

RENFREW COUNTY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

A Microsoft Teams link was provided for the public to access the meeting.

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 we remember in our prayers the two members of the 450 Helicopter Squadron who tragically lost their lives last week near Garrison Petawawa.

RESOLUTION #1

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

...Carried

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by Anne Haley
Seconded by Bob Schreader
That Trustees move out of In-Camera Committee in Committee of the Whole.

...Carried

ROLL CALL

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| Present: | Chairperson | - Bob Schreader |
| | Vice Chairperson | - David Howard |
| | Trustees | - Susan Artymko - Anne Haley - Jerry Lavalley - Pat O'Grady |
| | Student Representative | - Michaela Vandergragt - Elena Valliquette - Ben Wood |
| | Director of Education | - Mark Searson |
| | Superintendent of Educational Services | - Mary-Lise Rowat |
| | Superintendent of Educational Services | - Clint Young |
| | Superintendent of Educational Services | - Heidi Fraser |
| | Superintendent of Business Services | - Mary Lynn Schauer |
| | Recording Secretary | - Nancy Levasseur |
| Absent: | Trustees | - Andy Bray (regrets) |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA**RESOLUTION #3**

Moved by Pat O'Grady
 Seconded by David Howard
 That the Agenda for the June 26, 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 Anne Haley
 Seconded by Susan Artymko
 That the Minutes of the General Meeting of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board held in the Board Room on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 4:45 p.m. be approved.

...Carried

DISBURSEMENT LIST**RESOLUTION #5**

Moved by Jerry Lavalley
 Seconded by Pat O'Grady
 That the listing of payments as shown on JUN2 be approved as presented.

...Carried

PRESENTATION/GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS**RCCDSB 2023-2024 Budget**

Board Chair Bob Schreader presented the 2023-2024 Budget for the trustees' approval. The budget of \$84.5 million includes several strategies to address the needs of students with investments in early reading intervention and screening tools, math achievement action plans, de-streaming and transitions, and pathways and entrepreneurship opportunities for students.

The Board has invested \$112,600 towards licensing for early reading interventions, \$34,800 for early reading enhancements and \$100,200 into professional assessments and reading. In addition, the Board has committed \$264,700 for education staff to assist with reading interventions. Schools will be focusing on early intervention math support for students with special education needs in Grades K-8 as well as implementing the new Ministry Math Achievement Action Plan. Overall, \$11.7 million has been invested into special education resources. Although we are spending more on special education in relation to provincial funding, we have had to reduce the size of the annual special education deficit to achieve a balanced budget.

The Board will also invest \$216,000 in staffing to support student potential in de-streaming and transitions to high school. This will include a de-streaming implementation supports program to assist grade 8 students in their transition to a de-streamed grade 9 program, support grade 9 students to be successful in the classroom and prepare students for grade 10 and their senior program.

For our Grade 7-8 students, Pathways and experiential learning opportunities are being increased as part of our re-engagement strategy. Experiential learning opportunities will also be increased for Grades 7-10 with our Program Team, with an enhanced focus on dual credit learning, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship programs (OYAP) and Specialist High Skills Majors (SHMS) for grade 9-12 students. \$146,097 has been invested into OYAP, \$10,000 towards the Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Project and \$92,000 towards skilled trades.

Mental health and wellness will remain a priority, with \$729,346 allocated to continue to support our students. We have invested in Tier 1 mental health and well-being strategies for the classroom that includes training for teachers. Funds have also been invested towards supporting vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed.

Our Indigenous Education Coach will continue to assist students in their studies and help support them as they make transitions from school to full-time work or secondary education. The Board has also invested in hiring a new Indigenous Student Success and Cultural Support Worker.

The Board is continuing to optimize air quality and improve ventilation and filtration within our schools. Some of these improvements are the upgraded HVAC system being installed at St. Andrew's in Killaloe and new windows and lights in some of the schools that require updates. The capital project for the addition to St. Joseph's High School and the demolition and reconstruction of St. Thomas the Apostle began in early spring. This investment in operations and maintenance for our schools totals \$8.3 million.

The Ministry of Education recently released a new transportation funding model, with common reference standards including walk distances and optimal number of vehicles to encourage consistency and improve equitable access to student transportation. The Board is concerned that the Ministry walk distances are not practical for the rural geography in Renfrew County. Another area of concern is the lack of funding for students, including some of our most rural and special needs students who require the use of vans to commute to and from school. Costs previously funded outside the

transportation funding such as driver recruitment and retention bonus and driver training have been transferred into the allocation for 2023-24. The Board will be reviewing details and working with the Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium to further understand how transportation services will be impacted.

