BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

Agenda

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

Board Meeting
November 24, 2026 ♦ 6:30 pm
Boardroom

Trustees:
Carol Luciani (Chair), Dennis Blake (Vice-Chair), Wenda Allicock, Birkin Culp, David Miller, Toni Poirier
Joshua Ocampo (Student Trustee), Jenna Ugwu (Student Trustee)

Senior Administration:
Mike McDonald (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary)
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Jennifer Varnam (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, forever. ***Amen***

1.2 Attendance

1.3 Approval of the Agenda — Pages 1-2

1.4 Declaration of Interest

1.5 Approval of the Board Minutes – September 22, 2026 — Pages 3-8

1.6 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Minutes – October 8, 2026 — Pages 9-10

1.7 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Minutes – October 27, 2026 — Pages 11-14

1.8 Approval of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board Minutes – November 17, 2026 — Pages 15-17

1.9 Business Arising from the Minutes

2. Presentations

2.1 Recipient of 2026 Coaching to Inclusion Award: Melissa Lancaster

3. Delegations

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting - September 22, 2026 — Pages 18-24

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Trustee Attendance Report 2025-2026 — Pages 25-27
Presenter: Mike McDonald, Chief Executive Officer & Secretary

5.2 Student Trustee Update — Pages 28-31
Presenter: Joshua Ocampo, Jenna Ugwu (Student Trustees)

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 BHNCDSB Awards Update

6.2 Superintendent of Education Portfolio Updates

7. Notices of Motion

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

8.1 Trustee Blake submitted the following Notice of Motion,

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic School Board Amend its By-Law Section 6.2.2.1 to read as follows:

6.2.2.1 The Committee of the Whole shall be composed of all six trustees and will meet at 4:30 p.m. on the Third Tuesday of each month a week before the regular Board Meeting at 322 Fairview Drive, in the City of Brantford, other than the exceptions noted in section 6.2.1.2.

Whereas a one-week interval between the Committee of the Whole Meeting and the Board Meeting provides sufficient time for preparation and follow-up;

Whereas it gives Trustees adequate time to thoroughly review the information presented, consider the perspectives and discussions from the Committee of the Whole Meeting, and make informed decisions prior to final approval at the subsequent Board Meeting;

Whereas it provides Senior Administration staff sufficient time to respond to Trustees' outstanding inquiries.

9. 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.

10. Report on the In-Camera Session

11. Future Meetings and Events

Pages 32-33

12. 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***

13. Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2026, 6:30 p.m. – Boardroom

Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Boardroom

Trustees:
Carol Luciani (Chair), Bill Chopp (Vice-Chair), Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Toni Poirier
Joshua Ocampo (Student Trustee), Jenna Ugwu (Student Trustee)

Regrets:

Senior Administration:
Mike McDonald (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary)
Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Jennifer Varnam (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: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the September 22, 2026, Board meeting.
Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil.

1.5 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the June 23, 2026, Meeting of the Board.
Carried

1.6 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the June 29, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

1.7 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the August 10, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

1.8 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 2, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

1.9 Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

2. Presentations

2.1 The Board of Trustees welcomed Jennifer Varnam, Superintendent of Education.

2.2 The Board of Trustees recognized outgoing Superintendent of Business & Treasurer, Rajini Nelson

2.3 The Board of Trustees welcomed the two new student Trustees, Joshua Ocampo and Jenna Ugwu.

3. Delegations - Nil

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Committee of the Whole Meeting – June 23, 2026

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 23, 2026.
Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting – September 23, 2025

Vice-Chair Trustee Chopp brought forward the recommendations from September 22, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting which include:

- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF MONEY TO MEET CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (THE “Board”)

  A. In accordance with Subsection 243(1) of the Education Act (R.S.O. 1990) (the “Act”), the Board considers it necessary to borrow the amount of up to Fifteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($15,300,000) to meet, until current revenue is received, the current

expenditures of the Board for the period commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027 (the "Period").

B. Pursuant to Subsection 243(3) of the Act, the total amount borrowed pursuant to this Resolution together with the total of any similar borrowings and any accrued interest on those borrowings is not to exceed the unreceived balance of the estimated revenues of the Board for the Period.

C. The total amount previously borrowed by the Board pursuant to Section 243 that has not been repaid is $0.

D. The amount borrowed for current expenditures is within the Board's Debt and Financial Obligation Limit as established by the Ministry of Education and Training from time to time.

RESOLVED THAT:
1.The Chair or Vice-Chair and the Treasurer are authorized, on behalf of the Board, to borrow from time to time, by way of promissory note, overdraft or bankers' acceptance, from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce ("CIBC"), as authorized for borrowing purposes in accordance with Section 243 of the Act, a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate Fifteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($15,300,000) to meet, until current revenues are received, the current expenditures of the Board for the Period, including amounts required for the purposes identified in Subsections 243(1) and 243(2) of the Act.

The Chair or Vice-Chair and the Treasurer are further authorized to provide CIBC with promissory notes or bankers' acceptances, as applicable, sealed with the corporate seal of the Board and signed by any two of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, for the sums borrowed together with interest at a rate agreed upon from time to time with CIBC.

2.The interest charged on all sums borrowed pursuant to this Resolution, together with any related charges, shall not exceed the interest that would be payable at the prime lending rate of the chartered banks listed in Schedule I of the Bank Act (Canada) on the date of borrowing.

3.The Treasurer is authorized and directed to apply, in payment of all sums borrowed together with applicable interest, all monies collected or received in respect of the current revenues of the Board.

4.The Treasurer is authorized and directed to provide CIBC, from time to time and upon request, with a statement showing:

(a)the total amount of unpaid previous borrowings of the Board for current expenditures, together with any applicable debt charges; and
(b)the uncollected balance of the estimated revenues for the current year or, where the estimates have not yet been adopted, the estimated revenues of the previous year, less any current revenues already collected.

