

# MINUTES

## BOARD MEETING

Meeting #09 – Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Clayton Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m., in the Board Room, 46 Alliance Boulevard, Barrie.

2. **OPENING PRAYER / REFLECTION**

Trustees Catherine MacDonald and Connie Positano led the opening prayer and reflection, with the following special intentions:

**For the sick:**

Linda and Fred Graham  
Alexandra MacKay  
Kayla Johnson  
Daniel Cecchetti  
Shelley Cadocan

**For the deceased:**

Wayne Ferguson  
Shirley Cassidy  
Joan Valentine  
Scott Hachey  
Hans Biemann  
Eileen Salvatori  
Winnifred Hurley-Vieira  
Don Wilson  
Floyd Hawke  
Linda Cowieson  
Greg Goodwin  
George Clark  
Peter Kewin  
Victoria Vezina  
William Boychuk  
Josephine Ewasyn  
Kevin Galbraith  
Larry Manlangit  
Malcolm Dawson



**3. ROLL CALL**

Brian Beal, Director of Education, conducted the Roll Call of the Board of Trustees to establish quorum for the Meeting.

**Present:** Clayton Ferguson – Board Chair, Emily Cecchetti, Shawn Cooper, Carol Corriveau-Truchon, Maria Hardie, Catherine MacDonald, Connie Positano, Jeanny Salmon, Francis Smith,  
**Regrets:** Kyle Young  
**Resource:** Brian Beal - Director of Education, Steven Charbonneau, Jane Dillon-Leitch, Ab Falconi, Diane Legg, Mary Puopolo, Darren Schmidt  
**Regrets:** Glenn Clarke, Peter Derochie  
**Recorder:** Belinda Marcellus

**4. AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Meeting Agenda.*

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**6. DELEGATIONS**

**1. Innisfil Boundary Review**

Janet de Biaisi, a parent of students at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School commented on what she felt was: the inefficiency of email communication with families; more than one opportunity was needed to meet with the Boundary Review Committee; that her child was called to the office and given a letter to take home to parents about starting at a new school in September; that staff's stated improvement (as a result of the boundary changes) did not accomplish significant numbers which would take seven years to balance and with a negative affect on her children; that the school continues to accept new students when her children will be separated from friends and forced to enter a new school; the process needs to change; and asked who decided to build two Catholic schools about 3 kilometers apart.

Diane Collins, also a parent of students at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School (SFA) thanked the board for taking the time to listen to parents' concerns and for requesting additional details regarding the boundary review process. She had sent a letter and supporting maps to trustees by email in advance of this meeting. She raised concerns about: the students being called to the office to receive a letter to take home to parents; if trustees had had more crucial information from parents they may not have voted in the same way on March 20<sup>th</sup>; feels the final scenario that was approved does not make sense; there are 97 students attending SFA who live within walking distance of Holy

Cross Catholic School (HCC) and who will remain at SFA; suggests to eliminate the bus for students that are within walking distance to HCC that currently attend SFA and have them walk to HCC.

There were no questions of clarification from trustees.

Chair Ferguson thanked Ms. de Biasi and Ms. Collins and advised that trustees would give consideration to their comments.

## 7. PRESENTATIONS

### *Living Our Faith – Head, Heart and Hands*

#### 1. **Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit - Strategic Plan 2012-2016**

Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) provided an overview of the background and mandate of public health in four areas: environment, behaviour, human biology, and health care. Dr. Gardner went on to provide an overview of the strategic plan in place for 2012-2016 with four directions: important public health issues; organization capacity; determinants of health; and accountability and performance measurement. He focused on the determinants of health: “Address the factors that create inequities in overall health and improve the quality of life for populations at risk of poor health outcomes.”

#### 2. **Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit - Partnership Initiatives Report 2011-2012**

Carol Yandreski, Public Health Nurse Liaison with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board provided an overview of the 2011-2012 partnership initiatives. She provided highlights of the terrific collaboration to promote the health and well-being of students that reflects the Catholic community’s caring culture. The initiatives also supported the board improvement plan. The Roots of Empathy program involves a mother and her infant child visiting a classroom once a month as a means to upstream mental health promotion through the development of students’ social skills, feelings and resiliency skills. The Playground Activity Leaders’ Program (PALS) promotes physical activity at recess and nutrition breaks and develops leadership skills for older students who connect face to face with younger students to offer playground activities and prevent bullying. The program is lead by a health unit designated lead, and the board’s school counsellors, with handbooks and activity kits provided for student leaders. Many other programs were outlined in the report, including the tobacco program, vaccine preventable disease program; oral health program; communicable disease program; health protection program; healthy schools program; home, school and community partnerships; curriculum, and teaching and learning and programs and pathways.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Ferguson thanked Dr. Gardner and Ms. Yandreski. He advised that Simcoe Muskoka Catholic is very pleased to have such a supportive partnership with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit as reflected in the presentations this evening which showed not only the incredible amount of work with

which our health unit partners are involved, but that the board would not have the resources to give these important health matters the attention they require without the support of SMDHU. Chair Ferguson concluded that the board looks forward to continuing our partnership and good work together; to support the health and wellness of our students and community.