To enhance Catholic education and answer the Bishop's call to evangelization, the Board has also allocated funds to sponsor teachers who would like to complete their religious education qualification, as well as focusing on adult faith formation for all RCCDSB staff.

The 2023-2024 school year theme is "As a community of believers, we strive to instill a desire for life-long learning and a pursuit of excellence". This theme and a focus on the "Universal Design for Learning" will be the backbone of everything we do this school year.

Mr. Schreader concluded by thanking the members of the budget team for the time and expertise they provided to prepare a balanced budget and asked that the budget be approved as submitted.

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by Dave Howard

Seconded by Pat O'Grady

That the Board approve the 2023-2024 Budget as presented.

...Carried

A media release will be distributed following the meeting, outlining further details of the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Retirements

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by Anne Haley

Seconded by Susan Artymko

That the Board accept the following retirements with regret:

- Michael Britton, Teacher, Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, effective October 31, 2023; and
- Lee Rose, Teacher, St. Thomas the Apostle School, Renfrew, effective June 30, 2023.

...Carried

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Business and Corporate Services Committee Report

Committee Chair, Dave Howard, reported on the meeting held June 19, 2023.

Board Policy – Digital Citizenship – Heidi Fraser explained that the schools are looking for a more robust policy and procedure in relation to students who bring their own device (BYOD), the use of school devices and the use of the school Wi-Fi. Appendix A: Responsible Use Agreement (secondary); Appendix B: Responsible Use Agreement (elementary) and Appendix C: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD), have been updated and will either be put on a parent portal where the student/parent can go online and sign them, or if that's not possible for September 2023, then a paper copy will be given out by the classroom teacher to be returned with the parents' signature.

Access Road Conversation – Julie Huckabone, BSCHS Principal, is requesting a conversation about installing a secondary access road at the school. This issue has been put forward before to the City but there has always been opposition from neighbouring homeowners. There is currently gated access, but this wouldn't work in certain weather conditions, such as snow. Ian Byce, Plant Services Manager, will check the current lock on the gates to verify that there is a master key on it that can also be shared with the Fire Department. A letter to the City of Pembroke will be drafted and the Committee will await a response before proceeding any further.

Community Use of Schools – Request for a Waiver of Fees – The Knights of Columbus Council 15945 has requested an exemption of rental fees for the use of the staff/lunchroom and kitchen facilities at St. Andrew's School, Killaloe to prepare food and provide a BBQ to the community on Canada Day.

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by Dave Howard
Seconded by Pat O'Grady

That the Board approve the request from the Knights of Columbus Council 15945 Killaloe, for a waiver of rental fees for their use of the staff/lunchroom and kitchen facilities at St. Andrew's School, Killaloe on Canada Day – July 1, 2023, for the community BBQ fundraiser, providing that insurance is purchased for this event.

...Carried

Plant Projects – The Plant Department provided a summary of plant projects planned over the spring, summer and fall. The trustees requested that the estimated costs for the projects be provided at a future meeting.

Community Use of Schools Summary – A summary of the Community Use of Schools from May to June 2023 was provided. Trustees noted it is nice to see our schools being used again by the public.

Community Use of Schools – Request for a Waiver of Fees – Gerry Benoit, RCCDSB Indigenous Graduation Coach, is requesting the waiver of rental fees for the use of the main gym at BSCHS for a 12-hour training camp for the U14 Indigenous Team Ontario Basketball Team that he is coaching on Saturday, July 8th.

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by Jerry Lavalley
Seconded by Pat O’Grady

That the Board approve the request from Gerry Benoit, for a waiver of rental fees for the use of the main gym at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, for the U14 Indigenous Team Ontario Basketball Team training camp on Saturday, July 8, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., providing that insurance is provided for this event.

...Carried

Educational Services Committee Meeting Report

Pat O’Grady, Acting Committee Chair, reported on the meeting held June 19, 2023.

Presentation – Board Improvement & Equity Plan – Heidi Fraser gave an overview of the BIEP’s four key areas of Achievement, Human Rights & Equity, Mental Health, Well Being & Engagement and Pathways & Transitions. She highlighted the accomplishments that have been achieved as well as where we are going in the areas of phonological and phonemic awareness, the use of decodable texts, planning student-centred instruction using phonological and phonemic awareness screening and assessment results, deepening K-8 educator capacity in planning student-centred writing instruction using a writers’ workshop model of delivery; building K-12 educator capacity, promoting the principles and guidelines of Universal Design for Learning and Learning for All and Social Emotional Learning to maximize learning and foster a sense of inclusivity, engagements, well-being and belonging.

EOSDN Board Highlights – Derek Lennox will now be our representative on the Eastern Ontario Staff Development Network and will sit on the EOSDN Board of Directors. Scott Nichol is one of the leaders on the EOSDN Leadership Academy. Our Board currently has one candidate in the Queen’s University Faculty of Education FSL Multisession. While they attend teachers’ college, the participants are able to work as a French teacher within the Board.