AND

- THAT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (the "Board") TO BORROW MONEY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE EDUCATIN ACT (the "Act") TO FINANCE CAPITAL PROJECT COSTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO NEW CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

  WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has approved capital projects for the construction of a new Catholic elementary school in Southwest Brantford and a new Catholic elementary school in Paris;

  AND WHEREAS the Board will incur eligible capital expenditures during the design and construction of these projects prior to the receipt of all applicable Ministry of Education capital funding and other approved project revenues;

  AND WHEREAS the Board considers it necessary and prudent to establish temporary capital borrowing facilities to provide sufficient cash flow to meet project-related financial obligations as they become due;

  NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
  1.The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is authorized to borrow from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce ("CIBC"), from time to time, amounts not exceeding Twenty-Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($24,500,000) for the construction of the new Southwest Brantford Catholic Elementary School.

  2.The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is authorized to borrow from CIBC, from time to time, amounts not exceeding Twenty-Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($24,500,000) for the construction of the new Paris Catholic Elementary School.

  3.The total borrowing authorized under this Resolution shall not exceed Forty-Nine Million Dollars ($49,000,000) in aggregate.

  4.The borrowing authorized under this Resolution shall be used solely to provide temporary financing for eligible capital expenditures associated with the two approved capital projects, pending receipt of applicable Ministry of Education capital funding and other approved project revenues.

  5.The Superintendent of Business & Treasurer is authorized to draw upon, administer and repay the borrowing facilities from time to time, as required, based on the cash flow requirements of the respective capital projects and in accordance with the Education Act, applicable Ministry of Education requirements and Board policies.

  6.The Chair or Vice-Chair and the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer are authorized, on behalf of the Board, to execute all promissory notes, banking agreements, borrowing agreements, certificates and other documents necessary to establish, maintain and administer the borrowing facilities with CIBC.

7.All amounts borrowed under this Resolution, together with applicable interest and related charges, shall be repaid from the Ministry of Education capital funding and other approved revenues associated with the respective capital projects, as those funds are received.

8.The Superintendent of Business & Treasurer shall continue to monitor the borrowing requirements, interest costs, capital expenditures and funding receipts related to each project and shall ensure that borrowings are limited to amounts required to meet temporary project cash flow needs.

9.This Resolution shall remain in effect until the borrowing facilities are no longer required for the completion and financing of the Southwest Brantford Catholic Elementary School and Paris Catholic Elementary School capital projects, unless otherwise amended or rescinded by the Board.

AND

- THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Audit Committee Terms of Reference for the 2026-27 school year.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 22, 2026.
Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 Student and Family Support Office Update

Superintendent Della Fortuna provided an update on the newly created BHNCDSB School and Family Support Office. In January 2026, school boards under ministry supervision piloted the School and Family Support Office. As of September 1, 2026, all school boards are mandated to have implemented this office as per Bill 33. The Public Concerns Policy OPS #400.10 still governs how concerns are addressed. A workflow process is used to filter communication to the applicable departments and concerns are addressed within 48 business hours. This workflow also tracks the concern to completion. As of September 22, 2026, there have been four inquiries. One was an error and the other three concerns were resolved.

6.2 New School Build Updates

Superintendent Nelson provided a presentation highlighting the construction progress being made at the New Brantford Secondary School. Additional projects that were completed over the summer months were highlighted and include ramps at St. John's College and Assumption College School to be AODA compliant, the roof at Holy Trinity, the track at Assumption College School and an asphalt project at St. Patrick School in Brantford.

6.3 Conversations in the Spirit

Superintendent Lawlor provided an update on the Conversations in the Spirit. Following the Synod on Synodality convened by Pope Francis in 2021, dioceses and school boards in southwestern Ontario began using the "conversations in the spirit" method, which emphasizes uninterrupted listening and consensus-building, to strengthen the school–parish relationship. In mid-2025, the BHNCDSB engaged facilitator Linda Staudt and reached out to the Dioceses of Hamilton, London and St. Catharines. A working group of BHNCDSB staff and Brant Deanery clergy has formed and will hold a planning meeting in late October. It aims to hold a conversation in the spirit event for Brant/Brantford school administrators and clergy, with further updates to follow. The Ingersoll Deanery (London) has shown early interest as well, and talks continue with the St. Catharine's Deanery.

6.4 New Employee Commissioning Mass

Will take place on October 15, 2026, at St. Pius Church at 4:30pm. New permanent employees will be commissioned followed by a time of fellowship.

7. Notices of Motion- Nil

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board moves to an In-Camera session.
Carried

10. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.
Carried

11. Future Meetings and Events

Chair Luciani drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

12. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Chair Luciani.

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Bill Chopp
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the September 22, 2026, Board meeting.
Carried

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m. – Boardroom

Special Meeting of the Board
Thursday October 8, 2026 ♦ 4:30 p.m.
Microsoft TEAMS

Trustees:

Carol Luciani (Chair), Bill Chopp (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Toni Poirier

Regrets: Nil

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary) Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)

Regrets: John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Jennifer Varnam (Superintendents of Education)

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1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Chair Luciani.

1.2 **Attendance**- as noted above

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Bill Chopp
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 8, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil

2. Committee and Staff Reports - Nil

3. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
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: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.
Carried

4. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Chair Luciani.

5. Adjournment

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 8, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 6:30 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 27, 2026 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Board Room

Trustees:
Carol Luciani (Chair), Bill Chopp (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Toni Poirier

Regrets: Nil

Senior Administration:
Mike McDonald (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary),
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Jennifer Varnam (Superintendents of Education)

Regrets: Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Dignard.

1.2 Attendance- as noted above

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 27, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil

2. Presentations

2.1 The Board along with OCSTA Executive Director Pat Daly, recognized the Retirement of Bill Chopp, Trustee Representing the City of Brantford.

2.2 The Board, along with OCSTA Executive Director Pat Daly, recognized the Retirement of Dan Dignard, Trustee Representing the County of Brant.

