

**HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Regular Meeting of the Board**

Tuesday, June 16, 2009 – 8:00 p.m.  
Board Room, 802 Drury Lane,  
Burlington, ON

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

Member excused: A. Danko

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

Also present: B. Culbert C. Gray

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

Also present: L. Stocco, Communications Officer, Communications Services  
K. Boyd, President, OECTA Secondary  
A. Cordeiro, Assumption Catholic Secondary School  
J. Doyle, System Chaplaincy Leader

Recording Secretary: D. Ross

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.1 Opening Prayer**

The meeting opened at 8:00 p.m. with a prayer led by J. Doyle, System Chaplaincy Leader. Trustees were asked to remember in the prayers: Walter Joseph Durka, father of Patrick Durka, grade 4 teacher at Our Lady of Peace School, Oakville who died on Friday, June 12, 2009; Allan Shaw, father of Rosalie Shaw, Math Department Head, Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School, Burlington who died on Saturday, June 13, 2009; Janina Malyjasiak, mother of Christina Daly, Principal, Mother Teresa School, Oakville and grandmother of Laura Daly, Long Term Occasional Teacher at Our lady of Victory School, Milton who died on Sunday, June 14, 2009; Marlene Putnins, mother of Dan Putnins, Computer Technician, Information Technology Services, Catholic Education Centre, Burlington and Jeremy Putnins, Grade 4/5 teacher at St. James Catholic Elementary School, Oakville who died on Thursday, June 12, 2009; Ronald McKeigan, father of Colleen Berube, Manager, International Languages and Literacy and Basic Skills, Continuing Education Services, Oakville, who died on Monday, June 3, 2009; John West, father of Darlene Davis-MacLean, Child and Youth Counsellor at St. Matthew and Mother Teresa schools, Oakville who died on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 and Marjorie O'Brien, mother of Janice Porter, grade 4 teacher at St. Marguerite d'Youville School, Oakville who died on Thursday, May 28, 2009

**1.2 Motions Adopted in Camera**

The following motions were adopted in-camera.

**IC - # 92/09**

Moved by: P. Houlahan  
 Seconded by: B. Van de Vrande

**RESOLVED**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board extend the contract of employment of Mary Tessari, Superintendent of Education, for a five-year term, effective September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2014.

**IC - # 94/09**

Moved by: J. Matters  
 Seconded by: R. Palmieri

**RESOLVED**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Sonya House to the position of Elementary Vice Principal effective September 1, 2009.

**IC - # 95/09**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board receive as information, the appointments of Claudio Sartori and Elise Adolphe to the position of Acting Department Head effective September 1, 2009 and the employment status increase of Carolyn MacKay (from 0.9 to 1.0) and Valerie McElroy (from 0.5 to 0.7) effective September 1, 2009 and the retirements of Patricia Buckley, Margaret Gajewski and Kathleen Hodson effective June 30, 2009

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 8.7 "Appointment of Halton Catholic District School Board Trustee" was removed from the agenda.

Trustees were given the option to remove Item 8.2 from the Agenda or to postpone it to the June 30<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting when the item came up for discussion and consideration. By consensus, trustees opted to leave Action Item 8.2 on the agenda.

**# 133/09**

Moved by: J. Matters  
 Seconded by: R. Palmieri

**RESOLVED**, that the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

## 3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

### 4.1 Presentation to Outgoing Student Trustees

On behalf of the Board, staff and students of the Halton Catholic District School Board, the Chair recognized the efforts, the contributions, the service and the input of Student Trustees, N. Bourque, P. Cockburn and C. Restivo during the 2008-2009 school year. She acknowledged their work at the Board level, their work with student senators as well as their involvement with the co-terminous Board in bringing all students together.

M. Pautler expressed his appreciation and commented that it's always a pleasure to witness - such clear evidence that children entrusted to our care at a very young age, grow into such fine, competent and effective leaders.

B. Van de Vrande shared with members of the Board some of the positive comments made at a OSTA-AECO Conference which he recently attended, more specifically regarding the fact that Halton has produced exceptional student leaders who are being recognized provincially, who are highly respected and who are brought into positions of leadership, several of whom are now serving as mentors for incoming student trustees.

