

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 – 8:00 p.m.
Board Room, 802 Drury Lane,
Burlington, ON

Members present: A.A. LeMay (Chair) J. Matters
 A. Danko B. Van de Vrande (Vice Chair)
 P. Houlahan E. Viana
 A. Iantomasi Father D. Wilhelm

Member excused: R. Palmieri

Student Trustees: N. Bourque C. Restivo
 P. Cockburn

Staff present: M. Pautler, Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
 G. Corbacio S. Rossini
 J. Langill J. Rowles
 F. Mazzetti M. Tessari
 P. McMahan C. Tobin
 J. O'Hara

Also present: K. Boyd, President, OECTA Secondary
 C. Clarke, Watsons & Associates
 D.L. Galloway, Consultant, Curriculum Services
 C. Jewell, Administrator, Communications Officer
 M.B. Jonz, Director, Children's Services, Halton Region
 Members of the School Boundary Review Committee, St. Elizabeth Seton and
 St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School
 E. van Roosmalen, Chief Officer, Research & Development Services

Recording Secretary: D. Ross

1. CALL TO ORDER

A.A. LeMay welcomed guests to the Board Meeting.

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 8:05 p.m. with a prayer led by Brian Dunn, Chaplain at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School. Trustees were asked to remember Joan Wardrop, mother of Bonnie Sparks, SERT at Holy Rosary School, Burlington who died on Sunday, January 18, 2009; Yvonne Watson, mother of Deborah Krampelj, grade 1 (LTO) teacher at St. Francis of Assisi School, Georgetown, ON who died on Tuesday, January 6, 2009; Joseph McCann, father of Denise McCann, grade 8 teacher at Holy Rosary School, Milton who died on Tuesday, January 6, 2009; Antonio Domenico Palazzo, father of Claudia Hihn, secondary teacher, currently on leave, Halton Catholic District School Board, who died on Friday, January 2, 2009; Connie De Meo, casual employee with the Halton Catholic District School Board who died on Tuesday, December 23, 2008; Charles W. Kapplinger, father of Jan Mattie, Educational Assistant at St. Michael School, Oakville who died on Saturday, December 27, 2008; Donald Allen Caya, father of Kim Clancy, LINC/ESL Clerk at the Adult Learning Centre, Oakville who died on Wednesday, December 24, 2008; Michael Plaskon, father of Shannon Plaskon McGuinness, grade 2/3 teacher at St. Michael School, Oakville who died on Tuesday, December 23, 2008; and Diego Garcia, a grade 7 student in the Community Living Class at St. James School, Oakville and son of Ingrid Klitbo-Garcia, Educational Assistant at St. Christopher School, Burlington, died on Thursday, December 18, 2008.

1.2 Motions Adopted in Camera

B. Van de Vrande, Vice Chair of the Board, read the motion adopted in camera:

IC - # 27/09

Moved by:
Seconded by:

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board receive as information the hiring of Michael Anania (effective January 8, 2009), Louise Cronin-Nowitsky (effective January 5, 2009) and Lisa Jasek, Stephanie Lazzara, Sandra Leslie and Paul Thompson, effective February 2, 2009 as probationary teachers and the retirement of Patricia Arch effective January 23, 2009 and the employment status increase of Maria Kiervan (from 0.5 to 1.0) and John Sobiera (from 0.67 to 1.0) effective February 2, 2009. **CARRIED**

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no items added to the agenda.

24/09

Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm
Seconded by: P. Houlahan

RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Acknowledging that the delegation was postponed until the February 3, 2009 Board meeting, A. Danko requested the opportunity to discuss the issue of bullying prevention and intervention. In response, M. Pautler suggested that the Board reserve its discussion until the Board has received and prepared a response to the delegation. A. A. LeMay asked that trustees familiarize themselves with the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 School Boundary Review Interim Report for St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary Schools

G. Corbacio recognized and introduced members of the Committee. He briefly reviewed the consultation process and confirmed that the Committee would be presenting the Interim Report and the school attendance implementation options to the parents/guardians of St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary Schools at an Open House/Community Information meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Following the meeting, the committee will review the feedback received and will prepare and submit a final report to trustees at the February 17th Board Meeting. Delegations will have the opportunity to speak in favour or against the proposed Committee's recommendation at the March 24th Board Meeting and the Board will be asked to vote on the recommended option.

