

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

Meeting #11 – Wednesday, June 19, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Clayton Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m., in the Board Room, 46 Alliance Boulevard, Barrie.

2. OPENING PRAYER / REFLECTION

Trustees celebrated Mass with His Excellency Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick in the Board room, before 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, Peter Derochie, Jane Dillon-Leitch, Diane Legg, Mary Puopolo, Darren Schmidt
Regrets: Glenn Clarke, Ab Falconi
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

There were no delegations.

7. PRESENTATIONS

Living Our Faith – Head, Heart and Hands

1. Student Trustee

Mary Puopolo, Superintendent of Education – Secondary Schools, introduced Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti who was elected by the student senate and began her term as Student Trustee-Elect in January 2012. She became Student Trustee in September 2012 for a one year term. Ms. Puopolo commended Emily for serving in an outstanding manner as both student trustee and chair of the student senate.

Emily Cecchetti then provided an overview of her experience as student trustee, including attending conferences with the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO) and its Catholic Board Council; the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership conferences; as well as the conferences of Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) and the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA). Emily made particular note that through her participation in CCSTA conferences she learned that only three provinces have student trustees. She also had the opportunity through the OSTA-AECO conference to meet with Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister of Education Liz Sandals. Also at that conference the Catholic Board Council met and each student trustee received a candle which Emily presented to Student Trustee-Elect Kyle Young to keep the flame burning as he assumed his role as the student trustee in September.

Emily thanked her fellow trustees for their support, mentorship and the many opportunities through an experience she never could have imagined. She presented the Board with a plaque of the OSTA-AECO Catholic Board Council's prayer, which former student trustee Jessica Bews contributed to writing; and concluded by wishing Kyle Young success.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Ferguson presented Emily with a certificate and a framed photograph of her and the Board of Trustees that she served with over the past year. He then thanked Emily for bringing the important student perspective to the Board table over the past year and a half; noting that trustees had witnessed her growth in confidence and understanding of Catholic Trustees as Stewards of Faith striving to preserve and protect Catholic education. Best wishes and prayers were offered to Emily in the completion of her Catholic secondary education; future post secondary education; and her career goals and faith-filled life ambitions.

2. Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Brian Beal, Director of Education, presented the new mission statement, vision statement and multi year strategic plan, called Our Faith Our Future, with three strategic priorities and corresponding goals; as a road map of where the board will go to lead and to serve in Catholic education in Simcoe County and the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound for the next five years. He recognized the work of the Multi Year Plan Steering Committee led by Jim Sirdevan which included: Sherry Chapman, Ab Falconi, Jo-Anne Flood, Linda McGregor, and Karen Pond. Trustees would receive a report with

recommendations to approve the mission and vision statements and the multi-year strategic plan under action items later in the meeting.

Once approved, staff would work on the multi year implementation plan, communication plan and design concepts with a goal to launch the plan at the Leaders' meeting on August 27th with a celebration of Mass for all school leaders; clergy and trustees.

In response to a query from Trustee Catherine MacDonald about how the multi year plan will be measured for success, the Director explained that over the summer staff will discern the strategic priorities and respective goals and set a priority of implementation for year one. The Director of Education will bring a report back to the Board at the second board meeting in the fall that will identify the goals that will be of immediate focus, which will become the basis for presentations to trustees over the year. He will provide an annual report on the status of attaining targeted goals. The board will receive regular updates on progress over the course of the year and on next steps.

Training plans for staff and lesson plans for students will be developed and the Director of Education will bring the multi year plan to school communities through the Catholic School Community Council regional meetings in October and November.

Chair Ferguson commented on behalf of the Board of Trustees that this is an exciting opportunity for the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board to celebrate the rich history of Catholic education in Simcoe County and the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound. The Board's history has given them a strong foundation by which to build a new mission, a new vision and a new strategic plan that honours students, staff and the Catholic community; and all of the important partners in Catholic education. The launch of this new strategic direction on August 27th at the Leaders' meeting will be an exciting day that will give everyone hope as they journey forward in this inclusive learning community to nurture a distinct Catholic identity, and improve student achievement and well-being while using the Board's resources wisely.