Opioid Overdose Response Plan Plan Partner Follow Up – The Renfrew County and District Health Unit has provided several resources in the last few weeks in regard to air quality due to forest fires and that children should be staying indoors when the air quality is poor. They have also shared an opioid overdose response plan with the Board.

Summer Indigenous Education Program – In mid-April, the Board received a \$26,000 grant for a summer Indigenous education program. An experiential learning program was developed for students in Grades 8-11. Eleven students have enrolled in this course, which will allow them to attain a reach-ahead credit or community service hours.

Board Program and Information –

- a) ***August LTM*** – A memo has been sent to the Leadership Team regarding the Inaugural Leadership Team meeting that will be held in August.
- b) ***Summer School Registration*** – There will be three sites for elementary summer school this year. Enrolment is slow due to just having three sites and the fact that parents will need to provide their own transportation. The secondary online summer learning is quite full.
- c) ***RCCDSB Pride Month Resource Site*** – Scott Lafreniere has sent out a memo to administrators with a link to resources for Pride Month. The Ministry has also sent a memo to all school boards indicating that all boards should be celebrating Pride Month in multiple ways.
- d) ***Empathy Project*** – Rebecca Paulsen, the Board’s Mental Health Lead, has provided information to our Mental Health Team for any secondary students who were struggling before exams this year. Elementary principals were given some resources for teachers as well.
- e) ***The Good Shepherd Seminar*** – The Good Shepherd Seminar was held at St. James School, Eganville on Wednesday, June 7th for aspiring leaders within our board. Forty-six people indicated an interest and thirty attended the evening session.
- f) ***Options 2023*** – The Options Skilled Trades Fair was held on Wednesday, May 31st at the PMC in Pembroke. Several students from our board participated in the many skills that were part of the fair.
- g) ***Suspension Data Review*** – Scott Lafreniere compiled the suspension data for the year which will be used by the safe and accepting school team to plan for next year.
- h) ***Secondary June 9th PA Day Agenda*** – This was an information item.
- i) ***June Mental Health Newsletter*** – An information item.

Ministry of Education –

- a) ***Next Steps on Technological Graduation Requirements in Secondary School*** – A memo was received from the Ministry of Education confirming that starting in September 2024, the Grade 9 cohort will need to take a mandatory tech credit. The Ministry is seeking feedback from school boards on what we have available in tech spaces and in teachers and this must be reported back by July 14th. Our secondary schools have a very robust tech program and we don’t have very much space for more students and teachers.

Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Committee Chair, Pat O’Grady, reported on the meeting held June 7, 2023.

Presentation – Summer Special Education Program – Scott Nichol, School Effectiveness Principal and Valleycrest Principal, presented information on special education programming for the summer.

- The Welcome Program will take place the week of August 21-25. There will be 4 days of strategic and specific programming, where the students attend school for

a half day and at the end of each day, the team regroups to see what works and what doesn't. A plan is then set up for the home school. This year, the Welcome Program will also be held at BSCHS as they have a double cohort starting in September;

- The Transition Program is being held from August 21-31 and is a lot more flexible. Students will come in at different times and the program will be held at all schools;
- The Special Education team is also working on their multi-year strategic plan and are meeting to collectively agree on what is important;
- The glitches that were being experienced with CLEVR have now been fixed;
- Community Living is available for some students that may need post-secondary support. A brochure has been developed to give to parents during the IPRC process to help guide them;
- Tiered Math strategies are ongoing and mirror what is being done with reading strategies.

The Committee thanked Scott for his presentation and congratulated him on receiving the "Eleanor Newman Award for Outstanding Service" from EOSDN.

2022-2023 Special Education Plan – The 2022-23 Special Education Plan was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION #10

Moved by Pat O'Grady

Seconded by Anne Haley

That the Board approves the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board's Special Education Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

...Carried

Thank You's – Clint Young thanked the committee members for their dedication. A small gift was emailed to everyone.

Looking Ahead to the 2023-2024 School Year – An email will be sent out in August to make sure members are still interested in being on the committee. Members will also be asked if the timing and format of the meetings are still acceptable.

EA Allotment Process – Clint Young will be meeting with all schools virtually to discuss their EA allotment. No permanent EAs are redundant and all surplus EAs will be reassigned.

Association Reports – There were no Association reports.

Next Meeting Date – The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Secondary School Report

Michaela Vandergragt, Student Trustee, reporting on activities taking place at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke.

