid option became a consideration by the Board.

There were no questions of clarification posed by trustees to the delegation.

Chair Ferguson thanked the delegates and advised that their comments would be considered in the trustees' deliberations.

7. PRESENTATIONS

Living Our Faith – Head, Heart and Hands

1. **St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School Update** – Glenn Clarke

Controller of Plant, Glenn Clarke, spoke to the information report regarding further cost considerations related to the St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School driveway retrofit and site work project. The information was provided at this time to ensure trustees had the information before they considered the recommendations under the Pupil Accommodation Review action item to follow.

The original costing was developed when the school was initially opened with temporary driveway access off Kozlov Street. The City of Barrie's zoning requirements would have the permanent access to the school off of Hanmer Street once it was developed. Development did not occur until recently, and the Board received approval from the Ministry of Education in 2011 to complete the required site work to meet their obligations with the City of Barrie, at an estimated cost of \$2.02 million. In consultation with city staff, it has been determined that some of the site work such as storm water management may not be required, reducing the cost of the project to approximately \$975 thousand. It was noted that there are still unknowns that could drive the cost up.

It was confirmed for trustees that funding for this project is available through Education Development Charges (EDCs).

8. ACTION ITEMS

1) **Report 8. 1) 05-2013: North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review**

Director of Education, Brian Beal, addressed trustees prior to discussing the recommendations contained in his report.

Mr. Beal outlined the history of Catholic education in the board's jurisdiction and the significant change from a growth board to a board experiencing significant declining enrolment.

The Director acknowledged the complexity of a pupil accommodation review (PAR)

process by summarizing three separate PARS when the Board made difficult decisions to close schools. In those cases, schools prohibitive to repair and the construction of new schools supported the decisions. The north Barrie PAR does not deal with school facilities in poor repair; but rather declining enrolment, which is being experienced across the province.

Mr. Beal noted that the hybrid option to close the second floor of Monsignor Clair Catholic School and relocate board office staff out of leased space and into retrofitted space at the school, presented an option that avoided closing a Catholic school, and with the least impact on students in all of the six schools. If the board did close a school there would still be a need to balance enrolment in the other schools, which would result in boundary changes at all or some of the schools, including The Good Shepherd Catholic School in particular which is over capacity and utilizing portables.

The Director explained that the operating funds saved by closing the leased space on Bellfarm Road would go back into the system to support student learning. He commended the outstanding board academic services staff who would be located on the second floor on Monsignor Clair, and who work daily in the schools supporting student learning and especially the most vulnerable students and their families: academic consultants, coordinators, Reading Recovery, speech and language staff, special education staff, school counselors, social workers, system principals and supervisory officers.

The closure of classrooms at St. Joseph's Catholic High School, which is also affected by declining enrolment, would allow for the retrofit of four classrooms on the second floor to meeting rooms for staff professional development. The Bell Farm Road leased offices currently house four meeting spaces to accommodate principal, vice-principal and staff in-services. Having academic services staff walk to St. Joseph's Catholic High School to provide professional development to board staff would reduce the flow of visitors to the relocated academic services office at Monsignor Clair Catholic School.

Mr. Beal advised that he would not support an option that presented risk or was an unsafe solution. He suggested that staff would work to identify concerns through dialogue and collective problem solving.

The Director noted that the hybrid option would eliminate 184 pupil places in the six north Barrie elementary schools and 80 pupil places at St. Joseph's Catholic High School for a total reduction of 268 pupil places. In terms of funding the retrofit costs, he noted that the board has identified properties that are surplus to the board which can be sold.

In closing, Mr. Beal noted that many aspects of the Drummond report have yet to be implemented; and significant pressures in education and in Catholic education in particular are looming. Collective bargaining will begin again in 2014 and the economic picture in Ontario may not improve from the current difficulties.

The Director summarized that the hybrid option reduces elementary and secondary pupil places, uses existing space more effectively, eliminates the operating costs by \$200 thousand per year for the leased board office space; keeps all six Catholic elementary

schools open; leaves room for growth should that occur and space should the Midhurst development come to fruition. If pressures such as declining enrolment continue or accelerate, school board amalgamations are implemented; or funding to Catholic education is challenged; future pupil accommodation reviews may be required. However, Mr. Beal believes the hybrid option is the preferred solution for north Barrie and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board.

Mr. Beal reviewed the recommendations, noting that the Hybrid Option was presented first while recognizing that the recommendations from the June 20th board meeting were still on the table to close a school and redistribute students, if the hybrid option was not approved.

Trustees had an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions:

Trustee Francis Smith congratulated Director of Education Brian Beal for an excellent presentation that covered the key points and recognized tough economic times. He referred to the announcement by the Toronto District School Board to eliminate teachers, educational assistants, secretaries and caretakers before September to address economic pressures. Mr. Smith indicated that he would be supporting the hybrid option.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon advised that she would be supporting the hybrid option and thanked parents, staff and trustees who put many, many hours into this process. She reported that trustees toured the proposed retrofit spaces at Monsignor Clair and St. Joseph's Catholic schools; and felt assured by the security measures that will be put in place at Monsignor Clair.

Trustee Connie Positano talked about becoming a trustee in 2007 and attending the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) AGM where she heard a speaker talk about declining enrolment and the impact and affect it would have across the province. At that time she found it difficult to envision Simcoe Muskoka Catholic experiencing declining enrolment when there was significant growth then. She noted that in considering her decision she did examine and listen very carefully to the outcome of the PAC with 58% in favour of keeping all six schools open and utilizing surplus space within the schools. She heard many points brought forward when the community had options to speak and heard very loudly that parents wanted the least disruption to students. She read every email, petition, and comment submission, and listened to every message she received. She referred to the Drummond report and the trustees' commitment to fiscal responsibility to students and the impact of their decision board-wide. She advised that she would support the hybrid option and requested that a committee be formed to address safety issues and concerns of parents and students to ensure their school remained secure.

