

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, May 27, 2024 at 4:45 p.m.

Bob Schreader, Chair of the Board, opened the meeting with a prayer. He asked that the following people be remembered in our prayers: Vince Gervais (retired RCCDSB Transportation Manager), Lorne Spotswood (retired Teacher with the Board) and Colleen Cayen (retired Teacher with the Board).

Mr. Schreader then began the meeting by acknowledging the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin people.

RESOLUTION #1

Moved by Pat O’Grady

Seconded by Bob Schreader

That Trustees move into In-Camera Committee in Committee of the Whole.

...Carried

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by Susan Artymko

Seconded by Bob Schreader

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	- Ben Wood - Elena Valliquette
	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

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- H- New Business
 2. Trustee Retirement

APPROVAL OF AGENDA**RESOLUTION #3**

Moved by David Howard
 Seconded by Pat O'Grady
 That the Agenda for the May 27, 2024 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 Andy Bray
 Seconded by Jerry Lavalley
 That the Minutes of the General Meeting of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board held in the Board Room on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 4:45 p.m. be approved.

...Carried

DISBURSEMENT LIST**RESOLUTION #5**

Moved by Susan Artymko
 Seconded by Pat O'Grady
 That the listing of payments as shown on MAY2 be approved as presented.

...Carried

PRESENTATION

Early Reading Screener Updates

Bob Schreder welcomed Alison Radley-Walters and Julia Graydon to the meeting. He acknowledged Julia, who is leaving the Board at the end of this school year, noting that she will be greatly missed and that the CDSBEO is very fortunate to have her join their team.

Julia explained that in October 2019, the Ontario Human Rights Commission announced a public inquiry into potential human rights issues that affect students with reading disabilities in Ontario's public education system. The inquiry was based on the premise that learning to read is a fundamental skill and that all students must be given the opportunity to learn in order to be both successful in school and throughout life. The OHRC is concerned that Ontario's public education system may be failing to meet the needs of students with reading disabilities such as dyslexia and other learning disabilities that affect reading. The ORHC assessed school boards against five benchmarks that are part of an effective systematic approach to teaching all students to read:

- Universal design for learning (UDL)
- Mandatory early screening
- Reading intervention programs
- Effective accommodation
- Psycho-educational assessments if required

Julia and Alison went through a slide presentation that details the journey of the rollout of the Acadience early learning screener that will be implemented in September. In November 2023, the Ministry released the Early Reading Screener list. The Board's curriculum team formed a committee to vet all the approved programs to select which screener would work best for the Board and to create a roll out plan. Literacy Intervention Specialist Assignment Teachers were hired and training was provided for the curriculum team.

During this time frame, a Board-wide tiered reading instruction model was implemented, a shift from balanced literacy to structured literacy with training and gap training for all K-8 educators and administrators. Evidence-based resources and digital licences were purchased for all schools including Life Skills at the high school level.

Julia and Alison explained the Acadience Reading K-6 measures that will help teachers identify children at risk for reading difficulties and determine the skills to target for instructional support. Three Literacy Intervention Specialist Teachers (LISTS) were hired according to the requirements in the new OECTA agreement. The first step is to train the trainers and then to train the K-2 Teachers, SERTS and P/VPs.

Following Term 1 Early Reading Screener data collection, LISTS will assist with Tier 2 and 3 reading interventions in their assigned schools. This data will be entered on the Term 1 report cards. Students who do not meet the Early Reading Screening benchmarks will be monitored by classroom teachers and LISTS. LISTS will perform a

second Term 2 screener on those students by the middle of March to provide time for ongoing tiered intervention. The results of the second Ministry-mandated screening must be communicated in the second Kindergarten Communication of Learning or the second elementary provincial report card. Students who are at risk will be tracked on Clevr, the management system we use for special education forms and documentation.

Bob Schreader thanked Alison and Julia for their excellent presentation. The trustees were very impressed with the measures that will be taken to ensure every student is given the opportunity to succeed in learning to read.

Bob Schreader also welcomed Tracey Pecarski, President of OECTA Renfrew Unit, who joined the meeting for the presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Retirements

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by David Howard
Seconded by Pat O'Grady

That the Board accept the following retirements with regret:

- Angela Leahy, Caretaker, Holy Name School, Pembroke, effective June 30, 2024;
- Colleen McGuire, Educational Assistant, Holy Name School, Pembroke, effective June 30, 2024 and
- Susan Dempsey, Caretaker, Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, effective July 26, 2024.

