

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

Meeting #08 – Wednesday, May 01, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Clayton Ferguson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m., in the Board Room, 46 Alliance Boulevard, Barrie.

2. OPENING PRAYER / REFLECTION

Vice-Chair Maria Hardie and Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon led the opening prayer and reflection with the following special intentions:

For the sick:

Linda and Fred Graham
Alexandra MacKay
Kayla Johnson

For the deceased:

Gloria Anne Hubbert
Rita MacNeil
Sheryl Carter
Bronislaw (Bruno) Bednarz
Susan Ketching
Lillian McDonough
Dwight Gysel
June Robinson
Christina Kirbyson
Robert Tucker
Zachary Smith

3. ROLL CALL

Peter Derochie, Associate Director of Education (Business & Finance), 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, Kyle Young

Resource: Peter Derochie – Associate Director of Education (Business & Finance), Steven Charbonneau, Jane Dillon-Leitch, Ab Falconi, Diane Legg, Mary Puopolo

Regrets: Brian Beal – Director of Education, Glenn Clarke, Darren Schmidt
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

There were no delegations.

7. PRESENTATIONS

Living Our Faith – Head, Heart and Hands

1. iPads – Primary and FDK

Jonathan Rajalingam, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator and Tania Dawson, Elementary Curriculum Consultant, provided an overview of iPad pilot projects in the elementary schools. 17 classrooms have received 5 iPads, 1 Apple TV and one projector each; and all FDK classrooms have received one iPad for the teacher, DECE and students to use. This technology provides for student learning and for documenting student learning by staff. Video examples illustrated how effective the iPads are for actively engaging students and in a collaborative way in their classrooms. Staff voluntarily trained for two days last summer and continued with further after-school training during the school year.

Chair Ferguson commented that it is remarkable to see the transformation of learning with the most current tools of technology that are being introduced to our staff and students. He thanked Jonathan and Tania for sharing their expertise and enthusiasm and offered best wishes from the board of trustees as they inspire teachers to create a world of wonder for Simcoe Muskoka Catholic's youngest learners.

2. CODE 21st Century Learning Grant - Chrome Books

Perry Cavarzan, Secondary Program Coordinator and Stephen Janveau, Secondary Curriculum Consultant provided an overview of the Chrome Books project they are piloting in five schools with 12 teachers; as a result of a Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) 21st Century Teaching and Learning Grant. The Ministry of Education has a new branch to focus on 21st century learning. Perry and Steve are conducting local research with staff and students with a focus on Cloud Learning, using cloud resources along with the Chrome Book device. The Chrome Book device does not have the capability to download software and applications; it is meant to be a

communication tool over wifi. The focus of the research is on improved student learning and student engagement in conjunction with descriptive feedback to students in the English program. When teachers are in the system with students they can give feedback throughout the entire process easily and seamlessly instead of a student submitting their final work and getting a final mark. Trustees had an opportunity to work collaboratively to build a story using the Chrome Books through Google Docs.

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti advised that she has had the opportunity to practice with the software and has been able to work with a student on a foreign exchange by sharing comments to learn from each other.

Trustee Corriveau-Truchon who sits on the board's accessibility committee advised that they have used Google Docs in developing their accessibility plan, which gives them an opportunity to share comments without having to meet face to face.

Chair Ferguson commented on witnessing the transformation of teaching and learning through the use of digital classroom technologies. He thanked Perry and Stephen for sharing their expertise and passion for 21st century teaching and learning, so that our teachers are being trained and equipped to prepare their students - the digital learners for remarkable opportunities to be engaged and to become outstanding contributors to their local and broader global communities.

3. **New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP)**

Michele Litster, Secondary Program Consultant and lead for secondary NTIP, explained that the Ministry of Education mandates all boards to have a new teacher induction programs. Michele described her story as a new teacher and how the support from a peer helped her gain confidence. The board had already implemented an orientation program and the new requirements formalized the process with four components: orientation, professional development, mentoring and teacher performance appraisal. Simcoe Muskoka Catholic also has a fifth element: formation of caring relationships and a faith-filled learning environment. Michele and Stephanie Maher, elementary program consultant and elementary NTIP lead, make every effort to get to know each new new teacher personally so that they are connected with someone at the board offices. An explicit effort is made to model and discuss faith-based learning through a safe and respectful relationship.

The Ministry of Education has developed a handbook and the board has developed a resource called *Journey to Faith and Learning*.

Each new teacher is paired with an experienced teacher and develops professional learning goals and identifies opportunities for professional learning. Once a teacher has completed the NTIP program it is documented on the public register with the Ontario College of Teachers.

On behalf of trustees, Chair Ferguson commented that they were confident that our

newest teachers are receiving the support they need through a network of professional, faith-filled, and caring Catholic educators that will light the flame of learning for hundreds and even thousands of children in their teaching careers with Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. He extended appreciation to everyone involved in the NTIP program.

