



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

Committee of the Whole Tuesday, June 23, 2026 ♦ 5:30 pm Boardroom

Trustees:

Carol Luciani (Chair), Bill Chopp (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Toni Poirier
Rick Petrella (on-leave) Mulan How (Student Trustee), Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee)

Regrets:

Dan Dignard, Rick Petrella (on-leave)

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)
Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

Regrets:

John Della Fortuna (Superintendent of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was opened with a land acknowledgement by Superintendent Wilson.

1.2 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Chair Luciani.

1.3 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above. Chair Luciani shared that she received regrets from Trustee Dignard who submitted a written request to be excused as per *Ontario Regulation 463/97, Section 7 subsection 5*.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the absence of Trustee Dan Dignard as per *Ontario Regulation 463/97, section 7 subsection 5* from the June 23, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the June 23, 2026, meeting.

Carried

1.5 Declaration of Interest – Nil



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1.6 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2026

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the May 26, 2026, meeting.

Carried

1.7 Business from the Minutes - Nil

2. Presentations

2.1 BHNCD SB 25 Years of Service Recognition

The Board recognized BHNCD SB staff with 25 years of service with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

3. Delegations

3.1 City of Brantford Attendance Boundary Review Concern

Catholic Rate Payer, Kristina Durka presented a delegation regarding the City of Brantford Elementary Attendance Boundary Review. Clarification was sought by the Trustees regarding the geographical area (Mission Estates) being presented.

4. Consent Agenda

Trustee Blake requested that 3.1 policy committee meeting minutes be reviewed, specifically item 3.1 succession planning. Trustee Blake will bring this back to a future policy committee meeting for further discussion.

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting – May 11, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2026.

Carried

4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting – May 11, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting of May 11, 2026.

Carried

4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – May 19, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 19, 2026.

Carried



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4.4 Unapproved Minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting – May 19, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of May 19, 2026.

Carried

4.5 Unapproved Minutes from the Accessibility Committee Meeting – May 26, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Accessibility Committee Meeting of May 26, 2026.

Carried

4.6 Unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee – June 9, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of June 9, 2026.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Policy Committee Meeting - June 16, 2026

Trustee Dignard presented the unapproved minutes and recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Attendance Support Program Policy #300.47 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 16, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval

Carried

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 16, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.2 City of Brantford -Wide Elementary School Attendance Boundary Review

Superintendent Nelson presented the City of Brantford wide elementary school attendance boundary review. In accordance with OPS 400.24.AP – *Attendance Boundary Reviews*, an Attendance Boundary Review Committee (ABRC) was established. The committee included administrative and parent representatives from affected schools. Following the final committee meeting and after the committee recommendations were considered, the board received a request from a parent to retain Area 37 within the St. Peter CES attendance boundary rather than reassigning the area to Notre Dame CES. In response, staff further examined this option and assessed its potential impact on enrolment and facility utilization. However, the analysis



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determined that retaining Area 37 within the St. Peter CES attendance boundary would not sufficiently address the enrolment and utilization challenges. As a result, staff concluded that the reassignment of Area 37 to Notre Dame CES remains necessary to support a more balanced distribution of students and improve the long-term utilization of available pupil places within the Brantford elementary system

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the amended City of Brantford elementary school attendance boundaries, as outlined in Figure 4 and Figure 5, effective September 2028 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that legacy provisions be implemented to permit Grade 7 and 8 students (currently enrolled Grade 4 and 5 students as of the 2025–26 school year) and their siblings at affected schools to remain at their existing school through to Grade 8 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Trustee Chopp put forward the following amendment to the original motion,

THAT Area 37 be removed from the City of Brantford Elementary Attendance Boundary review process and remain at St. Peter School.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

The motion was on the floor for debate.

