



**WINDSOR-ESSEX CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

"Learning together in faith and service"

1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre
1325 California Avenue, Windsor
(Mass Assumption Chapel at 6:45 p.m.)

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

F. Costante	Bernie Mastromattei
M. DiMenna (Vice-Chair)	L. Soulliere
F. DiTomasso	S. Tope
B. Holland (Chair)	F. Valentinis
J. Bowers, Student Trustee	
M. Diab, Student Trustee	
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain	

Regrets:

Trustee Alexander

Administration:

P. Picard (Resource)	E. Byrne
C. Geml	R. Lo Faso
M. Iatonna	M. Seguin
T. Lyons	

Recorder:

B. Marshall

1. Call To Order - In accordance with Section Two of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board By-Laws, Paul Picard, Director of Education called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and presided over the meeting until the election of the Chair.
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Welcome: The Director of Education welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board for the second year of a four-year term.
4. Commissioning Ceremony - Fr. Brunet led a commissioning prayer reaffirming trustees' commitment to the provision of Catholic education.

5. Recording of Attendance - Trustee Alexander sent his regrets due to his vacation.
6. Election of Chair

The Director of Education asked Trustees to approve the appointment of two scrutineers.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee DiMenna that the Board approve the appointment of Fr. Brunet and Executive Superintendent Iatonna as scrutineers. Carried

As Presiding Officer, Director Picard invited trustees who wished to serve as Chair to stand and declare their candidacy. The following trustee(s) declared their candidacy:

- Trustee Barbara Holland

After three requests by Director Picard inviting those who wished to stand to do so, there were no further declarations and the Director called that nominations be closed.

Moved by Trustee Valentinis and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that nominations for the position of Chair be closed. Carried

Trustee Holland was acclaimed to the position of Chairperson of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

At this point, Trustee Holland assumed the Chair and proceeded with election of the Vice-Chair.

7. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Holland invited Trustees who wished to serve as Vice-Chair to stand and declare their candidacy. The following trustee(s) rose and declared their candidacy:

- Trustee Mary DiMenna

After three requests by the Chair inviting those who wished to stand to do so, there were no further declarations and the Chair called that the nominations be closed.

Moved by Trustee Mastromattei and seconded by Trustee DiTomasso that nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Trustee DiMenna was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board.

Vice Chair DiMenna addressed the Board.....

"I am pleased to be working with such a dedicated group of trustees in the position of Vice Chair. I am truly optimistic that the Board will have the opportunity to do what we have been elected to do – that is provide programs that address the needs of our students and employees becoming true learning communities committed to educating the whole child in a Christ centred learning environment.

I do believe that this Board has always put students first. This is not possible without the staff

working tirelessly to instruct and encourage our students while maintaining contact with their parents; not to mention completing endless office tasks required to keep our schools functioning, clean and up to date. Nor can we forget the Campus Ministers, Bishops, and Pastors who assist diligently to maintain the religious and prayer life of our staff and students.

Financially we are in a good position achieved in cooperation with administration by making some very hard decisions. In 2016, we will once again be faced with decisions that will be difficult.

There is a need to continue to communicate to the public the good work being done in our Catholic system, so that the community knows it is involved in, and informed about, that work.

I am proud to be part of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board – a Board that is setting provincial standards for staff innovations, student achievement and for our unwavering dedication to Catholic education.

It will be an honour to serve as your Vice-Chair and I am looking forward to another year of working together to serve the Catholic educational community here in Windsor-Essex”.

8. Chairperson’s Address

Chair Holland extended her sincere appreciation to her fellow Trustees for their vote of confidence and trust and assured the Trustees, as Chair, it is a role that she does not take for granted. Chair Holland stated that she truly understands the need to disseminate information. Through correspondence with the Director and consultation with the Vice Chair, Trustees will receive accurate information in a timely manner to communicate to their constituents if need be.

As the public spokesperson for the Board on public policy issues and events she pledged to represent the interests of all Trustees to the best of her ability. Chair Holland stated the newly constituted Board has operated with common goals and with a unified purpose. It is this spirit of co-operation and unity that has allowed the Board to flourish and to take pride in its achievements.

Chair Holland acknowledged the Board will face challenges identified for 2016 with the collective experience and wisdom of this Board. In the next year the Board will confront capacity issues, implement a multi-year strategic plan and continue to focus our resources on innovative new programming. Our parents are asking for that, our students are thriving as we introduce these new areas and our community and our parishes are supportive of these measures. Chair Holland is confident that together, the Board can and will work closely with the Director and the administrative team on resolving those issues in the best interest of our students. Chair Holland thanked Trustees for their hard work, commitment, and collaboration and for all that they bring to the Board table each and every meeting.

The Chair also thanked Board personnel, including the Director, Superintendents, administrative staff, teachers and support staff, for their hard work and devotion to make our Catholic education system a success. She closed stating... *“It is said that the essence of trusteeship is to hold something, a property, a responsibility, an idea, in one’s care for a period of time and then pass it on undiminished to those who follow.”*

9. Establishment of Committees – Trustees received a list of current committee appointments as a reference and asked to review the list and advise the Chair of their preferred membership. Appointments to committees will be confirmed at a future board meeting.
10. Next Regular Meeting of the Board: Tuesday, December 15, 2015.
11. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
12. Adjournment – There being no further business, the Organizational Meeting of December 1, 2015 adjourned at 7:46 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

Original signed by B. Holland and P. Picard

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education & Secretary of the Board