

**HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Subject to Approval**

**Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Board Room, 802 Drury Lane, Burlington  
**Chair:** A.A. LeMay  
**In Attendance - Trustees:** A. Danko, A. Iantomasi, P. Marai, J. Michael, J. Morrison, D. Rabenda, J. M. Rowe, E. Viana  
**Student Trustee:** C. Schneider  
**In Attendance – Staff** M. W. Pautler, J. Langill, J. O’Hara, T. Pinelli, L. Stocco , R. DiPietro  
**In Attendance – Guests** Stakeholders  
**Recording Secretary:** T. Stocco

	<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Follow-up/Resp.</b>
1.	<b>Opening Prayer/Welcome</b>	The meeting opened at 5:40 p.m. with a prayer led by Superintendent J. Langill.		
2.	<b>Confirmation of Chair/Co Chairperson</b>	J. Langill convened the committee meeting by asking for nominations for Chair.  A. A. LeMay was nominated by A. Iantomasi. E. Viana seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.	A. A. LeMay was appointed Chair of the Policy Committee.	
3.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The following changes were made to the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delete Item 6b) II-1 Full Day Kindergarten Extended Day Program</li> <li>• Add Item 7) Equity and Inclusive Education</li> </ul> The agenda was accepted as amended.		
4.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	The minutes of the October 26 <sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented.		
5.	<b>Brief Outline of Governance related to Trustees and Policy Development</b>	J. Langill gave a brief outline to the Governance as related to the process of how policies are brought forth for consideration and approval.	Develop Terms of Reference for the Policy Committee.	
6.	<b>Policy/Procedure Updates/Timelines</b>	A chart listing the status of ongoing policies and procedures was referred to as information.  J. Langill identified the policies and procedures which had been approved by the previous board, as well as subsequent policies that will be looked at for the balance of this year and beyond.		

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		Clarification was requested as to the status of the proposed new policies and it was noted that the new policies have not yet been brought forth.		
7.	<b>Review of Policies</b>	<p><b>a) I-7 Protection of Privacy (for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading)</b></p> <p>J. Langill presented the policy for Committee consideration. The policy is driven by the various legislations referenced in the policy. Once the policy has been approved by the Board, an administrative procedure will be developed by Senior Staff.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding how this policy would affect the storage of sensitive pupil information, i.e. Special Education assessments, etc. It was clarified that those issues will be addressed in the administrative procedure, i.e. records retention.</p>	Forward Policy for 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading to the January 18, 2011 Board Meeting.	J. Langill
		<p><b>b) II-1 Full Day Kindergarten Extended Day Care Program</b></p> <p>This item was deleted from the agenda pending legislative changes and will be tabled at a future Policy Committee meeting.</p>		
8.	<b>Equity and Inclusive Education</b>	<p>To update all trustees, J. Langill provided background information regarding the sequence of events that led to the development of the existing Equity and Inclusive Education Policy.</p> <p>M. Pautler provided further clarification regarding the timelines by which the Policy was reviewed, amended and approved by both the Policy Committee and the Board.</p> <p>At the request of trustees, a copy of the January 19, 2010 letter from Bishop Durocher and the October 4, 2010 statement from Bishop Bergie were distributed.</p> <p>M. Pautler provided additional background information regarding Bishop Durocher' letter. The letter offered the Bishops' perspective regarding the implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education policy statement. The statement authored by Bishop Bergie and distributed on October 4<sup>th</sup> offered the Bishops' perspective on the template policy, an historical overview and their endorsement of the template policy developed by OESC.</p> <p>Members of senior staff provided clarification regarding some of the language contained within the policy.</p> <p>J. Langill identified the differences between the OESC</p>	<p><i>That the following recommendation be brought forward to the January 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 Board meeting:</i></p> <p><i>that the HCDSB rescind Policy II-45 and operate in the interim under the template provided by the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC).</i></p>	A.A. LeMay

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		<p>template Policy and the Policy approved by the former Board. M. Pautler indicated that the OESC template document, which was vetted by the broader Catholic community and upheld the integrity of the teachings of the Catholic Church, was the first document presented to trustees.</p> <p>J. Langill reminded trustees that under Ministry regulations, all boards must have an Equity and Inclusive Policy in place. He explained that the OESC template would comply with Ministry regulations as an interim policy.</p> <p>When asked about the Pastoral Guidelines, M. Pautler explained that it's a resource document developed by the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE). Staff received in-service regarding the document.</p> <p>J.M. Rowe recommended that rescind Policy II-45 and, in the interim, adopt the policy template for Equity and Inclusive Education for Catholic Boards, developed by OESC (Ontario Education Services Corporation)</p> <p>Trustees who spoke against Policy II-45, approved by the former Board offered the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy, as written, could diminish the importance and recognition of student voice;</li> <li>• Banning gay-straight alliance clubs is damaging to the reputation of the Board;</li> <li>• Gay-straight alliance groups promote peer to peer support.</li> <li>• The newly formed Board should have an opportunity to review the template policy.</li> <li>• The Board should look ahead towards supporting students in a comfortable and safe environment.</li> <li>• There is overwhelming support from stakeholders to rescind the policy.</li> </ul> <p>Trustees who spoke in support of the existing policy offered the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board should not be influenced by external pressure. The template was not intended to be used as the policy and other boards have made changes to the template. Furthermore, the Bishop's letter stated that each board must develop its own local policy.</li> <li>• A number of stakeholders have expressed support of the</li> </ul>		

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		<p>existing policy. The Catholic Church recognizes the dignity of all persons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gay-straight alliances will necessitate students to self identify.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair called for a vote on J.M. Rowe's recommendation and it <b>CARRIED</b>.</p> <p>A.A. LeMay, the Chair of the Board, explained that the Policy Committee is a recommending body only and must forward its recommendations to the Board for consideration and approval.</p> <p>Once approved by the Board, the policy will be brought back to the Policy Committee for review.</p>		
9.	<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.		
10.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, February 8, 2011 - 5:30 p.m.		