



**Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, March 19, 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 Mental Health Steering Committee  
- February 8, 2024**

Pages 3-4

**4.2 Unapproved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee  
- February 20, 2024**

Pages 5-6

**4.3 Unapproved Minutes of the Accessibility Steering Committee  
- February 23, 2022**

Pages 7-8

**5. Committee and Staff Reports**

**5.1 Q1 & Q2 Contract Awards**

Presenter: Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer

Pages 9-10

**5.2 International Excursions March 2025**

Presenter: Phil Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Pages 11-14

**5.3 International Excursions March 2026**

Presenter: Phil Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Pages 15-18

**6. Information and Correspondence**

**6.1 Staffing Timelines**

Presenter: Kevin Greco, Superintendent of Education



**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,
- The security of the property of the board;
  - 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;
  - The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
  - Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
  - Litigation affecting the board.

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

**10. Future Meetings and Events**

Page 19

**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**

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



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**Mental Health Steering Committee**  
**February 8, 2024**  
**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

- Present:** Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade (Chair), Diane Bowie, Bill Chopp (Trustee), Darren Duff, Lori Skye-Laforme, Jillian Marranta, Chandra Portelli, April Taylor, Thanh-Thanh Tieu
- Virtual:** Andrea Perras, Tracie Witteveen, Amy Pimentel, John Della Fortuna, Jennifer Rudyk, Keri Calvesbert, Irene Perro (HN Reach)
- Regrets:** Razak Aziz, Sandra DeDominicis, Christine Dragojlovich, Cynthia Miller
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**1. Land Acknowledgment**

Chandra Portelli provided the Land Acknowledgement.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Keri Calvesbert provided the opening prayer.

**3. Introductions and Welcome**

Dianne welcomed all in attendance, and introduced Jillian Marranta, Head of Guidance at Assumption College School to the committee.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

February 8, 2024, Agenda approved by consensus.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the December 19, 2023 approved by consensus.

**6. Information Items**

**6.1 Ministry/Board Updates**

John Della Fortuna provided an update for the PPM 169 work, specific to the building of next years' annual action plan, which will be a focus of today's meeting.

In anticipation of the release of the updated *Leading Mentally Healthy Schools 2.0* resource, School Mental Health Ontario is working in partnership with the province's three Principal Associations (ADFO, CPCO, OPC) to host regional sessions (March-May) with school board team.

The three administrators from our Mental Health Steering Committee will be joining Dianne and John in London on April 4<sup>th</sup> where they will have an opportunity to network and engage in meaningful professional collaboration and develop implementation plans for 2024-2025



## 6.2 PD Day Equity and Well-Being

The upcoming PD Day in April will focus on Equity and Well-Being.

Although details are still in development, in addition to going deeper into our work in equity, this day provides us with an opportunity to meet PPM Requirement #5 - *Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Protocols*; ensuring all staff are aware of our Suicide Protocol, and PPM Requirement #7- *Enhanced Educator and Staff Mental Health Literacy*.

## 6.3 Update of Grade 7-8 Health/Phys Ed. Mental Health Literacy content

Chandra Portelli provided an update to the SMHO Modules distributed per the Ministry directive to all grades 7-8 classes; this information was shared at the December Meeting. Resources were sent to educators, providing context around the modules before the Christmas break. Modules are expected to be taught in Term 2.

Dianne added, now that report cards are out, we will need to provide a reminder that this program falls within the teacher's scope.

## 6.4 Student Support Services Data Capture (Year to Date)

Thanh presented an overview of data to reflect/break down the number of students receiving board mental health support across the Tiers, allowing a closer view of student needs.

- The top reasons for referral for Child and Youth work continue to be self-regulation, peer issues, anxiety, and worry, consistent with the previous year. Child and Youth Workers deliver social, emotional learning opportunities, and provide support to students within their life space – both in and out of the classroom environment in order to address these concerns.
- Top reasons for referral for social work continue to be attendance, anxiety/worry, and family issues. Currently we are in the process of hiring an Attendance Counsellor to assist in addressing attendance/engagement concerns, which make up 30% of all social work contacts.
- Our end of year data capture will reflect the work of the Child and Youth Workers in the classroom.

