

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 St. Vincent School/Kijabe, Kenya, Bethany Children's Hospital Initiative

M. Pautler introduced B. Browne, Principal at St. Vincent Catholic Elementary School and invited him to report on the very special project the school undertook in support of Bethany Children's Hospital in Kijabe, as part of their approach and observance to Lent.

B. Browne was pleased to elaborate on the school's initiative that allowed students to live out the Lenten obligations of almsgiving, sacrifice, prayer and service by challenging them to donate their own money earned through chores, service or allowance in support of Bethany's Children's Hospital in Kenya. The hospital's mandate is to provide medical attention and vital surgeries to children. Parents were also involved and similarly challenged to match the donations of their children in the spirit of community. B. Browne provided several examples of creative and imaginative ways by which students raised over \$11,000.00 for the Bethany Kids Lenten Project.

B. Browne presented a slide presentation and gave an overview of his visit to Africa. He spoke of several experiences that illustrate how faith and prayers are part of the people of Kijabe's daily lives. B. Browne reported that the experiences were blogged daily for staff, students and parents to enjoy, a sample copy of which was provided to trustees. Trustees also viewed a brief video.

In his closing remarks, B. Browne thanked the Board for the opportunity to experience this positive philanthropic initiative that has provided an important learning experience for students, galvanizing a faith-focused community event that has touched students, staff, and parents. The school is committed to continuing their connection with Bethany and helping those less fortunate in East Africa. Students and staff look forward to another successful Lenten fundraising initiative this year in support of Bethany.

E. Viana thanked B. Browne for leading by example and for his commitment to the community. B. Van de Vrande echoed similar comments and remarked that this initiative ties in very well with our Focus on Faith initiative and is a living example of how a school community can respond to 'God's love for us', thereby distinguishing our efforts from similar secular focused initiatives. He thanked B. Browne for sharing his truly inspiring experience with trustees. B. Van de Vrande asked that this good news story be submitted to OCSTA as it is good work in the Catholic context.

5. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 Regular Board Meeting – February 3, 2009

A. Danko asked that paragraph 3, page 4 of the minutes be amended to read "A. Danko commented that" rather than "in A. Danko's opinion". The minutes will be amended accordingly.

34/09

Moved by: A. Iantomasi

Seconded by: E. Viana

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the February 3, 2009 Regular Board Meeting be approved as amended.

The Vice Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

35/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm

RESOLVED, that the summary of outstanding items from previous meetings be received as information. **CARRIED**

8. **ACTION ITEMS**8.1 **Proposed Revisions to Board Operating Policy II-24 Home-to-School Student Transportation – First Reading**

P. McMahon explained that the policy was being brought forward as first reading because of a number of proposed changes made by the Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) consortium. He noted that the Ministry of Education will be undertaking an Effectiveness and Efficiency Review (E & E Review) of the consortium in May or June and the intent of the Management Committee is to ensure that the HSTS has a favourable review and obtains the highest rating. The successful outcome of that review could result in additional transportation funds being allocated to the consortium. P. McMahon briefly addressed the two most significant changes that are addressed in the report: namely the walk distance for Secondary students and the introduction of transportation for French Immersion elementary students.

36/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: P. Houlahan

RESOLVED, that the Board Operating Policy II-24, Home-to-School Student Transportation, be approved in first reading as amended, and forwarded to the appropriate stakeholder groups for their input and comment.

B. Van de Vrande suggested an amendment to the proposed policy related to Item 16. The policy will be amended accordingly.

The Vice Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

Speaking to the Georgetown South issue, P. McMahon presented a rationale for rescinding motion # 123/02 that provides transportation to all students residing in Georgetown South (South of Hungry Hollow Ravine) to Christ the King and explained that it remains an inconsistency in the transportation delivery model in that the Board is not complying with its own policy.

R. Palmieri requested a recorded vote.

37/09

Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm

Seconded by: E. Viana

RESOLVED, that the Board rescind Motion # 123/02 which states that "Bus transportation be provided to all students residing in Georgetown South (South of Hungry Hollow Ravine) to Christ the King Catholic Secondary School

In Favour	Against
Danko, A.	R. Palmieri
Houlahan, P.	
Iantomasi, A	
Matters, J.	
Van de Vrande, B.	
Viana, E	
Wilhelm, Father D.	

The motion **CARRIED**.

M. Pautler confirmed that notification will be forwarded to the affected school community.

8.2 Ontario Financing Authority Debenture Issue

P. McMahon indicated that the Board is now required to debenture through the Ontario Financing Authority and explained the timelines for debenturing projects. The Ministry Memorandum states that school boards must pass the necessary authorizing by-laws, review and verify the loan agreement no later than March 2, 2009. P. McMahon provided a brief rationale for the motion and explained that the intended loan is required to pay for Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School, and the Primary Class Size Capital portion of the St. Christopher and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Elementary schools projects.