3. Committee and Staff Reports

3.1 Educational Development Charge By-Law Amendment
Mike McDonald, Chief Executive Officer Mike McDonald presented the Educational Development Charge By-Law Amendment. The Board is proposing an amendment to EDC By-law No. 2023-A3 which would exempt affordable or supportive residential housing projects owned and operated by Indigenous-led organizations for the benefit of Indigenous communities. Information explaining the proposed amendment was made available to the public, and notice of the proposed amendment was posted on the Board's website and shared with interested parties within the area to which the EDC by-law applies.

Moved by: Bill Chopp
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approve the EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AMENDING BY-LAW (2026), amending Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3, as presented which includes;

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AMENDING BY-LAW (2026)

A by-law to amend Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3

WHEREAS the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board enacted Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3 on October 10, 2023;

AND WHEREAS Section 257.70 of the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 (the "Act"), provides for amendments to education development charges by-laws;

AND WHEREAS the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board requires amendments to Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3;
AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Act, the background study for Education Development

Charges By-law No. 2023-A3 has been made available to the public;
AND WHEREAS the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has made available to the public sufficient information to allow the public to understand the proposed amendments to Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3;

AND WHEREAS the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has given notice of the proposed amendments to Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3 in accordance with the Act and Ontario Regulation 20/98;

AND WHEREAS an opportunity was given to interested parties to provide comments and submissions to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board in respect of this amending by-law;

NOW THEREFORE, THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:
1. Section 1 of Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3 is hereby amended by adding
the following clause thereto:
(h.1) "Indigenous-led organization" means an organization with a mandate to provide affordable residential housing for Indigenous communities, which operates under Indigenous governance and
Indigenous service models, and has executive, senior management, and/or members of the board of
directors who are Indigenous and employs staff from Indigenous communities;
2. Section 4 of Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3 is hereby amended by adding
the following clause thereto:
(g) Effective October 1, 2025, this by-law shall not apply to lands, or the applicable portions thereof,
that are owned by and used by an Indigenous-led organization for the purpose of providing affordable
or supportive residential housing for Indigenous communities.
3. For greater certainty, Education Development Charges By-law No. 2023-A3 remains in full force
and effect subject to the amendments thereto described in Sections 1 and 2 of this amending by-law.
4. This amending by-law shall come into force on November 1, 2026.
Carried

3.2 Trustee Honoraria
Chief Executive Officer Mike McDonald, presented the Trustee Honoraria report. Ontario

Regulation 320/26, made under the Education Act, establishes a new framework for trustee honoraria, beginning with the new term of office on November 15, 2026. The major change has capped the trustee honorarium at $9,000 per year, while providing fixed additional amounts of $500 for the Vice-Chair and $1,000 for the Chair. It also introduces clear requirements for boards to establish and publicly post their honorarium policy and annually disclose what each trustee was paid.

Moved by:
Seconded by:
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Trustee Honoraria for the period November 15, 2026, to November 14, 2027, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board in accordance with the applicable provincial regulation 320/26 governing Trustee Honoraria.
Carried

3.3 Naming of New Brantford Catholic Secondary School

Superintendent of Education, John Della Fortuna, presented the Naming of New Brantford Catholic Secondary School report. Following the Board's June 2026 decision to rename the new Catholic secondary school in Brantford, a community consultation and School Naming Committee process was undertaken in accordance with Policy #400.17 – Naming of Schools. After reviewing eligible submissions and completing a two-round voting process, the Committee recommended St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Secondary School, St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Secondary School, and St. Anne Catholic Secondary School as the three names for consideration. Trustee Dignard cited community input and moved that option #2 be put to a vote.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Board of Trustees selects **St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Secondary School** as the preferred name for the new Catholic secondary school in Brantford, Ontario, subject to the required consultation and approval processes by the Minister of Education and the Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton.
Carried

4. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board moves to an In-Camera session.
Carried

5. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Bill Chopp
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.
Carried

6. Closing Prayer

The meeting was closed with prayer led by Chair Luciani.

7. Adjournment

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 27, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.
Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Boardroom

Inaugural Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2026 ♦ 6:30 p.m.
Norfolk Room

Trustees:
Wenda Allicock, Dennis Blake, Birkin Culp, Carol Luciani, David Miller, Toni Poirier
Jenna Ugwu (Student Trustee), Joshua Ocampo (Student Trustee)

Senior Administration:
Mike McDonald (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary)
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Jennifer Varnam (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

Chief Executive officer, Mike McDonald opened the meeting with a prayer.

1.2 Attendance and Welcome

CEO McDonald welcomed trustees and senior administration.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Carol Luciani
Seconded by: David Miller
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of November 17, 2026
Carried

2. Certification of Election Results by the Municipal Clerks

CEO McDonald read the official election results, as follows:

For the Corporation of the City of Brantford, Wenda Allicock, Birken Culp – declared
For the County of Brant, David Miller – acclaimed
For the County of Haldimand, Toni Poirier – acclaimed
For the County of Norfolk, Dennis Blake and Carol Luciani – acclaimed

He congratulated all trustees and thanked them for their commitment to Catholic Education.

3. Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance

Trustees read and signed the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance forms.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

CEO McDonald appointed Superintendents Michael Lawlor and Jennifer Varnam as Scrutineers for the nomination and election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board.

5. Nomination and Election of Chair

CEO McDonald requested that ballots for the nomination of the Chair of the Board be distributed. Trustees Dennis Blake, Carol Luciani and Toni Poirier were nominated. Trustee Poirier declined the nomination. Trustees Blake and Luciani let their names stand and an election took place. CEO McDonald declared Trustee Carol Luciani elected to the position of Chair of the Board.

Moved by: Wenda Allicock
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board destroys all ballots in the nomination and election of Chair of the Board.
Carried

6. Nomination and Election of Vice-Chair

Trustee Carol Luciani assumed the Chair of the Board, and requested that ballots for the nomination of the Vice-Chair be distributed. Trustees Dennis Blake and Toni Poirier were nominated and let their names stand and an election took place. Chair Luciani declared Trustee Blake elected to the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Moved by: David Miller
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board destroys all ballots in the nomination and election of Vice-Chair of the Board.
Carried

7. Appointment of Board Auditor

CEO McDonald presented staff's recommendation that KPMG continue in their role as the Board's auditors for the year ending August 31, 2027.