## 7. Discussion Items

### 7.1 School Climate Survey

Deferred to the next meeting.

### 7.2 MH Action Planning for 2024-25

As per PPM 169 the MH Action Plan is to be posted on the board website by June 30<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming school year. The committee worked as a group to identify goal areas/key activities for the MH Action plan for 2024/25. Dianne will collate this feedback and bring it back to the next meeting.

## 8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Next Meeting: 9:00 -11:00 a.m. – June 7, 2024

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



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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – 1:00pm  
Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Christina Ferrell (Woodview Children’s Centre), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Shannon Mason (Principal Lead: Special Education Staffing), Linda McFayden (Contact Brant), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Regrets:** Laura Bergeron (ad hoc), Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Mary Bradford (Principal, Secondary), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Susan Lentz (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Janelle Sandy (Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead: Special Education)
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**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 February 20, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Linda McFayden

Seconded by: Patti Mitchell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the January 16, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**7. Correspondence - Nil**

**8. Community Agency Updates**

**Nil Woodcroft**

Haldimand Norfolk REACH is gearing up for their entry to school program.

## **Shannon Korber**

A new Child and Family Services office is being created on Henry Street. There are several activities offered at Child and Family Services where kids can visit trades campus' at Mohawk College as well visit Wilfred Laurier University to see what post-secondary schooling is about.

## **Shannon Mason**

At the elementary school level for Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCDSD), the term two Individual Education Plans are being prepared. We are getting ready for Educational Assistant allocation for the 2024-2025 year, and kindergarten orientation has begun in many schools.

## **Christina Ferrell**

The Brantford Autism services group is running a social skills group for four- to five-year-olds for social communication and play skills and a group for two- to four-year-olds with the focus on early communication and play school. Registration is open with Woodview Children's Services. There are Caregiver workshops being held including February 26, 2024 – Coping with Challenging Behaviours; March 18, 2024 - Safetalk Training; March 25, 2024 - Caregiving 101.

## **9. Student Achievement Lead**

BHNCDSD held a secondary Educational Assistant Professional Development Day on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The morning was held at Conestoga College, learning about the CICE program (Community Integration through Cooperative Education) to gain a better understanding of how their daily work and interactions foster skillsets and independence that allow students to be successful in future programs beyond secondary school. In the afternoon, Michelle Drake, from Crossing All Bridges, shared what the organization has to offer, as well as providing participants with a tour of the facility.

## **10. Superintendent of Education**

Based on extensive research and to aligned with the goals of the Special Education department, BHNCDSD is making changes to the Special Education department. Changes that have been approved include:

- Hiring a new Applied Behavioural Analysis Program Lead to increase support for students with autism,
- Creating two contained classes for children with autism for junior students and a Primary Learning Strategies Class for primary students with a focus on coping strategies and self-regulation and developing social play skill.
- BHNCDSD will also be closing our Transition Classes at the end of June 2024. For many students in special education, special education programming should be intended to be time-limited support or programming, where students receive intensive remediation, and then return to the regular classroom such as in the case of a learning strategies placement.

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

Superintendent Wilson thanked everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.



**ACCESSIBILITY STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** John Della Fortuna (Chair), Mark Watson (Trustee), Bill Chopp (Trustee), April Taylor, Dave Buist, Deborah King-Bonifacio, Gianni Silvestri, John Nicholson, Leslie Brown, Linda McFayden, Lou Citino, Philip Kuckyt, Rachel Moreau.