Chair Ferguson thanked Director of Education, Brian Beal, for shepherding this extensive exercise. He also thanked Jim Sirdevan and the Multi Year Planning Steering Committee who committed themselves to the tireless work of this project for the last year and a half. Appreciation was also extended to all of the staff, students, families and community partners who showed their commitment to Catholic education by contributing to the planning committee's work. The input from everyone in this Catholic learning community has guided the committee well over the past year and half and now our new multi year plan will guide the board through *Our Faith Our Future*.

3. 2013/14 Budget

Peter Derochie, Associate Director of Education (Business & Finance), presented to trustees a proposed budget with a surplus of \$851 thousand. The goal was to bring forward a surplus of \$1 million, and therefore, staff are still working on identifying areas of savings. There are some Ministry of Education grants yet to be announced which

may help. The intent of the surplus was in anticipation of the approval of the multi year plan so as to seed new goals and priorities. The other key objective was to have the Board's financial house in order to support approval by the Ministry of Education for the retrofit work at Monsignor Clair Catholic School to accommodate board office staff on the second floor, as approved with the North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review. Other balancing measures included realigning initiatives with appropriate budget lines.

Chair Ferguson thanked Peter Derochie and the finance staff for the very hard work again this year to provide resource to the trustees through their budget deliberations during these uncertain times.

8. PRIVATE SESSION

Trustee Jeanny Salmon excused herself from the Board meeting at 9:03 p.m. (during the Private Session) for the remainder of the meeting.

9. ACTION ITEMS

1) Report 9. 1) 11-2013 Multi Year Strategic Plan

A draft of the Multi-Year Plan was presented to trustees at the Board meeting of May 22nd, 2013. Trustees were invited to provide additional comments, with a goal to bring the draft Multi-Year Plan to this meeting for approval.

Director of Education, Brian Beal's earlier presentation provided highlights of the Multi Year Plan Steering Committee's work, the consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic and broader community, and the proposed mission and vision statements and multi-year strategic plan.

Recommendation #01

That the Board approve the new mission statement:

Our inclusive Catholic learning community is dedicated to excellence. We give witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ, as we journey in faith and learning, to develop the God-given abilities of each person.

as presented.

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

Recommendation #02:

That the Board approve the new vision statement:

Nurturing faith, illuminating minds, inspiring hearts, and empowering hands ~ we are working together to transform our world.

as presented.

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

Recommendation #03: That the Board approve the multi year plan –
September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2018 as presented.
Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the recommendation.

Board Chair Clayton Ferguson spoke for his fellow trustees to say that they are inspired by a new mission, a new vision and a new multi year strategic plan. He once again thanked everyone who contributed to this important work. Chair Ferguson advised that the Board has committed to achieving many goals over the next five years; and will journey together in faith and learning to help to develop the God-given abilities of each member of the Catholic community in Simcoe County and the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound.

2) Report 9. 2) 11-2013: 2013/14 Budget

Staff considered balancing strategies and were able to recommend a surplus in the budget to support the Multi-Year Strategic Plan that was anticipated to be, and was, approved at this meeting. Over the summer and fall, the Board will be updated on the priorities to be funded from the surplus to support the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Recommendation: That the Board approve the 2012-2013 amended Budget, and the proposed 2013-2014 Budget as presented.

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

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Ferguson extended appreciation to the Finance team, the senior leadership team, principals and managers for their wisdom and discernment so that trustees could approve a balanced budget. He advised that there are many uncertainties on the provincial labour front that could affect the budget that they passed this evening. It is the hope of trustees that the Ministry of Education will honour its commitment to fund the memorandums of understanding which they have signed with education unions.