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Wenda Allicock
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Appointment of Auditors report.
Carried

8. Inaugural Address by the Chair of the Board

Chair Luciani delivered her acceptance remarks, thanking trustees for their confidence and welcoming the Board's three new trustees. She thanked Fr. Joseph Okoko for presiding over the Inaugural Mass. She highlighted the Board's upcoming priorities and growth initiatives and reaffirmed her commitment to collaborative, accountable governance focused on student success and Catholic education.

9. Adjournment

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of November 17, 2026.
Carried

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m. - Boardroom

Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 ♦ 4:30 pm
Boardroom

Trustees:

Carol Luciani (Chair), Bill Chopp (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Toni Poirier
Joshua Ocampo (Student Trustee), Jenna Ugwu (Student Trustee)

Regrets:

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Chief Executive Officer & Secretary),
Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer),
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Jennifer Varnam (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was opened with a land acknowledgement by Chief Executive Officer, Mike McDonald.

1.2 Opening Prayer

Trustee Dignard led the meeting in prayer.

1.3 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the September 22, 2026, meeting.
Carried

1.5 Declaration of Interest – Nil

1.6 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2026

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting.
Carried

1.7 Business from the Minutes - Nil

2. Presentations

2.1 Chair Luciani welcomed Jennifer Varnam Superintendent of Education to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

3. Delegations – Nil

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – June 15, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Special Education Committee Meeting of June 15, 2026.
Carried

4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Accessibility Committee – June 23, 2026

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
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 June 23, 2026.
Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Summary of 2025-2026 Reports to Board

Chief Executive Officer, Mike McDonald presented the 2025-2026 reports to board report. Through committee work each year, the trustees and senior administration complete and submit numerous reports to the Board. To highlight the accomplishments of the Board, this report provides a summary of all the public session reports that came before the Board during the 2025-26 school year.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the 2025-26 Reports to Board Summary to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.
Carried

5.2 Summary of School Suspension Data 2025-2026

Superintendent Della Fortuna presented the summary of school suspension data report for the 2025-2026 school year which identifies for elementary and secondary the number of students with a suspension incident, the number of incidents, and the total suspension days. It was noted that, under the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 440/20, students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 shall not be suspended for activities described in subsection 306(1). Principals must also investigate each incident and consider all mitigating factors, before imposing a suspension.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Bill Chopp
THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Summary of School Suspension Data 2025-2026 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.
Carried

5.3 Ontario Curriculum, Assessment and Evaluation Changes 2026-27

Superintendent Lawlor presented the changes to curriculum, assessment and evaluation for the 2026-2027 school year. The Ministry of Education introduced significant assessment and evaluation changes, including the 2026 Kindergarten curriculum; a financial literacy graduation requirement completed through the compulsory Grade 10 Careers course; a revised Grade 10 Canadian History curriculum; Grades 7 and 8 Social Science curriculum and the continued rollout of the *Blessed and Beloved* Family Life program to Grades 4 to 6, including a mental health component for Grade 6. Beginning in 2026–2027, Grades 9 to 12 mark breakdowns emphasize

mandatory culminating evaluations (a written final exam and, where applicable, a culminating task, with some exempted subject-disciplines) along with a distinct attendance and participation component. Elementary mark structures are unchanged, but school boards must now make paper report cards available for students in kindergarten to grade 8. The Ministry is also providing province-wide access to Nelson Education's Edwin™ platform for Grades 1 to 12 teachers and students. Discussion was had regarding various scenarios surrounding the attendance and participation, EQAO math exam and financial literacy pieces.

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dennis Blake
THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Ontario Curriculum, Assessment and Evaluation Changes: 2026–2027 School Year report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt
Carried

5.4 Trustee and Senior Team Expenses (Q1 to Q4 2025-2026 School Year)

Superintendent Nelson presented the quarterly senior team and trustee expense report. The report spoke about the need for fiscal responsibility through transparent and accountable management of discretionary expenses and contained a recommendation to present quarterly expense summaries at public meetings. Appendix A represents the expenses of the trustees and senior team of the Board from September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026.

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
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

5.5 Student Support Services and Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Annual Report

Superintendent Della Fortuna introduced Dianne Wdowczyk, Mental Health lead for the BHNCDSB, who presented the Student Support Services and Mental Health and Addictions Strategy 2024-2025 Annual Report. The report summarizes the programs and services offered by the Board, its schools and the Student Support Services Team, which works as one part of a multi-tiered system of care. The Mental Health Advisory Committee and Mental Health Leadership Team, develop, implement and monitor the strategy and annual action plans, with a focus on mental health literacy training and evidence-based practices. It was noted that PPM 169, Student Mental Health, effective January 1, 2024, requires culturally responsive, evidence-informed services and clear pathways to community and hospital-based care, and that the Board is well positioned to meet these requirements. The report highlights system-wide professional learning, evidence-informed programming and supports across the three tiers of intervention. The professional development training, student support services team along with the role of the child and youth worker intentionally positioned in classrooms were highlighted. Discussion regarding the support model and the whole system support was noted.

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Summer Programs Update Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.
Carried

5.6 Capital Borrowing Facility Credits

Superintendent Nelson presented the report on the Capital Borrowing Facility Credits for two new Catholic elementary schools approved by the Ministry of Education, one in Southwest Brantford and one in Paris. Both schools will add permanent pupil accommodation for current and projected enrolment growth. It was noted that construction progress payments will be due before the related Ministry capital funding is received, creating a temporary cash flow gap. Administration recommends establishing temporary capital borrowing facilities with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) of up to $24.5 million for each project, for a maximum total authorization of $49.0 million, under section 247 of the Education Act. These facilities set maximum limits only; funds will be drawn as needed as short-term bridge financing for approved capital expenditures and not to fund costs beyond approved project funding.