## 8. ACTION ITEMS

### 1) Report 8. 1) 09-2013 **New Learning Environment Policy Statement LE-24 Research Projects and Survey Requests**

Superintendent of Programme and Services, Jane Dillon-Leitch reported that the new policy was developed through and recommended by the Board Policy Review Committee. The Board receives numerous requests each year from external organizations such as universities, and individuals requesting to conduct research or surveys involving students. The policy and procedures give the Research Advisory Committee the ability to manage the requests and approve initiatives that align with the values of the Board. The data collected from these initiatives can be very valuable to the board and helpful to support the board improvement plan.

Recommendation: That the Board approve Learning Environment Policy Statement LE-24 Research Projects and Survey Requests as presented.

*Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the recommendation.*

Chair Ferguson thanked staff for their work on the policy and procedures and indicated that trustees look forward to hearing about future research projects and the valuable information that results from that work.

### 2) Report 8. 2) 09-2013: **Governance & Planning Policy Statement GP-15 School Boundaries and Boundary Exemptions**

Superintendent of Education, Ab Falconi reported that the policy and procedures were revised and recommended for approval by the Board Policy Review Committee. The recent North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review and several boundary reviews undertaken this year brought to light that the Board has more than 900 boundary exemptions approved across the system, which should be reviewed annually. The new revisions will ensure that approvals are by the appropriate person, such as the principal, or the Superintendent of Education for children of staff; or the Director of Education, for children of senior staff; and the Superintendent would respond to boundary exemption requests to which principals are not in agreement.

Trustee Smith questioned whether the revisions provided flexibility and put the children first. Vice-Chair Hardie, who chairs the Board Policy Review Committee, and is a former school office administrator, felt very confident that the revised policy and procedures would serve well.

Clarification was provided that a copy of exemption requests/approvals are kept on file at the respective schools and Superintendent of Education's offices.

Recommendation: That the Board approve the revised Governance and Planning Policy GP-15 School Boundaries and Boundary Exemptions as presented.

*Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the recommendation.*

Chair Ferguson noted that the approved revisions would streamline our process and provide support to our planning of enrolment and staffing which is all in support of student learning.

**3) Report 8. 3) 09-2013: Innisfil Boundary Review - Update**

Manager of Planning and Properties, Jennifer Sharpe, highlighted an information report that responded to questions raised by trustees at the May 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting. Concerns that may have impacted the opportunity for input and access to information throughout the process was reviewed. Communications is an important goal in boundary reviews and staff are conducting a review the boundary review process. Ms. Sharpe noted that based on attendance at the open house and comments received from the community that staff received input regarding concerns and views of the rural area, which the committee did consider when making their final recommendation. She outlined the formal communication process to implement the boundary changes approved at the March 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting that would begin with a letter from the Superintendent of Education's office to affected families. The two schools in the boundary review did initiate communication with the affected families ahead of the formal communication plan getting underway, which created further concerns. Ms. Sharpe concluded with a reminder that further changes to boundary approvals would impact staffing and additional process requirements.

Trustees expressed concern with the process and that recent invitations to welcome meetings and a school barbeque had been sent home with students by the schools in an effort to begin their communications with affected families; when trustees had confirmed at the May 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting that communication was being held back until the discussion at this board meeting had taken place. Trustees felt that letters to affected families should be sent directly to parents by mail, in respect of the sensitive nature of the information and to ensure prompt delivery. Staff confirmed that the boundary changes implementation process had not begun and that it would normally flow from the Superintendent's office with correspondence sent to affected families by mail.

Trustee Connie Positano made trustees aware that board procedural bylaw mandates that once the board has made a decision on a matter, then that matter cannot be reconsidered within one year unless a clear majority of board members agree. She noted her concerns with the review and the communication that took place.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald respected the reports factual account of the missteps in

the boundary review process and felt the process should step back to do it right as trustees take pride in giving everyone the opportunity for input.

**Motion 01-09-2013**

Moved by: Trustee Catherine MacDonald

Seconded by: Trustee Shawn Cooper

That the Board revisit the recommendation approved by the Board on March 20<sup>th</sup> which changed the boundaries for St. Francis of Assisi and Holy Cross Catholic Schools in Innisfil.