The student trustees were presented with a token of the Board's appreciation as well as a bursary award and a letter of commendation.

#### 4.2 **Culture of Life - Halton**

A. Cordeiro, Department Head at Assumption Catholic Secondary School, explained that the Culture of Life Halton group is a grassroots movement that has been student driven and teacher led that focuses on pro-life issues and raises the consciousness of students regarding various social issues. He explained that this year, chaplaincy leaders and teachers from almost all Secondary schools took part in the March for Life on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa.

Trustees viewed a video that captured the experiences of the students, highlighting the relationships that were forged on their journey to and from Ottawa. L. Belanska (Assumption), H. Malcom-Zielke (Notre Dame), S. Rynn (Notre Dame), M. Stephen (STA), R. Fudurco (STA) gave their testimonies of how the experience touched them and their witness to the March of Life experience. On behalf of the students and staff, A. Cordeiro thanked the Board for their continued support of the March of Life and all other Culture of Life activities.

#### 5. **DELEGATION**

There were no delegations

#### 6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### 6.1 **Regular Board Meeting – June 2, 2009**

P. Houlahan asked that the minutes be amended to reflect the fact that the policy would be amended regarding mileage claims for trustees.

<b># 134/09</b>	<i>Moved by: E. Viana</i>
	<i>Seconded by: P. Houlahan</i>
<b>RESOLVED</b> , that the minutes of the June 2, 2009 Regular Board Meeting be approved as amended.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

#### 7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

##### 7.1 **Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings**

<b># 135/09</b>	<i>Moved by: B. Van de Vrande</i>
	<i>Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm</i>
<b>RESOLVED</b> , that the summary of outstanding items from previous meetings be received as information.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

#### 8. **ACTION ITEMS**

##### 8.1 **2009-2010 Budget Estimates**

P. McMahon presented the 2009-2010 budget estimates for Board approval which represents a balanced budget, is compliant with all Ministry enveloping restrictions and incorporates all new initiatives that were discussed at the previous meeting. The 2009-2010 budget reflects a 6% increase over the 2008-2009 estimates.

In response to questions from R. Palmieri, P. McMahon acknowledged that the Ministry recognizes the shortfall in Special Education, a common problem for all boards and accordingly, is reviewing the funding. No determination has yet been made and timelines for the release of information are unknown. He indicated that school boards continue to balance their budgets by finding savings in other areas to address this shortfall that represents approximately \$4 million for our Board. Whether the answer lies in more funding reduced expenditures or reallocation of the funding remains to be seen. In terms of the reserve funds, P. McMahon indicated that the Board attempts to supplement and replenish the amount on a yearly basis.

# 136/09

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the 2009-2010 Budget Estimates in the amount of \$265,473.081. **CARRIED**

## 8.2 Religious Assessment – Notice of Motion

# 93/09

Moved by: A. Danko  
 Seconded by: E. Viana

**Whereas:** there has been much discussion in recent months regarding Catholic religious knowledge testing;

**Whereas:** Halton Catholic District School Board staff have invested considerable time and effort in gathering valuable information on Catholic religious knowledge testing;

**Whereas:** there are many possible tests and various reasons for testing the Catholic religious knowledge of students;

**Be It Resolved That :** the Halton Catholic District School Board commit, in principle, to administering board-wide a Catholic religious knowledge test at the elementary level by April 2010;

**Be It Resolved That:** the Board of Trustees and the Director of Education continue to work together to determine a course of action, to outline goals and objectives;

**Be It Resolved That:** over the next few months, the Halton Catholic District School Board conduct an extensive review of English language Catholic knowledge tests currently available; and

**Be It Resolved That:** a Board resolution be introduced in October 2009 that articulates specific goals and objectives and which test should be used to achieve them.

# 137/09

Moved by: E. Viana  
 Seconded by: R. Palmieri

**RESOLVED**, that motion # 93/09 be postponed until the June 30, 2009 Special Board meeting.

P. Houlahan suggested that the motion be postponed until relevant information is released by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. She suggested that the date be amended to November 17<sup>th</sup> 2009.