Amy Pimentel, Carlo Fortino, Jennifer Charnish-Currie, Rita Raposo, Sandra DeDominicis

**Regrets:**

Item #	Agenda Item	Action Required	Person Responsible
<b>1. PRAYER</b>			
			John Della Fortuna
<b>2. MINUTES / ITEMS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 24, 2023 MEETING</b>			
	October 24, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there are any changes or revisions to the Minutes, please send them to Vanessa Heath.</li> </ul>	All
<b>3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA</b>			
4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessible bathrooms in schools, space and equipment needs.</li> </ul>		Gianni Silvestri
<b>4. COMMITTEE AND STAFF UPDATES</b>			
4.1	Accessible Big Buses for Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current student fleet does not include any Big Bus vehicles that are accessible. Presently using small buses or taxi services for these students. Concerns include shorter field trip times due to demand for regular scheduled small bus usage and costs associated with usage.</li> <li>Procurement for any new buses for the upcoming year will need to be established by December 2024.</li> <li>Estimates are underway, with conversation around the various bus options and demands.</li> <li>Information was provided regarding an option that other Boards are reviewing. This possibility includes a budget amount being set aside annually for field trips to accommodate students who require alternate forms of transportation.</li> <li>Meeting Chair to look at an integrated solution which allows us to support the students, schools and share cost.</li> <li>Action Items:</li> </ul>	Gianni Silvestri



Item #	Agenda Item	Action Required	Person Responsible
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Obtain various bus choice costs.</li> <li>○ Review with Budget/Financial committee; decide if funds are available based on options discussed.</li> </ul>	John Della Fortuna
4.2	Accessible Bathrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inquiries made about our current accessibility situation in school and facilities and the AODA requirements for the 2025 deadline.</li> <li>• Upon review of our facilities, it was brought up that numerous schools do not have a standardized size change table for the accessible washrooms. Furthermore, there is a concern about the lack of space for all necessary equipment within these washrooms.</li> <li>• Facilities to be notified and review the specific schools in question and assess the needs to allow for modifications, if required.</li> <li>• Dialogue to continue, to gather more information about the needs and what needs to be accomplished.</li> <li>• Retrofitting completion was reviewed.</li> </ul>	Lou Citino  John Nicholson  Gianni Silvestri
<b>5. OTHER BUSINESS</b>			
5.1	Upcoming Meeting Calendar Invites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings to be rescheduled under John Della Fortuna</li> </ul>	Vanessa Heath

**Upcoming Meetings:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 - 1:00 pm – Virtual



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

Prepared by: Scott Keys, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer  
Presented to: Committee of the Whole  
Submitted on: March 19, 2024  
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

**CONTRACT SUMMARY (Q1/Q2 2024)**  
Public Session

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Board of Trustees approved Policy 700.01 *Procurement*, which promotes and outlines procurement processes and decisions consistent with the ethical and strategic objectives of the Board, the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, other applicable legal requirements and applies to all staff wishing to procure while performing recognized duties and responsibilities.

To meet the requirement of the Policy, a semi-annual report is presented to the Board of Trustees for information on all cooperative purchasing agreements. This report will also list all contracts approved by the Board in accordance with Policy 700.01.

**DEVELOPMENTS:**

The Board actively participates in cooperative procurement ventures with other school boards and other branches of government or their agencies of public authorities (i.e., Ministry of Government and Consumer Services or the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace) to obtain maximum value for money through economies of scale and/or shared services. This may also include the Board utilizing a piggy-back clause to existing Ministry or government services, district school boards and/or other cooperative group contracts, to the extent permitted by applicable law.

**Appendix A** outlines the contracts that which have been awarded from September 1, 2023 – February 29, 2024, and alignment with Policy 700.01.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Contract Summary (Q1/Q2 2024) report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Appendix A  
Executed Contracts**