Members of the committee elaborated on the committee's mandate, the process, the Board criteria and presented two viable options, both of which proposes the redirection of all students in the Alton community from St. Gabriel to St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School effective 2009-2010 school year but one includes the redirection of the gifted program to an alternate school facility that could sustain the program in permanent classroom facilities. Members of the committee addressed the implications of both options. They explained the various factors that were considered in presenting the options and assisted in clarifying some of the comments contained in the report.

G. Corbacio reiterated that the Committee is not recommending where the gifted program should be relocated but recognizes that the school will require portable classrooms if the program remains at St. Elizabeth Seton School. He noted that staff has identified six schools in Burlington that could, over a long time period, accommodate the program.

Discussion which followed focused on the needs of the gifted program, class sizes, program requirements and its proximity to Oakville.

M. Pautler noted that it is within the purview of the Committee to make recommendations to maximize the use of the facilities and to determine the impact. It's also appropriate within that purview, to offer observations that the continuation of the gifted program at the site would have implications in terms of the Board's reliance on portable classrooms. The matter before the Board is an Interim report that has to do solely with the work of the Committee. M. Pautler further noted that there will be a need for a separate process and consideration in terms of developing an appropriate response to that information. S. Rossini, Superintendent, Special Education Services, will prepare a report that will focus on a variety of program considerations. It is staff's recommendation to relocate the program, this report will include input from staff and a decision in terms of a site where contained programs can be sustained.

B. Van de Vrande suggested that the Committee, rather than focusing on the placement of the gifted program, limit its recommendations to where the families of the Alton Community should be relocated. In his opinion, to suggest that the program needs to move is premature. He acknowledged that the matter needs to be considered but questioned whether or not the Committee's recommendation should conclude that the gifted program must move. He also asked if the recommendation could be brought forward to a meeting other than the March 24, 2009. G. Corbacio elaborated on the challenges in terms of timelines: earlier timelines would compromise the process and later timelines would create staffing issues. B. Van de Vrande spoke in favour of the recommendation to move the Alton students to St. Elizabeth Seton School provided the gifted program is not part of the recommendation as the debate would centre on the gifted program which is beyond the mandate of the Committee.

G. Corbacio reiterated that the Committee is simply pointing out the implication of maintaining the gifted program if the Alton community is moved to St. Elizabeth Seton. The Committee will consider the input received from the community.

M. Pautler commented that trustees must understand the implications of their decisions and noted that the decision before the Board would focus on the approval of boundaries for the school community and not the placement of the program as those decisions rest with staff.

The Chair thanked members of the St. Elizabeth/St. Gabriel School Boundary Review Committee for their dedication and hard work.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Regular Board Meeting – December 16, 2008

# 25/09	Moved by: E. Viana Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm
RESOLVED , that the minutes of the December 16, 2008 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.	
CARRIED	

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

# 26/09	Moved by: J. Matters Seconded by: A. Iantomasi
RESOLVED , that the summary of outstanding items from previous meetings be received as information.	
CARRIED	

8. ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Employee Computer Equipment Purchase Plan Borrowing By-Law No. 2009 F01

P. McMahon indicated that the Board has offered the Employee Computer Purchase Plan to staff since 1999. This year, approximately forty-four employees subscribed to the program and the by-law is required to support the loan for the equipment. The principal and interest is deducted from the individual's pay cheque and the plan is at no cost to the Board.

27/09

Moved by: E. Viana
 Seconded by: P. Houlahan

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve Borrowing By-Law No. 2009 F01, in an amount not to exceed \$569,415 to finance the Employee Computer Equipment Purchase Plan as approved by resolution # 305/99. **CARRIED**

8.2 Halton Catholic Educational Assistants Appreciation Day – January 28, 2009

On behalf of the Board and the administration, A.A. LeMay commended all Educational Assistants for the important role that they serve and asked for trustees' support in approving the following motion:

28/09

Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm
 Seconded by: A. Iantomasi

RESOLVED, that the trustees of the Halton Catholic District School Board proclaim January 28, 2009 as Halton Catholic Educational Assistants Appreciation Day – We Do Make A Difference, and commend all of our Educational Assistants for their strong commitment, dedication and sensitivity, support a love of learning and curiosity in our students as they learn about the world and life around them. **CARRIED**

Because of the exam schedule at the Secondary panel, the announcement will be read on an alternate date.

