

RENFREW COUNTY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Held in the Board Room, on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 4:45 p.m.

Bob Schreader, Chair of the Board, began the meeting by acknowledging the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin people, followed by an opening prayer. Mr. Schreader asked that the following people be remembered in our prayers: Stephen LaPlante (father of Kelsey Valliquette, Teacher at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke), Geraldine Charkavi (mother of Stephen Charkavi, Secondary Experiential Learning/Pathways Coordinator) and Kendyl Smith-Trimmm (student at Cathedral School, Pembroke).

Mr. Schreader welcomed everyone back from the summer. He also welcomed Ben Wood, our new student trustee and Derek Lennox, our new Superintendent of Educational Services.

RESOLUTION #1

Moved by Pat O’Grady
Seconded by Susan Artymko
That Trustees move into In-Camera Committee in Committee of the Whole.
...Carried

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by Susan Artymko
Seconded by Anne Haley
That Trustees move out of In-Camera Committee in Committee of the Whole.
...Carried

ROLL CALL

Present:	Chairperson	- Bob Schreader
	Vice Chairperson	- David Howard
	Trustees	- Susan Artymko - Andy Bray - Anne Haley (virtual) - Jerry Lavalley - Pat O’Grady
	Student Representative	- Elena Valliquette - Ben Wood
	Director of Education	- Mark Searson
	Associate Director of Business Affairs & Treasurer	- Mary Lynn Schauer
	Superintendent of Educational Services	- Clint Young
	Superintendent of Educational Services	- Heidi Fraser
	Superintendent of Educational Services	- Derek Lennox
	Recording Secretary	- Nancy Levasseur

APPROVAL OF AGENDA**RESOLUTION #3**

Moved by David Howard
 Seconded by Pat O'Grady

That the Agenda for the August 28, 2023 General Meeting of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board be approved.

...Carried

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**RESOLUTION #4**

Moved by Pat O'Grady
 Seconded by Susan Artymko

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board held in the Library at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke on Monday, June 26, 2023 at 4:45 p.m. be approved.

...Carried

DISBURSEMENT LIST**RESOLUTION #5**

Moved by Anne Haley
 Seconded by Andy Bray

That the listing of payments as shown on AUG2 be approved as presented.

...Carried

PRESENTATION GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS**Summer Learning 2023**

Summer School Principals T.J. O'Grady and Pam Dickerson attended the meeting to report on the various programs that took place during the 2023 Summer Learning Program. Summer learning opportunities included K-6 Summer School, Secondary e-Learning, Mental Health & Wellness Programs, Indigenous Studies & GLS Credit Program and Secondary Credit Recovery.

Secondary summer learning included 4-week long e-learning courses, offering three RCCDSB Grade 10 Civics and Careers courses & two Grade 11 World Religion courses, with 162 students enrolled – 85 BSCHS students and 77 SJHS students. There were also 20 Co-op students – 11 from BSCHS and 9 from SJHS. The Co-op students either went to their established place of work or the teacher found them a placement. Teachers dropped in on them every few days and they had assignments to complete as well.

Courses were also offered through other boards across Ontario, including Grade 12 Business, Grade 12 Canadian & World Issues, Grade 12 College Math, Grade 12 Data Management, Grade 10 Math, Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course, Grade 11 Chemistry and Grade 10 Science. Twenty-five RCCDSB students were enrolled in these e-learning courses.

In an effort to aid students in reaching their full potential, an August Credit Recovery Program was also offered for the first time to provide an opportunity for all students to be successful in summer e-learning.

It was noted that there had to be substantial learning gaps for students to attend this year's elementary summer learning program. The program was held over 3 weeks in July from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The primary/junior classes were held at three in-person sites: St. James, Eganville; Our Lady of Lourdes, Pembroke and St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew. The program goals and outcomes were to narrow and close learning gaps, create student profiles to provide targeted instruction in the areas of literacy and numeracy, provide mental health and wellness opportunities and to provide an engaging and fun program. The RCCDSB Curriculum and Special Education teams were also involved, using current evidence-based research and programming and resources, which included a virtual professional development session prior to the start of summer learning. The PASS assessment was used to collect pre and post data for all students to support small group instruction and teaching for teachers.