<b>Execution Date</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Procurement Process</b>
19-Sep-23	Alpha-Vico Inc.	Educational Furniture and Services	N/A	Collaborative Agreement
5-Sep-23	Lynnwood Arts Centre	Educational Rental Agreement	N/A	Contract Extension
1-Nov-23	Complete Property maintenance	Snow Removal Services	#T-2023	Request for Tender
1-Nov-23	Fitch General Contracting	Snow Removal Services	#T-2023	Request for Tender
1-Nov-23	Griffin Landscape Management Solutions	Snow Removal Services	#T-2023	Request for Tender
1-Nov-23	McLellan Group Contracting	Snow Removal Services	#T-2023	Request for Tender
1-Nov-23	Silvestro Landscape Construction	Snow Removal Services	#T-2023	Request for Tender
1-Nov-23	Mountview Services	Snow Removal Services	#T-2023	Request for Tender
20-Dec-23	Superior Boiler Works & Welding	Rooftop Unit Replacement – OLOP	#T-2623	Request for Tender
30-Nov-23	Stevans Sales and Marketing Inc	Window Coverings	N/A	Collaborative Agreement
4-Dec-23	Robert M. Simon Construction	Tennis Court Construction – Holy Trinity	#T-2223	Request for Tender
17-Jan-24	Roque Roofing Inc.	Roof Rehabilitation - St. Gabriel	#T-2523	Request for Tender

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

Prepared by: Phil Wilson, Superintendent of Education  
 Presented to: Board of Trustees  
 Submitted on: March 19, 2024  
 Submitted by: Michael McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

**INTERNATIONAL EXCURSIONS - 2025**

Public Session

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

All trips will be open to all BHNCD SB Secondary Students (if necessary). The prices provided includes flights, buses, hotel accommodations (which include breakfast and dinners for each day), and entrance fees to tourist sites, plus global insurance, and cancellation insurance.

All information has been provided in accordance with Board policy and procedures.

**DEVELOPMENTS:**

Assumption Catholic School, St. John’s College, and Holy Trinity Catholic School are seeking approval for the following seven International Excursions in 2025. The dates indicated are tentative based on flight schedules All trips are scheduled during the March Break of 2025 or Victoria Day Weekend of 2025.

Destination	Date	School(s)	Team	Teacher	Ratio	# of Students Attending	Approx Cost
Greece	Saturday, March 8 to Sunday March 16, 2025	Assumption College School	Art	Katie Benoit, Rachel Meneguzzi, Ian Fitzgerald, Agata Kowalski	1:6	35-50 (grade 9-12)	\$4663
France and Italy	Friday, March 7 to Sunday March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	Assumption College School	Modern Languages	Elise DiFrancesco, Dela Berardi, Yola McCulloch, Michael Petrella, Sandra Pauwels	1:10	30 (grade 10-12)	\$4950
Costa Rica	Saturday, March 8 to Sunday March 16, 2025	Holy Trinity	Science	Michelle Bouw & Jesse Peixoto	1:6 or 1:8	45 (grade10-12)	\$5043
Berlin, Prague Krakow, Budapest	Saturday March 8 to Sunday March 16, 2025	Holy Trinity	History	Joe Varga Mary Sullivan Christine Revai Joanne Freund Rossa Vesenyi	1:6	40 (grade 9-12)	\$4723
France and Italy	Thursday March 6 to Saturday, March 15, 2025	St. John’s College	Modern Languages	Stella Iliopoulos & Christine Luciani	1:10	32 (grade 10 to 12)	\$5395
Scotland	Thursday, March 6 to Sunday, March 16, 2025	Holy Trinity	Rugby Athletics	Christian Miller & Nick Flynn	1:7	27 (grade 11 and 12)	\$4220
New York City	Friday, May 16 to Tuesday, May 20, 2025	St. John’s College	Drama	Cristina Hutchison and Jeff Olmstead	1:8	TBD	\$1571

### Greece: Visual Arts – Assumption College

The Visual Arts Program of Assumption College is requesting approval for the Visual Arts in Greece excursion from Saturday, March 8, 2025, to Sunday, March 16, 2025, through EF Tours. (This is the requested departure and return date. There is a chance the tour could be booked Friday to Saturday or Sunday to Monday).

The students from the program will be traveling by plane to Greece. This tour provides an excellent opportunity for students to increase their awareness of global perspectives, foster appreciation for different cultures, become effective communicators, reflective thinkers, gain a love of/for learning and embrace the responsibility of being global citizens as well as develop leadership skills navigating through new experiences with confidence.

