



# BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

## Minutes

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

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### Board Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2026 ♦ 6:30 p.m. Boardroom

#### Trustees:

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

#### 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)

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#### 1. Opening Business

##### 1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Poirier.

##### 1.2 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

##### 1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Chair Luciani noted that due to Inclement Weather, the Board Meeting scheduled for January 27, 2026, was cancelled and the agenda items were moved to the February 24, 2026, Board meeting.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the February 24, 2026, Board meeting.

**Carried.**

##### 1.4 Declaration of Interest - Nil

##### 1.5 Approval of Annual Board Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2025

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the December 9, 2025, Annual Meeting of the Board.

**Carried**

##### 1.6 Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2025

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the December 16, 2025, Meeting of the Board.

**Carried**



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### 1.7 Approval of Special Meeting of the Board Minutes – January 13, 2026

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the January 13, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.

**Carried**

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

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the February 2, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board.

**Carried**

### 1.9 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 – December 16, 2025

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the minutes of the December 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole.

**Carried**

## 5. Committee and Staff Reports

### 5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Committee of the Whole Meeting - February 24, 2026

Vice-Chair of the Board, Trustee Chopp presented a summary of the February 17, 2026, Committee of the Whole recommendations which includes.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Professional and Respectful Workplace (Employees) Policy #300.45 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Naming of Schools Policy #400.17 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Volunteers Policy #300.12 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Religious Accommodation Policy #200.04 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the 2025/26 School Year Calendar to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves an annual tuition fee of \$13,800 for secondary non-resident students, as defined by the Education Act.



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THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves an annual tuition fee of \$12,900 for elementary non-resident students, as defined by the Education Act.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves a non-refundable Administration/Application Fee of \$400, a Cancellation Fee of \$100 be charged where a Study Permit is not granted, and a Cancellation Fee of \$500 in all other circumstances, with tuition refunds pro-rated based on the date of cancellation within the term, subject to review and approval by the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 24, 2026.

**Carried**

### **5.2/5.3 Student Trustee Report – January and February 2026**

Student Trustees Mulan How and Riley O'Brien presented the January and February student trustee reports. The highlights from the February 2026 report include continued success in athletics at all three schools, future grade nine nights for current grade 8 students, examination preparations, Valentines Day activities and Black History Month initiatives. Outreach activities included a basketball fundraiser at SJC that raised \$2200 for Juravinski Cancer Center and the Holy Trinity's annual Titans vs. O.P.P. charity hockey game that collected donations for the Simcoe Caring Food Cupboard. Student Council at the St. Mary Catholic Learning Center dedicated the month of February to promoting kindness, connection and school spirit within their community.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the January and February 2026 Student Trustee Reports

**Carried**

### **5.4 Brantford Catholic Secondary School Update**

Superintendent Nelson presented the Brantford Catholic Secondary School Update report. The report included the size, number of pupil spaces, funding and completion timeline. Conversation regarding the track and sports field along with the capital equipment outside of regular classroom furniture was had with regards to funding, community partnerships and donations.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the New Secondary school build (Brantford) update for information, acknowledging the Ministry of Education approval, project funding requirements and current construction status as outlined in the report.

**Carried**

### **5.5 Senior Administration & Trustee Expenses - Q1**

Superintendent Nelson presented the Q1 Senior Administration & Trustee Expense report. To ensure openness and accountability, trustee expenses are summarized and shared on the Board's website every quarter, with a full annual report at the end of the fiscal year. To meet transparency and governance requirements, quarterly summaries and an annual report of



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aggregate Senior Leadership Team expenses are posted on the Board's website. The expenses reported reflect those submitted and reimbursed during the first quarter.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the Senior Administration and Trustee Expense Report.

**Carried**

## 6. Information and Correspondence

### 6.1 Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education Award

Chair Luciani presented the nominations for the Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education award. The 2025-2026 nominees are Brendan Ryan and Peter Giordano. Both candidates are faith-filled Catholics who have contributed in unique ways to the growth and success of Catholic education, and both will be honored as recipients of the Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education Award at the 2026 Catholic Student Leadership Awards.