...Carried

Trustee Retirement

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by David Howard
Seconded by Pat O'Grady

That the Board accept with regret the retirement of Andrew Bray, Trustee for the Town of Arnprior, the Township of McNab/Braeside and the Township of Greater Madawaska, effective June 30, 2024.

...Carried

GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Catholic Education Week/Renfrew & Westmeath Schools

David Howard reported on Catholic Education Week events at the Board's Renfrew and Westmeath schools on behalf of Anne Haley, local Trustee.

St. Thomas the Apostle School, Renfrew

- The school had the opportunity to gather for Mass as a school community to commemorate Catholic Education Week at St. Francis Xavier Parish with Father Kerry Brennan
- The school celebrated the arrival of student Iris Brabant's new electric wheelchair
- In May, Principal Tony Jacyno had the chance to see the progress on the construction of the new St. Thomas the Apostle School and St. Joseph's High School's extension. The teams have been working hard to have the building ready for students and are looking forward to the move

Our Lady of Fatima School, Renfrew

- David Finkle, a presenter from MASC in Ottawa visited the school on May 1st. Mr. Finkle is from Mohawk Territory of Southern Ontario and brings an assortment of Indigenous musical instruments and sound gear to use in his presentations. He also provides enriching storytelling about First Nations Peoples, his experiences with pow-wows, making connections to Indigenous innovations and contributions to the world and stories about peace among the Haudenosaunee people
- The school community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima by praying the Living Rosary and look forward to celebrating this feast day annually
- Throughout May, the school prepared for their annual golf tournament, which took place on the last weekend of the month. The golf tournament is an amazing opportunity for fellowship, fundraising, family bonding and community building.
- Spring sports have begun and students were lucky enough to use the facilities at St. Joseph's High School to train for their track and field tournament. Big thanks to Mrs. Bonsor for organizing the track meet and to St. Joseph's High School for allowing the school to use their terrific new track
- Mrs. Bennett's Grade 1 class pursued a new class project "Eat the Rainbow" where students had an opportunity to try a variety of fruits and vegetables, allowing them to understand how food can make you feel, how it impacts mental health and wellness and encourages students to try new things. Students were excited to try foods such as passion fruit, pomelo, pomegranate, radishes and more. They also had a chance to learn how to prepare the food using cutting boards and plastic knives
- The school has a new space in the building – the Gross Motor Skills Room. With the assistance of their partners at CHEO, the school was able to create a large space for students with physical sensory needs. The space holds a swing set, rock climbing wall, stairs and slides, mats and more. The room is designed for students to make large body movements and is different than the sensory room.

The school is very grateful for this new addition and has already witnessed the many benefits for students with physical sensory needs

Our Lady of Grace School, Westmeath

- The school community gathered to pray the Living Rosary outdoors before the long weekend; it was a beautiful day to celebrate Mary in the month of May
- To celebrate Catholic Education Week, students participated in a poster contest based on the theme “We Are Called to Love” and their posters were displayed in the halls of the school
- The school was also asked to participate in Art in the Park, an event to showcase local artists’ work and provide an opportunity to sell it or collect donations for the school’s art programs. Students made some incredible items to showcase, including earrings, glass buttons, bookmarks and canvas landscapes. Their artwork raised \$500 to go towards art programs at the school
- With the help of the Cobden Legion, the school recently purchased a “Wonder Wagon” for students to take advantage of the warm weather to learn and explore outdoors. The wagon included clipboards, insect nets, houses for insects, magnifying glasses, mats for working outside and more. The schoolyard also has a chalkboard posted on the fence for students to work on. The wonder wagon has already been on a few adventures down to the river and students have loved learning about the community and nature.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Business and Corporate Services Committee Report

Anne Haley, Committee Chair, reported on the meeting held May 13, 2024.

PPE Donation Plan – A plan to donate expired PPE was provided to the committee.

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by David Howard

Seconded by Pat O’Grady

That the Board approve donating expired PPE to Canada Cuba Care Connection – 4C ship and/or Not Just Tourists Ontario.

...Carried

Community Use of Schools – A summary of community use of schools fees was provided as an information item.

OCSTA Memo – Provincial Budget Announcement 2024-2025 – March 26/24 – The Ontario Minister of Finance released the 2024-2025 provincial budget which includes new funding initiatives that are of interest to Catholic school boards.

Education Funding Formula Changes Overview – Our Finance Dept. is reviewing the information regarding education funding and will provide further updates with the budget documents.