The students will develop a distinctive Catholic worldview with the opportunity to attend a mass in a very different part of the world. It is one thing to see art on a screen, it is completely different to experience it in person (to “touch it with your eyes”). This trip will give art students the chance to view Grecian art and architecture up close and in an authentic surrounding. Ancient Greek work is unrivaled in technical excellence and innovation. Students will also have the chance to experience and understand the culture that the work was born out of. Students will visit numerous museums and historical sites and see many worldclass examples of architecture, sculpture, and painting. They will also have the opportunity to create a work of their own at a pottery workshop.

### France and Italy: Modern Languages – Assumption College

The Modern Language Department of Assumption College is requesting approval for an international excursion to France (Paris, Nice, Monaco) and Italy (Pisa, Florence, Rome) from Friday, March 7, 2025, to Sunday, March 16, 2025, through Pauwels Travel.

During this specific trip, students are not simply sightseeing as tourists. Being fully immersed in the language and culture allows for numerous opportunities to listen, understand, and speak the French and Italian languages.

In the 30-year history of the BHNCD SB Modern Languages Department trip, the rationale has been clear; language is the focus. The goal is the enhancement of curriculum expectations in an authentic environment. The Modern Languages department has always encouraged our students to participate in this trip, as travelling to France and Italy becomes a direct extension of the daily and regular learning which takes place in the classroom. It enables learners to successfully achieve the curriculum expectations with a high level of accuracy and improved confidence.

This authentic learning setting has had a tremendous positive impact on our Catholic secondary students who are studying French-as-a-Second Language, Extended French and Italian. This excursion provides language learners valuable co-curricular opportunities to embrace, understand and appreciate the culture & customs, religion, language, geography, history, and heritage of the people of France and Italy. “Students will develop the skills that will enable them to engage in cultural exploration for personal growth and for active participation in society.”

The itinerary is tailor-made to accommodate the needs of Catholic students who are studying the French and Italian languages while encompassing the teachings of the Catholic faith. Students will be able to celebrate their Catholic identity by attending Mass and participating in the Eucharist both at the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal (where the Virgin Mary appeared to Ste. Catherine Labouré) and at Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica (which is one of the official sites of the jubilee year as designated by the Pope); by touring the Basilica of Sacré Coeur (also one of the official sites of pilgrimage designated by the Pope); and St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum including the Sistine Chapel.

### Costa Rica: Science – Holy Trinity Catholic School

The Science Department of Holy Trinity Catholic School is requesting approval for the Costa Rica STEM excursion from Saturday, March 8, 2025, to Sunday, March 16, 2025, through EF Tours.

The trip is open to grade 10, 11 and 12 who have taken or are presently in the STEM Club. The students from the program will be traveling by air to San Jose. A tour bus will provide the students to

see a variety of different regions and landmarks, along with ancient ruins and ecological expeditions curated for students.

This tour offers an unparalleled opportunity for students to immerse themselves in a rich tapestry of scientific exploration. Renowned for its extraordinary biodiversity, the country boasts diverse ecosystems ranging from lush rainforests to vibrant coral reefs. Students can engage in hands-on learning experiences, observing and studying a plethora of plant and animal species while gaining insight into conservation efforts and sustainable development practices. Costa Rica's active volcanoes provide a unique opportunity to explore geology and volcanic activity, while its status as a global leader in ecotourism offers students a firsthand look at responsible travel and its role in supporting conservation.

The trip is an excellent opportunity for students as many of the scientific principles taught through each of the units in high school – Physics, Biology and Chemistry - can be seen and interacted with in a hands-on experience that students may never otherwise get.

#### Berlin/Prague/Krakow/Budapest: History – Holy Trinity Catholic School

The History Department of Holy Trinity Catholic School is requesting approval for the international excursion to Berlin, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Krakow, Poland; and Budapest, Hungary from Saturday, March 8, 2025, to Sunday, March 16, 2025, through EF Tours.

