



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Agenda

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

Board Meeting Tuesday, December 19, 2023 ♦ 7:00 p.m. Boardroom

Trustees:

Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice-Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard, Mark Watson, Caroline Goveas (Student Trustee), Mia Martorelli (Student Trustee)

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Scott Keys (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer), John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

Almighty God, bless us as we gather today for this meeting. Guide our minds and hearts so that we will work for the good of our community and be a help to all people. Teach us to be generous in our outlook, courageous in the face of difficulty, and wise in our decisions. We give you praise and glory, Lord our God, for ever and ever. Amen

1.2 Attendance

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Pages 1-2

1.4 Declaration of Interest

1.5 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2023

Pages 3-6

Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Minutes – October 31, 2023

Pages 7-8

Approval of Annual Board Minutes – November 21, 2023

Pages 9-10

Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Minutes – November 28, 2023

Pages 11-12

1.6 Business Arising from the Minutes

2. Presentations

2.1 Simcoe and District Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year:

Jennifer Rodger, Educator at Assumption College

3. Delegations

3.1 Uncertain Future of Apps Mill/ Taquanyah Nature Centres - (See Appendix A)

Presenter: Mr. Chuck Beech

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Budget Committee – December 13, 2023

Pages 13-16

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Meeting – December 13, 2022

Pages 17-33

Presenter: Carol Luciani, Vice-Chair of the Board

- 2024 Insurance Renewal (pages 18-19)
- EQAO Update and Math Action Plan (pages 20-22)
- County of Brant (Elementary) School Attendance Boundary Review (pages 23-27)
- 2024-29 Multi-year Integrated Accessibility Plan (pages 28-29)



- 5.2 Student Trustee Update**
Presenter: Caroline Goveas and Mia Martorelli, Student Trustees

Pages 34-35

- 6. Information and Correspondence**
- 7. Notices of Motion**
- 8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption**
- 9. Trustee Inquiries**
- 10. Business In-Camera**

207. (2) Closing of certain committee meetings. A meeting of a committee of a board, including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject-matter under consideration involves,

- a. The security of the property of the board;
- b. The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
- c. The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
- d. Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
- e. Litigation affecting the board.

- 11. Report on the In-Camera Session**

- 12. Future Meetings and Events**

Pages >>

- 13. Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your gifts to us: for making us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us to be your people. As we come to the end of this meeting, we give you thanks for all the good things you have done in us. We thank you for all who have shared in the work of this Board and ask you to bless us all in your love. We offer this prayer, Father, through Christ our Lord. Amen

- 14. Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Board Meeting Tuesday, October 24, 2023 ♦ 7:00 p.m. Boardroom

Members: **Trustees:**
Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice-Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard,
Mark Watson, Caroline Goveas (Student Trustee), Mia Martorelli (Student Trustee)

Senior Administration:
Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Scott Keys (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer), Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Dignard.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 24, 2023 Board meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil

1.5 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 18, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried

1.6 Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2023

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 26, 2023 Meeting of the Board.

Carried

1.7 Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried



1.8 Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2023

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried

1.9 Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

2. Presentations - Nil

3. Delegations – Nil

4. Consent Agenda – Nil

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole

- October 17, 2023

Vice Chair Luciani presented the minutes and recommendations from the Committee of the whole which included:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves continued membership with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and remits the annual fee of \$52,071.53 for the 2023-24 school year.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves continued payment of the Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education levy with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and remits the annual fee of \$1,557.96 for the 2023-24 school year.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves GSN funding for Central bargaining with the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and remits the fee of \$52,940.00 for the 2023-24 school year.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the Trustee Honoraria for the period November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the request from Assumption College School and St. John's College for an Excursion to New Orleans, LA from January 26 to February 3, 2024.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the EQAO board report on results for the 2022-2023 school year.



Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 17, 2023.

Carried

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 17, 2023.

Carried

5.2 Student Trustee Update

Student Trustees Caroline Goveas and Mia Martorelli presented their first student trustee report which covered the months of September and October. On October 24, 2023, the Student Senate met for the first time this academic year. Some of the activities that took place across the three high schools included grade nine orientations and colour nights, student council meetings, dances, pep rallies and school spirit weeks. Holy Trinity's student council was busy preparing and setting up decorations in the grandstands for Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair. Upcoming outreach events at the high schools include Halloween for Hunger non-perishable food collection at Assumption College. Along with a pink out event at the October 24 St. John's senior girls' basketball game in support of breast cancer awareness and research. Director McDonald's involvement in the derby at the Norfolk County Fair was celebrated. Former and current Holy Trinity students showed up to cheer him on.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Second by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Student Trustee Update.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 2023-27 Business Services Operational Plan

Superintendent Keys presented the 2023-27 Business Services Operational Plan. Business Services is committed to providing exceptional services contributing to learning through a collaborative, supportive and inclusive working-learning environment.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the information and correspondence items since the last meeting.

Carried

7. Notices of Motion -Nil

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption - Nil

9. Trustee Inquiries

10. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dan Dignard



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

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

Carried

11. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.

Carried

12. Future Meetings and Events

Chair Petrella drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

13. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Chair Petrella.

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 24, 2023 Board meeting.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**Special Meeting of the Board
Tuesday October 31, 2023 ♦ 1:30 pm
Boardroom**

Trustees:

Present: Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard, Mark Watson

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Scott Keys (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer) Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Vice-Chair Luciani.

1.2 Attendance

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried

2. Committee and Staff Reports - Nil

3. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

Carried

4. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.

Carried

5. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Chair Petrella

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 31, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

Next meeting: Tuesday November 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



**Annual Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 21, 2023 ♦ 7:00 p.m.
Boardroom**

Members: **Trustees:**
Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard, Carol Luciani, Rick Petrella,
Caroline Goveas (Student Trustee), Mia Martorelli (Student Trustee)

Regrets: Mark Watson

Senior Administration:
Michael McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Scott Keys (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer), John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayer, led by Director McDonald.

1.2 Attendance and Welcome

Director McDonald welcomed trustees and senior administrators and noted that everyone was in attendance except for Trustee Watson who is excused.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Rick Petrella

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Board of November 21, 2023.

Carried

2. Appointment of Scrutineers

Director McDonald appointed Superintendents John Della Fortuna and Phil Wilson as Scrutineers for the nomination and election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

3. Nomination and Election of Chair

Director McDonald requested that ballots for the nomination of the Chair of the Board be distributed. Trustee Rick Petrella was nominated and let his name stand. Director McDonald declared Trustee Rick Petrella acclaimed to the position of Chair of the Board.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board destroys all ballots in the nomination and election of the Chair of the Board.

Carried



4. Nomination and Election of Vice Chair

Newly elected Chair Petrella assumed the Chair and requested that ballots for the nomination of the Vice Chair be distributed. Trustee Carol Luciani was nominated. Trustee Luciani let her name stand. Chair Petrella declared Trustee Carol Luciani acclaimed the position of Vice Chair of the Board.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board destroys all ballots in the nomination and election of the Vice Chair of the Board.