*Defeated*

Discussion was closed on the matter and staff will proceed with the boundary changes implementation plan.

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1) Report 9. 1) 09-2013: Multi-Year Strategic Plan**

Director of Education Brian Beal provided a report in advance of the meeting and distributed a draft multi-year plan to trustees.

Mr. Beal acknowledged the tireless efforts of the Multi Year Plan Steering Committee: Jim Sirdevan, team leader, retired Principal and Ministry of Education Officer; Jo-Anne Flood, Manager of Payroll and Benefits; Linda McGregor, Manager of First Nation Métis and Inuit Programs; Karen Pond, K-12 Religious Education Coordinator; Ab Falconi, Superintendent of Education and former Principal, Vice-Principal and Teacher in several Simcoe Muskoka Catholic school communities; and Sherry Chapman, Adult Faith Animator.

The report outlines the extensive work completed by the Multi-Year Plan Steering Committee to consult with forty key stakeholders in the organization, which culminated in the committee developing draft mission and vision statements, and validating the Board's virtues and values.

The steering committee then embarked on a very extensive process which has been reported in previous board meetings, to determine the context in which the board is operating and identify the internal and external operating environment in four categories: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats relative to the achievement of the vision. This process also included interviewing a great number of key stakeholders.

The third stage of the multi-year planning process was the consultation phase in which the steering committee consulted through personal consultations, focus groups and questionnaires, with as many stakeholders as were interested in participating through both formal and invitational processes. They gathered hundreds of responses.

Following 18 months of extensive work, in which the steering committee met at least weekly, the steering committee developed a multi-year plan based on their analysis of the data gathered through their consultations.

Mr. Beal invited trustees to take some time with the draft plan and to provide written

comments back to him so that at the next board meeting he could provide an update of the comments; with a goal to approve a final multi-year plan at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Once the multi year plan is approved champions and championship teams will be identified for each goal and will have the comments gleaned from parents, staff and students to guide them in the implementation phase.

A hard launch of the multi-year plan would occur at the August 27<sup>th</sup> Director's meeting with system leaders and a celebration of Mass with Bishop Kirkpatrick. The new multi-year plan would then become part of the conversation of the first day of school.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Ferguson thanked Brian Beal; with a special thank you to Jim Sirdevan and the Multi-Year Plan Steering Committee; and recognized that they have invested an incredible amount of time and commitment to this project, which truly is a reflection of their passion for Catholic education and student success. They have touched so many people in our system through their consultation work and have no doubt discovered that same passion and commitment from our staff, students, families and community partners; who are all an essential component to the success of the work we do together each day. Trustees are invited to share their comments and questions with the Chair and Director of Education before the next board meeting of June 5<sup>th</sup>. He concluded that the Board of Trustees look forward to receiving the final Multi-Year Plan document for approval at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**2) Report 9. 2) 09-2013: Board Name**

Trustees received a report that outlined the onerous and costly process to change the board name. Staff suggested that resources could be utilized more effectively to work towards making isolated communities feel connected. It was also noted that amalgamation which might have been a possibility a few months ago could arise again in the near future. In the event of a future amalgamation, a Board name change could be addressed.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon indicated that as the trustee for the areas that feel isolated from Barrie, particularly Huntsville and Parry Sound; she can understand how they feel and would support looking at ways to make them feel welcome and connected.

**3) Report 9. 3) 09-2013: Parish Partnerships**

Trustee Catherine MacDonald requested a discussion of the resolution put forward by the Board to the OCSTA AGM regarding School Church and Home partnerships that was not accepted and was deemed a local matter.

Director of Education Brian Beal suggested that information he would be presenting in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan may address her concerns and the board's resolution. He also reported that he and Sherry Chapman, Adult Faith Animator, had recently met with Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, Most Reverend Wayne Kirkpatrick. His Excellency has accepted an invitation to celebrate Mass with the Board of Trustees on June 19<sup>th</sup> and



with the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic leaders at the Director's meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee MacDonald was pleased to hear that Bishop Kirkpatrick is looking forward to building a relationship with Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School board and between schools and parishes. She also pointed out that Trustee Shawn Cooper has been elected regional director with OCSTA which may present an opportunity for further discussion at that level.

Trustees decided that a letter would be sent from the Board Chair on their behalf, to thank OCSTA for considering the resolution and to ask for a copy of the Pontifex Committee's white paper. When the document is received, it will be shared with all trustees.

- 4) **Minutes - Board Policy Review Committee**  
i) **Meeting #03 – Wednesday, March 27, 2013**  
The minutes were received for information.