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the following:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (the “Board”) TO BORROW MONEY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE EDUCATIN ACT (the “Act”) TO FINANCE CAPITAL PROJECT COSTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO NEW CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has approved capital projects for the construction of a new Catholic elementary school in Southwest Brantford and a new Catholic elementary school in Paris;

AND WHEREAS the Board will incur eligible capital expenditures during the design and construction of these projects prior to the receipt of all applicable Ministry of Education capital funding and other approved project revenues;

AND WHEREAS the Board considers it necessary and prudent to establish temporary capital borrowing facilities to provide sufficient cash flow to meet project-related financial obligations as they become due;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1.The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is authorized to borrow from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (“CIBC”), from time to time, amounts not exceeding Twenty-Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($24,500,000) for the construction of the new Southwest Brantford Catholic Elementary School.

2.The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is authorized to borrow from CIBC, from time to time, amounts not exceeding Twenty-Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($24,500,000) for the construction of the new Paris Catholic Elementary School.

3.The total borrowing authorized under this Resolution shall not exceed Forty-Nine Million Dollars ($49,000,000) in aggregate.

4.The borrowing authorized under this Resolution shall be used solely to provide temporary financing for eligible capital expenditures associated with the two approved capital projects, pending receipt of applicable Ministry of Education capital funding and other approved project revenues.

5.The Superintendent of Business & Treasurer is authorized to draw upon, administer and repay the borrowing facilities from time to time, as required, based on the cash flow requirements of the

respective capital projects and in accordance with the Education Act, applicable Ministry of Education requirements and Board policies.

6. The Chair or Vice-Chair and the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer are authorized, on behalf of the Board, to execute all promissory notes, banking agreements, borrowing agreements, certificates and other documents necessary to establish, maintain and administer the borrowing facilities with CIBC.

7. All amounts borrowed under this Resolution, together with applicable interest and related charges, shall be repaid from the Ministry of Education capital funding and other approved revenues associated with the respective capital projects, as those funds are received.

8. The Superintendent of Business & Treasurer shall continue to monitor the borrowing requirements, interest costs, capital expenditures and funding receipts related to each project and shall ensure that borrowings are limited to amounts required to meet temporary project cash flow needs.

9. This Resolution shall remain in effect until the borrowing facilities are no longer required for the completion and financing of the Southwest Brantford Catholic Elementary School and Paris Catholic Elementary School capital projects, unless otherwise amended or rescinded by the Board.

5.7 Bank Operating Credit

Superintendent Nelson presented the annual borrowing resolution report. Under the Education Act, the Board must approve a resolution authorizing it to borrow funds to meet current operating expenditures until anticipated revenues are received. The operating credit facility with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), established in 2010, is currently a $12 million revolving credit that provides short-term liquidity for timing differences between expenditures and receipt of Ministry grants and other funding. Because operating expenditures and cash flow requirements have grown significantly due to inflationary pressures, salary benchmark increases, enrolment and operational growth, and rising program costs; administration recommends increasing the operating line by $3.0 million, to $15.0 million, for a total credit of $15.3 million ($15.0 million operating line and $300,000 for purchase card credit). The facility has a renewal date of September 1, 2026, and the Board's Purchase Card credit is underwritten by US Bank.

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF MONEY TO MEET CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (THE "Board")

A. In accordance with Subsection 243(1) of the Education Act (R.S.O. 1990) (the "Act"), the Board considers it necessary to borrow the amount of up to Fifteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($15,300,000) to meet, until current revenue is received, the current expenditures of the Board for the period commencing on September 1, 2026, and ending on August 31, 2027 (the "Period").

B. Pursuant to Subsection 243(3) of the Act, the total amount borrowed pursuant to this Resolution together with the total of any similar borrowings and any accrued interest on those borrowings is not to exceed the unreceived balance of the estimated revenues of the Board for the Period.

C. The total amount previously borrowed by the Board pursuant to Section 243 that has not been repaid is $0.

D. The amount borrowed for current expenditures is within the Board's Debt and Financial Obligation Limit as established by the Ministry of Education and Training from time to time.

RESOLVED THAT:
1.The Chair or Vice-Chair and the Treasurer are authorized, on behalf of the Board, to borrow from time to time, by way of promissory note, overdraft or bankers' acceptance, from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce ("CIBC"), as authorized for borrowing purposes in accordance with Section 243 of the Act, a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate Fifteen Million, Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($15,300,000) to meet, until current revenues are received, the current expenditures of the Board for the Period, including amounts required for the purposes identified in Subsections 243(1) and 243(2) of the Act.

The Chair or Vice-Chair and the Treasurer are further authorized to provide CIBC with promissory notes or bankers' acceptances, as applicable, sealed with the corporate seal of the Board and signed by any two of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, for the sums borrowed together with interest at a rate agreed upon from time to time with CIBC.

2.The interest charged on all sums borrowed pursuant to this Resolution, together with any related charges, shall not exceed the interest that would be payable at the prime lending rate of the chartered banks listed in Schedule I of the Bank Act (Canada) on the date of borrowing.

3.The Treasurer is authorized and directed to apply, in payment of all sums borrowed together with applicable interest, all monies collected or received in respect of the current revenues of the Board.

4.The Treasurer is authorized and directed to provide CIBC, from time to time and upon request, with a statement showing:

(a)the total amount of unpaid previous borrowings of the Board for current expenditures, together with any applicable debt charges; and

(b)the uncollected balance of the estimated revenues for the current year or, where the estimates have not yet been adopted, the estimated revenues of the previous year, less any current revenues already collected.
Carried

5.8 Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Superintendent Nelson presented the Audit Committee Terms of Reference. Under Ontario Regulation 361/10, school boards must maintain a statutory Audit Committee, whose Terms of Reference require annual review by the committee followed by final approval from the Board of Trustees. The committee completed its review on September 14, 2026, and voted to recommend the attached updated document to the Board for final authorization. The only changes to the Terms of Reference included updating the Director of Education title to reference Chief Executive Officer as per Ministry of Education, Bill 101 updates.

Moved by: Dennis Blake
Seconded by: Toni Poirier
THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the approved Audit Committee Terms of Reference for the 2026-27 school year to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 Start Up Enrollment and School Organizations Update

Superintendent Greco provided an update regarding the startup enrollment and school organizations for the 2025-2026 school year. The BHNCDSB continues to see tremendous growth year after year. It was noted that the Board is in compliance with ministry classroom sizes in both the elementary and secondary levels.