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1 Long Term Capital Plan Submission and Financial Analysis

C. Clarke from Watson and Associates presented the draft 2009 Long Term Capital Plan to the Board. She prefaced her presentation by noting that the economic condition might have an impact on the housing construction and new pupil enrolment. C. Clarke provided a synopsis of the process used to develop the 2009 Long Term Capital Plan thus far and identified the proposed capital expenditure summary for the period 2009/10 to 2022/23, based on certain demographic and enrolment trends, a fiscal analysis yielding a proposed accommodation strategy, and certain underlying assumptions.

The report will come back to the Board at the March 3, 2009 Board Meeting as an action item, recommending approval in principle of the 2009 Long Term Capital Plan and submission to the Ministry.

The Chair thanked C. Clarke for her presentation.

9.2 2008 Vision for Children in Halton Report Card

Dr. E. van Roosmalen (Chief Officer and MISA Leader, Research and Development Services), M.B. Jonz (Director, Children's Services, Halton Region) and D.L. Galloway (Consultant, Curriculum Services) provided a brief presentation of the Our Kids Network, highlighting key accomplishments and sharing next steps related to the report card. E. Van Roosmalen indicated that the report card is a measurement tool intended to provide Halton specific data to service providers so that various gaps and vulnerabilities can be identified in Halton communities. One of the objectives is to stimulate communities into action and to look at where we are with respect to various issues. E. Van Roosmalen reviewed the 2008 features of the report card and compared them to those of 2004, identified key results for children and youth in Halton and listed the Our Kids Network 2009 priorities. She also commented on several charts contained in the report.

M. B. Jonz elaborated on the next steps, specifically the various activities related to the launching of the report card. She gave a plaque to the Board which was presented at the International Community Innovation Award in Washington where Halton Our Kids Network was selected as the first prize winner for the 2008 International Community Indicators Innovation Award, the first time the award has been given to a group outside of the US. In her concluding remarks, M.B. Jonz reviewed the newly developed structure of the Our Kids Network.

A. A. LeMay congratulated members of the Committee and thanked D.L. Galloway and S. Lothian for their contribution to the creation of the Report Card.

9.3 **Mandatory Elementary School Uniform Pilot Project**

J. Langill commented that the report is intended to provide trustees with an update on observations and some gathered information by principals and staff participating in the pilot project from September 2008 to December 2008 and to outline upcoming activities and timelines that the Mandatory School Uniform Pilot Project Committee will undertake leading to its presentation and recommendations for an exit strategy at the March 3, 2009 Board Meeting.

10. **INFORMATION**

10.1 **Update from Student Trustees**

P. Bourque announced that the student trustees received a grant from the Ministry in the amount of \$1500 to help subsidize the Halton Youth Leadership Conference. The Public Board received the equivalent amount of money. The next planning meeting is on Wednesday, January 28th 2009.

10.2 **Approved Educational Field Trips**

10.3 **Budget Report for September 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008**

10.4 **Capital Projects Report as at December 31, 2008**

10.5 **Construction reports:**

- Milton # 4 Catholic Elementary School
- St. Peter Catholic Elementary School

29/09

*Moved by: E. Viana
Seconded by: J. Matters*

RESOLVED, that the information items 10.1 to 10.5 be received.

CARRIED

10.6 **School Board Governance**

A.A. LeMay sought feedback from trustees in terms of the process to prepare the Board's response on School Board Governance that will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education. It was the general consensus of trustees that the notes prepared by B. Van de Vrande, J. Matters and A.A. LeMay would be collated and sent to trustees for their input and feedback. A draft response will follow.

30/09

*Moved by: E. Viana
Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm*

RESOLVED, that the information item 10.6 be received.

CARRIED

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

12. **OPEN QUESTION PERIOD**

A.A. LeMay read a question posed by H. Parker, parent at St. Gabriel. J. Langill elaborated on the practice he's been following in terms of reporting to trustees with information and updates on this pilot project. He indicated that this question would follow past practice and would be vetted through the committee. The March 3rd report will speak extensively about the types of information that had been gathered over the past two years and how it might impact the decisions and recommendations to trustees.

13. **IN CAMERA**

14. **RESOLUTION re ABSENTEES**

R. Palmieri was away due to illness.

# 31/09	<i>Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm</i> <i>Seconded by: J. Matters</i>
RESOLVED , that R. Palmieri be excused.	CARRIED

15. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER**

# 32/09	<i>Moved by: B. Van de Vrande</i> <i>Seconded by: E. Viana</i>
RESOLVED , that the meeting adjourn.	CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m. with a closing prayer led by F. Mazzetti.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

APPROVED:

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Secretary of the Board

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Chair