

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following item was added to the agenda:

10.5 Notice of Motion for the March 24, 2009 Board Meeting re: Transportation

The Chair indicated that the order of the agenda would be amended and that Item 5.1 and Item 8.2 would be addressed immediately following Item 3.

Trustees were asked to return the Education Week package placed at their desk if the information was not required.

A. Danko indicated that unanimous support was required in order to change the order of the agenda.

# 45/09	<i>Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm</i> <i>Seconded by: E. Viana</i>
RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved as amended. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED	

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

The Chair proceeded to Item 5.1

5. DELEGATIONS**5.1 S. Murray, S. deLaat, A. Gaiger – Bus Transportation at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School**

A. Gaiger, introduced members of the delegation and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on the issue. She also introduced Mayor R. Bonnette as well as the Town Councillors. A. Gaiger urged trustees to reconsider the decision made on February 17th 2009 to rescind the bussing for Georgetown South students to Christ the King. She presented a number of concerns related to the elimination of bussing for South Georgetown including the lack of public transit in Milton, poor road maintenance during winter months, traffic as well as strenuous walking conditions because of the Town's topography.

S. Murray impressed upon trustees how the delegation has come together to voice their concerns. She provided information regarding the Save our Buses campaign, the website and e-mail addresses that have been established as well as the walk that was organized in support of their plea.

S. deLaat, a grade 11 student, addressed the Board on behalf of the students at Christ the King. He spoke about the impact of the Board's decision to cancel buses on the student community and raised several health and safety concerns as well as economic, environmental and academic concerns. He explained how the decision would negatively impact not only the students, but the entire community of Georgetown.

Mrs. A. Gaiger presented a folder to the Board that contained several petitions.

A.A. LeMay thanked the delegation for their presentation and asked for a consensus from trustees to allow staff the opportunity to consider the options as well as the implications and to work cooperatively with the other partners from the consortium.

Mayor Bonnette addressed the economic challenges that Georgetown faces and explained why public transit is not feasible.

B. Van de Vrande thanked the delegation for their respectful presentation. He questioned whether or not the failure on the part of the municipality to provide buses or the timely removal of snow when applicable, should be the responsibility of the school board and whether or not the municipality could be asked to contribute to the cost of buses. He further noted that the Board is concerned with safety but the responsibility for certain needs should rest within various

levels of governments. He acknowledged that it would be in the best interest of all parties to reach a joint solution. J. Matters suggested giving staff the opportunity to produce a more comprehensive report allowing them to further assess all facets of this challenging issue, including the well founded concerns of parents as well as Board's obligations in this consortium to the Ministry.

A. Danko commented that the request from the Chair for a consensus was merely a show of hands and a sentiment and that under Item 8.1 trustees would be entitled to one of three options: make a decision on the matter at the same meeting; refer the matter to a future meeting; or ask for another staff report to be considered at a future meeting.

R. Palmieri thanked the delegation and spoke in support of the concerns expressed by the community. P. Bourque further commented on the fact that a positive review from the Ministry should not have an impact on students who have to make the daily walk.

8.1 Response to the Delegation

A. Danko presented several arguments in favour of making an immediate decision and reinstating busing for Georgetown South. He presented the following motion:

# 46/09	<i>Moved by: A. Danko</i> <i>Seconded by: R. Palmieri</i>
<i>RESOLVED</i> , that the Board make a decision on the matter at the same meeting.	

A number of trustees spoke against the motion and in favour of delaying the decision for the following reasons:

- the Board needs to effectively determine an action plan;
- the Board needs to find a permanent solution for Georgetown South;
- the matter needs to be referred to staff to have proper discussion with the municipality, the provincial government and the co-terminous board in order to develop a comprehensive response;
- some trustees questioned the benefits of making a decision quickly or deliberately on the basis that busing is still being provided until September 2009; and
- the original motion presented by I. McCauley in April 2002 contravenes the existing policy. The motion should have been adopted as an exception to the policy with an annual review rather than a motion that provided busing in perpetuity.

The Director, in response to questions in terms of what benefit might be found in either making a decision more quickly or deliberately, suggested that to refer the matter to a future meeting would allow staff to put before trustees all the information concerning the potential implications, financially or procedurally, of any decisions made by trustees.

There was some discussion regarding the procedural process for reconsidering, rescinding or amending the motion adopted at the February meeting. A motion to reconsider can only be done at the same meeting. The Director acknowledged that it lies within the purview of the Board to make a decision at the same meeting since the Policy on Delegations provides three pathways to do so. He concurred with A. Danko that it could be accomplished through the introduction of a new motion.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion and it was **DEFEATED**.

