



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Board Meeting Tuesday, October 28, 2025 ♦ 6:30 p.m. Boardroom

Trustees:

Carol Luciani (Chair), Dan Dignard (Vice-Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp
Mulan How (Student Trustee), Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee)

Regrets:

Rick Petrella (on-leave), Mark Watson (excused)

Senior Administration:

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

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

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

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 28, 2025, Board meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil.

1.5 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2025

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 23, 2025, Meeting of the Board.

Carried

1.6 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2025

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the October 21, 2025, Special Meeting of the Board.

Carried



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

1.7 Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

2. Presentations – Nil

3. Delegations - Nil

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting – September 23, 2025

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 23, 2025.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - October 28, 2025

Vice-Chair Trustee Dignard brought forward the recommendations from the October 28, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

- THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Catholic Family Life Program Policy #200.03.
- THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Volunteer and Staff Trip Driver Policy #200.21.
- THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Progressive Discipline Policy #300.19.
- THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Educational Partnerships Including Third Party Professional and Paraprofessional Service Providers Policy #400.36.
- THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the Trustee Honoraria for the period November 16, 2025, to November 14, 2026.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 28, 2025.

Carried

5.2 Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees Mulan How and Riley O'Brien presented their first report for the 2025/2026 school year. All four high schools had a busy start to the year with multiple events happening. The 2025/2026 school year kicked off with grade nine color nights, grade 12 senior sunrise events and a highly successful start to the season for the fall sports teams. Additional highlights include a very successful Fair Day at Holy Trinity, the creation of a Faith and Weightlifting club at Assumption College, homeroom clubs at St. Mary's along with the kickoff of STEM clubs at the various high schools.



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

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

Carried

5.3 Trustee Vacancy

Director McDonald presented the Trustee vacancy report. On Friday October 24, 2025, the Director of Education & Secretary of the Board received a resignation letter from Trustee Mark Watson, seeking to resign from the Board effective immediately. According to section 220(3) of the Education Act, this resignation will be ratified upon majority vote at the next meeting of the Board.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the resignation of Trustee Mark Watson, effective October 28, 2025.

Carried

5.4 Trustee Vacancy Process

Director McDonald presented the Trustee vacancy process report. In accordance with section 221(1) of the Education Act, the Board of Trustees have two options to fill the vacancy to the end of the term, November 2026. The first is to appoint a candidate within 90 days of the resignation – January 26, 2026. The second option is to work with the Haldimand County Municipal Clerk to hold a by-election. Due to various reasons, staff are recommending that the Board of Trustees appoint a candidate. The recommended timeline for the appointment process was presented to the Board. It was noted that applicants do not have to reside in Haldimand County but must live within the jurisdiction of the Board. Discussion was had regarding the reasoning behind candidates submitting a script and presentation to the board in advance of the Special meeting of the Board. Debate ensued regarding the logistics of this. A point of order was called by Vice-Chair Dignard. He noted that the matter being debated is a very minute part of the process, and the most important item is to approve the motion and start the process. Chair Luciani agreed and the question was called. Three Trustees voted in favour, one Trustee was opposed.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendation of the appointment of a new Trustee for Haldimand County through an appointment process as outlined in this report.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 Portfolio Updates

The Superintendents of Education provided updates from their various portfolios with the exception of Superintendent Wilson as his updates came through reports at the Committee of the Whole.



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Superintendent Nelson provided an update on Business Services. The 2024-2025-year end reconciliation is in process to submit to the Ministry. The team is currently working on the revised budget, and updates will go through the budget committee to the Board.

Superintendent Greco noted that Human Resource Services are in the process of finalizing several initiatives including the new Employee Attendance Support Program along with the Leadership/ Coaching and Mentorship days for all administrators, managers, supervisors and senior team members. Staff from across the system will be coming together for a day hosted by a third-party facilitator to discuss student engagement and behaviour. The staff wellness committee has also collected feedback from the entire system through survey and in-person visits and are now drafting recommendations and next steps for the senior team to develop a plan.

Superintendent Della Fortuna provided updates from the various departments within his portfolio. He highlighted Dave Szuty, an educator with the BHNCD SB who is part of the course development steering committee with Catholic Virtual Ontario and his role at the recent conference. In terms of e-learning, it was noted that the Board is currently offering 46 online sections with over 1300 students taking part. Updates regarding the SHSM and Ontario youth apprenticeship programs were provided along with updates from Information Technology Services. These include the launch of the revitalized internal BHNCD SB HUB, and the upcoming launch of the Artificial Intelligence "BHNCD SB Buddy".

Superintendent Lawlor provided updates from various departments within his portfolio. These include the launching of the new Religion and Family Life Program in grades 2, 3 and 9 along with the Faith Day Masses held across the Board on the recent Professional Development Day in conjunction with the new employee commissioning. The Board is hosting a Remembrance Day service at the Catholic Education Centre where staff and trustees are welcome to attend. Equity updates were provided including continued work with Dr. Nicole Westburn. The recent Parent Engagement events had great attendance and were a huge success. Elementary and Secondary athletes continue to shine at the regional and provincial level and the budget increase in athletics allows additional referees and St. John's Ambulance support at sporting events. A question was posed about the number of sports that high school students can participate in each season, and it was noted that school principals govern their own policies around sports participation. In addition to the above, Superintendent Lawlor highlighted the student trustees, for their work in facilitating the student sessions at the Where Faith meets Pedagogy conference.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Information and Correspondance since the last meeting.

Carried

7. Notices of Motion – Nil



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

Trustee Chopp put forward a notice of motion for consideration which was tabled at the September 25, 2025, Board meeting. Subsequently Trustee Chopp requested in writing that this notice of motion be withdrawn prior to the meeting.

9. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

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: Dennis Blake

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: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 28, 2025, Board meeting.

Carried

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m. – Boardroom