Core Education Funding Projections for the 2024-2025 School Year – The projected Core Education funding for the 2024-2025 school year was provided. These projections include the impact of enrolment change, new investments and structural refinements on Core Ed funding levels for the 2024-2025 school year. The actual revenue that boards will receive through this funding may change over the course of the year as in-year information on enrolment and other factors become available.

24/25 Ministry Projections	\$83,815,896
23/24 Revised Estimates (including in-year adjustments)	<u>79,449,713</u>
Change in Projected Funding	\$ 4,366,183 (+5.5%)

Student Transportation Funding – Transportation funding projections for 2024-25 and the prior year were provided by the Ministry

24/25 Ministry Transportation Projection	\$ 7,108,054
23/24 Transportation Funding Projection	<u>\$6,157,221</u>
Change in Projected Funding	\$ 950,833 (+15.4%)

Educational Services Committee Meeting Report

Pat O’Grady, Committee Chair, reported on the meeting held May 13, 2024.

Presentation – Student Achievement Data – The Ministry has released a Student Achievement Plan framework, which requires schools to set out goals and performance indicators for boards to monitor student achievement. Clint Young, Heidi Fraser and Derek Lennox went further into the data to show the attendance issues we are facing. Our attendance is not trending in the right direction, which is interesting because our EQAO scores are generally better than the provincial average. This attendance information was presented to the Principals and Vice-Principals at the end of January and they were shown how to look at school specific data. The same information was also shared with the Attendance Counsellors. Term 1 report cards were about to go out, so while looking at learning skills, the principal should also take note of the student’s attendance. This would be a good opportunity to contact the parents and make the classroom/school a safe and welcoming environment for them to come back to.

RCCDSB Equity Audit – Clint Young explained that the Equity Audit involves the examination of each HR policy, practice and system, as well as the corporate culture and work environment, to determine whether there are any barriers present to the hiring, retention, advancement and full inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and members of equity seeking groups.

Summer School Update – Derek Lennox said that Pam Dickerson and T.J. O’Grady will be the summer school principals this year. We currently have proposed elementary

sites at Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John Bosco and Our Lady of Fatima. For secondary, in person tech courses will be made available to Grade 8-Grade 9 and Grade 9-Grade 10 at Bishop Smith CHS. Online Grade 11 and 12 religion courses, as well as Grade 10 Civics are being offered as well. We are looking at having one credit recovery teacher for students who fell behind in Semester 2, to give them the opportunity to complete the course over the summer.

Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Update – Heidi Fraser advised that this was our first year having a SAL Committee, with proper procedures being followed. As we head into the 2024-2025 school year, Bishop Smith has 16 students that are being maintained with 11 students being demitted or removed. Some students need to be removed because they are turning 18. St. Joseph's High School has 16 students maintained in SAL, with 3 students demitted.

Professional Development for Managers – This was an information item.

Professional Development for Principals/Vice-Principals – This was an information item.

Call for Participation – FSL Teacher Recruitment – As a way of retaining and recruiting FSL teachers in our system, a video is being put together and will be posted on our social media sites and used at job fairs. Nadia Shoemaker, Amy Sicoli and Katrina Burgess have been working on this. We have one person in the Queen's Program connected to EOSDN which is open to anyone with a university degree interested in becoming an FSL teacher. This offer has been sent out to our parents as well.

Update to PPM128 – Clint Young reported that the Board found out at the end of April that there was a change to PPM128 – the provincial code of conduct, restricting cell phones and vaping in schools. We are still going through this information and working on how to roll out the new rules for September 2024. A letter was sent out to all parents, as mandated by the Ministry, highlighting the changes that are coming.

2024:B09 – Math and Literacy Supports – This memo provided further details on next year's funding opportunities for math and literacy supports.

Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training – This was an information item.

Replacement of the General Educational Development (GED) – This was an information item.

Special Education Advisory Committee Report

Committee Chair, Susan Artymko, reported on the meeting held May 8, 2024.

RCCDSB Special Education IEP Data Follow-up – Clint Young showed the committee an analysis of the RCCDSB IEP data over the last eight years which shows the following trends:

- RCCDSB typically 5-6% higher than province in terms of number of exceptional students
- RCCDSB typically 2-3% lower than province in terms of number of non-identified students with an IEP
- RCCDSB typically 3-4% higher than province in terms of total number of students with an IEP

This was a follow-up to Mary Lynn Schauer's presentation last month.

Principal of Student Success and Support – This new principal position will work with both the Special Education team and the Mental Health & Wellness team for a multi-discipline approach to assisting complex students. They will also work with school teams to ensure that all students are finding success.