Important Dates

- Kaylyn Voisin received first place in the photography contest at Options on June 1st;
- On June 5th, the senior music class travelled to Toronto;
- June 7th was Family Pizza night and also Day 1 of the 9-day Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- The Krista Johnson Memorial Run was held on June 11th;
- Grad Mass and Grad practice were held on June 13th;
- The senior drama class production “WCKY” was held on June 15 & 16;
- The Prom was held on June 17th;
- June 20th was Family Pizza Night;
- June 21-26 are exams
- Graduation will be held on June 29th.

Ministry Memo – Issuance of Revised Elementary Language Curriculum and New De-Streamed Grade 9 English Course

A memo was received from the Ministry of Education outlining new elementary Language and Française Curriculum: *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language 2023 and Le curriculum de l’Ontario, de la 1re à la 8e année, Français, 2023*, as well as new de-streamed Grade 9 English (ENL1W) and Français (FRL1W) courses.

The new curriculum and courses are aligned with scientific, evidence-based approaches that emphasize direct, explicit and systematic instruction and will be implemented in Ontario classrooms starting in September 2023. They are designed to support students in developing the language and literacy knowledge and skills they need to succeed in education and in life. New areas of learning include a focus on foundational knowledge and skills, transferable skills and digital media literacy. Students will apply language and literacy skills in various contexts and make connections to the contributions of diverse voices, experiences and perspectives, including those of First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals, communities, groups and nations.

Educators will be supported through training and resources, including webinars and classroom-ready resources. A key changes document and parent guide, which outlines new learning in the curriculum are available on the Curriculum and Resources website. An introductory webinar will be held on June 27 to provide educators with an overview of the revised curriculum.

OCSTA Information Items

Bob Schreader brought the trustees' attention to the information provided by OCSTA.

- a. Towards Full Presence – A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media
- b. New OCSTA PD Module for Catholic Trustees
- c. Bill 98 as Amended for Third Reading in the Legislature
- d. Letter from Most Reverend Francis Leo – Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- e. Contest for 2024 Catholic Education Week Song
- f. Discerning Leadership Reflection – Inspirations & Invitations of the Trinity
- g. Encounter – Summer 2023 – Digital Newsletter of CCCB Office for Evangelization & Catechesis
- h. Cardus Insights – Ray Pennings – Here's My Take
- i. Memo – Ontario Legislative Update
- j. Draft Regulations under Bill 98 Amendments to the Education Act
- k. Memo – CVO Release of Catholic Summer Courses
- l. Provincial Update
- m. Memo Handout – Ministry of Education Presentation – Indigenous Education
- n. Memo – OCSTA/OSTA Catholic Student Trustee Servant Leadership Scholarship
- o. New Ontario Language Curriculum Grades 1 to 8
- p. Pastoral Letter – Living as Catholics 2023 CCCB

CORRESPONDENCE

Non-Staff Source – 13,349 petitions received from Citizen Go concerning transgender washroom use.

FUTURE BUSINESS

General/Trustees' Comments

Bob Schreader acknowledged Michaela Vandergragt as she finishes her two-year term as student trustee representing Bishop Smith Catholic High School. The trustees appreciated Michaela's school reports, insights into students' opinions, student issues pertinent to student engagement and academic achievement. Mr. Schreader presented Michaela with a token of appreciation from the Board and wished her much success in her post-secondary education.

Mr. Schreader also welcomed Ben Wood, our newly appointed student trustee. Ben will be representing Bishop Smith Catholic High School for the next two years.

Bob closed his remarks by congratulating Mary-Lise Rowat on her retirement. This is Mary-Lise's last Board Meeting before she retires on August 31st after over 30 years with the Board. Bob expressed the Board's appreciation to Mary-Lise for the commitment and dedication she has shown in the many positions she has held in her career with the Board, as teacher, vice-principal, principal and superintendent. He presented Mary-Lise with a gift on behalf of the Board.

Mary-Lise replied that in her thirty plus years with the Board, she has felt that all the positions she's held have been great gifts to her. The last six years as superintendent, working alongside the Board has been a great pleasure. She said she has been on many provincial committees and panels and would put everyone here against any of

them anytime and thanked everyone for their commitment to the teachings of Jesus Christ and in particular, the Good News.

Dave Howard and Pat O'Grady also expressed their thanks and congratulations to Mary-Lise and wished Michaela the best of luck in the future.

Meeting Dates

August 28 - Board Meeting - Committee of the Whole – 4:00 p.m.
- General Meeting – 4:45 p.m.

Questions from Media

No media were present.

RESOLUTION #11

Moved by Anne Haley

Seconded by Dave Howard

That the recommendations made by motion and consensus in the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 26, 2023 be approved.

...Carried

RESOLUTION #12

Moved by Pat O'Grady

Seconded by Susan Artymko

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

...Carried



Chairperson, Renfrew County Catholic
District School Board



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