

## HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 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 *(via teleconference)*  
**In Attendance - Student Trustees** C. Peric  
**In Attendance – Staff** M. W. Pautler, J. Langill, M. Tessari, L. Stocco  
**Regrets:**  
**Recording Secretary:** T. Stocco

	Agenda Items	Summary	Action	Follow-up / Resp.
1.	<b>Opening Prayer/Welcome</b>	The meeting opened at 5:40 p.m. with a prayer led by the Chair A. A. LeMay.		
2.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The agenda was accepted as presented.		
3.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>The minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.</p> <p>Trustee Danko asked for clarification in the minutes when decisions are made regarding additions/deletions to policies.</p>		
4.	<b>Policy Action Items</b>	<p><b>4.1</b>  <b><i>I-4 Cross Boundary School Attendance</i></b>                      J. Langill briefed the committee on the rationale for the amendments to the policy which would in future require that consultation with Planning Services take place prior to approval/denials, as the enrolment stats available from them project further than just the upcoming school year and those numbers can affect the decision making.</p> <p>There was a general discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approval is not required for students to participate in specialized programs, such as French Immersion, IB/AP, etc. as these are system classes and only available at certain schools;</li> <li>• only criteria to grant/deny cross boundary status is the numbers in the class/school as provided by the school and Planning Services;</li> <li>• factors considered in granting cross boundary status</li> </ul>	<p><i>That the Policy Committee recommends that Board Policy I-4 Cross Boundary Attendance be forwarded to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board meeting for approval as amended.</i>  <i>Moved by D. Rabenda</i>  <i>Seconded by J. Michael</i>  <b>CARRIED</b></p>	

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		<p>can be the number of cross boundary requests from a particular school which has declining enrolment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there are two separate forms to identify Cross Boundary and Non Resident students</li> </ul> <p><b>4.2</b> <b>I-2 Non Catholic Secondary School Admissions</b> J. Langill provided the rationale for rescinding Policy I-2 Non Catholic Secondary School Admissions, which under Section 136 of the <i>Education Act</i> allows for any student to enroll in a Catholic secondary school regardless of religion. It is not necessary to have two separate policies regarding admission. Language from Policy I-2 has been embedded verbatim into renamed Policy I-22 Admission to Schools, Elementary <b>and Secondary</b>.</p> <p><b>I-22 Admission to Schools, Elementary and Secondary</b> J. Langill further spoke to some of the housekeeping changes to this policy by merging I-2 into I-22.</p> <p>The Director provided further information regarding a revision surrounding the criteria for admission to elementary schools. Policy I-22 currently states that students registering in the elementary schools shall be required to produce a Catholic baptismal certificate. The proposed revision to this requirement would be that, in the absence of a Catholic baptismal, a student may be admitted if <b>the parent</b> can provide a Roman/Eastern Rite Catholic baptismal certificate.</p> <p>The Director noted that the constitutional requirement is that a Catholic parent has right of access to Catholic schools for their child(ren), therefore, the criteria for admission rightly should be the baptismal certificate of the parent.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion surrounding this amendment amongst all participants, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• students who come from neighbouring Catholic boards;</li> <li>• pastors have varying views regarding admission, etc.</li> <li>• there is not sufficient rationale for changing existing policy and we should be consistent with the integrity we wish to have as a Catholic school system;</li> <li>• can be a number of circumstances that make it difficult for a parent/guardian to have a child baptized;</li> <li>• first line of response is at school level – a number of</li> </ul>	<p><i>That the Policy Committee recommends to the Board that Board Policy I-2 Non Catholic Secondary School Student Admission be forwarded to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board meeting in order to be rescinded.</i> <i>Moved by E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by A. Danko</i> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	

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		<p>requests get amicably done with invitation to visit pastor;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• other requests to the Director’s office regarding admission of non-baptized children/baptized other faiths; blended families, complex custody issues, custody of CAS, etc.</li> <li>• of the approximately 150 – 200 requests to the Director’s office, 2/3 of the students are registered;</li> <li>• students should be welcomed and drawn into our Catholic community;</li> </ul> <p>The Director informed the committee that the Bishop and his vicar for education are working on a support document to assist pastors.</p> <p>Trustee Rabenda commented on the sentence in the policy which reads <i>“Non-Catholic student admissions shall be reviewed annually by the school Superintendent.”</i> Upon further discussion, the consensus was to remove the sentence from the policy.</p> <p>Trustee Danko reiterated that he was in disagreement with the proposed amendment <i>“If the child has no Roman/Eastern Rite Catholic baptismal certificate, the child may be admitted if one parent can provide a Roman/Eastern Rite Catholic baptismal certificate.”</i></p> <p><b>4.3</b> <b><i>II-34 Participation in Programs and Courses of Study in Religious Education</i></b> J. Langill briefly outlined to the committee the amendments to the policy which directly quote the <i>Education Act</i>. This amendment clearly outlines the criteria that allows requests, in writing, for students to be exempted from participating in courses of study in Religious Education.</p> <p><b><i>II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education – 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading</i></b> J. Langill stated that the policy had received 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading there were no changes. The policy has come to committee for consideration and recommendation to the Board for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.</p>	<p><i>Motion to remove the statement “If the child has no Roman/Eastern Rite Catholic baptismal certificate, the child may be admitted if one parent can provide a Roman/Eastern Rite Catholic baptismal certificate.”</i> <i>Moved by A. Danko</i> <i>Seconded – none</i> <b>LOST</b></p> <p><i>That the Policy Committee recommends that Board Policy II-34 Participation in Programs and Courses of Study in Religious Education be forwarded to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board meeting for approval as amended.</i> <i>Moved by A. Iantomasi</i> <i>Seconded by E. Viana</i> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	