SPAT D/HH & Accessibility & Inclusion – Mr. Young explained the new SPAT role and that Angela Bergeron was the successful applicant. This will allow her to continue the great work with our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students as well as our continued accessibility journey.

Changes to Ministry's Funding Model – Mr. Young explained the recent changes to Ministry funding and how it affects special education. The new model is more transparent and it will be an opportunity for parents to be more involved in monitoring how boards are utilizing their funding.

Summer Special Education Programming – The Board was recently informed that we did receive funding for special education summer programming. Karen Keels, a current principal at St. Francis of Assisi School in Petawawa, will be the Principal of Summer Programming and will be working with our special education team to finetune what we will be offering. More information will follow in June.

Letter from Durham DSB SEAC – Transportation Needs – Some of the concerns contained in this letter are applicable to our Board and it was suggested that if our SEAC would like to send a similar letter we could assist.

RCCDSB 2023-2024 Special Education Plan – This item was tabled to the June meeting.

RCCDSB Letter to Minister – This item was tabled to the June meeting.

Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) Feedback – The Ministry is now looking for information about AI and its impact on special education. The feedback form is due no later than May 20th but as that is the Victoria Day holiday, SEAC members were asked to provide input to Clint Young or Donna McEwen by May 15th, so the form can be submitted on May 17th.

Community Living AGM – Members of SEAC are invited to Community Living's AGM on June 25th.

Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Secondary School Report – Bishop Smith Catholic High School

Ben Wood reported on activities taking place at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke.

Student Council

- Socks and Crocs Day was held on May 8th
- Country vs Country Club was held on May 22nd

Athletics

- Both our senior girls and senior boys soccer teams came first place in the county and are heading off to EOSSAA
- Various students competed in the EOSSAA tennis tournament this year
- The county track meet was held at BSCHS this year. Plenty of students placed for EOSSAA and this was the first time ever that Bishop won overall in the track meet
- A few of our students competed in the OFSAA badminton tournament
- The school hosted the elementary track and field meet on the 14th

Arts

- The school talent show was hosted the night of May 23rd and during 3rd and 4th period on May 24th

Pastoral

- Optional confession was held in the Chapel
- Wear Red Day was held on May 6th to show support for missing Indigenous women

OCSTA Information Items

Bob Schreder brought the trustees' attention to a number of the items received from OCSTA.

- a. OCSTA Responds to Provincial Policy Announcement on Use of Cellphones & Vaping in Schools
- b. OCSTA-OSTA Catholic Student Trustee Servant Leadership Scholarship
- c. OCSTA 2024 AGM Elections & Awards News Release
- d. MACSE June 2024 Memo
- e. Government News Release – Ontario Strengthening Safeguards for Children's Personal Information
- f. OCSTA Speaker Series Announcement
- g. Cyber Security Legislation
- h. OCSTA Memo – Bill 194 Digital Security
- i. OCSTA Directors
- j. OCSTA 2024 Fall Regional Meetings
- k. Reminder OCSTA Speaker Series Event

CORRESPONDENCE

Non-Staff Source – MAY7

A letter of thanks was received from the Terry Fox Foundation for the Board's dedication and commitment to the 2023 Terry Fox Run. Last fall, RCCDSB schools collectively raised an astounding \$30,451.43 in support of cancer research.

FUTURE BUSINESS

General/Trustees' Comments

The trustees who attended the OCSTA AGM commented on how they enjoyed the conference. The breakout sessions and keynote speakers were excellent. They all thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend.

Pat O'Grady said that he attended the Speakers Series event last week on Social Media – Supporting Student Well-Being in Catholic Schools and said that it was very good.

Meeting Dates

- June 5 - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
7:00 p.m. – Virtual
- June 10 - Board Retirement Dinner
6:00 p.m. – Clarion Hotel, Pembroke
- June 17 - Business & Corporate Services Committee Meeting
4:00 p.m. – Board Office
- June 17 - Educational Services Committee Meeting
following BCS Meeting – Board Office
- June 24 - Board Meeting – Bishop Smith CHS
- Committee of the Whole – 4:00 p.m.
- General Meeting – 4:45 p.m.

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by Pat O'Grady

Seconded by Anne Haley

That the recommendations made by motion and consensus in the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 27, 2024 be approved.

...Carried

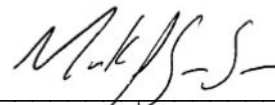
RESOLUTION #10

Moved by Dave Howard
Seconded by Susan Artymko
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:41 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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June 17, 2024