



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

1325 California Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3Y6
Telephone (519) 253-2481 Fax: (519) 253-0620
Michael B. Moher, Director of Education John Macri, Board Chairperson

REGULAR BOARD MEETING Tuesday, October 12, 2004 Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre 1325 California Avenue, Windsor

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Trustees:

F. Alexander	J. Macri, Chair
M. DiMenna	S. Porcellini
C. Janisse	L. Soulliere
P. Keane	
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain	
Natalie Deschamps, Student Trustee	
Emily Limarzi, Student Trustee (Alternate)	

Regrets:

B. Holland, J. Courtney

Administration:

M. Moher, Resource	T. Halford
J. Berthiaume	T. Robins
J. Ouellette	E. Poirier
P. Marchini	L. Staudt

Recorder:

D. Steffens

1. Call To Order - Chair Macri called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer – Father Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance - Trustees Courtney and Holland sent regrets.
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Keane that the October 12, 2004 Regular Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. *Carried.*

5. Questions Pertaining to Agenda – None.
6. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. - None.

7. Presentations

a. Summer Institute 2004

Elaine Poirier, Supervisor of Curriculum, reported that the government provided funding for province-wide summer professional development programs for over 7,500 JK – Grade 3 classroom teachers as part of the Literacy and Numeracy Initiative and Early Reading / Early Math Strategies. Ms. Poirier presented a video highlighting the professional development activities teachers participated in at the Board's Summer Institute in August. Members of the organizing team – Mary Ann Wilson, Kelly Power, Elise Daragon, Emelda Byrne, Kelly Rilley, and Kathy Gallagher – were thanked for their contribution to the success of this year's program.

8. Delegations

a. Delegation Regarding Items Not on the Agenda – None.

b. Delegations Regarding Items On the Agenda – None.

9. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes

i) Minutes of the In-Camera Meeting, September 28, 2004

Moved by Trustee Keane and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the minutes of the In-Camera meeting of September 28, 2004 be adopted as distributed. Carried.

ii) Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 28, 2004

Amendment to page seven: Amend the sixth paragraph to read: "...held aside by Board motion (e.g., proceeds of sales), given recent actions by the Ministry of Education..."

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 28, 2004 be adopted as amended. Carried.

b. Items From In-Camera Meeting of October 12, 2004

Trustee DiMenna reported that the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board convened a closed Committee of the Whole meeting on October 12, 2004, pursuant to the Education Act - Section 207, to consider specific personnel and real property issues and other matters permitted or required to be kept private and confidential under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Trustees Alexander, Keane and Porcellini declared a conflict of interest in the In-Camera Session and excused themselves from the relevant discussion item.

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the recommendations and directions of the Committee of the Whole Board at its meeting of October 12, 2004 be approved. Carried.

10. Communications

a. External (Associations, OCSTA, Ministry)

- i) Letter from St. Clair Catholic District School Board dated Sept. 28, 2004
re New Reporting Expectations
Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Keane that the letter from the St. Clair Catholic District School Board re New Reporting Expectations be received as information. Carried.
- ii) Letter from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board dated Sept. 29/2004 re:
Special Education funding
Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Keane that the letter from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board re Special Education funding be received as information. Carried.
- iii) News Release from Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board dated Sept. 30/2004
re: Special Education funding
Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Keane that the news release from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board re Special Education funding be received as information. Carried.
- iv) Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association dated September 30, 2004
re: Trustee Award of Merit
Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Keane that the correspondence from the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association re Trustee Award of Merit be received as information. Carried.

b. Internal (Reports from Administration)

- i) Report: Administrative Staff Report
Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Keane that the Board receive the *Administrative Staff Report* on hiring, retirement and resignation of staff dated October 12, 2004 for information. Carried.
- ii) Report: Legal Services - August 2004
Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the report *Legal Services – August 2004* be received as information. Carried.
- iii) Report: Summer School Program 2004

Superintendent Ouellette and Summer School Principal Rosemary McDougall responded to trustee questions related to dropout statistics and to the availability of the program to the Cardinal Carter family of schools. The program had been offered to that family of schools; however, it was not feasible to run the program due to the low enrolment numbers. Transportation for summer school has not been traditionally offered as part of the program. It may be considered for next year's program.

Moved by Trustee Janisse and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board received the report *Summer School Program 2004* as information. Carried.

11. Unfinished Business – None.

12. New Business

a. Report: Regular Meeting of the Board – November 9, 2004

Director Moher indicated that Bishop-elect Anthony Daniels' Episcopal Ordination will take place on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 at St. Peter's Cathedral in London. As Bishop-elect Daniels attended F. J. Brennan Catholic High School, several trustees and members of administration are interested in attending the Ordination. In accordance with the Board By-Laws, a special Board motion is required to change the regular meeting scheduled for that date.