School board staff noted that the goal of the boundary review is to create a school boundary for the new southwest Brantford Catholic elementary school, create more efficient boundaries in Central Brantford at Holy Cross and St. Peter school and address enrolment pressures at St. Leo, and other schools. Trustees shared their concerns regarding not being part of the school attendance boundary committees and responsibility to constituents. Staff spoke to parliamentary integrity under Roberts Rules and administrative principles of procedural fairness and apprehension of bias dictate that the decision making needs to remain within the confines of the board meeting. The slides were provided to the Board of Trustees one week prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting, allowing trustees time to seek clarification and have questions addressed by the senior team. Parents are welcome to and encouraged to reach out to the senior team and committee during the process and make delegations. It was reconfirmed that Trustees do not participate in Attendance Boundary Review Committees to avoid any perception that the final decision-makers have been influenced through lobbying. It was also noted that staff, parent committee members, and school board planning consultants kept students' emotional needs and best interests at the forefront throughout the review. The process seeks to distribute resources more equitably, including addressing situations where a school built for 300 students serves approximately 800. Although the boundary changes will disrupt some families and require students to leave their current schools, staff noted that the changes are necessary to meet student needs and respond to enrolment growth. It was confirmed that only siblings who are currently enrolled in school will be part of the legacy provision, not future siblings.



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Chair Luciani called the original motion with the amendment to a vote;

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the amended City of Brantford elementary school attendance boundaries, as outlined in Figure 4 and Figure 5, with the removal of area 37 to remain at St. Peter School, effective September 2028 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Carried

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that legacy provisions be implemented to permit Grade 7 and 8 students (currently enrolled Grade 4 and 5 students as of the 2025–26 school year) and their siblings at affected schools to remain at their existing school through to Grade 8 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Carried

5.3 Trustee and Senior Team Expenses (Q3 2025-26)

Superintendent Nelson presented the senior team and trustee Q3 report. In compliance with governance review requirements, aggregate Q3 expenses for the senior leadership team and trustees are summarized in this report and will be made publicly available on the Board's website. These expenses are also publicly disclosed on an ongoing quarterly and annual basis

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Trustee expense and Senior team expense Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.4 Student Achievement Team Annual Report 2024/2025

Superintendent Wilson introduced Chandra Portelli, Vice Principal of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction and commended her leadership in revisioning the department and the tremendous success that the Student Achievement team has had in the 2025/2026 school year.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with an update on the initiatives, programming, and supports led by the Student Achievement Team (SAT) throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Student achievement staff are a broad and diverse team that support students from kindergarten to grade 12. This update highlights the collaborative work completed across all BHNCDSB schools to enhance student learning and achievement through faith-based education, research-informed instructional practices, and targeted professional development. The Student Achievement Team continues to focus on key system priorities, including improving literacy and numeracy outcomes, strengthening Catholic faith formation, integrating technology to support 21st century learning, and advancing equity and inclusion for all students.

Some of the highlights and successes include the reformatting of elementary math and literacy consultants to work 100% in priority schools with targeted interventions in math and literacy at the grade one and grade six levels. Consultants spend their mornings in grade one followed by afternoons in grade six classrooms. In a recent survey, 94% of students reported more



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confidence in math abilities with 100% teacher confidence. Grade nine math consultants were assigned to the three high schools and are supporting new and experienced teachers along with targeted student interventions. In grade 10, Intermediate literacy consultants are individually assigned to each of the high schools to work with groups of grade 10 students at risk of not passing the OSSLT and work collaboratively with grade 9 and 10 teachers to embed effective literacy instruction in all subjects. Additional highlights include expanded programs in the arts, skilled trades, Indigenous education, DELF programming and ESL supports.

Professional development for new teachers through the New Teacher Induction Program and new Educational Assistants through the New Education Assistant Induction Program were highlighted, along with professional learning communities for principals and school communities, professional development for secondary department heads, and professional development on artificial intelligence.

The priorities for the 2026–2027 school year include implementing the new Kindergarten curriculum, strengthening early literacy and mathematics, introducing revised history and mental health requirements, expanding faith-based programming, adding a financial literacy graduation requirement, updating secondary assessment policies, and implementing the Edwin digital learning platform.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Student Achievement Department Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 New School Build Updates

Superintendent Nelson provided an update on the new Catholic high school. It was noted that 90% of storm drains have been completed and an updated report will be brought in September.

6.2 Pastoral Theme

Superintendent Lawlor was pleased to share the 2026/2027 Pastoral theme, Artisans of Peace which aligns with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association.

6.3 Letter Regarding City of Brantford Attendance Boundary Review

Chair Luciani noted that the letter received was noted prior to the delegation taking place at the beginning of the meeting.

7. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board moves to an In-Camera session.

Carried

8. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board



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approves the business of the In-Camera session.

Carried

9. Future Meetings and Events

Chair Luciani drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

10. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Chair Luciani.

11. Adjournment

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the June 23, 2026, meeting.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 4:30 p.m. – Boardroom