10. **ROUTINE**

- 1) **Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings**  
i) **Minutes – Meeting #08 – Wednesday, May 01, 2013**  
*Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Minutes.*

11. **TRUSTEE ENQUIRIES**

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon mentioned that at the media event at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School, she learned that the coterminous school board provides board highlights to the media; and wondered if we could do something similar. This would also be helpful to trustees for sharing information in school newsletters.

Trustee Shawn Cooper inquired about the status of trustees meeting with the local MPPs. Staff will follow up.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald thanked Patrick Fogarty Catholic Secondary School for the raspberry cordial that they all received in recognition of the schools' performance of Anne of Green Gables. Trustee Francis Smith reported on the success of the production and the outstanding acting. A letter of thanks will be sent from the Chair on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

12. **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Trustee Jeanny Salmon announced that:

- St. Jean de Brébeuf Catholic School will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m. at Holy Martyrs of Japan Church, with a reception to follow at the school.
- on behalf of Holy Trinity Catholic High School Principal, Heinrich Bebie that their senior

soccer team will be going to the OFSAA championships in Stratford in early June.

Trustee Francis Smith reflected on the funeral mass for the Late Greg Goodwin, retired music teacher from Patrick Fogarty Catholic Secondary School. He noted that the Catholic community appreciated the great impact that Greg and Mary Francis Goodwin had on the school and community through their respective music and drama programs. Trustee Smith thanked staff who attended.

Director of Education, Brian Beal, commented that despite the sadness of the occasion, it was a humbling and proud moment in the Catholic community to be in the presence of hundreds of past and present students, staff, community and families.

Trustee Francis Smith was pleased to attend the official blessing of the new Monsignor Lee Catholic School and expressed his appreciation for the attendance of the Board Chair, Vice-Chair and staff.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon reported the following:

- Reminder to trustees of “Pete’s Pilgrimage for the B Student” on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School.
- was very pleased to announce that Saint Mary Catholic School in Huntsville won a national classroom energy diet competition. Students competed with 1400 classes and a total of 40,000 students from across Canada to complete a number of challenges, which earned them the most points in the competition. The school received a \$500 party; \$1000 toward a school trip or supplies and a \$500 donation to a charity of the school’s choice.
- Monsignor Michael O’Leary Catholic School has surpassed the \$200,000 fundraising mark for the Jump Rope for Heart campaign which they have participated in for a number of years.
- students from St. Dominic Catholic Secondary School who traveled to Kenya as part of a social justice curriculum program, returned home on Saturday. They had an amazing time. Trustee Corriveau-Truchon felt very blessed to be part of a Catholic school board that supports that kind of social justice initiative, because those students’ lives are changed forever and the way they view the world from now on will be different from two weeks ago before they left for Kenya.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald shared her experience of serving on the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee last week. She advised that ten students applied and were accepted into the program which provides a program for students 14-17 years of age, in which the student is permitted to withdraw from the classroom and pursue an alternate learning opportunity.

Trustee Shawn Cooper provided the following:

- thanked staff for their support in his election as a regional director with OCSTA. He also thanked his colleagues for their support, strength and friendship.
- advised of the Relay for Life event at Jean Vanier Catholic High School (JVA) in partnership with Collingwood Collegiate Institute (CCI). This event will recognize a late staff member of CCI, whose spouse is a member of JVA staff. This is an event that will draw large community involvement.
- congratulated Student Trustee-Elect Kyle Young on his appointment to the Minister's Student Advisory Committee.

Vice-Chair Maria Hardie advised that she attended several wonderful events in support of her fellow trustees. In particular she enjoyed attending the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School production of A Pirate's Life, which she felt rivaled any secondary school production.

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti reported that she and Student Trustee-Elect, Kyle Young would be attending the Ontario Student Trustees' Association AGM this weekend, with other students from across the province for workshops and networking.

### 13. CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees received a list of correspondence.

### 14. MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 28, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 03, 2013	Employee Years of Service & Retirement Celebration	5:00 p.m.
	Lion's Gate Banquet Centre, 386 Blake Street, Barrie	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 05, 2013	Board Meeting #10	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 11, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 12, 2013	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 12, 2013	Board Policy Review Committee #05	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 19, 2013	SEAC	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 19, 2013	Board Meeting #11 with Mass	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 25, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.

### 15. PRIVATE SESSION

### 16. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no report.

**17. NEXT MEETING**

Board Meeting #10:	Wednesday, June 05, 2013	7:30 p.m.
Agenda Deadline Date:	Wednesday, May 29, 2013	4:30 p.m.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

*Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:30pm.*

**19. CLOSING PRAYER**

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon led the closing prayer.