6.2 Kindergarten Registration Update

Superintendent Lawlor provided an update on the kindergarten registration process for the 2026-2027 school year. Registration will open on Thursday October 1, 2026, and the subsequent Road to Kindergarten events will occur in November across the board's various geographical locations.

6.3 Conversation in the Spirit Dialogue

Deferred to the Board Meeting due to time constraints.

7. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Bill Chopp
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

8. Report on the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Toni Poirier
Seconded by: Dan Dignard
THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board 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 September 22, 2026, meeting.
Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 - 4:30 p.m. – Boardroom

REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: Mike McDonald, Chief Executive Officer & Secretary of the Board
Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: November 24, 2026
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Chief Executive Officer & Secretary of the Board

TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT
2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Board Policy SBG 100.09.P, Electronic Participation in Meetings, establishes trustee attendance and electronic participation requirements in accordance with the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 463/97. The policy requires an annual trustee attendance report to be presented to the Board no later than the December Board meeting. The report is to summarize each trustee's attendance at Board meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings, and committee meetings held during the previous school year.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Appendix A provides the trustee attendance record for the 2025-2026 school year based on the Board's attendance tracking sheet. The appendix includes Committee of the Whole Meetings, regular and special meetings of the Board, as well as standing, statutory and advisory committee meetings for which trustee attendance was recorded.

The attendance record distinguishes meetings held from meetings cancelled and retains the source notations for regrets, excused absences, approved leave and vacant seats. Consistent with Ontario Regulation 463/97 and Board Policy SBG #100.09.P, a trustee participating electronically in accordance with the applicable requirements is deemed present for meetings with the exception of Regularly scheduled Board Meetings and Committee of the Whole where in person attendance is mandatory.

During the reporting period, one Committee of the Whole meeting and one Board meeting scheduled for January 27, 2026, were cancelled due to inclement weather. The Student Discipline Committee recorded no meetings during the 2025-2026 school year.

A detailed attendance record is attached as Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Trustee Attendance Report for the 2025-2026 School Year.

APPENDIX A
TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Meeting / Committee	Meetings Held	Notes
Audit Committee	4	
SAL	5	
RCPIC	4	
SEAC	10	
Student Discipline	0	No meetings held
Policy Committee	7	
Committee of the Whole	9	1 cancelled
Board Meetings	15	1 cancelled
Budget Committee	3	
Accessibility Committee	3	
Accommodations Committee	2	
Faith Advisory Committee	4	
Mental Health Steering Committee	2	
School Year Calendar Committee	1	

Detailed Attendance Record

Audit Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
December 10, 2025	Dan Dignard; Carol Luciani
January 20, 2026	Dan Dignard; Carol Luciani
February 23, 2026	Dan Dignard; Carol Luciani
May 14, 2026	Dan Dignard; Carol Luciani

SAL

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
October 28, 2025	Carol Luciani
January 20, 2026	Carol Luciani
February 24, 2026	Carol Luciani
March 24, 2026	Carol Luciani
April 28, 2026	Carol Luciani

RCPIC

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
November 10, 2025	Carol Luciani
January 19, 2026	Carol Luciani
March 30, 2026	Carol Luciani
May 11, 2026	Carol Luciani (regrets)

SEAC

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
September 16, 2025	Dennis Blake
October 21, 2025	Dennis Blake
November 18, 2025	Dennis Blake
December 16, 2025	Dennis Blake
January 20, 2026	Dennis Blake
February 17, 2026	Dennis Blake
March 24, 2026	Dennis Blake
April 21, 2026	Dennis Blake
May 19, 2026	Dennis Blake
June 15, 2026	Dennis Blake

Student Discipline

No meetings were held in the 2025-2026 school year.

Policy Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
September 16, 2025	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Mark Watson; Bill Chopp
October 21, 2025	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Mark Watson; Bill Chopp
February 17, 2026	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Bill Chopp
March 10, 2026	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Bill Chopp

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
April 21, 2026	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Bill Chopp
May 19, 2026	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Bill Chopp
June 16, 2026	Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Bill Chopp

Committee of the Whole

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
September 23, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Mark Watson; Rick Petrella (on leave)
October 28, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Mark Watson (excused); Rick Petrella (on leave)
November 25, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; seat vacant; Rick Petrella (on leave)
December 16, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; seat vacant; Rick Petrella (on leave)
January 27, 2026	Cancelled due to inclement weather;
February 24, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
March 24, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
April 28, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
May 26, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
June 23, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard (excused); Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)

Board Meetings

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
September 23, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Mark Watson; Rick Petrella (on leave)
October 28, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Mark Watson (excused); Rick Petrella (on leave)
November 25, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Seat vacant; Rick Petrella (on leave)
December 16, 2025	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Seat vacant; Rick Petrella (on leave)
January 13, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Seat vacant; Rick Petrella (on leave)
January 27, 2026	Cancelled due to inclement weather
February 2, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
February 24, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
February 26, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
March 24, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
April 28, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
May 26, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
June 9, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
June 23, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard (excused); Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
June 29, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)
August 10, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Bill Chopp; Toni Poirier; Rick Petrella (on leave)

Budget Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
February 12, 2026	Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Dan Dignard
May 12, 2026	Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Toni Poirier; Dan Dignard
June 26, 2026	Dennis Blake; Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard

Accessibility Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
February 26, 2026	Toni Poirier
May 26, 2026	Toni Poirier
June 23, 2026	Toni Poirier

Accommodations Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
October 1, 2025	Carol Luciani; Bill Chopp; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake; Mark Watson
April 1, 2026	Carol Luciani; Bill Chopp; Dan Dignard; Dennis Blake, Toni Poirier

Faith Advisory Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
June 9, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard
April 16, 2026	Carol Luciani; Dan Dignard
January 20, 2026	Carol Luciani (regrets); Dan Dignard
October 14, 2025	Carol Luciani (regrets); Dan Dignard

Mental Health Steering Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
September 29, 2025	Bill Chopp
February 19, 2026	Carol Luciani

School Year Calendar Committee

Date	Attendance / Status Recorded
December 16, 2025	Dan Dignard

REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: Jenna Ugwu, Pip Joshua Ocampo, Student Trustees
Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: November 24, 2026
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Chief Executive Officer & Secretary

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

St. John's College (SJC), Assumption College School (ACS), Holy Trinity Catholic High School (HT), and St. Mary's Catholic Learning Centre (SMCLC) have opened the school year 2026-2027 with several school spirit activities.

