

HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Meeting of the Board

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 – 8:00 p.m.
Board Room, 802 Drury Lane,
Burlington, ON

Members present: A.A. LeMay (Chair) S. Koso
 A. Danko R. Palmieri
 P. Houlahan B. Van de Vrande
 A. Iantomasi E. Viana

Member excused: J. Matters

Student trustees: B. Culbert C. Gray
 S. Slowka

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

Also present: C. Jewell, Administrator, Communications 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 8:17 p.m. with a prayer led by Mary Lozowsky, Chaplaincy Leader at Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School. Trustees were asked to remember in their prayers: Celestina Casera, mother of Angela Casera (Larocque), grade 6 teacher at Our Lady of Victory Catholic elementary School, Milton who died on Thursday, October 29, 2009; Walter John Smith, father of Ramona Henderson, Senior Kindergarten Teacher at St. Brigid Catholic elementary School, Georgetown, who died on Friday, October 23, 2009; Guiseppe "Joe" Fasullo, father of Lori Falcioni, Educational Assistant at St. John Catholic Elementary School, Oakville who died on Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

1.2 Motions Adopted in Camera

B. Van de Vrande read the following motions:

<p>IC - # 145/09</p> <p><i>Moved by: E. Viana</i> <i>Seconded by: R. Palmieri</i></p> <p>RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board receive as information the appointment of Vito Battaglia as Acting Department Head effective October 23, 2009 and hiring of Juliana Infanti as a probationary teacher effective October 15, 2009</p>
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2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<p># 192/09</p> <p><i>Moved by: P. Houlahan</i> <i>Seconded by: E. Viana</i></p> <p>RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED</p>

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **Delegation**

There were no delegations.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**6.1 **Regular Board Meeting – November 3, 2009**

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

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the November 3, 2009 Regular Board Meeting be approved as presented.

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

194/09

Moved by: S. Koso
Seconded by: A. Iantomasi

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

8. **ACTION ITEMS**8.1 **Extensive Trip Approval Committee (ETAC)**

- a) **NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 9 – 18, 2011 – THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND ENGLAND**
- b) **NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SECONDARY – APRIL 10 – 16, 2010 – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – NAME OF THE FIRST AID PROVIDER – CHRIS DULY**
- c) **CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 12 – 21, 2010 – FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS**
- d) **CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 10 – 20, 2010 – CZECH REPUBLIC & GERMANY**
- e) **CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 10 – 21, 2010 – FRANCE AND ITALY**
- f) **ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CATHOLIC SECONDARY – DECEMBER 26TH – JANUARY 2, 2010 – FLORIDA**
- g) **BISHOP P. F. REDING CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 10 – 21, 2011 – GERMANY, ITALY AND SWITZERLAND**
- h) **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 10 – 21, 2010 – LONDON AND GREECE**
- i) **HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY – MARCH 11 – 19, 2010 – SPAIN AND PORTUGAL**

F. Mazzetti reported that the Board's ETAC Committee met on October 21, 2009 and reviewed the requests for nine (9) extended trips. She assured trustees that all trips meet the requirements of the Board's Policy. F. Mazzetti welcomed representatives from the various schools. She responded to questions regarding the make-up of the teams.

195/09

Moved by: P. Houlahan
Seconded by: A. Iantomasi

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, Burlington to The Netherlands, Belgium, France and England for March 9 – 18, 2011.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School, Burlington to the Dominican Republic for April 10 – 16, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, Georgetown to France, Belgium and The Netherlands for March 12 – 21, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, Georgetown to the Czech Republic and Germany for March 10 – 20, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Christ the King Catholic Secondary School, Georgetown to France and Italy for March 10 – 21, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School, Oakville to Florida for December 26, 2009 – January 2, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Bishop P. F. Reding Catholic Secondary School, Milton to Germany, Italy and Switzerland for March 10 – 21, 2011.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School, Burlington to London and Greece for March 10 – 21, 2010.

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the extended field trip by Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Oakville to Spain and Portugal for March 11 – 19, 2010.

F. Mazzetti thanked staff for taking on additional responsibilities. A.A. LeMay congratulated and thanked teachers for their dedication and efforts to provide these opportunities to our students.

8.2 Religious Assessment – Notice of Motion

A. Danko read the motion that was postponed from the the May 5, 2009 and the June 16, 2009 Board meetings following which he presented and read the substitute 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.

#93/09
(substitute motion)

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

Whereas: *The Halton Catholic District School Board, in partnership with home and Church, is dedicated to providing excellence in Catholic education by developing Christ-centred individuals enabled to transform society;*

Whereas: *Faith can never be measured objectively, but can grow in persons where catechetical knowledge instruction lays a foundation upon which all persons of goodwill can articulately defend the roots of their faith;*

Whereas: *our newly formed vision statement describes the Halton Catholic District School Board as "a model learning community, widely recognized as distinctively Catholic, providing exceptional education, while nurturing the call to love and serve as a people of faith, living out God's plan" where a new strategic planning process is underway to achieve and to maintain this Vision over time;*

Whereas: *it is the will of Halton Catholic District School Board to objectively assess the effectiveness of its catechetical and religious instruction programme, to determine the extent to which it is attaining its stated vision;*

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

Be It Resolved That: *the Director of Education develop a detailed action plan for execution that outlines specific goals, and objectives to achieve them, in harmony with the Board's new vision statement;*

Be It Resolved That: *the Director's plan, including a sample of the proposed catechism test, be presented to the Board of Trustees for final approval by the Board no later than the January 19th, 2010 board meeting.*

A. Danko spoke to the substitute motion and commented on the fact that the Board tests in every subject with the exception of Religious Education knowledge. This assessment supports the Board's vision and will allow the Board to demonstrate its distinctiveness. He asked trustees for their support.