Carried

5. Appointment of Board Auditor

Superintendent Keys presented the staff's recommendation that Millard, Rouse & Rosebrugh Chartered Accountants continue in their role as the Board's auditors.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the appointment of Millard, Rouse & Rosebrugh, Chartered Accountants, as auditors for the year ending August 31, 2024.

Carried

6. Address by the Chair of the Board

Chair Petrella thanked the board for the support of his nomination and acclamation as Chair of the Board. He congratulated Carol Luciani on acclamation as Vice-Chair of the Board.

7. Adjournment

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the Annual meeting of November 21, 2023

Carried



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Special Meeting of the Board Tuesday November 28, 2023 ♦ 3:30 pm Boardroom

Trustees:

Present: Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard

Regrets: Mark Watson

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Scott Keys (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer) Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Chair Petrella.

1.2 Attendance

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the November 28, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest

2. Committee and Staff Reports

2.1 Appointment of External Audit Committee Member

Superintendent Keys presented the appointment of external audit committee member report. In accordance with Ontario regulation 361/10 and the Audit Committee Terms of Reference, advertisements recruiting potential members were placed in local newspapers, on the school board website and through social media as external community member, Glenn Pick's first term lapsed in October 2023. The selection committee, which includes the Chair, Director of Education and the Superintendent of Business and Treasurer did not receive any applicants. As a result, and in accordance with Ontario regulation 361/10, Glenn Pick may serve an additional three-year term as an external community member and has agreed to do so. The selection committee supports Glenn in serving an additional three-year term.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the appointment of Glenn Pick as an external community member of the Audit Committee for an additional three-year term ending November 2026.

Carried

2.2 Q4 Financial Report

Superintendent Keys presented the Q4 Financial Report. A surplus of \$19,964 for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023, was highlighted. The surplus is attributed to higher average daily



revenue than planned, additional fuel escalator funding for transportation, Jordan's Principal resources, higher interest rates, demand for, and cancelled/postponed professional development. These favourable variances were offset by higher than anticipated supply/casual costs related to coverage for staff leaves, inclusion of a Ministry directed salary provision, and increased consumable and utility costs.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year-ended August 31, 2023.

Carried

3. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

Carried

4. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.

Carried

5. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Chair Petrella.

6. Adjournment

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the November 28, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday December 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Budget Committee Wednesday, December 13, 2023 – 3:00 pm Boardroom and Microsoft Teams Meeting

Trustees: Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani, Dennis Blake, Mark Watson

Senior Administration & Staff Members:

Jagoda Kirilo, Manager of Financial Services
John Della Fortuna, Superintendent of Education
Kevin Greco, Superintendent of Education
Lorrie Ann Temple, Superintendent of Education – Mathematics
Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary
Phil Wilson, Superintendent of Education
Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Chair Petrella.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was noted as above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Budget Committee approves the Agenda of December 13, 2023.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest: Nil.

1.5 Approval of the Minutes of June 21, 2023

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee approves the Minutes of June 21, 2023.

Carried

1.6 Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil.

2. Staff Reports & Information Items

2.1 2023-24 Revised Estimates

Annually, the Ministry requires school boards to complete revised estimates to address significant changes from the original estimates submitted the previous in June of the previous year.



Reporting that a balanced budget continues to be projected for 2023-24.

The Board's overall ADE is projected to increase by 324 to 12,034. Expectation is to welcome over 1909 elementary students into our Catholic schools and over 130 at secondary schools. This is primarily attributed to the growth and migration we continue to see in several of the communities in our Board.

Overall, revenue and expenses are expected to increase by about \$5.4 million primarily from:

- As a result of our increase in overall ADE added:
 - An additional 13.9 classroom teachers.
 - An early childhood educator.
 - 0.4 FTE school clerical support.
- Added 17.0 FTE EAs to support student needs through approved Jordan's Principle applications.
- The revised estimates also include additional staff to support MEDU and Board strategic initiatives or programs:
 - Caretakers to support a clean and safe school at Notre Dame School.
 - Construction Supervisor/Coordinator to support our capital builds, school renewal and other construction projects which will be funded through our capital builds for a number of years.
 - Superintendent as previously approved by the Board and an executive assistant to support on the ongoing demands placed on Superintendents and other staff, specially related MEDU requests/initiatives and other strategic priorities. This will continue to allow Superintendents and other staff to visit schools and educators to further enhance the success of our students.
 - Student Attendance Counsellor to support student achievement and getting kids in class.

In addition, other expenses include projects and initiatives funded through PPF, supply/casual coverage for absences, predicted school funded activities, and additional demand for home to school transportation.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee refers the 2023-24 Revised Estimates Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

2.2 Annual Report on Accumulated Surplus

This report provides an update on the accumulated surplus balance following the 2022-23 year-end reporting. A summary is provided in Appendix A of the report.

As of August 31, 2023, the Board's accumulated a surplus balance is approximately \$29.9 million. This amount is comprised of:



- \$17.6 million in specific purpose amounts that the MEDU requires Boards to set aside and not available for use, of which about \$11.4 million is set aside for the unfunded portion of portable requirements.
- \$5.8 million of internally appropriated amounts, through board resolution.
- \$6.4 million is set aside for externally required commitments through accounting standards or MEDU direction that are adjusted annually.

It is imperative to note that the Board has an operating contingency greater than 2% of our operating allocation which, according to Ministry benchmarks, puts the Board in a low financial risk position.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Budget Committee refers the Annual Report on Accumulated Surplus to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

2.3 2024-25 Budget Plan

The annual budget process presented to the Board outlining our timeline for submission of budget in accordance with Ministry regulations. The chart in the report outlines the dates most relevant to the Trustees including: three Budget Committee meetings, a public consultation survey, and Board approval dates.

Appendix A provides further details on the 2024-25 Budget Schedule.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee refers the 2024-25 Budget Plan Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

3. Trustee Inquiries: Nil.

4. Business of the In Camera Session:

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee moves to an *In Camera* Session.

5. Report on the In Camera Session:

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee approves the business of the *In Camera* Session.

6. Future Meetings

Chair Petrella noted that the next Budget Committee Meeting has been scheduled on Monday, May 13, 2024 - 3:00 pm.



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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7. Adjournment

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee adjourns the meeting of December 13, 2023.

Carried

Next Meeting: Monday, May 13, 2024 - 3:00 pm

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BOARD FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

December 12, 2023

AGENDA ITEM	MOTION
5.1	<p>THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2024 insurance renewal premium, payable to the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange, in the amount of \$162,642.00, excluding PST.</p> <p>THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Updated EQAO Board report and Math Action Plan.</p> <p>THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the amended school attendance boundaries, as outlined in Figure 2, effective September 2024 and the creation of holding zones, as outlined in Figure 3, for the County of Brant.</p> <p>THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2024-29 Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 12 2023.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 12, 2023

**REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Prepared by: Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
Presented to: Committee of the Whole
Submitted on: December 12, 2023
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

2024 INSURANCE RENEWAL
Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Board’s property and liability insurance is currently covered by the Ontario School Boards’ Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), which is a reciprocal cooperative established in 1987. OSBIE insures most school boards and several joint ventures in Ontario.