DEVELOPMENTS:

On October 13, 2026, the 2026-2027 Student Senate gathered to discuss events occurring in secondary schools and upcoming senate activities. The team launched their first tri-council retreat October 22nd at St. Bernard de Clairvaux's church hall in Waterford, fostering networking and leadership growth among the student council members across the secondary schools in the region. The team is currently undergoing preparations for their annual Winter retreat which will take place at Holy Trinity in Simcoe.

SCHOOL NEWS

Assumption College School (ACS):

Life at Assumption College School (ACS) in the month of October glided and concluded successfully, holding achievements and successes throughout the month. On October 22nd, the Student Senate Team hosted Mr. Andy Thilbodeau, a motivational success speaker, at St. Benard de Clairvaux Church Hall in Waterford, ON to give a conventional talk on leadership and individual strengths to all three secondary school student councils in the board. More about the retreat itself will be discussed throughout the report. On October 3rd, Assumption's lay faithful gathered together to host a pilgrimage for Haiti, raising funds for a shipping container that will be sent to Haiti that would hold much needed humanitarian supplies for those less fortunate. The event garnered welcomed attention, collecting funds from both students and the local community and raising awareness towards the situation spiraling in Haiti. The students started at the school and lightly walked to St. Mary's Church, parading a wooden cross that would later hold the names of all participants and a lasting symbol of humanity and unity. In the months of September to October, the world celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, with the Assumption Latino Club hosting a student-led assembly on October 22nd, showcasing the lively and extravagant backgrounds of Hispanic cultures routed in the school community. In the last week of October leading to Halloween, the ACS Student Council contributed to promoting their fall spirit week, in which students changed out uniform items with themed clothing throughout the week to get into the spooky spirit. Students gladfully participated in the planned themed days and ended the spirit week with Halloween costumes. The school's fall pep-rally fell on the same

day, showcasing lion pride within its sports teams and cheering on for more victories that will be sure to come. On Friday, October 30th, Assumption's annual 'We Scare Hunger' food drive campaign commenced, students placed into teams, going around the local community, and collecting food donations with the nurturing thought of goodness and thankfulness before the season of giving and the hardships of winter. In the wake of the tragedy at Canadian Forces Base Wainwright, Alberta, students and members of Assumption's 180 Team wrote and mailed letters of condolence, hope, thoughts, and prayers to comfort those affected by the event.

In the world of sports, Assumption has been roaring in pride against all who face the lion's den. The Cross-Country team hit the ground running this season, managing to secure 1st place in the novice boys' run at Brock University meet. Both novice Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country teams are destined to compete at CWOSSA. ACS's Jr. and Sr. Girls' Basketball teams dribbled across the court this year, with the Sr. Girls' winning their fourth consecutive AABHN title and the Jr. Girls' falling short, losing their final against SJC on November 12th. The Jr. Boys' Volleyball team claimed victory, serving as the underdog of the leaderboard and securing an AABHN title. On the field, the Girls' Field Hockey team launched their season with a 3-0 victory against SJC, with more to come. The lions football season ended on October 30th, with a loss shared between both the Sr. and Jr. Football team. The Assumption community continues to sweep up trophies, and will continue to do so with the means, efforts, and talents located in the thriving den.

St. John's College (SJC):

October was a busy yet amusing month for St. John's College (SJC). St. John's student council kick-started the month off by attending an engaging student council retreat at St. Bernard de Clairvaux church hall in Waterford on October 22nd hosted by the Student Senate team. The retreat featured guest speaker Andy Thibodeau who ran a leadership-themed workshop for students, providing valuable lessons and fostering socialization amongst student council members of SJC, ACS, and HT. SJC commenced their annual fall spirit week with a fall pep rally that took place October 26th in the gymnasium, with Grade 11s winning the prize of a casual dress down day for winning the most pep rally games. On October 27th, students participated in a Halloween "spooky" themed Kahoot in the cafeteria. Wacky Sock Day was held October 29th, and the school concluded their spirit week with Halloween on October 30th, where students dressed in either costumes or orange and black. SJC student council set up a trick-or-treat station in the council office, allowing students, during their lunch, to knock and receive small pieces of candy. Students in Art and Healthcare SHSMs attended a trip on October 15th. On the same day, numerous students attended a Student Leadership Conference hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. The event commenced with a mass, followed by presentations and workshops centered around faith and human dignity. Several clubs at SJC have resumed, including Coding & Robotics Club, Concert Band, Dungeons and Dragons, and Model UN. Parent-Teacher interviews were held on the evening of October 29th in the school gymnasium.

SJC's fall sports team have concluded their season on a successful note. The junior girls' basketball team captured their fourth straight AABHN title – defeating Assumption College School in city finals. The girls will advance to CWOSSA on November 20th and 21st in Kitchener. Junior boys football team defeated BCI 31-8 in city finals, achieving the AABHN title for the

second straight year. Defeating Holy Trinity with a tight score of 14-13, SJC girls' fast pitch/softball team won AABHN championships. Tryouts for SJC's winter sports teams have begun, including girls' volleyball and boys' basketball.