The following motion was presented to the Board:

# 47/09	<i>Moved by: B. Van de Vrande</i> <i>Seconded by: P. Houlahan</i>
<i>RESOLVED</i> , that the Halton Catholic District School Board request that staff prepare a report that considers the input of the Christ the King Catholic Secondary School community and examines options with respect to transportation exceptions and related matters and to present such report at the Board meeting of April 14, 2009.	

R. Palmieri raised a concern regarding the proposed timelines. A. Danko questioned how the generation of an additional staff report or further study would increase the likelihood of reinstating the bus for Georgetown South.

B. Van de Vrande spoke in support of the motion on the basis that the consultation process must be done properly. All factors, both positive and negative, must be considered. The Director further noted that it would be fair to assume that consultation with the three other boards who are participating members of the consortia would be undertaken as part of the process and explained that the Board does not have the ability to bind the decision from the other three partners. Staff will undertake the best effort to move towards a common policy, the starting point for this issue, but it would be beyond the ability of staff or this Board to structure something that would positively come to a permanent solution shared equally or endorsed by four participating members.

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

The Chair called for a recess at 9:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:16 p.m.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 **Final Report: St. Elizabeth Seton and St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary Schools – School Boundary Review Committee**

G. Corbacio introduced L. de Brum, parent representative of the St. Elizabeth Seton/St. Gabriel School Boundary Review Committee. L. de Brum provided a brief overview of the community's responses to the consultation process and presented the final recommendations of the Committee. Trustees were informed that the community has been advised of the final recommendations and the process involved for delegating to the Board. The community is also aware that the Board of Trustees will be making its final decision at the March 24th Board Meeting.

B. Van de Vrande Bob expressed his appreciation to members of the Committee, parents and staff for their open minded approach and for their involvement during this time-consuming process.

A.A. LeMay thanked L. de Brum for her presentation.

4.2 **Final Report: Holy Rosary, Milton # 4, Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter Catholic Elementary Schools – School Boundary Review Committee**

G. Corbacio introduced M. Lanois, parent representative of the Holy Rosary, Milton #4, Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter Catholic Elementary Schools Boundary Review Committee. He briefly summarized the mandate of the committee and the process undertaken. He shared with trustees the community's responses at the consultation meeting of February 7th 2009. M. Langlois listed the merits and the drawbacks of each option considered and informed trustees that Option '3' best meets the criteria, the mandate and the needs of the community. He acknowledged that the community is aware that the Board of trustees will be making its final decision at the March 24th Board meeting

Father D. Wilhelm expressed his appreciation to the committee for their work and to staff for their guidance throughout the process.

M. Lanois, in response to a concern regarding the safety of the children crossing Derry Road, assured Trustee Houlahan that the safety of the children is not jeopardized on the basis that there are crossing guards and sufficient sidewalks on Derry Road.

G. Corbacio reported that the boundaries are only temporary and will have to be reviewed once the new Milton # 6 School is constructed.

A.A. LeMay thanked M. Langlois and the members of his committee.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**6.1 **Regular Board Meeting – February 17, 2009**

48/09

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the February 17, 2009 Regular Board Meeting be approved as amended.

The minutes will be amended to reflect the correct spelling of South of Hungry Hollow.

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

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**7.1 **Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings**

49/09

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

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

P. Houlahan indicated that the status date for the Catechesis of the Good Sheppard should be amended to read October 2009 instead of June 2009 since the report from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is not due until October.

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

8. **ACTION ITEMS**8.1 **Response to the Delegation**8.2 **2009 Nomination for OCSTA Director**

A. Danko nominated A.A. LeMay as the Board's representative on the Board of Directors for OCSTA. In response, A. A. LeMay, graciously declined the nomination but expressed her appreciation for the support over the past several years. A. Iantomasi nominated P. Houlahan, seconded by J. Matters. P. Houlahan accepted the nomination.

50/09

Moved by: A. Iantomasi
 Seconded by: J. Matters

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board nominate Pauline Houlahan for the position of Director of OCSTA for the period April 2009 to April 2011.

A.A. LeMay explained that our Region consists of three boards, including Niagara Catholic and Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic and is represented by two members. The elections will take place at the May AGM.

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

8.3 **Long Term Capital Plan Submission and Financial Analysis**

P. McMahan informed trustees that this is the last in a series of five presentations/reports to the Board on the 2009 Long Term Capital Plan that identifies projects the Board is considering over the next fifteen (15) years. He briefly reviewed some of the changes made to the report since the January 20th meeting. P. McMahan indicated that the announcement regarding the five priority capital projects submitted to the Ministry is expected in the spring.