As of January 1, 2022, OSBIE is in year three of the current five-year Subscription Period, which ends on December 31, 2026.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Overall premiums are determined by OSBIE’s appointed actuary to cover expected future claims. Premiums vary from year to year based on a number of factors such as: general experience of the entire pool, exposure and loss experience of the Board over the past five years, and inflation. It should be noted, as a not-for-profit, OSBIE does not build profit into funding models.

Based on actuarial estimates, OSBIE was able to provide the following general rate adjustments for 2023:

Insurance Line	Rate Adjustments	
	General	BHNCDSB
Property	9.0%	5.4%
Crime	0.0%	-15.1%
Boiler & Equipment	10.1%	0.0%
Liability	0.0%	5.4%
Cyber	-5.0%	8.3%
Legal	0.0%	4.9%
Fleet	0.0%	5.4%

In addition to their regular insurance program, OSBIE provides an incentive program to help reduce fees even further. As a subscriber, OSBIE provides additional value by returning premiums based on the pool’s experience. In 2023, the Board received a premium refund of \$22,147.23.

Appendix A summarizes the premium breakdown for 2024, compared to prior years.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2024 insurance renewal premium, payable to the Ontario School Boards’ Insurance Exchange, in the amount of \$162,642.00, excluding PST.

Appendix A
OSBIE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Insurance Line	2022	2023	2024	Change (%)
Property	36,459.00	36,870.00	33,580.00	-8.9%
Crime	5,650.00	5,787.00	6,098.00	5.4%
Boiler & Equipment	7,003.00	7,276.00	8,009.00	10.1%
Liability	70,380.00	73,198.00	84,179.00	15.0%
Cyber	5,412.00	8,053.00	7,659.00	-4.9%
Legal	14,432.00	14,783.00	15,579.00	5.4%
Fleet	6,137.00	7,232.00	7,538.00	4.2%
Total Premium	145,473.00	153,199.00	162,642.00	6.2%

Insurance Line	Coverage	Deductible
Property	Unlimited	\$10,000 / per occurrence
Crime	\$1 million	\$500 / per occurrence
Boiler & Equipment	\$5 million	\$1,000 / per occurrence
Cyber	\$1 million	\$50,000 / per occurrence
Legal	\$500,000	N/A

REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Prepared by: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education
Presented to: Board Meeting
Submitted on: December 12, 2023
Submitted by: Michael McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

EQAO Update and Math Action Plan

Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), under the direction of the Ministry of Education, released the 2022-2023 results. When shared in October, the Board of Trustees requested an update on the data and actions being taken to address the student learning needs. Since the data was shared, members of the Student Achievement Team, Student Achievement Lead, and Superintendent responsible for curriculum, have engaged in a deeper dive of the data with EQAO personnel, as well as with the Ministry Math Team personnel.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Language/Literacy

1. All assessments at or above the provincial average
2. Primary, Junior and OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) are up 4-5%
3. Females have higher outcomes than males on Primary/Junior language over the last two years.
4. Junior students (Grade 6) have lower outcomes in Reading and Writing than the province for students with special education needs
5. OSSLT students with special education needs had higher outcomes in 2022-2023, lower 2021-2022
6. Liking to read, ("I like to read"), is declining
7. Confidence in writing is lower as well (13%)

Math/Numeracy

1. Primary is 2% below province; Junior 4.5% below province
2. Grade 9 is 2% above province
3. Primary and Junior up 4.5% at the board level; Grade 9 is down 2.5 % at board level
4. For students with special needs, the scores are 8-9% lower for meeting the standard in all assessments (Primary, Junior, Grade 9).
5. Students noting, they are "good at math" or "understand math" becomes less favourable as they get older, and this correlates strongly with achievement
6. Algebra below province in all assessments; Thinking below province in all assessments

Actions to Address the Data

The Student Achievement Team has met many times with members of EQAO personnel; attended webinars; looked at Board data specifically alongside EQAO team members; and had/have EQAO personnel coming to work with each of our secondary schools beginning today and throughout this week.

Focusing on building teacher capacity for fidelity of the curriculum is a key next step in our Math Action Plan work and implementing the new language curriculum which supports the skills needed for all

students to learn to read. Sharing intentional use of proven instructional strategies that support academic math achievement. Our focus is on computational fluency; multiplicative thinking and fractions using tools and representations; making learning visible; and encouraging math conversations and use of daily number routines.

The team continues to build supports for reading and writing using the new curriculum; sharing resources that address skills necessary for learning to read; vocabulary building; and support student writing. This work is currently being done in small group Professional Development sessions this month across Grades 1-3, as well as modelling of an instructional 100-minute block for Structured Literacy. Continued support includes mandating a goal on the Student Achievement Plan for both literacy and numeracy monitored on school visits. We have two literacy coaches supporting the work in schools directly alongside educators and students; two Empower coaches supporting students in reading; transition teachers and destreaming coaches supporting students in classrooms Grade 7-9 across the system.

The focus on math is quite involved, the attached PowerPoint shares the entire math action plan for 2023-2024. The plan's focus includes:

1. Curriculum fidelity
2. Math content knowledge for teaching (monthly webinars, EQAO supports)
3. Knowing your student (Essential Practices)
4. Measurable results (EQAO/Screeners/Report Cards)

There are key priority actions for each of these areas of focus for the Board, School, and Classroom level. In addition, there are Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each of the priority action areas.

For BHCNDSB the overall KPIs are:

1. Percentage increase in math proficiency rates on EQAO
2. Increase in the success of the board developed screening tool
3. Percentage increase in educators taking Math Part 1
4. Increased percentage in Grades 3 and 6 consistently implementing tools and representations and math conversations (high impact strategies for instruction)
5. 100% engagement in the professional learning across priority schools with team teaching elements of intervention (coach's corner)
6. Increase in student participation during math lessons (attendance)
7. Reduction in anxiety via self-assessment surveys
8. Increased use of assessment data (formative assessments) to impact instruction

The Overall Goal

In meeting the KPIs, the goal is to increase EQAO scores; to increase confidence in teaching and learning for both educators and students; increased monitoring from administrators to support the high impact strategies; and more educators taking Math AQ courses to support math content knowledge. By utilizing coaches in the classroom, use of Empower; using Board supported resources for Structured Literacy and continued work with good reading instruction and daily writing opportunities will increase skill building and confidence in literacy/language on EQAO and Board screening tools.