38/09

Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm

Seconded by: E. Viana

RESOLVED, that the Board approve By-Law 2009-F02 authorizing a loan from the Ontario finance Authority in the principal amount of \$27,247,335. **CARRIED**

8.3 New Board Operating Policy II-21 Cross Panel Sharing of Student Information – 2nd & 3rd Readings

J. Langill addressed the policy, the first of many to come from the Privacy and Information Management Task Force. Only five responses were received from stakeholders as part of the consultation process, most of which centered around making sure that the Board only provides relevant information between the two panels.

39/09

Moved by: P. Houlahan

Seconded by: A. Danko

RESOLVED, that Board Policy li-21 Cross Panel Sharing of Personal Information be approved in 2nd and 3rd Readings

In response to a question, J. Langill provided examples of information that might not be shared amongst both panels.

The motion **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

8.4 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

40/09

Moved by: J. Matters

Seconded by: A. Danko

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the 2009-2010 School Year Calendar as presented.

In accordance with regulation #304, M. Tessari indicated that each board is required to submit a Board-approved calendar to the Ministry of Education by May 1, 2008. She confirmed that the schedule received considerable consultation and was prepared by the Board's Calendar Review Committee, which is comprised of elementary and secondary presidents of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, representatives from the Principals' Association and representatives from the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

M. Tessari reported that drafting this year's calendar presented significant challenges because of the discrepancy between the number of school days required (194), including six days that must be designated as professional development days, and the number of actual calendar days between September 7th and June 30th (192). She explained that there are not sufficient school days between Labour Day and June 30th to meet the criteria and as a result, students will have to return to school prior to Labour Day, on Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

M. Tessari commented that the calendar aligns with the co-terminous Board in order to ensure that the integration of the transportation services are not disrupted, with the exception of one day where the Committee felt that the last day of school was not good use of a professional activity day.

P. Houlahan expressed a concern with a starting date prior to Labour Day weekend. M. Pautler acknowledged the concerns expressed and indicated that the introduction of the Statutory Family Day has created some additional challenges and it was not possible to generate 194 days without adopting one of three strategies considered: Professional Activity Days prior to Labour Day, shortening the Christmas Break and starting prior to Labour Day (the selected option). He addressed the benefits and drawbacks of all three strategies. He noted that only two boards in the province have chosen to shorten the Christmas Break as the solution and a couple of boards are opting to assign a block of P.A. Days prior to Labour Day Weekend. The majority have selected the Board's option, including Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board and Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board.

Staff, in response to a question, acknowledged that next year's calendar will present a similar situation but that Boards will be able to go back to their regular practice for the following five years.

Trustees were informed that a news release will be sent on February 18, 2009.

The Vice Chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

9. **STAFF REPORTS**

10. **INFORMATION**

10.1 **Update from Student Trustees**

C. Restivo informed trustees that the last senate meeting was held on February 5th at Holy Trinity and focused on organizing the Halton Youth Leadership Symposium.

10.2 **Approved Educational Field Trips**

In response to questions, F. Mazzetti explained that the trip to New York involving three students from each secondary school, one teacher from each secondary school, two members of senior staff and the Chair of the Board is part of the Safe Schools' initiative, the cost of which is covered by the Cultural Proficiency Grant. The workshops are intended to assist schools in developing their safe schools' plan.

10.3 **Budget Report for September 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009**

10.4 **Capital Projects report as at January 31, 2009**

10.5 **Construction Reports:**

- Milton # 4 Catholic Elementary School
- St. Peter Catholic Elementary School Replacement Construction Project

41/09

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

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

CARRIED

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

12. **OPEN QUESTION PERIOD**

There was no question period.

13. **IN CAMERA**

42/09

Moved by: R. Palmieri

Seconded by: J. Matters

RESOLVED, that the meeting move in-camera.**CARRIED**

The meeting moved in camera at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened into regular session at 9:20 p.m.

J. Matters read the motion adopted in camera.

IC - # 37/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: R. Palmieri

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Trevor Demeris to the position of Elementary Vice Principal effective March 23, 2009.**CARRIED**

Trustees were encouraged to attend the Literacy Conference and select the workshop of their choice by completing the registration form.

14. **RESOLUTION re ABSENTEES**

The Vice-Chair indicated that A.A. LeMay was on vacation and that N. Bourque had another commitment.

43/09

Moved by: Ed Viana

Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm

RESOLVED, that A.A. LeMay and N. Bourque be excused.**CARRIED**15. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER**

44/09

Moved by: A. Danko

Seconded by: R. Palmieri

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m. with a closing prayer led by R. MacDonald.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

APPROVED:

.....
Secretary of the Board

.....
Chair