C. Clarke summarized the information presented to trustees over the last few months. She indicated that the approval "in principle" does not commit the Board to any projects. The proposed plan allows the Board to monitor enrolment and to add or subtract to the list of projects as trustees come to consider the actual construction of any of the capital projects.

A. Danko questioned the impact of the report as it relates to school closures. In response, C. Clarke identified the areas that the Board will have to consider in terms of surplus/student accommodation means over the next 5/10/15 years and areas where there will be a significant number of surplus pupil spaces over time. She described the process in terms of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and the Board's policy in addressing the guidelines. C. Clarke confirmed that the report identifies approximately seven (7) to nine (9) possible school closures/consolidations over the next fifteen (15) years.

51/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: J. Matters

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board hereby approves in principle, the "Long Term Capital Plan 2009 and Financial Analysis (Approval in Principle)"; and

That, Board staff be directed to input the requisite data into the Ministry of Education's Capital Planning Website based on the details in the Watson and Associates report.

CARRIED

8.4 **Operating Policy I-9 School Accommodation – Consolidation/Closure – Third Reading**

P. McMahon provided background information on the School Closure Guidelines that led to the development of the Generic School Valuation Framework template and the Policy. He listed the stakeholders involved in the review and indicated that the Committee used the guidelines from other school boards to guide them through the process. P. McMahon reviewed the content of the report.

A. Danko raised a concern regarding the make-up of the committee and the fact that the invitation to participate was not extended to all trustees.

Understanding the need to have a definitive process, B. Van de Vrande expressed a concern with the fact that the process is sufficiently vague that almost all schools qualify for consideration at any time. In response, C. Clarke provided a rationale and explained why it's in the best interest of staff not to take one factor into consideration but to consider a broad number of factors when making a recommendation to the Board. B. Van de Vrande suggested an amendment to the wording.

In terms of prioritizing the criteria, M. Pautler suggested that an element of flexibility in this policy is desirable. Being able to apply the criteria with some level of flexibility allows staff to present a series of viable options to the Board. The observation that perhaps the language would more appropriately read that "all of these factors will be considered as part of the contemplation process" rather than "one or more of the following conditions may apply" is probably a more accurate representation of the intent.

Since there was no motion on the table, the Chair asked that the motion be considered.

52/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: J. Matters

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve Policy I-9 School Accommodation – Consolidation/Closure in third reading.

Anthony Danko moved to table the motion. There was no seconder for the tabling motion.

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

8.5 **Mandatory Elementary School Uniform Pilot Project**

J. Langill prefaced his comments by thanking the school communities of St. Gabriel and Guardian Angels schools who participated in the pilot through the cooperation of their respective principal, Catholic school council and students. He addressed the proposed resolutions: one to consider for first reading of policy II-41 and the other is to rescind Policy II-

36 once II-41 becomes effective. J. Langill reviewed the content of the policy that now gives the option of moving to a school uniform dress code at the local school level, in the hands of the principal and school and ultimately, the parents in the community. J. Langill reviewed the content of the report and summarized the opinions, findings and perception of the grade 6 to 8 students, the parents and teachers. He concluded that the findings clearly demonstrate positive feedback in terms of the effect and impact of the uniform on the school culture and school environment.

J. Langill reviewed the proposed amendments to the policy.

53/09

Moved by: B. Van de Vrande

Seconded by: J. Matters

RESOLVED, that Board Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code be approved in First Reading and forwarded to the appropriate stakeholder groups for their input and comment; and

That the Board Policy II-36 Student Dress Code/School Uniform be rescinded once 3rd Reading has been completed for new Board Policy II-41 School Uniform Dress Code/School Dress Code.

A. Danko raised a concern regarding the order of operations in terms of establishing the approval rate after administering the survey and suggested that the most ethical way would have been to change the policy prior to surveying the parents. J. Langill indicated that the percentage approval rate was established by the Committee through research with other boards and assured Trustee Danko that it was not impacted by the results of the survey. The survey was strictly intended to assess the effectiveness and impact of the uniform at the school level.

54/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: A. Iantomasi

RESOLVED, that the meeting proceed continue 10:30 p.m.

CARRIED

In addressing affordability, J. Langill explained that the suppliers are very accepting and acknowledging of financial consideration and that no students would go without a uniform. The action plan presented to parents will clearly communicate that information.