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		<p>The Chair, A. A. LeMay shared with the committee information, subsequent to a teleconference with OCSTA, and asked the Director to elaborate. The Director described the development of an initiative by ICE that is endorsed by the Bishops of Ontario, that would be implemented province wide by September 2011, and that would provide a framework for groups that will address bullying specifically with respect to homophobia and sexual orientation. This initiative would promote consistent implementation across Catholic school boards, similar to the Fully Alive program that was developed several years ago.</p> <p>A letter from Archbishop Collins, President of the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops will be forwarded to all Catholic boards later this week and will be shared with trustees.</p> <p>The Director noted that the Board is committed to Equity and Inclusive Education and expects the structures in place to be respectful of Catholic teachings.</p> <p>A general discussion ensued with varying comments from trustees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trustees set policy and none of what the Bishops are doing is binding on the Board</li> <li>• proposal to wait on the Bishop's letter, review the contents and then proceed with 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the policy – <b>Post Note:</b> <i>The letter was subsequently released on April 15<sup>th</sup></i></li> <li>• OCSTA is the umbrella group that offers a consistent and unified voice on the provincial landscape</li> <li>• it was reiterated that the intent is to have the initiative (yet unnamed) fully implemented in all Catholic schools in Ontario by September 2011</li> </ul> <p>The Director summarized the discussion by stating that it would be appropriate to proceed with the recommendation to send the policy for approval in 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the present form. The policy can be brought back in the future for revisions. He stated that the pathway outlined by Trustee Danko is also appropriate, that being delaying 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading pending further information. This avenue was deemed appropriate for II-44 Mental Health Policy, which is also currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, pending further information.</p>	<p><i>Motion to remove from Policy II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education references to PPM 119 and Guiding Principles.</i>  <i>Moved by A. Danko</i>  <i>Seconded – none</i>  <b>LOST</b></p> <p><i>Motion to bring Policy II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education forward from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board Meeting to the June 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting.</i>  <i>Moved by A. Danko</i>  <i>Seconded – none</i>  <b>LOST</b></p> <p><i>That the Policy Committee recommends that Board Policy II-45 Equity and Inclusive Education be forwarded to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board meeting for 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading.</i>  <i>Moved by E. Viana</i>  <i>Seconded by A. Iantomasi</i>  <b>CARRIED</b></p>	

	<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Follow-up / Resp.</b>
		<p><b>4.5</b>  <b>Exception to V-1 Community Use of School Facilities</b>  Trustee Rowe brought forward a request Halton Hills Sports Museum, to ask for an exception from Policy V-1 Community Use of School Facilities regarding serving alcohol on Board premises. This is a community-based event which supports youth sports. The June 16<sup>th</sup> event is an adult gala, and liquor will be serviced in a limited place for a limited period of time.</p>	<p><i>That an exception be made to Policy V-1 Community Use of School Facilities to accommodate a request from the Halton Hills Sports Museum be forwarded to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Board Meeting.</i>  <i>Moved by J. M. Rowe</i>  <i>Seconded by J. Michael</i>  <b>CARRIED</b></p>	
5.	<b>Information/Discussion Items</b>	<p><b>a)</b>  <b>VI-29 Establishment of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)</b></p> <p>T. Pinelli brought to the Committee for information purposes, a revision to Administrative Procedure VI-29 Establishment of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL). The changes were effected due to Ontario Regulation 374/10 which came into effect February 2011.</p> <p>The SAL program is for secondary students between the ages of 14 – 17 who are not otherwise engaged in the learning process. The goal of the program for the Board and the Ministry is to maintain a connection to learning and address issues which keep students from this process. While in SAL, students can participate in a variety of learning activities, which can include taking courses and/or training, developing job-search skills, work habits and life skills.</p> <p>Non academic components are part of the program and students will be monitored. The Board's Chief Social Worker will be in touch with the student's school and will be available to access the appropriate support groups.</p>		
6.	<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.		
7.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, May 10, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.		