Although in support of the proposal, S. Koso expressed concern regarding the timing of the motion and suggested that trustees complete the Strategic Planning exercise to ensure that the guiding principles are in place prior to proceeding with a Religious Education assessment. He asked that the motion be postponed to November 17th. There was no seconder to the motion. A. Iantomasi expressed concern regarding the timing, cost implications, the implementation process, how it will be perceived by parents and questioned the Board's action plan once the results are released. S. Slowka expressed concern regarding the content of the test, the knowledge being tested and the level of testing. B. Culbert questioned putting a quantitative number to the students' religious knowledge and reiterated that the Board should be allowing students to grow, develop and experience their faith.

Trustees Palmieri, Van de Vrande and Viana spoke in support of the motion. R. Palmieri suggested that the time frame of June 2010 should not be of concern since students have been receiving religious knowledge throughout the years. B. Van de Vrande commented that nothing could be gained by deferring it further but acknowledged that trustees have fallen behind in articulating the vision and governing principles.

A. Danko noted that the details of the implementation as well as the content of the test are left at the Director's discretion. His motion is simply asking that the Board to commit to the principle of testing the knowledge in an objective way. The motion is about whether we are doing a good job in presenting the content to our students. He thanked trustees who spoke in support of the motion.

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

8.3 Appointment of SEAC Member: Representative for Community Living, Oakville

S. Rossini indicated that the Community Living of Oakville provides day residential and after school programs and many of our students benefit from these programs. She was pleased to welcome Darlene McLean as representative of this Association to the SEAC table.

196/09

Moved by: E. Viana

Seconded by: P. Houlahan

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board accept the nomination of Darlene McLean as representative for the Community Living Oakville effective November 30, 2009 until November 2010. **CARRIED**

9. STAFF REPORTS**9.1 Staff Development Framework**

M. Tessari introduced A. Bishop, Consultant, Catholic Learning Community. M. Tessari addressed the preliminary report on Staff Development initiatives. She prefaced her presentation by drawing trustees' attention to the image and the caption selected and explained what it symbolizes. She then identified the importance of the Staff Development Framework in enhancing staff professional growth for student achievement and spiritual formation. M. Tessari provided background information and elaborated on the purpose of staff development.

A. Bishop addressed and elaborated on the three standards which are tools that have been developed and are intended to be used by schools, departments and the larger Board community to improve the quality of the Boards' staff development efforts and ensure high levels of student achievement and faith development. She reviewed, described and provided examples of the following three standards: context; process and content.

In her concluding remarks, M. Tessari highlighted some of the key phases of the project and implementation plan of the Staff Development framework and identified where we're at in phase one of the project. In terms of the Faith formation opportunities, M. Tessari noted that staff is in the process of planning faith formation sessions or opportunities for staff in the new year. The plan will be presented to trustees in December. She will also share with trustees in December, a Success and Talent Development Plan being considered.

10. INFORMATION**10.1 Student Trustee Update**

B. Culbert indicated that the Student Senate meeting was held at Christ the King on Thursday, October 29th. The students considered key themes and speakers for the Social Justice Conference such as Children's Rights, a Pro Life workshop, Environmental and/or Leadership workshops. The students, at the meeting, also discussed the Habitat for Humanity initiative.

10.2 Approved School Educational Trips**10.3 First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self Identification Initiatives**

B. Van de Vrande asked how many students in the Board are self identified or identified. M. Pautler indicated that the process requires that the Board pass a policy framework which will allow the Board to initiate the self identification process. Staff has an idea of the number of aboriginal students in the community by virtue of some of the access to census data. Dr. E. Van Roosmalen, assisted by first nations' representatives, is currently preparing a survey.

B. Van de Vrande also questioned whether the identification will serve a valuable educational purpose. In response, M. Pautler noted that the general research will allow the Board to determine the level at which students of First Nations, Aboriginal or Métis background achieve and ultimately, sharpen our focus for this group of students if need be.

M. Pautler reminded trustees, that all efforts to this point are mandated by the Ministry and have been entirely funded, including the addition of temporary staff that has been serving in support of the processes described.

10.4 New Oakville Catholic Secondary Schools – Attendance Boundaries Implementation Update

197/09

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

RESOLVED, that the information items 10.1 to 10.4 be received.

CARRIED

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Halton Region “Be a Hero” Awards Ceremony

11.2 Bill 177 – Kathleen Wynne

11.3 OCSTA – Addition to OCSTA Submission re: Bill 177

198/09

Moved by: A. Iantomasi
 Seconded by: R. Palmieri

RESOLVED, that correspondence Item 11.1 to 11.3 be approved.

CARRIED

12. OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

13. IN CAMERA

There was no in camera session.

14. RESOLUTION re ABSENTEES

J. Matters was absent for personal reasons.

199/09

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

RESOLVED, that J. Matters be excused.

CARRIED

15. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER

200/09

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

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. with a closing prayer led by A. Danko.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

APPROVED:

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 Secretary of the Board

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 Chair