In addition to reporting progress to parents, all correspondence was also sent to students' home schools so their current teachers could gauge their success and to assist with planning for the new school year. A summer learning report was sent to all families at the end of the program which provided a summary of their child's learning, strengths and next steps. A survey was also sent to parents requesting feedback on the program and overall results indicate the program exceeded parent expectations. There was also some feedback from parents that indicated that they felt the effects of COVID regarding learning gaps were still being felt.

As a result of feedback and to help determine next steps, the team has concluded that the summer learning program should maintain precise programming. Elementary feedback has indicated that transportation would make the program more accessible and that it would be beneficial to open programming up to a larger population of students with additional sites and staffing. For secondary, it was determined that there should be a pre-summer session by guidance departments regarding eLearning to set out what the expectations and requirements are. Weekly staff meetings for teachers to attend to check in with summer school principals would also be helpful.

Mental Health and Wellness programming was offered in partnership with the elementary summer learning program. Rebecca Paulsen and Kevin DeRuitter offered weekly programming and presentations based on faith, hope and love and community building through theme days such as Ninja and Pirate Day. In addition to these theme days, all summer school students were bused to a community event held on July 21st at St. James School in Eganville for a morning of mental wellness activities and fun. Community members were also invited and it was very well attended.

Bob Schreader expressed the trustees' appreciation to T.J. and Pam and the summer learning team for all the work they put in to ensure that the summer learning program was a huge success again this year. He thanked them all for their time this summer.

Good News Release – Indigenous Summer Programs

The Board's Indigenous Summer Learning program continued this summer, with some Grade 8 Indigenous students working towards achieving a general learning reach-ahead credit focused on project management. In June, students began to rejuvenate and redesign a courtyard space at Bishop Smith Catholic High School. They learned about the steps of project management and underwent safety training. Throughout the process, they were able to research designs, consult with a biologist and learn about budgeting.

During the week of July 10-14, students working towards a credit and those completing community hours to fulfill their graduation requirements, worked to implement the vision. The Board was fortunate to partner with Skills Ontario, who gifted each student with a tool bag and tools. Skills Ontario also joined in the project for a day giving the students a presentation on the skilled trades and crafted both birdhouses and birdfeeders with the students. Although the project is ongoing and the credit work continues, students were able to gain on-the-job experience and skills related to project management and general landscaping. An opening ceremony is planned for later in the fall.

The 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia in July. This event takes place every 3-4 years and the best Indigenous athletes get the opportunity to compete against teams across North America. RCCDSB had 5 students participate in the games – Nolan and Lena Costello and Mark and John Bailie, along with one coach, Gerry Benoit, the Board's Indigenous Graduation Coach.

Lena Costello played for U16 girls' basketball for Team Ontario, making it to the quarterfinals. Her brother, Nolan Costello, played U19 boys' basketball for Team Ontario, losing in a triple overtime game for the bronze medal against Minnesota. Mark Bailie came 10th in the 800m race and 8th in the 1200m race. His brother John Bailie, participated in the shot put and javelin and came in 4th place in those events. The brothers, who attend St. Joseph's High School in Renfrew, ran together in the 4x100m and while they initially came in 3rd, New Mexico was disqualified, awarding the Bailie brothers the silver medal.

Gerry Benoit coached U14 boys' basketball with Indigenous athletes between 12-14 years old across Canada. This was the first time in several years that these games were able to take place and Gerry recalled some exciting moments during the semi-final games against Team BC. He said the most important takeaway is working towards a common goal with someone you may not know. Some of the athletes only met one another on this trip but everyone came together to display the true definition of teamwork.

The City of Pembroke has invited all the athletes and Coach Benoit to the Pembroke City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 5th.