### 6.2 Distinguished Catholic Graduate Award

Chair Luciani presented the nomination for the Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education award. The 2025-2026 nominee for the Distinguished Catholic Graduate Award is Jeff DeProsperis. Mr. DeProsperis, a committed Catholic, receives his nomination posthumously as a Catholic graduate and staff member of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board who embodied the values espoused in the Catholic Graduate Expectations. He will be honoured as the recipient of the Distinguished Catholic Graduate Award at the 2026 Catholic Student Leadership Awards.

### 6.3 Superintendent updates

The Superintendents of Education presented updates from their various portfolios.

Superintendent Nelson began with an update from Business Services. The department is working on the 2026-2027 budget. As part of the process, the annual budget survey will be sent out to various stakeholders for public input. The 2025 T4's have been issued and are now available in the employee HUB. The Public sector salary disclosure (Sunshine List) will be reported by the March 6, 2026 deadline and donations tax receipts have all been mailed out.

Superintendent Greco presented the updates from his various portfolios. Health and safety updates were presented including the launch of a new online warehouse for safety data sheets to be aligned with WHMIS. An enhanced onboarding and staff orientation process has been developed. In accordance with Bill 33, a new process regarding police record checks for staff has been implemented. Board leadership strategies continue to be implemented along with a comprehensive risk assessment with the coterminous board and community partners.

Superintendent Della Fortuna provided his portfolio updates. He noted that over 400 grade 11 & 12 students across the three high schools are registered as part of the SHSM program. In Innovation and Technology, over 350 tablets have been deployed to elementary students, three BHNCDSD schools are taking part in innovation and technology endeavours (coding, drones and next generation energy projects) and Sig and Mig welding certificates are being issued through the Canadian Welding Bureau at Holy Trinity Catholic High School. Sprucedale Youth Center has entered a partnership with Fanshawe College offering a dual credit welding program, along with college level programming for students who have completed high school. The tutoring and academic support offered at the three high schools were highlighted along with the credit



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achievements happening in Alternative Education. In Norfolk County, the Think AG Career Competition attracted 600 students from both local school boards. A caregiver night will occur on March 9, 2026, centered around building resilient youth.

Superintendent Lawlor followed with updates from his portfolio. In Religion and Family Life, the Catholic Education Week package from OCSTA has been received and shared with schools across the system. The grade two and three Family Life curriculum has been successfully implemented in classrooms, and the grade nine Religious Education curriculum is being piloted in three secondary schools with the support of five professional development sessions for teachers. Equity and Inclusion updates were provided including ongoing training from Dr. Nicole West Burns and grade six teachers attending the Holocaust Memoirs program at the Holocaust Museum in Toronto. In Parent Engagement, the second Regional Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC) session was held on January 19 focusing on the topic of Youth Vaping and Prevention. Additionally, the mid-year Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) session was held for CSAC Chair people and Vice-Chair people on February 17 focusing on the topic of synodal conversations.

Additionally, Superintendent Wilson presented his portfolio updates. The New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) is well underway with 110 new teachers being mentored. Release time is being used effectively for the program. The BHCNDSB recently launched the Educational Assistants Induction Program (EATIP) which will be a two-year program. All secondary schools have implemented targeted Semester 2 OSSLT action plans with a strong focus on precision intervention, particularly for students performing just below the provincial standard. Robust monitoring structures are in place at both the school and board levels, with regular check-ins to ensure we remain responsive, strategic, and on track to meet our goals. Allocations in the budget have been provided for school principals to submit proposals regarding new sensory spaces for implementation in September. The Educational Assistant allocation process is beginning, and the Spectrum Abilities Program is expanding to St. Patrick School in Caledonia and one other location in Brantford to be announced soon. The recent Educational Assistant professional development in January was also highlighted.

### **7. Notices of Motion - Nil**

### **8. Notices of Motion being Considered for Adoption**

### **9. Business In-Camera**

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

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: 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 Luciani drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

### **13. Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Chair Luciani.



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**14. Adjournment**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the February 24, 2026, Board meeting.

**Carried**

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 6:30 p.m. – Boardroom