

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
M I T T**

Virtual: A. Saggese, J. Wigston
Student Trustees M. Galstyan, S. Cuesta
M. Barbieri

Administration: In Person: J. De Faveri, J. Sarna, A. Battick, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi, G. De Girolamo,
i w r k A. Iafrate, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil, S. Morrow, L. Paonessa, J. Powers,
t e k M E - (In Person) M. Sawicky, S. Wright, J. T. ! S

Presiding: E. Crowe, Chair of the Board

2025:055 OPENING PRAYER AND CALL TO ORDER
Chair of the Board, Elizabeth Crowe, welcomed everyone
pm and welcomed the Faith Ambassadors to lead
Acknowledgement.

2025:056 ROLL CALL: Trustee T. McNicol - Approved Absence

2025:057 APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL:

MOTION: Iafrate/Wigston
THAT the new material be approved as presented.
- MOTION CARRIED -

2025:059 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR CU

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2025:061 a) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETI
Regular Board Meeting of November 26, 2024
Special Board Meeting of December 12, 2024

MOTION: Alexander/DiMeo
THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Nov
Meeting of December 12, 2024 be approved as presented.
- MOTION CARRIED

2025:062 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

b) Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided the first (of three) status report on the Year Two (2024-2025) MYSP update and achievement of the SMART goals. The next status reports will be provided in March 2025 and June 2025. The Board of Trustees congratulated Associate Director Sarna and her Team on refining the template to make the report easily measurable and consistent.

2025:070

ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports)

- a) **TRUSTEE MOTION: Explore Air Conditioning in All Elementary YCDSB Classrooms (J. Wigston)**

MOTION: Wigston/Grella

THAT staff investigate and report back to the Board of Trustees with an estimated financial outlay and timeframe required to equip all elementary YCDSB classrooms with air-conditioning.

- **MOTION CARRIED** -

It was noted that the staff's report will start with the internal data that is already available and investigate costing to present to the Board of Trustees. It was suggested that staff reach out to GTA Boards who have recently completed their multi-year plan to air condition all their classrooms. An update will be provided when completed.

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- b) **TRUSTEE MOTION: Audit of YCDSB Purchasing Credit Cards (PCards) (E. Crowe,**

Mr. Crowe put the discussion on hold so as to move through the rest of the action items.

REPORT NO. 2025:03 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - DECEMBER 17, 2024

Chair Maria Iafate presented, for approval, Report No. 2025:03 of the Committee of the Whole private session held on December 17, 2024.

i) DECLASSIFIED (Action Items for Approval): N/A

) CLASSIFIED:

MOTION: Iafate/Cotton

THAT the confidential action items from the Private Session held December 17, 2024, be approved as presented.

- MOTION CARRIED -

d) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2025:01 POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, A. Saggese, presented for approval, Report No. 2025:01 of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on December 2, 2024.

MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo

THAT the Board approve the Terms of Reference for the Policy Review Committee

THAT the Board approve the following revised policies:

Policy 102 Respecting Sacred Time: Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter Monday

Policy 114 Trustee Honorarium effective January 1, 2025

Policy 203 Student Transportation Services

Policy 221 Extreme Temperature

Policy 307 Opening Exercises

Policy 311 Digital Discipleship (Student Use of Technology)

Policy 319 Supplementary Learning Resources & Supplementary Learning Resources Procedure

THAT the Board approve the following NEW policy:

Policy 230 Guest Speakers / External Presentations

THAT the Board approve the following revised independent procedure:

Independent Procedure: Distribution of Materials

- MOTION CARRIED -

e) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2025:01 SPECIAL EDUCATION

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As someone working in Child Protection, I cannot ignore the risks in our society today. The rise in child trafficking and exploitation is a reality that we must not overlook. Those who prey on our children take opportunities like these to lure or take our children away. Vulnerable children walking alone, especially in early mornings or late afternoons where in winter months it gets darker earlier, can become easy targets for traffickers or predators. Prevention is better than reaction. It is our responsibility to be proactive and ensure policies prioritize the safety of children, rather than waiting for an incident to happen.

Many families share this struggle. As a working parent, I do not always have access to a vehicle, nor can I consistently take time off work to drive my son. Other families face similar or more complex challenges—they rely on public transit, juggle demanding schedules, and do everything they can to ensure their children's safety. But the current policy adds unnecessary pressure, forcing children to walk distances that may be unsafe and unreasonable, particularly in winter.

I respectfully appeal to this Board to conduct a thorough review of the school bussing policy to ensure it is equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of families affected by these policies. Some considerations include using discretionary power on a case-by-case basis reviewing all the safety concerns outlined by the parent and mitigating factors if any. These may include, adjusting policies that consider the overall health of the child, ages and stages of the child, for example 9-10 is still too young to walk on their own, as well as whether the children have older siblings accompanying them to school, or perhaps making exceptions for winter months. Policies should be flexible enough to address legitimate safety concerns and exceptional circumstances—like those faced by working parents, families with limited supports, limited transportation and other considerations for their children. The safety of children must always come first. I ask you to consider whether this policy truly serves the best interests of our children or whether it prioritizes budgetary constraints over their well-being.

As Trustees, you have a duty to prioritize the safety, education, and overall well-being of every child in the York Catholic District School Board. Every parent's greatest wish is for their children to arrive home safe and sound. I trust you will listen to the voices of families you serve, and I urge you to revisit this policy before winter conditions worsen and school resumes in January. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing meaningful steps taken to protect the safety and well-being of all children in York Region.

Respectfully submitted by:

Liezl Sebial