Trustees Van de Vrande and Matters thanked members of the Committee as well as the two communities who piloted the project, in particular parents and staff who have fielded a lot of the efforts and those who participated whether they were in favour or against the project. In their opinion, the Committee has developed a reasonable, appropriate balanced approach that addresses the concerns of all intended parties.

B. Van de Vrande questioned the cost implications of giving schools the option to use the Board's uniform supplier for secondary schools or to choose from one of three uniform supply companies that have been selected by the Board through an RFP process. In response J. Langill provided a rationale and indicated that the Committee took into consideration the responses and opinions of parents and teachers.

A. Danko pointed out that the survey for St. Gabriel needs to be redone by virtue of the fact that the boundaries have changed and part of the population has moved. J. Langill explained the consultation process following first reading and noted that the goal is to gather the feedback and make any necessary adjustments for the April 14th meeting based on the input received. Should it pass third reading, both schools involved in the pilot will follow a legitimate policy that has been passed, thus replacing the existing policy and that includes creating an action plan, making a presentation to the community and proceeding to the vote process.

There was some discussion in terms of the findings, specifically the responses from teachers and students.

R. Palmieri emphasized the need to ensure that the proposed policy is properly communicated and disseminated to the community for input. Recognizing the desirability of being able to communicate clearly and consistently with the community, M. Pautler indicated that staff has initiated some discussion internally about strategies, software and/or technology for that effort and anticipates that it would be reflected as a priority in the upcoming budget process.

J. Langill noted that a procedure will be developed once the policy is adopted that will include and provide a detailed communication plan to the communities.

N. Bourque reported that the issue of school uniforms at the elementary level was addressed at the Student Senate meeting and the majority of students were in support on the basis that it reduces bullying within the school, eliminates social class distinctions and allows for an easier transition into the high school uniform.

The chair called for a vote and the motion **CARRIED**.

8.6 Appointment of SEAC Member: Association for Bright Children, Halton Chapter

<p># 55/09</p>	<p>Moved by: P. Houlahan Seconded by: J. Matters</p>
<p>RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board accept the resignation of Miranda Kohler as representative of the Association for Bright Children in Ontario, Halton Chapter, and approve the appointment of Mrs. Lisa Preza as representative for the Association for Bright Children of Ontario, Halton Chapter, effective March 30, 2009 until November 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	

The Director acknowledged that the Board would be sending a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Kohler for her services to SEAC.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS

10. INFORMATION

10.1 Update from Student Trustees

N. Bourque reported that all three student trustees travelled to Ottawa for the OSTA Board Council Conference. OSTA hosted a number of great speakers who spoke about Catholic Education and the faith in our schools. The student senators met in February at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School to organize the workshops for the Leadership Symposium in May. The next meeting will take place at the end of March at Loyola Catholic Secondary School. .

10.2 Approved Educational Field Trips

10.3 SEAC Minutes – January 26, 2009

10.4 Election of Student Trustees for 2009-2010

A.A. LeMay indicated that the Education Act, Ontario Regulation # 7 addresses the election of student trustees and from the information contained therein, it appears that the Board's policy and procedure will have to be amended in order to comply with the Education Act. A.A. LeMay indicated that this matter would be discussed at the March 24th meeting.

C. Restivo commented that the student trustees wanted the opportunity to discuss the appointment of student trustee nominees at the school level, specifically the process by which the schools elect a candidate but wanted to maintain the existing practice at the Board level.

M. Pautler indicated that the Board policy speaks to the current selection process and the accompanying administrative procedure speaks to the selection or election process at the school level. It would be the intention of staff to bring forward both a revised policy and as information, the accompanying administrative procedure that would introduce and support a process that would bring us into compliance with the Act and the Regulations.

10.5 **Notice of Motion**

A. Danko presented a notice of motion for the March 24, 2009 related to transportation.

# 56/09	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: A. Danko</i>
RESOLVED , that the information items 10.1 to 10.5 be received.	CARRIED

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1 **Letter to Mayor R. Bonnette**

# 57/09	<i>Moved by: P. Houlahan</i> <i>Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm</i>
RESOLVED , that correspondence Item 11.1 be received.	CARRIED

12. **OPEN QUESTION PERIOD**

There was no question period.

13. **IN CAMERA**

There was no in-camera session.

14. **RESOLUTION re ABSENTEES**

There were no absentees.

15. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER**

# 58/09	<i>Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm</i> <i>Seconded by: E. Viana</i>
RESOLVED , that the meeting adjourn.	CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m. with a closing prayer led by R. MacDonald.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

APPROVED:

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Secretary of the Board

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Chair