# 138/09

(AMENDMENT)

Moved by: P. Houlahan  
 Seconded by: J. Matters

**RESOLVED**, that the date for postponement be November 17, 2009.

A recorded vote was requested:

Opposed	In Favour
E. Viana	P. Houlahan
A.A. LeMay	J. Matters
	B. Van de Vrande
	R. Palmieri
	Father D. Wilhelm

The amendment **CARRIED**.

The Chair called for a recess at 8:53 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:00 p.m. A. Iantomasi joined the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**# 137/09**

*Moved by: E. Viana*

*Seconded by: R. Palmieri*

**Resolved**, that motion # 93/09 be postponed until the November 17, 2009 Board meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 8.3 Secondary Mathematics Textbook Selection

R. MacDonald elaborated on the process for selecting and ordering new resources and explained that the existing resources are no longer valid and will be removed from the Trillium Ontario Approved Textbook list as of August 31, 2009.

**# 139/09**

*Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm*

*Seconded by: R. Palmieri*

**Resolved**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the purchase of MPM2D and MCR3U mathematics textbooks, Principles of Mathematics 10 and Function 11, Nelson Education.

When asked if appropriate funding is provided when the Ministry initiates changes to the curriculum, R. MacDonald indicated that boards do not receive additional funding and must work within the allocated budget. M. Pautler pointed out that the Board's obligation to contend with a significant revision in a curricular area such as science happens to correspond in a year where, on a provincial level, funding specifically was reduced for textbooks as part of the Ministry grant structure. Therefore, while the Board has had to reduce its overall commitment to textbooks for the upcoming school year, it has had to become focused and target specific areas where there are pressing needs.

In response to a question from J. Matters regarding whether or not the Ministry decides which complement of suppliers we must choose from, R. MacDonald noted that boards can only purchase textbooks that are on the Ministry's Trillium Approved Textbooks list. This ensures that the content reflects the Ministry's curriculum.

C. Gray commented on Trustee Palmieri's suggestion of donating the textbooks and recommended that those in decent condition be donated to Third World countries.

Schools will be encouraged to sort through the books and have volunteers from Dr. Simone's warehouse organize the pick-up.

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

### 8.4 Secondary Science Textbook Selection

**# 140/09**

*Moved by: E. Viana*

*Seconded by: A. Iantomasi*

**RESOLVED**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the purchase of Secondary Science Textbooks, Nelson Science and Technology Perspectives 10 (2009) for Science, Grade 10, Academic (SNC2D).

B. Van de Vrande asked that staff investigate whether or not the proposed science textbooks provide a balanced view on global climate warming and whether students are given the opportunity to critically learn and evaluate opposing opinions. If that's not the case, he suggested reminding the Ministry and publishers that there are differing opinions and that there needs to be a balance.

R. MacDonald quoted information suggesting that the resources present both views but acknowledged that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) position regarding future impacts of climate changes presents a consensus reached amongst the majority of scientists.

B. Van de Vrande expressed serious concern regarding the fact that IPCC is stating a position that has not been proven and reiterated that science should not be done by consensus, but rather by facts, by reason and by evaluation. In his opinion, the textbook does not provide the necessary balance.

J. Matters echoed the concerns expressed by B. Van de Vrande and reiterated that it's incumbent upon the Board to provide the necessary balance. She suggested that Curriculum Services take a serious look at the data and report back to trustees on what might be available in terms of providing alternative, sound, reasonable balanced science on the global warming issue in order to satisfy the concerns presented by trustees.

P. Houlahan referenced a DVD entitled "The Global Warming Swindle" which concisely presents the opposite view on Climate Change and provides a critical approach on the topic. R. MacDonald suggested that trustees write a letter to the Ministry expressing their concerns and to seek approval to supplement the curriculum.