Holy Trinity (HT):

Holy Trinity (HT) had a fruitful month in October, hosting enticing events, academic success, and signals towards a great school year. Student Council joined with other secondary schools at the Student Senate retreat, taking in valuable knowledge of leadership, organization, and collaboration that will be used in the future, working precisely individuality within each council and together as one school board community. On October 30th, Holy Trinity launched into the spooky atmosphere, with students changing out uniform items with costumes, classes competing in a door decorating competition, and several on theme activities played throughout the day. Students appreciated a break from the usual and participated overwhelmingly, getting in the Halloween spirit and enjoying themselves in the comfort of friends. Near the end of October, students from Holy Trinity gathered together to hold its annual 'Titans Scare Hunger' event, similar to Assumption's 'We Scare Hunger', with students going around the Norfolk community, collecting food donations, and delivering them to St. Vincent De Paul's in which they would be distributed to the outward community. This year, over one thousand food items were collected, beating previous records and giving hope to those in need. Similarly, leadership students of the school held a superstore drive, collecting donations from the school community for St. Vincent De Paul. Grade 8’s were welcomed on Holy Trinity's 'Grade 8 Day', hosting and welcoming potential future Titans to the school, giving tours, offering insight into life after elementary, and creating a space for interaction, participation, and association. The student body of the school was successful in working together as leaders to help organize and run activities during the day. Intermural sports, which are recreational sports played between teams from within the same institution rather than competing against outside groups, actively run during the school's lunch breaks and are currently successful in promoting partnership between students and healthy living.

The Titans sports teams have been throwing pitches, shooting hoops, and serving balls, collecting titles and victories across the month of October. The Jr. and Sr. Girls' Basketball teams have both placed 1st in their bracket and will be advancing to the semi-finals. On the diamond, the Boys' Baseball team managed to clutch 1st at the AABHN championship, with the Girls' Fast Pitch team falling short, placing a near 2nd at AABHN, losing in their finals. Several runners of the Cross-Country team advance towards CWOSSA and will be cheered on by the Titans. Through wit and strength, the Jr. Boys' Volleyball team was able to secure 2nd place and the Sr. Boys' Volleyball team not so far off, securing 3rd. In rugby, the Holy Trinity Rugby 7's team claimed victory at the Whitby invitational game, beating out all their opponents. Inally, in football, the Holy Trinity Football team was able to squeeze their way into the 5th place spot out of eight, managing a successful football year.

St. Mary’s (SMCLC):

The month of October featured numerous engaging learning opportunities and community-building activities for St. Mary's Catholic Learning Centre. The school hosted an Indigenous Day

of Learning, where Dallas Squire, Turtle Clan member from the Six Nations of the Grand River and former professional lacrosse player, taught students about the history and cultural significance of the lacrosse sport along with some hands-on activities in St. Mary's gym. St. Mary's Halloween spirit week was packed with several fun-filled games and activities, including door decorating competitions, homeroom trivia challenges, pumpkin painting, scavenger hunts, and a costume day to end the week. St. Mary's Breakfast program and ongoing Baking Challenges continue to be effective, helping students gain practical life skills and provide for their school community. On Remembrance Day, students engaged in classroom activities that promoted reflection on the sacrifices made by veterans and active service members. Along with Remembrance Day ceremonies in homeroom classes, students wrote letters expressing gratitude to veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces. St. Mary's continues to support students by prioritizing student engagement, learning, and community building.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

2026-2027
Trustee Meetings and Events

Date	Time	Meeting/Event
November 24, 2026	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
November 24, 2026	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
November 24, 2026	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
December 1, 2026	3:00 pm	Student Transportation Services BHN
December 2, 2026	3:00 pm	Accommodations Committee
December 3, 2026	3:00 pm	Executive Council
December 8, 2026	3:00 pm	Policy Committee Meeting
December 9, 2026	2:30 pm	Budget Committee Meeting
December 15, 2026	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
December 15, 2026	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
December 15, 2026	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
December 21, 2026-January 1, 2027		*CHRISTMAS BREAK*
January 14, 2027	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
January 16, 2027		*OCSTA Trustees Seminar*
January 18, 2027	6:00 pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
January 19, 2027	1:00 pm	Faith Advisory Council Meeting
January 19, 2027	3:00 pm	Policy Committee
January 26, 2027	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
January 26, 2027	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
January 26, 2027	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
February 11, 2027	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
February 16, 2027	2:00 pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
February 16, 2027	3:00 pm	Policy Committee
February 22, 2027	9:00 am	Mental Health Steering Committee
February 23, 2027	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
February 23, 2027	1:00 pm	Student Transportation Services BHN
February 23, 2027	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
February 23, 2027	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
March 9, 2027	3:00 pm	Policy Committee
March 11, 2027	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
March 16-20, 2026		*MARCH BREAK*
March 23, 2027	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
March 23, 2027	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
March 23, 2027	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
March 29, 2027	6:00pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
April 7, 2027	3:00 pm	Accommodations Committee Meeting
April 14, 2027	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
April 20, 2027	1:00 pm	Student Transportation Services BHN
April 20, 2027	1:00 pm	Faith Advisory Committee
April 20, 2027	3:00 pm	Policy Committee
April 27, 2027	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
April 27, 2027	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
April 27, 2027	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
May 1, 2027		*OCSTA AGM & Conference*
May 2-7, 2027		*Catholic Education Week*
May 3, 2027	5:00 pm	Catholic Student Leadership Awards
May 12, 2027	3:00 pm	Executive Council
May 17, 2027	6:00 pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
May 18, 2027	2:00 pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
May 18, 2027	3:00 pm	Policy Committee
May 19, 2027	2:30 pm	Budget Committee
May 25, 2027	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
May 25, 2027	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**

May 25, 2027	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
June 4, 2027		*CCSTA AGM*
June 15, 2027	3:00 pm	Student Transportation Services BHN
June 10, 2027	3:00 pm	Executive Council
June 15, 2027	1:00 pm	Faith Advisory Committee
June 22, 2027	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
June 15, 2027	3:00 pm	Policy Committee
June 16, 2027	2:30 pm	Budget Committee
June 22, 2027	**4:30 pm**	**Committee of the Whole**
June 22, 2027	**6:30 pm**	**Board Meeting**
June 28, 2027	7:00 pm	St. John's College
June 29, 2027	4:45 pm 6:30 pm	Assumption College Graduation Holy Trinity Graduation

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