4. **Mentorship Program**

Superintendent of Education, Ab Falconi advised that there is a Mentorship Steering Committee. The program extends a hand to those around us to develop mutual support. Experienced staff are open and accepting and seek out people who need or would like help. Effective mentorship includes Consultation, Collaboration and Coaching. The principal/vice-principal mentorship program which began five years ago has expanded to include educational assistants, SERTs and secondary chaplains.

Chair Ferguson commented that our staff are *Living their Faith – Head, Heart and Hands*; by sharing their expertise and offering support to their colleagues. On behalf of the Board of Trustees he thanked everyone who has taken the opportunity to be a mentor or to be mentored.

8. **ACTION ITEMS**

1) **Report 8. 1) 08-2013: FDK Project Implementation**

Associate Director of Education (Business & Finance), Peter Derochie, on behalf of Glenn Clarke, Controller of Plant, advised that the report provided to trustees is based on the understanding that the board would access year five project funding to finance this year's projects. Staff were surprised by the pricing on the tender documents received. However, they were able to discern from contacting other school boards that the current market reflects how busy the trades are, which is therefore resulting in higher pricing. Ministry approval will be required to access year five funds for which the recommendations address. It was also noted that next year is the final year and could be an even busier year with potentially higher pricing. If Ministry of Education approval is not received, staff will have to look at available options.

There will be concern around how year five will be funded. Mr. Derochie suggested that the risk could be mitigated by opening up the number of contractors that the Board has pre-qualified. He also noted that the government is aware of the funding gap.

Recommendation #01: That the Board award the St. John Vianney Catholic School project to W.S. Morgan Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$746,000.00 exclusive of HST, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education.

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

Although the project in recommendation #01 is under \$1 million and does not require

Board approval, staff felt it was important to receive Board approval in the event there are cost overruns that might bring the project up to or over the approval benchmark.

Recommendation #02: That the Board award the St. James Catholic School project to W.S. Morgan Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$1,396,000.00 exclusive of HST, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education.

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

Recommendation #03: That the Board award the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School project to W.E. Marshall Construction (1986) Ltd. in the amount of \$1,395,000.00 exclusive of HST, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education.

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

Staff will advise trustees when approvals have been received from the Ministry of Education.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

1) Report 9. 1) 08-2013: Outstanding Graduates – Where Are They Now?

As Catholic Education Week approaches, the board will be launching a new communication initiative designed to celebrate the contribution Catholic learning provides to students and to society as a whole. The initiative is called *Outstanding Graduates – Where are They Now?* Highlights of the strategy for Catholic Education Week 2013 include recognizing a graduate student from each of the board's nine Catholic secondary schools. The graduates for 2013 were nominated by the respective school community. To support the initiative, several communication vehicles are being prepared to feature the graduates.

Trustee Shawn Cooper was pleased to see the students from Jean Vanier Catholic High School were being recognized as they have been very successful in their careers.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon commented that this is a very exciting initiative and that the Board needs to do more to celebrate our students.

Chair Ferguson noted that it was interesting to see the diversity of opportunities for which our Catholic graduates aspire; and how appropriate it is to celebrate graduates' achievements each year during Catholic education week. He was hopeful that this annual initiative would inspire our students to be outstanding faith-filled contributors in their local and broader communities.

2) Report 9. 2) 08-2013: Innisfil Boundary Review Follow-up

Chair Ferguson began by advising trustees that staff contacted the two delegates from the April 10th meeting who spoke regarding the Innisfil Boundary Review, to advise

them that the Board would be receiving a report to review the process of the boundary review.

Superintendent of Education Steve Charbonneau walked trustees through the report which provided a thorough summary of the Innisfil Boundary Review process; and he and Jennifer Sharpe, Manager of Planning and Properties, responded to questions from trustees.

Staff clarified that the letter was provided to schools to send home with students as they would other communication to families. Reminders followed by email and the board and school websites. The information included the street names of the urban area under consideration for changes because of the density and difficulty in reading the map, whereas the rural street names had not been listed on the notice because they were more spread out and easily identified from the map. The maps were not included with the notice home but the notice directed families to posters on display at the two schools and the board website to see the maps.

The report also indicated that in light of new technology that is available, this is a time of flux. There is a long tradition of sending home paper copies and with new technology many parents find email communication to be beneficial. Staff will look at this further to identify the optimum methods of communication when fine tuning the boundary review process going forward.

The report also explained that due to the volume of community input, an extension to receive comments from families was extended; and an additional boundary review committee meeting was added to thoroughly review and consider all comments received. Staff also responded to frequently asked questions, through an FAQ sheet which was posted to the board and school websites. The potential for change was introduced at the open house; however no new areas were affected by the recommended boundary changes.

The final recommendations that would be considered at the March 20th Board meeting were posted to the board's website on Friday, March 8th. The following week was March break and the website was down for scheduled maintenance for three days.

Trustee Jeanny Salmon wanted the community to be aware that staff and trustees did a good job to get the community involved, and that although there could have been better communications and timing, there was representation from the community through the entire process from the representatives of the Catholic School Community Councils.

