

**MINUTES  
of the Regular Board Meeting**

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

**PRESENT:**

Members:	In Person:	F. Alexander, M. Barbieri, C. Cotton, A. Grella, M. Iafrate, J. DiMeo, A. Saggese, Student Trustees A. Zamanifar, M. Galstyan, J. James
	Virtual:	J. Wigston (disconnected at 8:16 pm)
Administration:	In Person:	D. Scuglia, J. Sarna, R. Antunes, A. Arcadi, A. Battick, M. Brosens, J. Chiutsi, K. Elgharbawy, M. Fedrigoni, T. Laliberte, C. McNeil,

- 2024:089 CHAIR'S REPORT / UPDATE / INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGES:**  
Elizabeth Crowe, Chair of the Board, had provided her Board Report as part of the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Agenda. The topics included Milestone Anniversary, Blessing and Ribbon-Cutting of Pope Francis CES Port-a-Pak and OCSTA Catholic Trustees' Seminar.
- 2024:090 OCSTA / BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:**  
Trustee Jennifer Wigston, OCSTA Regional Director representing York Catholic District School Board, provided her report in the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Topics included 2023 Short Video Contest for Catholic Education, OCSTA Submission and 2024 OCSTA Catholic Trustees Seminar January 19-20, 2024.
- 2024:091 DIRECTOR'S REPORT / UPDATE:**  
Director of Education Domenic Scuglia, provided his report in the December 19, 2023 Regular Board Agenda package. Director Scuglia highlighted and read two items from his report, Respectful Behaviour Towards Trustees and Change in Snow Plow Operations. Other Topics included Cardinal Carter CHS Supports Relay for Life, YCDSB Website, YCDSB Wow!, Twitter Break, Indigenous Winter Games, School Visits.
- 2024:092 STUDENT TRUSTEES' REPORT:**  
Student Trustees Monica Galstyan, Jonah James and Amira Zamanifar presented their *December Student Trustee Report to Board* using a new format whereby their topics were linked to the Board's MYSP Strategic Priorities: Catholic Faith, Equity and Inclusion, Student Aá,

community. Many classrooms have Advent wreaths with artificial candles representing each week leading up to Christmas. Schools are also organizing special Advent liturgies as well as donation drives and projects to promote not only spiritual growth but also giving back to the community. It's a wonderful time for students to deepen their faith and embrace the true meaning of Christmas.

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*In keeping with the theme of Christmas, the York Secondary Catholic President's Council is planning to host a Christmas Dinner, inviting high school students from across the board to connect, celebrate and eat some delicious food. The event is planned to be less work-oriented as the usual YSCPC meetings, with a bigger focus on what this season is about. Fellowship and community!*

**2024:093 RECOGNITIONS / OUTSIDE PRESENTATIONS: NIL**

**2024:094 DELEGATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Iafrate welcomed the Delegation and recited the following:

*"The York Catholic District School Board recognizes that stakeholders should have an opportunity to address the Board of Trustees. The Board has established a delegation process and this process is clearly outlined in Policy 106 Delegations to the Board and Input to Agenda Items. This policy reflects the guidelines to which delegations may come forward. To YCDSB community members visiting tonight, I wish to be very clear that views expressed by the delegations are those of the speakers. We will not be engaging in question or debate and I will be asking Trustees if they have questions at the end of your presentation for clarification. Please be reminded that York Catholic District School Board promotes positive, respectful, and civil behaviour. Therefore, the expectation is to treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and if you do not adhere to these instructions, your delegation will be terminated."*

**a) Exception to the Transportation Policy**

Alfredo Picano, who was in attendance virtually, requested an exception to the transportation policy that would permit their child to access the Board approved bus and commute with their older sibling until June 2027. The request was as a result of the changes to the dual feeder elementary schools approved by the Board.

**2024:095 JOURNEY TOWARDS OUR VISION:**

**a) Secondary Promotional Videos**

J. Sarna, Associate Director shared a promotional video from Cardinal Carter CHS that is also posted on their website. The Board of Trustees were pleased with the video.

**b) Multi-Year Strategic Plan Update**

J. Sarna, Associate Director provided the first (of three) status report on the MYSP update and achievement of the SMART goals. The Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation and noted that the presentation clearly demonstrated overall progress and the colours, format, visual highlights at a glance are clear and easy to understand. The next status reports will be provided in February 2024 and June 2024.

**2024:096 ACTION ITEM(S) (including Committee Reports):**

**a) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:03 SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafrate presented for receipt Report No. 2024:03 of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 2023.

**MOTION: Iafrate/Saggese**

**THAT** Report No. 2024:03 from the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 2023, be received as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

**b) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Trustee Michaela Barbieri, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Transportation Review Committee meeting held on November 30, 2023.

**MOTION: Barbieri/Saggese**

**THAT** the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Transportation Review Committee be approved.

**- MOTION CARRIED –**

**c) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 STUDENT SUCCESS & PATHWAYS COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Angela Saggese, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Student Success & Pathways Committee meeting held on December 4, 2023.

**MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo**

**THAT** the Board approve the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Student Success & Pathways Committee.

**- MOTION CARRIED –**

**d) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:02 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Angela Grella, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:02 of the The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting was held on December 11, 2023.

**MOTION: Grella/Wigston**

**THAT** the Report No. 2024:02 from the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting held on December 11, 2023, be received as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED –**

**e) APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Vice-Chair Maria Iafate, presented for approval, Report No. 2024:01 of the Executive Committee meeting held on December 12, 2023.

**MOTION: Iafate/Cotton**

**THAT** the 2024 Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee be approved.

**- MOTION CARRIED –**

**f) RECEIPT OF REPORT NO. 2024:01 AD-HOC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE EXTENDED DAY COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Angela Saggese, presented for receipt, Report No. 2024:01 of the Ad-Hoc International Language Extended Day Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023.

**MOTION: Saggese/DiMeo**

**THAT** Report No. 2024:01 from the Ad-Hoc International Language Extended Day Committee meeting held on December 13, 2023, be received as presented.

**- MOTION CARRIED –**

**g) TRUSTEE MOTION: Moving Towards Equity Within the YCDSB (F. Alexander)**

*There are socio-economic differences within York Region;*

*These differences can create severe inequities between students within the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB);*

*These inequities can place many students at an academic disadvantage;*

*We are directed by our Vision, Mission and Values to address such inequities;*

*Although there are many forms of inequities created by socio-economic differences, the Board cannot feasibly address them all at the same time;*

*Students are more likely to achieve academic success when they share an equitable access to educational tools, equipment and resources.*

**MOTION: Alexander/Saggese**

*the Board begin the process of "Moving Towards Equity" within the YCDSB by focusing first upon learning tools and technological supports to education during the development of the 2023-2024 budget.*

*Senior Staff initiate and oversee a process to:*

- essential learning tools required by our schools to effectively deliver the elementary curriculum and facilitate student achievement;*
- data from all elementary schools concerning their current inventories of such tools (reflected on a per pupil basis);*
- a report to the Board as part of the 2023 Budget process to highlight this data and make recommendations for priority resource allocation that will support our movement towards equity in all schools.*

*the Director of Education ensure that goals/actions/targets for "Moving Towards Equity" are highlighted in each year of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.*

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

Director Scuglia advised that in anticipation of this Motion being approved, staff have already begun working towards some of the outcomes. This Motion will be added to next year's MYSP, if we are not able to add to the current MYSP.

Trustee Wigston disconnected at 8:16 pm.

**h) TRUSTEE MOTION: Action Plan to Combat Anti-Black Racism at York Catholic District School Board (F. Alexander)**

*Director Scuglia invited members of the Black community on November 23, 2023 to provide input into the results from a Survey on Black experience at York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB); the Black community leaders expressed extreme disappointment that two years after receiving the survey results the Director and the School Board have taken no action on the results; this delay has exacerbated the suffering of Black youth at YCDSB; the community recommended that the Board show its commitment to Anti-Black Racism by setting aside a proper budget to ensure success of the Plan; Director Scuglia asked for and received input from the Black Community on what will combat Anti-Black Racism; failure to act on these recommendations will demonstrate a lack of commitment by YCDSB to combat Anti-Black Racism; such inaction will cause further reputational damage to YCDSB within the Black community.*

**MOTION: Alexander/Saggese**

*no later than March 31, 2024, Director Scuglia presents the following to the Board of Trustees for approval:*

- a) A comprehensive Action Plan that details:
 
  - The specific actions to be undertaken to combat Anti-Black Racism at York Catholic District School Board.*
  - The expected results from those actions.*
  - The measures of success.*
  - The timeframe within which those results are to be achieved.*
  - The internal operational structure that will be put in place to ensure that gains made are not lost;*
  - Monthly reporting to the Board of Trustees on the progress of the Plan.**
- b) A proper budget to ensure success of the Action Plan.*

**- MOTION CARRIED -**

Trustee Carol Cotton asked the mover/seconded if they would adjust the date of March 31st to reflect by the approval of the budget. Director Scuglia stated that there was budget assigned to MYSP in the amount of \$250K that will be used for this purpose. Director Scuglia advised that in anticipation of this Motion being approved, a Committee was struck and a preliminary meeting was held on December 18, 2023. An Anti-Black Racism Sub-Committee also began their work led by Superintendent Rocchina Antunes. An update will be provided to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

Trustee Frank Alexander thanked the Board of Trustees and stated that this is a good start and the the community is elated that we have committed ourselves.

**2024:097 DISCUSSION ITEM(S):**

- a) **TRUSTEE MOTION: Busing for Siblings (A. Saggese)**  
*students enrolled*

The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification. This Motion will be an Action item on the January 30, 2024 Regular Board agenda.

**2024:098 INFORMATION ITEM(S):**

**a) 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report**

D. Scuglia, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board provided a high level overview of the 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report. The Education Act requires the Director of Education to report annually on the Board's progress made towards the Multi-Year Strategic Plan goals in the previous school year. The 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report will also be posted on the Board's website.

**b) Stouffville Multi-Use Project Update**

K. Elgharbawy, Superintendent of Facilities Se