NEW BUSINESS

Retirements

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by Jerry Lavalley

Seconded by David Howard

That the Board accept the following retirements with regret:

- Donna Santerre, Board-Wide Educational Assistant, effective August 31, 2023;
- Debbie Lallier, Educational Assistant at St. Francis of Assisi School, Petawawa, effective October 31, 2023; and
- Colleen Hisko, Educational Assistant at St. Thomas the Apostle School, Renfrew, effective July 31, 2023.

...Carried

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

School Year Calendar 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 School Year Calendar was provided for the trustees.

Schedule of Meetings – 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 Schedule of Meetings was provided.

Cheque Run Schedule – School Year 2023-2024

The trustees' cheque run schedule was provided up to August 31, 2024.

23rd Annual Child Care Worker & ECE Appreciation Day

A request was received from the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care and CUPE Ontario asking school boards to proclaim and participate in Child Care Worker & Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day, on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. This day recognizes the many early childhood professionals working in schools, both in full-day kindergarten and school-based childcare.

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by Andy Bray

Seconded by David Howard

That the Board recognize Tuesday, October 17, 2023 as Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

...Carried

Summer 2023 Plant Projects

A list of plant projects that were completed over the summer and that are currently in progress were provided for the trustees' information.

OCSTA Information Items

- a. Instrumentum Laboris – Synod 2024
- b. Office of the Auditor General of Ontario Report
- c. MOE Memo – 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant & Enhanced Reporting
- d. Memo – Appointment as Participant at the Synod on Synodality in Rome
- e. Ethics in the Age of Disruptive Technologies – An Operational Roadmap, the ITEC Handbook
- f. Discerning Leadership – On the Road Together – My Burden is Light
- g. OCSTA Submission Letter – Draft Regulations under Bill 98
- h. CCCB Press Release – World Youth Day – Portugal, August 2-6, 2023
- i. Announcement – CVO Coordinator
- j. Cision Media Monitoring Consortium Participation
- k. CCSTA 2024 Convention – Calgary, Alberta
- l. CCCB – The Holy Father's Apostolic Visit to Canada – One Year Later
- m. Catholic Education Week Kit for First Week of School
- n. 2022-23 Annual Report of the Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario
- o. Submission – Proposed Approach for Regulations under the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative Act, 2022
- p. Copyright & Fair Dealings Awareness Campaign Fall 2023

CORRESPONDENCE**Staff Source – AUG10**

1. August - card of thanks from Dave Howard & family for the Board's expression of sympathy sent at the passing of James Howard.
2. June - card of thanks from Cammie Summerby, for the gifts and tributes received on the occasion of her retirement.
3. July 4 - letter of thanks from the BSCHS Organizing Committee of the school's 16th Annual Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament, for the Board's donation to the fundraiser.
4. August - card of thanks from the St. Joseph's High School GSA for the Board's kindness and inclusivity throughout the school year and for making the school a safe space for all.

FUTURE BUSINESS

General/Trustees' Comments

There were no comments.

Meeting Dates

- September 11 - Audit Committee Meeting
2:00 p.m. – Board Office
- September 11 - Business & Corporate Services Committee Meeting
4:00 p.m. – Board Office
- September 11 - Educational Services Committee Meeting
following BCS Meeting – Board Office
- September 13 - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m.
- September 20 - OCSTA Region 10 Fall Regional Meeting - Peterborough
- September 25 - Board Meeting - Committee of the Whole – 4:00 p.m.
- General Meeting – 4:45 p.m.

Questions from Media

No media were present.

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by Jerry Lavalley
Seconded by Anne Haley

That the recommendations made by motion and consensus in the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 28, 2023 be approved.

...Carried

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by Pat O'Grady
Seconded by Andy Bray
That the meeting be adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

...Carried

Chairperson, Renfrew County Catholic
District School Board

Director of Education and Secretary, Renfrew
County Catholic District School Board

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September 7, 2023