Partnership

In working on the literacy and numeracy goals and student learning needs, Special Education has been involved with the implementation of Empower as well as completing math audits on Individual Education Plans. Superintendent Wilson and Student Achievement Lead for Special education offered

SERT learning and training on Key Math resource as well as allowed funds for further Professional Development with transition teachers and destreaming coaches for high impact strategies as well as good, solid instruction for accommodations for Tier 1 instruction.

Next Steps

Continue the capacity building work for educators with a focus on numeracy and literacy through PD when able to do so; promoting the use of high impact instructional strategies for Administrators so they know what to see in the classrooms K-12, in both core subject areas; continued screening (pre and post) for interventions in numeracy; and administration of self- assessment tools for educators and students for confidence building in math. Another next step is a system refocus on attendance through Superintendent Della Fortuna and April Taylor to increase student engagement and participation in the learning.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Updated EQAO board report and Math Action Plan.

**REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Prepared by: Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
 Presented to: Committee of the Whole
 Submitted on: December 12, 2023
 Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

**COUNTY OF BRANT (ELEMENTARY)
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY REVIEW**

Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Due to existing and future enrolment pressures at Holy Family and Sacred Heart (Paris) Catholic Elementary Schools, the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) approved a school attendance boundary review for the County of Brant on December 20, 2022. The Board had previously attempted to secure funding for a new Catholic elementary school in Paris through the Ministry of Education’s Capital Priorities Program, however the request for funding for a new elementary school was denied.

As a result, and considering feedback from the Ministry, a school attendance boundary review was initiated for the following schools: Blessed Sacrament, Holy Family, Sacred Heart (Paris), and St. Theresa.

The purpose of this review is to better balance capacity and enrolment within the schools involved. Holy Family and Sacred Heart (Paris) are currently overcapacity and is utilizing fifteen portable classrooms to accommodate its enrolment. Board projections predict that continued residential development within the County of Brant is expected to yield approximately 531 additional elementary students over the next ten years. This will put further pressure on each site and facility.

Enrolment projections also suggest there will be limited capacity at other Catholic elementary schools in the review area. The tables and figures below outline the existing and projected enrolments for the schools in the review. Additionally, Figure 1 depicts the existing school boundaries for the elementary schools.

2023-24 Enrolment / Utilization				
School	OTG	Enrolment (Oct 2023)	Utilization	# of Portables (2023)
Blessed Sacrament	236	263	111%	0
Holy Family	164	228	139%	3
Sacred Heart (Paris)	420	632	150%	12
St. Theresa	210	201	96%	1
Total	1,030	1,324	129%	16

2032 Projected Enrolment / Utilization				
School	OTG	Enrolment (2032)	Utilization	# of Portables (2032)
Blessed Sacrament	236	276	117%	2
Holy Family	164	382	233%	9
Sacred Heart (Paris)	420	1,026	244%	26
St. Theresa	210	172	82%	0
Total	1,030	1,855	180%	37

Note: The number of portables is estimated based on the number of pupils over capacity divided by the loading capacity of 23.

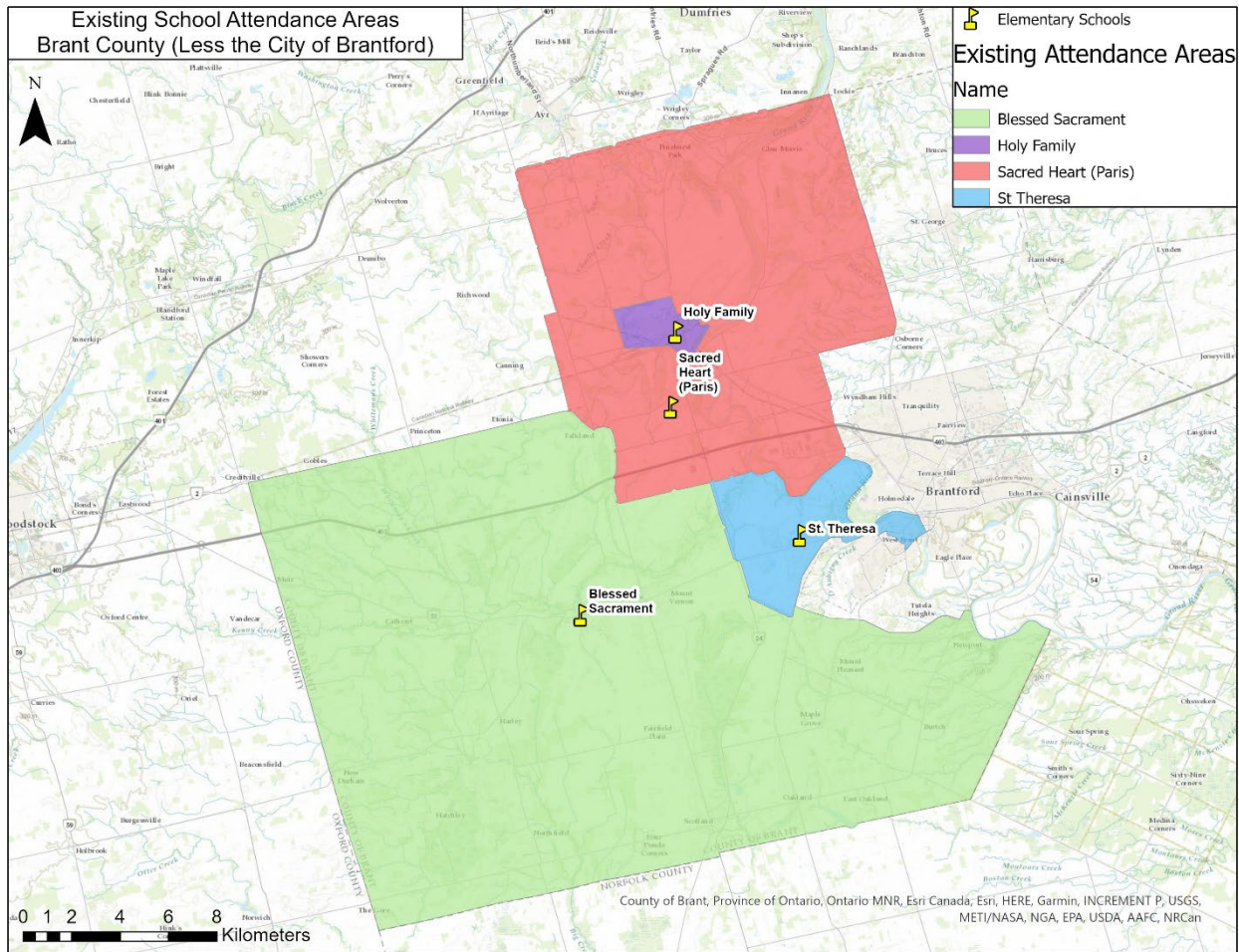


Figure1: County of Brant Existing Attendance Boundaries

DEVELOPMENTS:

School Attendance Boundary Review Process

In accordance with [OPS 400.24.AP – Attendance Boundary Reviews](#), an Attendance Boundary Review Committee (ABRC) was established with Administrator and Parent representatives from each impacted school. The ABRC met on June 15, 2023, October 10, 2023, November 9, 2023, and November 27, 2023 to review options and gather community feedback during public meetings. A full list of meetings, agenda, presentations, and minutes from these meetings can be found on the [Boundary Review](#) website.

