

RENFREW COUNTY CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board Held at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, Monday, November 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

The Inaugural Meeting began with Mass celebrated by Rev. Ryan Holly, which included the 'Rite of Renewal for Trustees' in the Chapel at Bishop Smith Catholic High School in Pembroke.

The Inaugural Meeting then took place in the Bishop Smith CHS Library. The meeting opened by acknowledging the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin people and was followed by an opening prayer. Mr. Searson asked that the following people be remembered in our prayers: Bryon Morris, (Trustee with the Renfrew County District School Board).

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustees

- Susan Artymko
- Andy Bray
- Anne Haley
- Dave Howard
- Jerry Lavalley
- Pat O'Grady
- Bob Schreader

Student Representatives

- Elena Valliquette
- Ben Wood

Director of Education
Associate Director of Business Affairs & Treasurer
Superintendent of Educational Services
Superintendent of Educational Services
Recording Secretary

- Mark Searson
- Mary Lynn Schauer
- Heidi Fraser (virtual)
- Clint Young
- Nancy Levasseur

Regrets: Superintendent of Educational Services

- Derek Lennox

Mark Searson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Procedure for Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mark Searson explained the procedure for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

Election of Chairperson of the Board

Dave Howard, Chair of the Nominating Committee, advised that he has received one nomination for the position of Board Chairperson.

RESOLUTION #1

Moved by Anne Haley

That Bob Schreader be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Board for the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024.

...Carried

Mr. Searson called for nominations three more times and no other nominations were received. He then asked for a motion to close nominations.

RESOLUTION #2

Moved by David Howard

Seconded by Anne Haley

That nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board be closed.

...Carried

Mr. Searson declared Bob Schreader Chairperson of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board.

Remarks by Chairperson of the Board

Bob Schreader thanked Anne Haley for nominating him as Chair of the Renfrew County Catholic District School Board for this coming year. He said that having served as Chair for the past three years, he is pleased to have the opportunity to continue moving forward with the goals and direction that we have laid out together.

Bob continued by thanking the trustees for putting their confidence in him as Chairperson. He also thanked his wife, Karen, who continuously supports him in his RCCDSB commitments.

He thanked Fr. Ryan Holly, who kindly celebrated mass for us this evening, the Diocesan community, our parish priests, organizations such as the CWL and the Knights of Columbus, and the broader community and acknowledged the involvement of our parents who entrust us with their children.

He also thanked the Board's senior administrative team, CPCO, OECTA, COPE and CUPE and the non-union staff who all continue to come together and work tirelessly to ensure the important work of teaching and learning in safe school environments characterized by warmth, hospitality, good humour and joy.

As per our Multi-Year Strategic Plan, during this 2023-2024 school year, we will animate that portion of Our Vision that calls us to 'instill a desire for life-long learning and pursuit of excellence.' Along with this guiding direction, we will focus on the Catholic Graduate Expectation that challenges our students to become *A Self-Directed, Responsible, Life-Long Learner*.

The Board is continuing to work closely with the Diocese and answering the call towards evangelization. It was announced that along with the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), the Board will be hosting ALPHA for parents. Alpha is a program that allows for faith-based conversations and learning. It is hoped that parents can explore the Christian faith regardless of background or beliefs, so they can encourage their children's faith journey beyond the school environment. These sessions will begin in the new year.

In his remarks, Mr. Schreader also noted the successes the Board has had this past year and highlighted the activities planned for this coming year.

In closing, Mr. Schreader expressed his gratitude for the trustees' confidence in him and thanked them for all the time and commitment they dedicate to Catholic education in Renfrew County. He wished everyone a happy and holy Advent Season.

Election of Vice-Chairperson of the Board

Dave Howard reported that there is one nomination for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

RESOLUTION #3

Moved by Pat O'Grady

That Dave Howard be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board for the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024.

...Carried

Bob Schreader called for nominations three more times. No other nominations were received and he asked for a motion to close nominations.

RESOLUTION #4

Moved by Pat O'Grady

Seconded by Susan Artymko

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board be closed.

...Carried

Bob Schreader declared Dave Howard Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

Remarks by Vice-Chairperson of the Board

Dave Howard thanked Pat O'Grady for nominating him and congratulated Bob Schreader on his re-election as Chair of the Board. He noted that he has served this Board for many years and promised to continue his dedicated service to the Chair and his fellow trustees to ensure that we continue to live out our mission and vision statement every day for our staff and students. He expressed his gratitude to his wife Jane for her constant support of his work with the Board and for sharing his commitment to the Catholic education system in Renfrew County and beyond.

He is pleased that the Board is introducing the Alpha program and is hopeful that this program will assist all of us in answering our call to evangelization and encourage our students' faith journeys outside of the school environment.