3) Report 9. 3) 11-2013: Debenture Bylaw

In the spring, the Board was made aware of the opportunity to participate in an upcoming *Ontario Financing Authority* financing for some unfinanced capital work that was completed. The Board needs to take advantage of these opportunities when they come up, as the balances in the Board's operating and capital lines of credit would be carried forward. By participating in this financing, the Board's cash flow will improve, and the Ministry of Education will fund the costs of repaying this debt through the Grants for Students Needs (GSNs).

Recommendation: That the Board approve the Debenture By-Law 4501-13 and the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board - Loan Agreement as presented.

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

10. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1) **Report 10. 1) 11-2013: Student Trustee**

Trustees received the report from Student Trustee, Emily Cecchetti, which summarized her presentation about her term as student trustee.

2) **Report 10. 2) 11-2013: 2013/14 Spiritual Theme**

Each year the Board's Pastoral Team sets a spiritual theme for the school year that leads up to the Catholic Education Week (CEW) theme as set by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) in May. This year the committee chose *Living in Hope: Grounded in Faith*. The Catholic Education Week theme will be *Serving in the Light of Christ*. Schools will receive planning and prayer kits in support of the Board's spiritual theme and OCSTA's CEW theme.

Vice-Chair Maria Hardie suggested that the board find ways through the schools to advertise these themes in the community. Staff are preparing communication plans around both themes to support school and community awareness.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon commented that it is nice to walk into any of the board's schools and see that the year long theme and accompanying communication materials help to support everyone in different school communities to walk the same path and direction.

Chair Ferguson thanked staff for their work to develop the theme and provide support to school communities. He noted that next year's spiritual theme will guide the board as they embark on the launch of the new multi year strategic plan. He added that it seemed appropriate that the theme is *Living in Hope: Grounded in Faith*; a theme that will serve well in the journey to Catholic Education Week next spring when we will celebrate *Serving in the Love of Christ*. He felt that an inspirational year is in store for all of us.

3) **Report 10. 3) 11-2013: Full Day Kindergarten Projects Update**

Trustees received a report from Glenn Clarke, Controller of Plant, which advised of Ministry of Education approval for full day kindergarten construction projects at four schools: St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic School, Barrie
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, Innisfil
St. James Catholic School, Tottenham
St. John Vianney Catholic School, Barrie.

Peter Derochie, Associate Director of Education, commended Glenn Clarke and his team for their work and respectful relationship with the Ministry of Education's capital team.

Chair Ferguson advised that the Board looks forward to welcoming our youngest learners in these new Catholic learning spaces. He also extended appreciation to the planning and plant staff who will be guiding these projects to completion.

- 4) **Report 10. 4) 11-2013: Multi Year Accessibility Plan 2012 - 2017**
Jane Dillon-Leitch, Superintendent of Programme & Services provided a report and draft multi year accessibility plan for 2012-2017 as required by provincial legislation. Further refinements to the document are underway and a plan will be presented to the Board in the fall for approval. In the meantime it is considered a living document and will now be posted to the board website in draft form. Jane commended the committee, championed by Miryam Blasko, Special Education Coordinator, for their commitment and valuable conversations and detailed work.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon served on the committee and congratulated Miryam Blasko for pushing ahead with this initiative.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Ferguson said that they were pleased to see the efforts of the Accessibility Planning Committee to support the new mission statement and an inclusive Catholic learning community. This was one more example at this evening's meeting of the efforts of staff to courageously identify not only where we are doing things well but to face up to and develop creative ways to continuously improve, so that we are able to honour our commitment to staff, students and the broader community. He thanked the committee and all those who took the time to complete the survey that guided their work. He noted that trustees look forward to approving a final plan in the fall.

- 5) **Minutes – Special Education Advisory Committee**
i) **Meeting #06 – Wednesday, May 22, 2013**
The minutes were provided to trustees for the information.
- 6) **Minutes – Board Policy Review Committee**
i) **Meeting #04 – Wednesday, May 14, 2013**
The minutes were provided to trustees for the information.