The mandate of the ABRC was to:

- Work collaboratively to examine the initial boundary options generated by Senior Administration based on projections and data.
- Provide detailed feedback on the initial options, request modifications or suggest additional options.
- Determine one or more preferred options to be presented for public consultation.

ABRC Recommendation

As of November 27, 2023, the ABRC recommended the following:

- Area 1 (on Figure 2) would be directed to St. Theresa School with current Grade 7 students having the option to remain at their existing school.

This boundary adjustment results in about 26 students moving from Sacred Heart (Paris) to St. Theresa. Please refer to Figure 2 and the table below.

The proposed boundary adjustment will help redistribute enrolments and utilization among schools in the area. It will also temporarily alleviate the enrolment pressure at Sacred Heart (Paris).

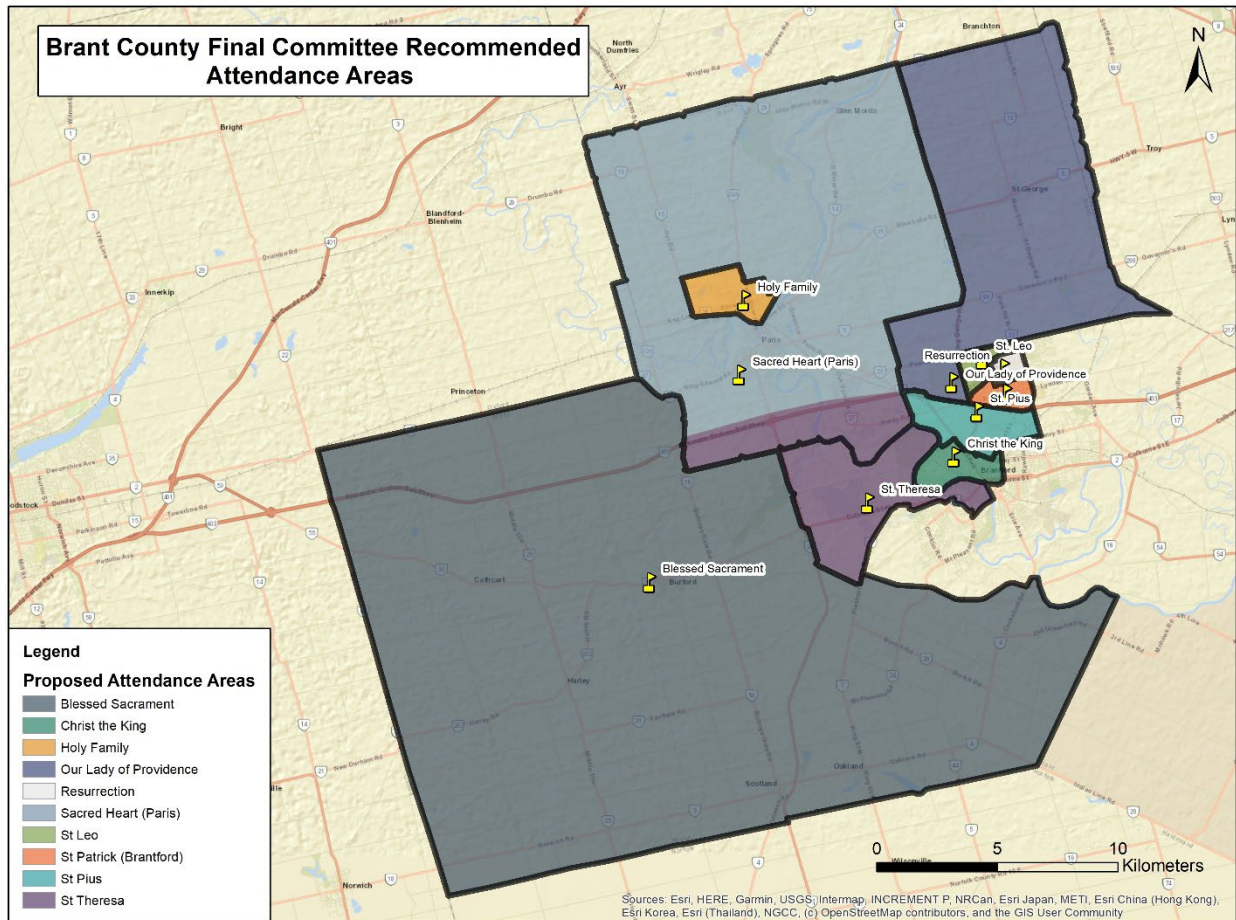


Figure 2: County of Brant Proposed Attendance Boundaries

2023-24 Enrolment / Utilization				
School	OTG	Enrolment (Oct 2023)	Utilization	# of Portables (2023)
Blessed Sacrament	236	263	111%	0
Holy Family	164	228	139%	3
Sacred Heart (Paris)	420	632	150%	12
St. Theresa	210	201	96%	1
Total	1,030	1,324	129%	16

2023-24 Enrolment / Utilization (per recommendation)				
School	OTG	Enrolment (Oct 2023)	Utilization	# of Portables (2023)
Blessed Sacrament	236	263	111%	0
Holy Family	164	228	139%	3
Sacred Heart (Paris)	420	606	144%	11
St. Theresa	210	227	108%	1
Total	1,030	1,324	129%	15

Additionally, the ABRC recommended to create holding zones. A holding zone is an area defined by a geographic boundary, within an Attendance Area (usually with high concentrations of new or imminent development), for which Trustees have approved that students residing in the holding zone are to attend a specified school based on available capacity, until such time as long-term accommodation and related revised Attendance Areas can be established.

- Area 2 to 9 (in Figure 3) are proposed to be holding zones for which students residing in this area will be directed to attend a to-be-determined school based on available capacity.

