



**Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 ♦ 7:00 pm  
Boardroom**

**Trustees:**

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

**Senior Administration:**

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

---

**1. Opening Business**

**1.1 Opening Prayer**

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

**1.2 Attendance**

**1.3 Approval of the Agenda**

Pages 1-2

**1.4 Declaration of Interest**

**2. Presentations**

**3. Delegations**

**4. Consent Agenda**

**4.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee  
- December 19, 2023**

Pages 3-4

**4.2 Unapproved Minutes of the Mental Health Steering Committee  
- December 19, 2023**

Pages 5-6

**5. Committee and Staff Reports**

**5.1 2024/2025 School Year Calendar – To Be Distributed  
Presenter: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education**

**5.2 Family Life Curriculum  
Presenter: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education**

Pages 7-8

**6. Information & Correspondence**

**7. Trustee Inquiries**



**8. 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.

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

**10. Future Meetings and Events**

Page 9

**11. 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***

**12. Adjournment**

---

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



---

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, December 19, 2023 – 1:00pm  
Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mary Bradford (Principal, Secondary), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children’s Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Susan Lentz (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Shannon Mason (Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing), Linda McFayden (Contact Brant), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Regrets:** Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Janelle Sandy (Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead: Special Education)
- 

**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Christina Ferrell welcomed the committee.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Wilson read the board’s land acknowledgement.

**3. Opening Prayer**

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

**4. Introductions and Welcome**

Superintendent Wilson welcomed all committee members.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Nil Woodcroft

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the December 19, 2023, meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Linda McFayden

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the November 28, 2023, meeting.

**Carried**

**7. Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board, in a letter written to Stephen Lecce, around the need for increased Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding. SIP funding does not cover the cost of Educational Assistants and the support required. It is requested that the formula for funding allocation is revisited.

**8. Community Agency Updates**

### **Mary Bradford**

Vice-Principal Bradford discussed the positivity surrounding the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) program at St. John's College.

### **Linda McFayden**

Contact Brant is moving their location, and the Woodview Children's Centre will be moving their autism program to this space.

### **Susan Lentz**

The Lansdowne Children's Centre, Welcome to Whoville, Christmas party was well attended both in Brantford and Simcoe.

### **Christina Ferrell**

The Woodview Children's Centre held their annual Christmas party. It was well attended and received.

## **9. Student Achievement Lead**

The updated projection lists have been compiled for each of the three high schools and their special class candidates and enrollment for September 2024.

Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD) held our Christmas Community of Practice meeting on Friday, December 15, 2023. Key messaging and professional development centered around Flyleaf and how to support primary teachers with this new resource, artificial intelligence, and the implications for education as a resource and a tool for special education students, and finally, a presentation by Amethyst Demonstration School on eligibility, the application process, and what the program/facility offers.

## **10. Superintendent of Education**

The BHNCDSD has started planning for Special Education classes for the new high school slated to open in 2026. St. Padre Pio Catholic High School has a trade-based focus and BHNCDSD and the Special Education department want to provide an opportunity for all learners.

Thirteen elementary schools are currently participating in the Empower reading program and fifteen more schools will be added to the program next year.

Superintendent Wilson is in the process of collecting and analyzing information collected from the schools that have had Bartimeaus workers working with children to understand the impact of their services on the children and staff.

## **11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2023.



---

**Mental Health Steering Committee**  
**December 19, 2023**  
**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

- Present:** Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade (Chair), Razak Aziz, Diane Bowie, Keri Calvesbert, Darren Duff, John Della Fortuna (Superintendent of Education), Lori Skye-Laforme, Cynthia Miller, Andrea Perras, Irene Perro (HN Reach), Amy Pimental, Chandra Portelli, Jennifer Rudyk, Tracie Witteveen
- Regrets:** Bill Chopp (Trustee), Sandra De Dominicis, Christine Dragojlovich (Woodview), April Taylor, Thanh-Thanh Tieu
- 

**1. Opening Prayer**

Keri Calvesbert provided the opening prayer.

**2. Introductions and Welcome**

Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade welcomed John Della Fortuna, Superintendent with responsibility for mental health and well-being to the committee. Dianne thanked Superintendent Greco for his time, and dedication to the portfolio.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda approved by consensus.

**4. Approval of Minutes - June 6, and October 19, 2023,**

Minutes approved by consensus.

