



Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

1325 California Avenue, Windsor, Ontario N9B 3Y6

Telephone (519) 253-2481

Fax: (519) 253-0620

Joseph Berthiaume, Interim Director of Education

John Macri, Board Chairperson

SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre

John Paul II Board Room

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

F. Alexander

J. Macri, Chair

M. DiMenna

S. Porcellini

B. Holland

L. Soulliere

P. Keane

A. Kishkek, Student Trustee

J. Devos, Student Trustee (Alternate)

Regrets:

J. Courtney, Vice-Chair; C. Janisse, Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain

L. Willson Student Trustee (Designate)

Administration:

J. Berthiaume (Resource)

R. Limarzi

J. Ouellette

K. Gignac

W. Wong

Recorder:

D. Steffens

1. Call to Order - Chair Macri called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer – The meeting opened with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance – Trustees Courtney and Janisse sent regrets. Fr. Brunet sent regrets.
4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Holland that the May 2, 2006 Special Public Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. *Carried.*

5. Disclosure of Interest – None.

6. Items

a. Report: 2006 Capital Plan (*deferred from March 28, 2006*)

Discussion continued on the 2006 Capital Plan that was first presented to the Board at the March 28 Regular Board meeting and subsequently deferred for additional trustee review and further discussion at a Special Board meeting.

In reference to the Board motion of March 8, 2005 pertaining to the replacement of St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Windsor), it was noted that the Ministry of Education has not yet released the list of Prohibitive to Repair schools as part of their Good Places to Learn funding initiative. Various funding alternatives to reconstruct St. Bernard Catholic Elementary School (Windsor) were discussed should the Board not receive funding under the Ministry's prohibitive to repair mechanism.

Ken Gignac, Controller of Finance, indicated that the Ministry's capital funding guidelines have not been received. However, it is anticipated that school boards will be required to expend New Pupil Place Grants (if available) and Capital Reserves or Proceeds from Disposition Reserves prior to indicating that a project is "unfunded." Unfunded projects will be assessed and prioritized for additional funding on a province wide basis.

Superintendent Ouellette noted that the 2006 Capital Plan includes, under *Program Renovations/Additions – Subject to Ministry Funding*, several elementary schools that had been previously identified under Phase Two and Three of the provincial Best Start Program. Renovations to four schools under Phase One of the Best Start Program will be funded: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, L. A. Desmarais, St. Pius X and Sacred Heart. At this point, it is not probable Phases Two and Three will proceed.

Discussion also occurred around the various options to address student accommodation concerns at St. Anne's French Immersion School, the format compatibility of the 2006 Capital Plan with new Ministry requirements such as Primary Class-Size Reduction, accessibility issues, rural schools, classroom space used for full daycare programs and the current budget status of the facility operations and maintenance budget.

A statement will be added to the report indicating to the community that the 2006 Capital Plan is a flexible planning tool which is subject to further discussion at both the board and school community level and all projects are subject to further Board approval and Ministry funding.

Moved by Trustee Keane and seconded by Trustee Porcellini that the Board receive the report 2006 Capital Plan as information. Carried.

RECORDED VOTE:

In Favour: Trustees Alexander, DiMenna, Porcellini, Keane

Opposed: Trustees Soulliere, Holland

- b. External Correspondence: Memorandum from the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association, dated April 25, 2006 re: Public Hearings on Bill 78, Education Statute Law Amendment Act (Student Performance), 2006

Following discussion on the potential implications of the legislative passing of Bill 78, it was determined Board representation will bring specific concerns before the Standing Committee on Social Policy at the Public Hearings on Bill 78. Concerns addressed will include the proposed limit on trustee honorarium as outlined in the Ministry discussion paper *Respect for Ontario School Trustees* and the proposed amendment to subsection 230.12 (3) of the Education Act pertaining to the personal liability of members of boards (jointly and severally clause.) Trustees were asked to forward their input and other concerns they wish to be addressed to Trustee Holland who will speak on behalf of the Board. Trustee Holland will share the list of items contained in the presentation with trustees prior to the scheduled Hearing date.

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the Board receive the Memorandum from the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees' Association, dated April 25, 2006 re: Public Hearings on Bill 78, Education Statute Law Amendment Act (Student Performance), 2006 as information;

and, that Trustee Holland present concerns on behalf of the Board at the Public Hearings on Bill 78. Carried.

7. Questions

- Chair Macri reminded trustees of the rescheduled Board Meeting of Monday, May 8, 2006.

8. Closing Prayer – The meeting closed with a prayer.

9. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Special Public Board Meeting of May 2, 2006 adjourned at 8:08 p.m. at the call of the Chair. *The Board re-convened to the Special In-Camera Committee of the Whole meeting following adjournment.*

Approved

John Macri
Board Chairperson

Joseph Berthiaume
Interim Director of Education & Secretary