Staff confirmed that neither school has a significant number of students attending on a boundary exemption.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon said that from reading all of the reports it seems that the process was followed, above and beyond, in some cases. The recommended changes were those changes which had been identified.

Trustee Francis Smith felt that the maps were difficult to read and he should have visited the area to gain a better understanding of the recommendations. He indicated that he would rely on the judgement of his fellow trustees from Barrie and Innisfil.

Trustee Connie Positano advised that she had been involved in two other boundary reviews this year and had complete faith in the boundary review committee's work. She felt that very thorough communication techniques were used with a great deal of emphasis placed on reaching all families and that she didn't feel anything was intentionally not communicated. After going through the report she did feel there were certain items of concern, such as: street names of rural area not shown; families that may not have had access to viewing the maps at the school or on the website; the red-dot system to identify families was not consistently applied on all maps which may have caused confusion; that if Catholic School Community Councils did not have a meeting scheduled following the open house, they would not have been able to communicate back; and the website disruption may have led to some families not to have the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald supported Trustee Positano's comments and asked if it was possible to step back in the process, to which Trustee Positano concurred.

It was agreed that the Innisfil Boundary Review would be a discussion item under Actions items at the next board meeting, which would give trustees an opportunity to bring forward a motion if so determined.

Superintendent Charbonneau advised that all concerns expressed at the open houses and through the community comment forms and email from Innisfil families were considered, as reflected in the community comment summary appendix. The recommendations that were approved include the rural area from part of the proposed scenario #3; and existing neighbourhoods from parts of scenarios #1 and #2. In response to concerns about increased bus time for families in the boundary change area, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium has determined that increased travel time would be minimal and that routing could result in shorter travel times. He concluded by indicating that if the recommendations that were to go to the board would have included families not already considered in the proposed scenarios, there would have been a need to revisit with the community before bringing to the board for approval.

Chair Ferguson thanked staff for following up on the questions that were raised by the trustees after hearing the delegations at the last Board meeting. He indicated that the report provided clarification around the process and that they would continue to update the process to meet the needs of families, staff and the communities that the Board serves.

10. ROUTINE
1) Approval of Minutes – Board Meetings

- i) **Minutes – Meeting #07 – Wednesday, April 10, 2013**
Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained for approval of the Minutes.

11. TRUSTEE ENQUIRIES

Trustee Shawn Cooper suggested that the board invite MPs and MPPs that represent Simcoe Muskoka constituents for an informal and open dialogue. This would be an opportunity for them to receive a consistent message about our system and our needs. Staff advised that OCSTA offers resources and briefing packages for trustees when they meet with MPs and MPPs.

Trustee Carol Corriveau-Truchon was pleased to update trustees on two enquiries she had raised at the last board meeting: Pete's Pilgrimage for the B Student and the St. Dominic Catholic School greenhouse project; both of which are going ahead.

Trustee Corriveau-Truchon advised that she has had a request from families in the District of Parry Sound to rename the board to include Parry Sound in the Board's name. Peter Derochie advised that the board first amalgamated in 1969 as the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. In 1987 the board formed its first Muskoka school in Bracebridge. In 1998 with further school board amalgamation through the provincial education improvement initiative, the board changed its name to Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. The process to change a board name is a provincial regulatory process through cabinet. There would be costs involved such as board identity changes to publications, letterhead, and so on. Staff will gather more information to bring back to the Board.

12. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Student Trustee Emily Cecchetti invited trustees to attend a student leadership conference on May 8th at Lakehead University in Orillia which the student senate will be attending.

Trustee Maria Hardie joined the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School community for a mass at Holy Spirit parish. Students and staff walked from school to the church in recognition of their time of hosting the parish at their school until the new church was built. The celebration was beautiful and students were given a special blessing.

Trustee Catherine MacDonald extended an invitation to her fellow trustees to attend a special evening event at St. Theresa's Catholic High School on May 8th: *Growing Together in Faith*.

Chair Ferguson reported that last week the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario held its annual conference in Toronto for which Simcoe Muskoka Catholic was a co-host. On Thursday evening the St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School choir performed to rave reviews. Our principals and vice-principals were very proud.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees were provided with a list of correspondence.

14. MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday, May 14, 2013	Discipline Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15, 2013	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15, 2013	Audit Committee	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 15, 2013	Board Policy Review Committee	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22, 2013	SEAC	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 22, 2013	Board Meeting #09	7:30 p.m.

Potential dates for part two of the budget inservice and for an EDC trustee inservice will be provided next week.

15. PRIVATE SESSION

16. REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There is no report.

17. NEXT MEETING

Board Meeting #09:	Wednesday, May 22, 2013	7:30 p.m.
Agenda Deadline Date:	Wednesday, May 15, 2013	4:30 p.m.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Consensus of the Board of Trustees was obtained to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:16 pm.

19. CLOSING PRAYER

Trustee Jeanny Salmon led the closing prayer.