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the Regular Meeting of the Board scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2004 be held Wednesday, November 10, 2004. Carried.

b. Report: Five-Year Natural Gas Supply Contract

Superintendent Marchini reported that the Board is currently in the second year of a three-year natural gas supply contract. The existing contract with Coral Energy covers a portion of natural gas supply for the next two years, with the remaining portions to be locked in at a future date. Due to an anticipated increase over the next few years, the Greater Essex Gas Consortium is recommending that we enter into an agreement with a locked in five-year rate. Tim Robins indicated that, further to the Five-Year Natural Gas Supply Contract Report, Coral Industries has recommended that the Board hold off finalizing the contract due to an anticipated softening of the natural gas market costs. Final pricing information will be conveyed back to the Board as soon as available.

Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Janisse that the Board approve a fixed price natural gas supply contract for a five-year term;

and, that the Board approve a fixed price natural gas transportation contract for a minimum two-year term. Carried.

c. Field Trip Requests

i) St. John Vianney Catholic Elementary School – Ottawa

Superintendent Ouellette will seek clarification with the Principal and report back to the Board at the October 26 Board meeting.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board defer the St. John Vianney Catholic Elementary School – Ottawa, Ontario Field Trip request for two weeks. Carried.

ii) Holy Names Catholic High School – Florida

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Keane that the Board approve the Holy Names Catholic High School – Disney World, Florida, field trip for May 19 to 23, 2005. Carried.

iii) Holy Names Catholic High School - Washington D.C.

Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Keane that the Board approve the Holy Names Catholic High School – Washington, D.C. field trip for November 10 to 13, 2004. Carried.

13. Committee Reports

a. Special Education Advisory Committee – Minutes of June 17, 2004

Trustee Soulliere noted and summarized the recommendations made at the June 17, 2004 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board receive the Minutes of the June 17, 2004 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. Carried.

14. Notice of Motion – None.

15. Remarks and Announcements

- a. Chairperson Macri briefed trustees on the Minister of Education's visit of October 4, 2004 and the Community Use of Schools announcement. The Chair and Director were provided an opportunity to meet with Minister Kennedy to talk about the Board's concerns regarding special education funding. Chair Macri reported that the Minister was very open to our concerns about the return of the special education reserve monies.
- b. Director of Education indicated that he is hopeful there will be a status report for the new St. Anne Catholic High School in Lakeshore and the new St. Joseph Catholic High School in Windsor within the next few weeks.
- c. Board Chaplain – No comments this evening.

16. Remarks/Questions by Trustees

Trustee Alexander commented on the current approval process for field trips and suggested the policy be referred to the Board Policy Review Committee in order to establish general criteria, to review the practices of other jurisdictions and to review the need for approval at the Board level.

Trustee Soulliere commented on the round table discussion with Minister of Education where Minister Kennedy offered to answer questions sent to his attention following his visit. Trustee Soulliere indicated that she sent the Minister an e-mail inquiring into the status of the Board's special education reserve funds, but has not yet received a response. Trustee Soulliere suggested that Minister Kennedy be invited along with the local MPP's to meet with Board representatives and review our Learning Support Services plan in detail.

Trustee Janisse concurred with the need to review the Board's Field Trip Policy with a view to assign approval to the superintendents/principals within parameters set out by policy. Director Moher responded that the policy would be referred to the Board Policy Review Committee.

Trustee Keane commented on the educational experiences field trips bring to students and on the preparation time spent by parents, teachers and principals to ensure a safe and enjoyable, learning opportunity. Trustee Keane invited fellow trustees to volunteer their assistance for the Grade 10 Literacy test at Assumption College Catholic High School on October 27 or 28. Trustee Keane reported that he attended a new employee orientation session last Thursday and was impressed that the Catholicity of our system was very strongly pointed out to newly hired staff.

Trustee DiMenna indicated that, while she agrees with the educational importance of field trips, she is concerned with the expense to parents for children who participate in more than one significant field trip in a school year.

Student Trustee Deschamps indicated that the Student Senate would meet tomorrow and discuss the current practice of students transporting other students on field trips in privately owned vehicles. Feedback from this meeting will be provided to the Board Policy Review Committee as part of the Field Trip Policy review.

Alternate Student Trustee Limarzi conveyed her concern about the Board's policy to allow parents to sign consent forms permitting students from transporting other students in privately owned vehicles.

17. Pending Items

a. Notice of Motion (deferred from September 28, 2004)

Trustee Courtney: "At the next regular scheduled meeting of the Board, I shall move or cause to be moved that the board approve the immediate appointment of a campus minister at for St. Michael's Alternate High School and its satellite campuses; in keeping with past and current practice of employing Campus Ministers in all our secondary schools."

18. Continuation of In-Camera - Not required

19. Future Board Meetings: (unless stated otherwise all meetings will be held at the Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre - 1325 California Avenue, Windsor)

- Tuesday, October 26 – 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 10 – 7:00 p.m. (**NOTE: NEW DATE**)
- Tuesday, November 23 – 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 7 – 7:00 p.m. (Organizational Meeting)
- Tuesday, December 14 – 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 11, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 25, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 8, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.

20. Closing Prayer – Father Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
21. Adjournment – There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of the Board adjourned at 8:45 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

John Macri
Board Chairperson

Michael Moher
Director of Education & Secretary