Director of Education, Brian Beal, confirmed that he would be pleased to form a committee to address concerns.

Vice-Chair Maria Hardie commented that she understood that adjusting boundaries is never an easy decision and that students want to attend school in the neighbourhood

where they live. She noted that as trustees there aren't a lot of choices because they have to be financially responsible to the whole board. She would be supporting the hybrid option.

Option A. Hybrid Option:

1. That the Board approve the closure of the second floor of MCL with this area being retrofitted for board staff offices effective September 2013, subject to Ministry approval;

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

2. That the Board approve the closure of the Academic Services building at 80 Bell Farm Road, Barrie and relocate the board offices staff to the second floor MCL upon completion of the retrofit work, subject to the re-zoning approval from the City of Barrie;

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

3. That the Board approve the retrofit project at SJO with work to take place in 2013-14;

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

4. That the Board implement the NW Barrie boundary review recommendations effective Sept 2014; and

- That the Board approve the change of boundaries for St. Marguerite d'Youville and The Good Shepherd Catholic Schools based on Scenario # 3 as recommended by the Boundary Review Committee in the Jan 16, 2013 Board report, at Appendix 5; and
- That the Board approve the recommendation for confirming the current grandfathering of grade 6 students affected by the change, for their grade 8 year, as recommended by the Boundary Review Committee.

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

Staff clarified that the boundary change would eliminate portables at the Good Shepherd Catholic School.

5. That the Board implement the NE Barrie boundary review recommendations effective Sept 2013; and

- That the Board approve the change of boundaries for Monsignor Clair and St. Monica's Catholic Schools based on Scenario #3 as recommended by the Boundary Review Committee in the Nov 28, 2012 Board report at Appendix 4; and
- That the Board approve the recommendation for confirming the current grandfathering of grade 7 students affected by the change (both students affected through geographical boundary change and boundary exemptions) as recommended by the Boundary Review Committee.

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

Staff confirmed that the students currently on boundary exemptions could apply again for consideration by the superintendent of education.

6. That the Board approve the re-construction of the MDY driveway and site retrofit works.

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

The recommendations of Option A were all approved and therefore Option B School Closure was not considered.

Chair Ferguson declared a ten minute recess at 8:37 p.m.

Chair Ferguson called the Board meeting back to order at 8:49 p.m.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1) **Report 9. 1) 05-2013: St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School – Driveway Retrofit Project Costs**

The report was discussed under presentations to ensure trustees were updated before they made their decisions around the north Barrie PAR.

- 2) **Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee**
 - i) **Meeting #10 – Wednesday, November 14, 2012**
The minutes were received.

- 2) **Minutes – Board Policy Review Committee**
 - i) **Minutes #01 – Wednesday, January 30, 2013**
The minutes were received.

10. ROUTINE

- 1) **Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings**
 - i) **Minutes – Meeting #04 – Wednesday, February 06, 2013**
Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Minutes.

11. TRUSTEE ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

12. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon invited trustees to a fish fry on Friday, March 1st at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School to raise funds for the grade 7/8 trip by Monsignor Michael O'Leary students and the Kenya mission by St. Dominic Catholic students.

Trustee Corriveau-Truchon also announced an emergent literacy symposium being held on April 6th, from 8:30 – 5:30 that is being funded by Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants. Further information will be forwarded to trustees.

Trustee Connie Positano was pleased to attend the Outstanding Principals' dinner this week with the Board Chair and senior leadership team; where Steve Morrow, Principal of The Good Shepherd Catholic school was honoured. Trustee Positano noted that when she congratulated Mr. Morrow, he acknowledged that the efforts of the entire school community should be honoured.

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti reported that she and Student Trustee-Elect Kyle Young attended the OSTA-AECO Conference in Ottawa last week. The results from a survey of students, parents and educators was released. Information will be forwarded to trustees.

Trustee Francis Smith attend the 60th wedding anniversary celebrations of Joe & Betty Klein Gebbinck recently. Mr. Klein Gebbinck served on the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic Board of Trustees for 20 years. A letter of congratulations from the Board was presented to Mr. & Mrs. Klein Gebbinck.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald had the opportunity to serve as a judge for public speaking at St. Ann's Catholic School and enjoyed the experience.

Trustee MacDonald announced a Catholic education forum that would be held on April 30th at St. Theresa's Catholic High School which will include a mass and guest speaker. Further information will be provided to trustees.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence was provided to trustees.

14. MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 05, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 19, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20, 2013	SEAC Committee	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 20, 2013	Board Meeting #06	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 27, 2013	Supervised Alternative Learning	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 27, 2013	Board Policy Review Committee Meeting #03	7:00 p.m.

15. PRIVATE SESSION

16. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Board approved the temporary freeze of Quinan Construction Limited from competitive bid involvement for Category C projects.

The Board approved adding of MJ Dixon Construction Limited to the Category C list of pre-qualified General Contractors.

17. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting #06:	Wednesday, March 20, 2013	7:30 p.m.
Agenda Deadline Date:	Wednesday, March 13, 2013	4:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained to adjourn the Board Meeting at 9:19 pm.

19. CLOSING PRAYER

Trustee Catherine MacDonald led the closing prayer.