As we work together on the many programs and projects that our Chair has outlined, he expressed his thanks to the Board's many stakeholders for their commitment to helping us provide our students with a safe, secure environment that promotes dignity and belonging and a community in which growth and achievement can flourish. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a holy and happy New Year.

GREETINGS AND REMARKS

Greetings and good wishes were extended to all members of the Board from the following people:

- Penny Wachter, President, COPE, Local 103
- Brenda MacMullin, President, CUPE, Local 1202
- Julie Huckabone, President, RCCDSB Principals' Association
- Jeannie Ivory, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee

Tracey Pecarski and Terry Fitzpatrick, OECTA Renfrew Unit Chair & Vice-Chair, were unable to attend the meeting as they are out of town. A letter of greetings was read by David Afelskie on their behalf. A letter of greetings from Brian Evoy, Director of OCSTA Region 10, was read by Bob Schreuder on Mr. Evoy's behalf.

NEW BUSINESS

Banking Resolution

RESOLUTION #6

Moved by Pat O'Grady

Seconded by Anne Haley

The signing officers in all matters pertaining to the Board shall be as follows:

- a) one of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board AND one of the Board's Supervisory Officers (the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Educational Services or the Associate Director of Business Affairs and Treasurer (OR)
- b) two of the Board's Supervisory Officers (the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Educational Services or the Associate Director of Business Affairs and Treasurer).

The signing officers of the Board are authorized to sign documents, as per Board policy, on behalf of the Board when such documents are approved by the Board or required by statute.

...Carried

Borrowing Resolution

RESOLUTION #7

Moved by David Howard

Seconded by Andy Bray

That the borrowing limit for the Board for 2024 be set at \$10,000,000 for the operating line of credit and \$9,000,000 for the term loan covering capital, and that the Mastercard limit for day-to-day operations be set at \$150,000.

...Carried

Chair and Vice-Chair Honorarium

RESOLUTION #8

Moved by Anne Haley

Seconded by Susan Artymko

For the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024, the Chair of the Board will receive an additional \$5,000, plus an enrolment amount of \$500, in addition to their trustees' allowance; and the Vice-Chair will receive an additional \$2,500, plus an enrolment amount of \$250, in addition to their trustees' allowance.

...Carried

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

2022-2023 Director's Annual Report

Mark Searson said that it is a great pleasure to introduce the 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report. This report is required under Ministry of Education guidelines and is a review of the past school year. Last year's Board theme was removing barriers, along with a focus on the Catholic Graduate Expectation that challenges our students to become responsible citizens. We are very proud of all the work done in our school communities to achieve that goal every day.

Mr. Searson said that in many ways, last year had a sense of normalcy; our staff were able to gather together as one community for our annual Christian Community Day, students were able to participate in extra-curricular activities and our secondary students were able to take part in the Dominican Republic Experience for the first time since 2019. He noted that we had to make the decision to close our virtual elementary school, St. Kateri Tekakwitha this year. It was very meaningful to us to be able to offer the opportunity for virtual learning but only a handful of students wanted to continue. However, those who still want the virtual learning experience are able to do so through an agreement with the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

He then called upon the supervisory officers to take the trustees through the highlights of the past year through the pillars of the Board's Strategic Plan: Achievement, Pathways & Transitions, Learning Recovery & Renewal, Human Rights & Equity and Mental Health, Well-Being & Engagement. The superintendents reviewed the Board's literacy and numeracy achievements, curriculum enhancements, French as a Second

Language accomplishments, the 2022-23 EQAO assessment results, experiential learning, the Board's tutoring program, the Summer Learning Program and the Indigenous Summer Learning Program, professional development opportunities, Special Education programs, mental health, well-being and wellness initiatives and capital projects that the Board completed throughout the year. All of these programs and accomplishments are explained in further detail in the report.

Bob Schreader thanked Mark and the supervisory officers for the excellent report. There have been a lot of challenges over the past year and everyone has done a wonderful job, working diligently to help our students succeed.

Copies of the 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report will be provided to schools, parishes and the educational community as in previous years.

FUTURE BUSINESS

General/Trustees' Comments

Pat O'Grady thanked everyone for all the cards he has received on the passing of his brother a couple of weeks ago. He also attended Fr. Ken O'Brien's retirement lunch recently and said that it was an excellent day.

Bob Schreader thanked the guests, trustees and administration staff present this evening and acknowledged them with a token of appreciation. He invited everyone to join the trustees for some "warmth, hospitality, good humour and joy" following the meeting.

Meeting Dates

November 27 - Board Meeting - Committee of the Whole – 4:00 p.m.
- General Meeting – 4:45 p.m.

RESOLUTION #9

Moved by
Seconded by
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

...Carried



Chairperson, Renfrew County Catholic
District School Board



Secretary Treasurer, Renfrew County
Catholic District School Board