M. Pautler explained that textbooks are approved by the Ministry and often reference supplementary resources. He acknowledged that school boards and individual teachers use their professional judgment to augment curriculum with resources that are not explicitly identified. One of our primary goals is not simply to provide information to students but to challenge them to think critically. The entire shape and format of the curriculum is essentially geared towards thinking rather than simply the transmission of knowledge. It is within the purview of the Board and it is possible for trustees, as a group, to correspond with the Minister with particular concerns and questions. He indicated that he would not support making a blanket endorsement of putting resources in the hands of students without some appropriate process or level of scrutiny.

When asked if the science textbooks provide a Catholic world view of biological and life issues, R. MacDonald explained that those issues are addressed through the Focus on Faith initiatives and through teacher instruction by bringing a Catholic perspective to the entire curriculum.

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

#### 8.5 **Minor Revisions to Board Operating Policy – II-19 Educational Field Trips**

J. Langill provided trustees with an update regarding minor revisions to Policy II-19 Educational Field Trips and indicated that the proposed changes presented in the policy are the result of recent recommendations made by the Board's Out of Classroom Program Review Committee.

**# 141/09**

*Moved by: R. Palmieri*

*Seconded by: J. Matters*

**RESOLVED**, that Board Policy II-19 Educational Field Trips be approved as amended.

R. Palmieri expressed her appreciation for adding a requirement to include a faith component on trips.

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

#### 8.6 **Assumption Secondary/Cumberland Park/St. Paul School Premier Track & Field Facility Project**

G. Corbacio indicated that the report is a culmination of hard work by the school council and staff to secure an artificial turf. He indicated that the conditions established between the City and the Board were satisfied and that a formal agreement will be prepared and duly executed during the summer months. He provided information regarding the results of the tender.

# 142/09

Moved by: B. Van de Vrande

Seconded by: A. Iantomasi

**RESOLVED**, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the Assumption Secondary/Cumberland Park/St. Paul School Premier Track and Field Project for a cost not to exceed \$1.87 million, to be funded by an \$800,000 10 year loan and the balance of the project cost, up to \$1.07 million, to be funded from the Facility Renewal Reserve.

In response to a question from A. Iantomasi, G. Corbacio provided information regarding the relocation of the transformer.

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

## 9. STAFF REPORTS

### 9.1 Focus on Faith – 2009-2012

M. Tessari informed trustees on the development of the Focus on Faith foundation, building on the initial implementation years. She provided background information and listed several strategies that were fulfilled during the first two years of implementation of the Focus on Faith initiatives (September 2007 to June 2009). M. Tessari explained that the next phase of the Focus on Faith foundation will ensure that our Catholic world view permeates not only our content, but also our processes. She shared with members of the Board, the selected theme for 2009-2011 “*Hear the word of the Lord...Learn to do Good, Seek Justice*” and explained how they will be exploring the three-fold message of the theme “Hear, Learn and Do”.

J. Doyle described the image that has been selected to support the Focus on Faith theme and indicated that the prayer is in the process of being created. She also spoke about the faith formation activities and programs planned for the next couple of years. M. Tessari concluded her presentation by elaborating on all five goals of focus on Faith 2009-2011 and reviewing student faith formation activities that are planned for the upcoming school year.

P. Houlahan expressed her deepest appreciation and thanked both M. Tessari and J. Doyle for their involvement and positive energy they exude towards this very important initiative.

### 9.2 Policy Development

J. Langill addressed the report that summarizes what has been accomplished in terms of development, implementation and approval. He also referenced some of the projected activities for the fall that will consist of realigning and renumbering the policies to make them more user-friendly. Trustees interested in assisting the committee were asked to submit their name to the Chair of the Board.

J. Matters, as one who had previously raised a desire to be kept up to date on upcoming policies and procedures, expressed her appreciation for the report.

## 10. INFORMATION

# 143/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: Father D. Wilhelm

**RESOLVED**, that Items 10.1 to 10.10 be received as information.

**CARRIED**

### 10.1 Update from Student Trustees

### 10.2 Approved Educational Field Trips

### 10.3 Budget Report for September 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

### 10.4 Capital Projects Report as at May 31, 2009

### 10.5 Trustee Expenses for the Period from September 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008

**10.6 Halton Catholic District School Board – Helping Hands for Haiti Project**

B. Van de Vrande, referencing the report, questioned the claim that our board might not be the sole provider for that project and that the organization might have been receiving funds from other contributors for the same school construction project. M. Tessari acknowledged the concerns raised and explained in detail how the Board of Directors has acted on the claim and reviewed the expectations that have been established.