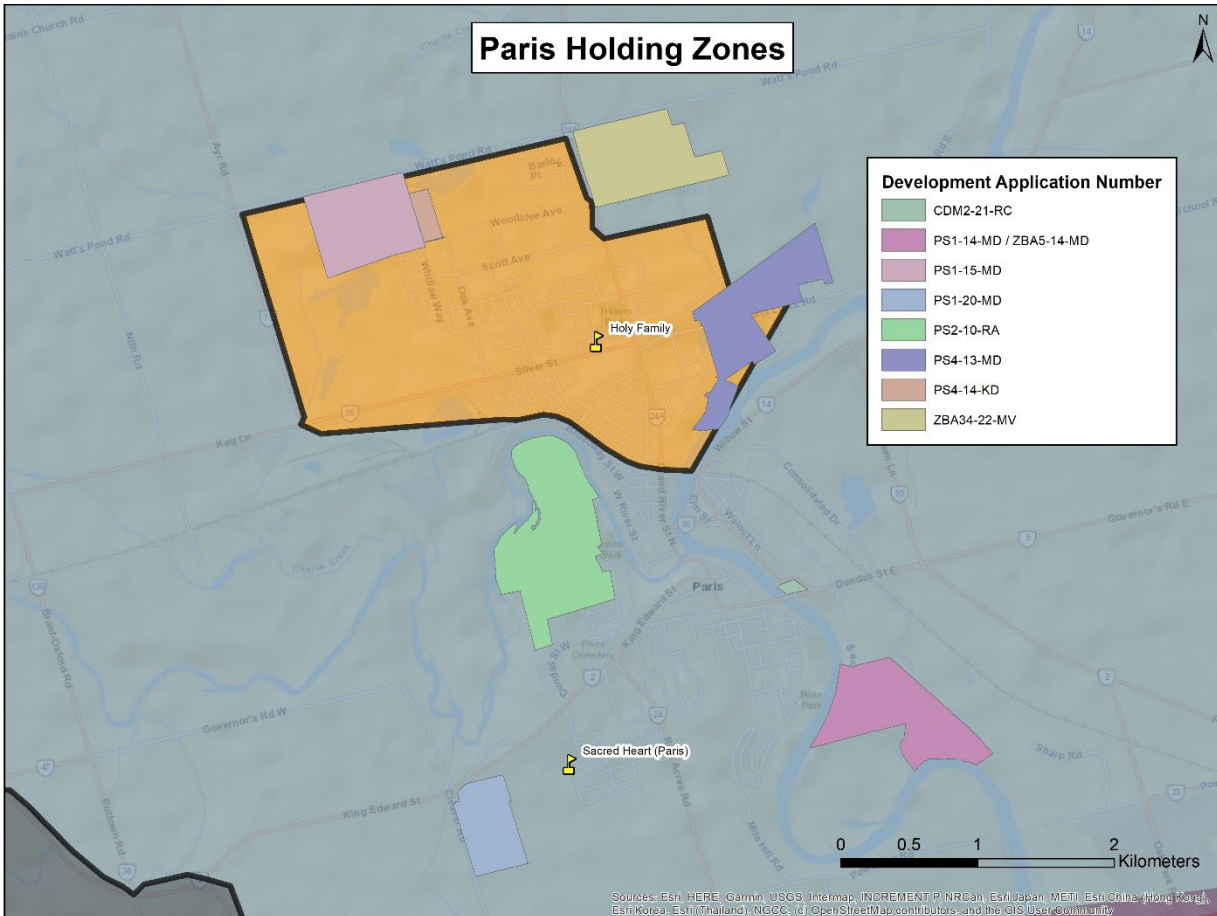


Figure 3: County of Brant Proposed Holding Zones

Feedback received at, during, and after, the committee and public meetings surrounded certain ideas under consideration. Other general themes that arose from the consultation with both the ABRC and general community were about ensuring that proper transitions were in place at all receiving schools and that legacy provisions were in place for impacted students currently enrolled in Grade 7.

There are some possible transportation impacts resulting from the proposed boundary adjustment. The Board's transportation consortium is confident that existing busses and routes have sufficient capacity to accommodate the recommended changes with little to no impact on transportation costs, however, there may be localized increases in bussing/traffic to St. Theresa.

Other Alternatives

The ABRC also discussed alternative solutions and although the solutions may have alleviated the current significant enrolment pressure, however consideration was not given to certain alternatives due to the feedback received.

Next Steps

Pursuant to the steps outlined in [OPS 400.24.AP – Attendance Boundary Reviews](#), based on committee consultation, Senior Administration recommends establishing the amended school boundaries, as outlined in Figure 2, and establishing holding zones for the County of Brant, as outlined in Figure 3, effective September 1, 2024.

An implementation committee will be established to support the transition of students to St. Theresa.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the amended school attendance boundaries, as outlined in Figure 2, effective September 2024 and the creation of holding zones, as outlined in Figure 3, for the County of Brant.

REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Prepared by: Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
Presented to: Committee of the Whole
Submitted on: December 12, 2023
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

2024-2029 INTEGRATED ACCESSIBILITY PLAN Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), 2001 is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers and to promote their full participation in the life of the province. The ODA requires each school board to prepare a multi-year accessibility plan; to consult with people with disabilities in the preparation of this plan and to make the plan public.

The Accessibility for Ontarians Act (AODA), 2005 is the Provincial Act with the purpose of developing, implementing, and enforcing accessibility standards to make the province accessible for all people with disabilities. Since 2005, two regulations outlining the accessibility standards have been made under the AODA:

- Accessibility Standards for Customer Services (O. Reg 429/07)
- Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (O. Reg 191/11)

Ontario Regulation 191/11, The Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), includes standards surrounding customer service, information and communications, employment, transportation, and design of public spaces. In addition, one of the requirements of the IASR is to develop, implement and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan to outline strategies to prevent and remove barriers and meet the requirements of the ISAR.

DEVELOPMENTS:

The 2024-2029 Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan (the “Plan”) is presented in Appendix A and was prepared in accordance with:

- Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations (IASR)

The Plan incorporates the intentions of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic School Board (the “Board”) to meet its obligations under the ODA. The Plan describes the measures the Board has taken in the past as well as measures that will be taken moving forward in order to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities who work, learn and participate in our school community and environment. Specially this Plan:

- Reviews recent efforts of the Board to remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities;
- Describes the process by which the Board will identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities;
- Describes the measures the Board will take to identify, remove and prevent barriers;
- Makes a commitment to provide an annual status report on the Board’s implementation of the Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan;
- Makes a commitment to review and update the Plan at least once every 5 years; and
- Describes how the Board will make this Accessibility Plan available to the public.

The Plan has been developed collaboratively through feedback and input from:

- The Accessibility Steering Committee
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC)
- Senior Administration

The Accessibility Steering Committee meets regularly during the year to consider feedback received, review progress, evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of barrier-removal and prevention strategies and to plan for increased accessibility throughout the Board. In respect to the Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan the following steps take place:

- a) An annual status report on the progress of the measures taken to implement the Plan is brought to the Board for approval;
- b) At least once every 5 years the Plan is reviewed and updated in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The Plan will be brought to the Board for consideration and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2024-2029 Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan.



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 ♦ 7:00 pm
Boardroom**

Trustees:

Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard, Mark Watson
Caroline Goveas (Student Trustee), Mia Martorelli (Student Trustees)

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Scott Keys (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer),
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Dignard.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the December 12, 2023 meeting, as amended.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil

2. Presentations - Nil

3. Delegations – Nil

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee Meeting – November 23, 2023

Highlights from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee presentation on vaping were shared.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of November 23, 2023.

Carried



**4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting–
November 27, 2023**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 27, 2023.