**5. Information Items**

**5.1 [Policy/Program Memorandum 169 | Education in Ontario: policy and program direction | ontario.ca](#)**

Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade

The committee reviewed the PPM and Dianne indicated much of the requirements outlined are currently implemented in our board to varying degrees. The committee discussed the opportunities the PPM presents in that it highlights the responsibility we all share with regards to supporting student mental health. In particular, the committee queried if we might use the PPM to further propel our work in Social Emotional Learning by increasing the competence and confidence of educators and elicit greater uptake.

**5.2 Update of Grade 7-8 Health/Phys Ed. Mental Health Literacy content**

Chandra Portelli & Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade

As indicated in the PPM, mandatory Mental Health Literacy lessons are expected to be delivered by Grade 7 and 8 educators, commencing this January. A board mobilization committee has been working on an implementation plan, which includes educator curriculum resources, communication tools in a variety of languages, and student handbooks. Resources will be shared with administrators

---

**Next meeting:** February 8, 2024, | 9am – 11am | Catholic Education Centre



---

and educators following the Christmas break. [SMHO-ON Mental Health Literacy Modules for Grades 7 and 8 | Introduction \(vimeo.com\)](#).

## 6. Discussion items

### 6.1 Approval of draft MH Action Plan – Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade

The committee reviewed and approved the draft action plan. The committee discussed the action plan as being a 'working document' and with that proposed, in alignment with the PPM, that an 'at a glance' version be posted on the website, featuring accessible language, and highlighting specific examples of the work as well as helpful links. It was also suggested to consider creating a glossary of terms, in order to aid in accessibility.

## 7. Adjournment

Next Meetings: February 8<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

All meetings located in the Board Room at the Catholic Education Centre,  
322 Fairview Drive, Brantford, ON, with a virtual option if required.

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

Prepared by: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education  
Presented to: Committee of the Whole  
Submitted on: January 16, 2024  
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

### New Family Life Curriculum

Public Session

---

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) approved the new Family Life Curriculum Grades 1- 8, for the Province of Ontario, created by the Institute of Catholic Education, released in mid- December. The new Family Life Education Curriculum will be in place for September 2024. The current Family Life Curriculum, published in 2012, was rewritten to update curricula to align with the new Religious Education and account for new resources shared by the Vatican. Our own Keri Calvesbert was commissioned by the Bishops to be one of the two project leads on this new curriculum rewriting.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS:**

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis invited the Christian community, “to value the gifts of marriage and family, and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity, and patience”. The hope is that the new curriculum will further support these words and allow students to learn more about what it means to be human, how God calls us to live in relationship, and the importance of the vocations.

The curriculum includes content of what is to be taught in each grade as well as lays out Hope Expectations for students, with the understanding that Family Life education is more than knowledge and involves the hope that students will come to see the beauty of God’s gift of family, marriage, and sexuality,” stated the Most Rev. Bishop, Daniel Miehm in his memo announcing the new Family Life Curriculum to boards.

The Institute for Catholic Education is overseeing the development of program materials to support the new curriculum. First to be released will be Grade 1 in the fall of 2024 as well as materials to supplement any changes to the curriculum not met by the Fully Alive resource. The Fully Alive program is still available, and educators will access Fully Alive until new resources, approved by the Bishops of Ontario, are shared.

The new curriculum emphasizes an approach of encounter and accompaniment of all students. It includes topics from the Health and Physical Education Curriculum (2019) with those topics and the age at which they are instructed, remaining largely unchanged.

The full curriculum can be found at [www.iceont.ca](http://www.iceont.ca) and hard copies will be coming to all BHNCDSD schools in the spring. Keri Calvesbert will be supporting the roll out of the new curriculum with Administrators in February and educators between March to June.

**KEY CHANGES:**

The new Family Life Curriculum has moved from five themes to three strands: Families: A Living Communion of Love; Families: Called to be in Relationship; and Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made.

Information on selection of materials and intended resources is shared in the front matter to support equity, diversity, and culturally responsive pedagogy.

The creation and inclusion of Hope Expectations. These are an expression of what we hope students come to value and strive for, what they cherish, and appreciate. They are not evaluated or assessed, but they speak to our aspirations for students.

The Family Life Curriculum touches on many topics from a Catholic viewpoint including what it means to be human, created by God, the gift of our families; gift of children- learning to live, love, and pray, forgive, and serve. It affirms the importance of virtues and the formation of our conscience in moral decision making and affirms lessons that are modelled in the home and by the families as the first and primary educators. The focus remains on the Catholic worldview of family; pastoral approach to the curriculum; as well as tenderness and hope.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Family Life Curriculum Information to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.



**2023-24**  
**Trustee Meetings and Events**

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

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