When asked what assurance the Board has, given the past history, that the funds are being appropriately managed, M. Pautler commented that, as he reviewed the circumstances and looks at the way in which the Board of Directors for the Haiti Project have attempted to address the concerns, he believes that the Board of Directors has exercised an appropriate measure of due diligence. Clear expectations have been put in place, Solidarity Haiti have demonstrated good faith, the financial statements filed with Revenue Canada have been scrutinized, the organization is providing a written undertaking to live by those expectations and the money that will be flowed, will be let out as a series of draws with specific expectations met before each subsequent draw is advanced. The Board of Directors and staff believes that due diligence has been exercised, believes that the funds are going for the purpose intended for and are committed to supporting the project.

P. Houlihan asked if there had been consideration given to supporting Solidarity Haiti for one year rather than three years. Under the changed circumstances, B. Van de Vrande commented that the Board has every right to review its commitment now that it is working with new expectations. In his opinion, the Board should insist on a one year commitment, subject to review. M. Tessari provided a rationale in support of a three year commitment and agreed to review the matter

**10.7 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Portuguese Education Conference**

R. Palmieri referenced the May 19<sup>th</sup> minutes and requested the summary of the expenses from the previous trip as well as the estimated cost for the upcoming trip.

When asked why a Superintendent was required to accompany the group, F. Mazzetti indicated that in consultation with the Director, it was the general consensus that the Superintendent's involvement would be beneficial for the first trip, because of formalities and to meet with dignitaries. F. Mazzetti acknowledged that she doesn't plan on remaining for the entire stay and would unlikely participate in future trips.

M. Pautler assured trustees that there is an internal protocol in place where we ensure seamless support and coverage of schools when staff is away on Board business, personal business or on approved vacation time.

In terms of the students participating on the trip, F. Mazzetti noted that the six students are not of Portuguese descent and the trip is intended for them to experience a different culture. Students coming from the Azores don't stay with Portuguese families but prefer to experience the Canadian culture and tradition. She also indicated that the Board does not keep statistics on the heritage of students.

**10.8 Summer School in Italy Program**

P. Houlihan expressed several concerns regarding the Summer School Program, specifically in terms of the ownership of the trip, the cost implications, the management of the funds and Dante's role and involvement, monetary and otherwise.

F. Mazzetti explained how the money donated by Dante was expended, confirmed that the teachers involved in the program are qualified and credited, elaborated on Dante's role, and described how students attain their 110 hours of instruction,

In closing, P. Houlihan respectfully requested that the Director review the process and the relationship this Board has with Dante to ensure that the partnership is valid and justifiable.

**10.9 2009-2010 Board Meetings and SEAC Meetings****10.10 Construction Projects: St. Peter, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Schools and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School**

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

11.1 **Save Our Buses – Georgetown South**

# 144/09	Moved by: E. Viana Seconded by: J. Matters
<i>RESOLVED, that the correspondence item 11.1 be received as information.</i>	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

12. **OPEN QUESTION PERIOD**

There was no question period.

13. **IN CAMERA**

# 145/09	Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm Seconded by: E. Viana
<i>RESOLVED, that the meeting move in-camera.</i>	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

The meeting moved in camera at 10:28 p.m. and reconvened at 10:50 p.m.

14. **RESOLUTION re ABSENTEES**

The Chair indicated that A. Danko was away on business.

# 146/09	Moved by: J. Matters Seconded by: R. Palmieri
<i>RESOLVED, that A. Danko be excused.</i>	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

15. **ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER**

# 147/09	Moved by: Father D. Wilhelm Seconded by: E. Viana
<i>RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.</i>	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m. with a closing prayer led by R. Palmieri. The next meeting is on June 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

APPROVED:

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Secretary of the Board

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Chair