



**Special Meeting of the Board
Thursday, March 23, 2017 ♦ 7:00 p.m.
Boardroom**

Trustees:

Present: Rick Petrella (Chair), Dan Dignard (Vice Chair), Cliff Casey, Bill Chopp, Carol Luciani, Bonnie McKinnon

Absent: Rosalin Dubois (Student Trustee)

Senior Administration:

Chris N. Roehrig (Director of Education & Secretary), Thomas R. Grice (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer), Patrick Daly, Michelle Shypula and Leslie Telfer (Superintendent of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer and Welcome

Chair Petrella led the opening prayer. He welcomed members of the public and expressed the Board's appreciation for the passion, dedication and work shown by the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC), the community and Board staff. He noted that the meeting was in compliance with Board policy and as such, senior administration would make their presentation, trustees would have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the Final Staff Report, and a decision would be rendered.

1.2 Attendance – as noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Dan Dignard
Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the Special Meeting of the Board of March 23, 2017.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

2. Committee and Staff Reports

2.1 Pupil Accommodation Review – Norfolk County: Final Staff Report

Director Roehrig thanked the ARC Committee for their difficult and thorough work over the past several months, as well as the community for their contributions, time and effort put forth during this process. He noted that this Final Staff Report is the same report that was brought to the Board on February 15, 2017; however, unofficial minutes and delegation notes from the March 2, 2017 Special Meeting of the Board have been included.



Director Roehrig remarked that the Board has followed and has exceeded meeting the requirements of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG). He noted that the Final Staff Report comprises a summary of community consultations, including those with Norfolk County, which also exceeded the requirements of the PARG. Director Roehrig also added that as a result of community consultations and the work of the Accommodation Review Committee, the accommodation options changed from those included in the Initial Staff Report and that the recommendations in the Final Staff Report reflect this evolution.

Director Roehrig presented a high-level overview of the salient points of the report. Compelling reasons for the closure of the school include the school's shrinking capacity/utilization, the school's above-average per pupil costs, the decreased funding by the Ministry of Education, the improved bus ride times for many students, and fewer split grades. Consequently, staff are recommending the closure of Our Lady of La Salette School and the transfer of Our Lady of La Salette students to St. Frances Cabrini or St. Bernard of Clairvaux schools, beginning September 1, 2017. He noted that staff are also recommending the establishment of an Integration Committee as soon as possible.

Trustee Casey presented an amendment to the recommended motions to change the closure year from 2017 to 2018. He asked fellow trustees to consider the fact that there has been much discussion and discord by federal, provincial and municipal governments and by parents and local communities, regarding changes made to the Public Accommodation Review Guidelines and, particularly, the removal of the considerations dealing with the value of a school to the rural community and the value of a school to the local economy. Trustee Casey asked trustees to consider more time for consultation and collaboration with parents and the local community to increase enrolment at the school and to attract local partners to repurpose underutilized space in the school. The proposed amended motion was not seconded.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the closure of Our Lady of La Salette School, La Salette, (BSID #745006), on June 30, 2017.

Carried

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the transfer of all Our Lady of La Salette School students to both St. Frances Cabrini School in Delhi and St. Bernard of Clairvaux School in Waterford; beginning September 1, 2017.

Carried

THAT an Integration Committee be established, no later than April 6, 2017, to plan for and implement the positive integration of students and staff affected by the consolidation.

Carried



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

3. Adjournment

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the Special Meeting of the Board of March 23, 2017.

Carried

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 7:00 p.m. - Boardroom