Carried

**4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting –
November 28, 2023**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 28, 2023.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 2024 Insurance Renewal

Superintendent Keys presented the 2024 Insurance Renewal Proposal. It was noted that The Board's property and liability insurance is currently covered by the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), which is a reciprocal cooperative established in 1987. OSBIE insures most school boards and several joint ventures in Ontario. As of January 1, 2022, OSBIE is in year three of the current five-year Subscription Period, which ends on December 31, 2026.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2024 insurance renewal premium, payable to the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange, in the amount of \$162,642.00, excluding PST.

Carried

5.2 Trustee Expenses

Superintendent Keys presented the Trustee Expenses report from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. It was highlighted that the Trustee expenses were under budget again for the 2022/2023 school year.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Trustee Expenses Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried



5.3 EQAO Update and Math Action Plan

Superintendent Temple presented the EQAO Update and Math Action Plan. Since the data was shared, members of the Student Achievement Team, Student Achievement Lead, and Superintendent responsible for curriculum, have engaged in a deeper dive of the data with EQAO personnel, as well as with the Ministry Math Team personnel. Next steps include; Continue the capacity building work for educators with a focus on numeracy and literacy through PD when able to do so; promoting the use of high impact instructional strategies for Administrators so they know what to see in the classrooms K-12, in both core subject areas; continued screening (pre and post) for interventions in numeracy; and administration of self-assessment tools for educators and students for confidence building in math. Another next step is a system refocus on attendance to increase student engagement and participation in the learning. Performance indicators, factors and variables were discussed along with the next steps.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Updated EQAO board report and Math Action Plan.

Carried

5.4 County of Brant (Elementary) School Attendance Boundary Review

Superintendent Keys presented the County of Brant (Elementary) School Attendance Boundary Review. The purpose of this review is to better balance capacity and enrolment within the schools involved. The schools involved are Holy Family Paris, Blessed Sacrament, St. Theresa, and Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary schools. Several different options were discussed at the committee level, surveys, trustee feedback, and the preferred option is presented in Figure 2.0. The secondary schools that future graduating elementary students will attend based on the proposed boundary changes was discussed. Communication to future families regarding the holding zones was also considered along with legacy agreements for siblings. Out of boundary students who are currently attending the three impacted schools were also discussed.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the amended school attendance boundaries, as outlined in Figure 2, effective September 2024, and the creation of holding zones, as outlined in Figure 3, for the County of Brant. Five trustees voted in favor; one was opposed.

Carried

5.5 2024-29 Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan

Superintendent Keys presented the 2024-29 Multi-year Integrated Accessibility Plan. The purpose of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA), 2001 is to improve opportunities for people with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal, and prevention of barriers and to promote their full participation in the life of the province. The ODA requires each school board to prepare a multi-year accessibility plan; to consult with people with disabilities in the preparation of this plan and to make the plan public. The plan was developed collaboratively through feedback and input from The Accessibility Steering Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the Senior Administration.



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2024-2029 Multi-Year Integrated Accessibility Plan.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence – Nil

7. Trustee Inquiries:

Discussion surrounding the digital advertisements for registration in the new year was had.

8. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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

Carried

9. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.

Carried

10. Future Meetings and Events

Chair Petrella drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

11. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Chair Petrella.

12. Adjournment

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the December 12, 2023 meeting.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom

REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: Caroline Goveas, Mia Martorelli, Student Trustees
Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: December 19, 2023
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Public Session

DEVELOPMENTS:

The Student Senate continues to meet on a regular basis to plan board wide Student Senate/School Council initiatives. Most recently we met as a Student Senate on Tuesday November 21st, 2023.

In collaboration with the student senate, Holy Trinity's Student Council graciously hosted this year's Student Council Retreat at Holy Trinity, on December 12, 2023. The day consisted of team building activities run by Student Senators, and individual student council introduction videos, to boost morale and foster a sense of team spirit among the student councils.

SCHOOL NEWS:

The past two months have been very busy for Assumption College School. In November, ACS had its biannual coffee house where we had lots of wonderful performers. The week that followed, the drama classes along with our hospitality classes worked together to put on a murder mystery dinner. ACS had its award banquet where they recognized all the students' academic achievements as well as their work around the school based on the previous school year. We had lots of football promos for the month of November on ATV as our football team went all the way to OFSSA and won our division. Semi-formal is the biggest event of the school year where we sold out tickets after three days and about six hundred people attended. Assumptions 12 Days Christmas are days filled with fun Christmas activities as well as creative dress down days to get the students in the holiday spirit. On the last day before Christmas break the school holds a spirit of Christmas which consists of a turkey dinner and fun filled activities throughout the day. The annual Christmas concert was a big success and a phenomenal turnout.

At Holy Trinity, student council's biggest event for the end of November was the semi-formal dance. The theme was Winter Wonderland and there was a great turnout. The decorations, which were set up with the help of council members, were beautiful and the council-run coat check operated smoothly. For the month of December, student council is putting on and assisting with various Christmas themed activities. Student council has just finished selling candy grams and we will be distributing them sometime in the coming weeks. HT council has also been putting on a 12 Days of Christmas activity in which two council members go on the announcements throughout the month of December, randomly draw a homeroom class, and draw a prize for that classroom. Additionally, student council is planning to team up with Holy Trinity's Leadership Class to distribute hot chocolate and lead games for all students to enjoy on the last day of school before the holiday break.

SJC's student council has also been busy over the past month. On November 24th, SJC held its Annual Semi Formal Dance, which was a massive success with over five hundred tickets sold. During the month of December, student council has been focused on The Twelve Days of Christmas, which include a variety of festive activities, taking place on the last twelve school

days before Christmas break. Some of these activities include candy cane grams, ornament decorating, and Christmas card making, among others. On Friday December 15th, SJC's leadership classes hosted a student versus teacher basketball game. On Monday December 18th, SJC's Advocacy Community Empowerment Committee (ACE) hosted a Christmas movie night in the cafeteria, in collaboration with Student Council. Tomorrow, Wednesday, December 20th, SJC student council is hosting the annual Christmas Coffee House after school, called Gingerbread House, where SJC students are invited to share their musical talents, as well as enjoy displays of SJC artwork. On Friday December 22nd, SJC student council is hosting a Christmas-themed pep rally. Additionally, on this last day before Christmas break, SJC student will participate in a mass, a turkey lunch, as well as a student versus alumni basketball game. Throughout the month of December, SJC has additionally been collecting funds for its annual Angel Campaign, which provides less fortunate families in the SJC community with food and gifts, during the Christmas season.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Student Trustee Report.