11. **ROUTINE**

- 1) **Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings**
i) **Minutes – Meeting #10 – Wednesday, June 05, 2013**
Trustees agreed to a friendly amendment to include the “area trustees” in action item 8. 1) 10-2013: South East Barrie Boundary Review.
Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Minutes, as amended.

12. **TRUSTEE ENQUIRIES**
There were no enquiries.

13. **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti reported that Holy Trinity Catholic High School held their annual comedy and awards show with the intention of easing students into final exams. She

talked about the presentation to a special needs students as honorary cop with a badge and hat from the South Simcoe Regional Police Services.

Vice Chair Hardie was pleased to attend Mass that morning at Holy Spirit Parish with one of the Catholic school communities. She was pleased to see the school custodian in attendance and encouraged other schools to include all staff in school masses and events.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald reported on her attendance with her fellow trustees at the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association annual general meeting (CCSTA AGM), in Winnipeg earlier in June. In particular she noted that good points were made in the opening address; both workshops were informative and the multicultural evening at St. Mary's Academy was enjoyable. She also reflected that it was a good opportunity for dialogue and working relations with fellow trustees.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon reflected from the CCSTA AGM on how we are truly blessed in Ontario to offer Catholic education, which is not publicly funded in all provinces.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees received a list of correspondence.

15. MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 25, 2013	Discipline Committee - <i>cancelled</i>	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug 27, 2013	Multi Year Plan Launch – Lunch St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School	noon
	Multi Year Plan Launch – Mass Holy Spirit Parish - Mass	2:00 p.m.
	(time and locations to be confirmed with more details to follow)	
Tuesday, Sept 10, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept 11, 2013	Board Meeting #12 with Mass	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept 18, 2013	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept 18, 2013	Board Policy Review Meeting #06	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept 24, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept 25, 2013	Special Education Advisory Committee	5:30 p.m.

Chair Ferguson polled trustees for their availability in the event that a special meeting is required on Tuesday, July 2nd. Trustees will be advised as soon as possible.

16. PRIVATE SESSION

17. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no report.

18. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting #12: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 with Mass at 7:00p.m.
Agenda Deadline Date: Wednesday, September 04, 2013 4:30p.m.

At this time, Chair Ferguson, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, recognized Mary Puopolo, Superintendent of Education – Secondary Schools, who was attending her last board meeting, since she will be retiring in August. He acknowledged many of the initiatives for which Ms. Puopolo provided leadership since joining the Board five years ago. She has been an integral member of the senior leadership team; provided support and leadership to nine Catholic secondary schools; and has led on initiatives such as Adult and Continuing Education, Alternative Learning, Student Exchange Programs, Student Senate and Student Trustees, the Student Visa Program, Supervised Alternative Learning, Labour Management and the Board's Technology plan, to name a few. Congratulations, best wishes and prayers were extended to Mary Puopolo for a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

Ms. Puopolo responded that she felt very fortunate to be part of the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. She felt privileged to work with the finest professionals under the guidance of Brian Beal and in a collaborative manner with the supportive Education Leadership team; and thanked the Board of Trustees for their confidence in her. She acknowledged their superb stewardship of Simcoe Muskoka Catholic and their support of secondary programs. Ms. Puopolo said that she is leaving the Board feeling good about the future leadership of the Board and the leaders who will maintain and enhance our system that is based on the premise that we are teachers of Jesus Christ.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10: 20 p.m.

20. CLOSING PRAYER

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti led the closing prayer, with the following special intentions:

Remembrances for the Sick:

Linda Graham
Alexandra MacKay
Kayla Johnson

Remembrances for the Deceased:

Robert McCarthy
Chuck Duquette
Francis York
Anastasia Borysenko
John Murphy
Russel Cipp