2023-24
Trustee Meetings and Events

Date	Time	Meeting/Event
December 19, 2023	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
December 19, 2023	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
<i>December 25 2023- January 7, 2024</i>		<i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>
January 10, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
January 19-20, 2024		OCSTA Trustees Seminar
January 16, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
January 16, 2024	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
January 23, 2024	1:00 pm	Faith Advisory Committee
January 23, 2024	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
January 31, 2024	7:00pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
February 8, 2024	9:00 am	Mental Health Steering Committee
February 14, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
February 20, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
February 20, 2024	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
February 27, 2024	1:15 pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
February 27, 2024	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
March 6, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
<i>March 11-15, 2024</i>		<i>MARCH BREAK</i>
March 19, 2024	9:00 am	Mental Health Steering Committee
March 19, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
March 19, 2024	3:00 pm	Accommodations Committee
March 19, 2024	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
March 26, 2024	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
April 10, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
April 16, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
April 16, 2024	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
Date	Time	Meeting/Event
April 18, 2024	1:00 pm	Faith Advisory Committee
April 23, 2024	3:00 pm	Budget Committee
April 23, 2024	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
April 24, 2024	7:00 pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
<i>May 5-10, 2024</i>		<i>Catholic Education Week</i>
May 2-4, 2024		OCSTA AGM & Conference
May 6, 2024	5:00pm	Catholic Student Leadership Awards
May 13, 2024	3:00pm	Budget Committee
May 15, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
May 21, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
May 21, 2024	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
May 28, 2024	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
May 30, 2024	1:15 pm	Mental Health Steering Committee
TBD		CCSTA AGM
June 12, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
June 17, 2024	5:00 pm	Audit Committee
June 18, 2024	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
June 25, 2024	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
June 27, 2024	4:45 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Assumption College Graduation Holy Trinity Graduation St. John's College Graduation

Meetings scheduled at the Call of the Committee Chair: Accommodations Committee, Audit Committee, Budget Committee, Faith Advisory Committee, Policy Committee.

Apps Mill / Taquanyah Nature Centres Uncertain Futures

- ▶ BHCNDSB - Dec. 19, 2023

Who am I?

- ▶ Worked at S. C. Johnson and Son for 31 years
- ▶ Started as a graduate chemist retired as V.P Technical Support
- ▶ Since retirement, I have focused on giving back
 - * TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
 - * Brant Community Foundation
 - * Ontario Trillium Foundation
 - * Brant Waterways Foundation
 - * James Hillier Foundation
 - * Brantford / Brant Earth Week Committee (School Ground Greening, Brant Tree Coalition)

My Comments today are my own and not necessarily those of the above

The Issue - GRCA Recommends Moving Outdoor Education out of Nature Centres GRCA Board Meeting - Oct. 27th, 2023

- ▶ GRCA recommends moth-balling outdoor education at three Nature Centres and moving outdoor education programs to existing Conservation Areas.
 - * Apps Mill (Brantford, Brant)
 - * Tahquanyah (Haldimand, Norfolk)
 - * Laurel Creek (Region of Waterloo)

Expand the hybrid outdoor education program delivery model to further develop existing and new At-School, Virtual, and Outreach programs

GRCA Nature Centres

Rational

- * Because of revised Provincial legislation, Conservation Authorities can no longer charge municipalities for the operation of Nature Centres.

(Unlike Conservation Areas that are funded through user fees, the three nature centres rely on school board fees and funders like the GRCF)

- * the new GRCA model would be break even in approx. 5 years and financially and not involve any additional municipal funding

- *a move to existing Conservation Areas would improve outdoor education program delivery

Conservation Authorities Act and the Regulations

- ▶ Conservation Authorities were formed by the Ontario Government after Hurricane Hazel in 1954.
- ▶ They are regional and based on watersheds.
- ▶ Legislation allows C.A.'s to charge operating and capital levies to municipal /regional governments in their watershed based on services provided.
- ▶ C.A. Boards consists of representatives from these municipal regional governments

(Brantford representative - Mayor Kevin Davis, Councillor Gino Caputo, Brant County - Councillors David Miller, Brian Coleman)

Conservation Act & Regs revised Dec. 2020

- ▶ Put a lid on structure and activities
- ▶ Outlined the services Conservation Authorities could charge their municipal and regional partners
- ▶ **Category 1:** Mandatory programs and services defined in regulation, where municipal levy could be used without any agreement. (protecting against natural hazards- flood control, water quality, maintain and managing conservation owned lands)
- ▶ **Category 2:** Municipal programs and services provided at the request of a municipality, with municipal funding through an MOU/agreement.
- ▶ **Category 3:** Programs and services provided by a conservation authority that are not mandatory or municipal.

Apps Mill Nature Centre

- ▶ Originally opened Feb. 7th, 1972, App's Mill is surrounded by 100 hectares of mature forests, fields and wetlands.
- ▶ Unique geographical environment
- ▶ Current Nature Centre was officially opened on Oct. 19th, 1981. Funding for construction was \$350,000 provided by S. C. Johnson.
(upper level meeting room, staff room, two lower level classrooms)
- ▶ More recently a \$400,000 donation- small elevator, accessible washrooms, improvements to classrooms, improved storage facilities
- ▶ Over 150,000 area students have attended the facility
- ▶ This year over 4,000 students from GEDSB and BHNCDSB will attend.

GRCA Board Meeting Oct. 27th, 2023

- ▶ Local representatives take exception
- ▶ Brantford Expositor article - Nov. 3rd

<https://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/news/local-news/municipal-officials-concerned-about-future-of-apps-mill>

GRCA Letter to Brantford / Brant County Nov. 16th

- ▶ The total amount of funding requested is \$265,000, which includes \$70,000 to cover the operating deficit and \$195,000 in capital maintenance and project support costs for continuing to operate this Program at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre.
- ▶ The projected operating deficit for the overall Program is estimated to be \$312,000 in 2024, of which \$70,000 represents the deficit associated with continuing to operate at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre and includes costs for cleaning and routine maintenance, and additional capital maintenance project and staff support.
- ▶ Jan. 19th, 2024 deadline to discuss.

Nov. 27th - GRCA Board Meeting

- ▶ Discussion on Nature Centres dominates meeting
- ▶ Watch on YouTube - [GRCA General Membership Meeting - Nov 24, 2023 - YouTube](#)
- ▶ Reprieve from the Jan. 19th date to September 2024
- ▶ Remaining 2023/2024 operations funded from GRCA reserves.

What is wrong with the GRCA Recommendation?

▶ The process

- no prior consultation with stakeholders - GRCA staff, municipalities, school boards.
- no consultation with the many generous donors who over the years have given hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund outdoor education at these nature centres.

▶ The recommendation.

Apps Mill is a unique gem and well equipped to serve as a centre of outdoor education now and in the future. Existing Conservation areas do not have the facilities of Apps Mill

Moving geographic location outdoor education from one site to another does not improve the program. In this case, the opposite.

Experiential outdoor learning needs to take place outdoors.

Funding - where did the Grand River Conservation Foundation disappear to?

What becomes of the Nature Centres?????????????

What can local Boards of Education Do?

- ▶ Nothing
- ▶ Help fund (this is a shell game)
- ▶ Let your opinion be known City and County officials and the GRCA Board of Directors
- ▶ Work with stakeholders to find a solution