The students will be travelling overnight to Berlin, Germany where they will spend three days touring the city, its culture, and its history. The fourth day will be spent travelling to Prague, Czech Republic. There is an opportunity for students to attend Mass at the magnificent St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. Day five and six include visits to the St. Mary's Basilica, Wawel Cathedral. Day seven is a historical visit to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp Memorial site, and day eight and nine will be guided tours in Budapest, Hungary.

The year 2025 is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-E Day in Europe, and many of the sites above will commemorate the special anniversary.

#### France and Italy: Modern Languages – St. John's College

The Modern Languages Department of St. John's College is requesting approval for the France and Italy excursion from Thursday, March 6, 2025, to Saturday, March 15, 2025, through Pauwels Travel.

To provide Modern Languages students an authentic educational immersive experience to communicate and interact in French and Italian, to develop their intercultural understanding and awareness of France and Italy, to deepen their cultural and historical understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures, to make real-world connections to their language learning, to provide opportunities for students to deepen their faith, to develop a confident and positive sense of self. The group will attend Sunday Mass with the Celebration of the Eucharist.

#### Scotland: Rugby/Athletics- Holy Trinity Catholic School

The Athletics Department of Holy Trinity Catholic School is requesting approval for the Scotland Rugby Excursion from Thursday, March 6, 2025, to Sunday, March 16, 2025, through Skyhigh Sports.

The trip is open to approximately 27 senior students (grade 11 and 12) who have played Rugby for at least one previous season. Approximately 27 students from the senior boys Rugby team will be traveling by air to Glasgow and via tour buses will visit Edinburgh, Stirling, and Oban. This tour provides an excellent opportunity for team building among players while allowing these young men to gain new perspectives on global citizenship. They will be visiting many historic locations including Edinburgh Castle, Bannockburn Battlefield, and Hopetoun House where we will be participating in our own Highland Games. The team will also be playing three games against clubs in each of cities we visit. These excursions along with the games will broaden our student's worldviews while fostering a sense of global community. The experiences gained on this tour will help these students grow in confidence and gain respect for other cultures.

The first match will be played on the Sunday, and it is the plan to attend Sunday mass at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh. This Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh and the mother church of Scottish Catholicism. If approved, arrangements are going to attempted for a team blessing while attending the mass.

New York City: Drama – St. John's College

The Drama Department of St. John's College is requesting approval for the New York City Excursion from Friday, May 16, 2025, to Tuesday, May 20, 2025, through Brightspark Tours Canada.

This trip will provide the students with an opportunity to experience live theatre performances and explore many of the iconic sights and sounds of the Big Apple. While this trip will provide students with a sight-seeing extravaganza, many of the excursions will have a theatre focus such as the Museum of Broadway, RISE NY, The Drama Book Shop, and touring the arts district, etc. Mass will be added to the schedule for NYC. Overall, this trip promises to be an enriching and educational experience for the Drama students, combining live theater performances with exploring the vibrant cultural scene of New York City.

**CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS**

With these trips, the specific curriculum expectations are many and have been attached in the Application for Approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Assumption College for the Greece International Excursion in 2025.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Assumption College for the France and Italy International Excursion in 2025

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School approves the request from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for the Costa Rica International Excursion in 2025.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for the Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest International Excursion in 2025.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from St. John's College for the France and Italy International Excursion in 2025.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for the Scotland International Excursion in 2025.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from St. John's College for the New York City International Excursion in 2025.

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

Prepared by: Phil Wilson, Superintendent of Education  
 Presented to: Board of Trustees  
 Submitted on: March 6, 2024  
 Submitted by: Michael McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

**INTERNATIONAL EXCURSIONS - 2026**

Public Session

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

All trips will be open to all BHNCD SB Secondary Students (if necessary). The prices provided includes flights, buses, hotel accommodations (which include breakfast and dinners for each day), and entrance fees to tourist sites, plus global insurance, and cancellation insurance.

All information has been provided in accordance with Board policy and procedures.

**DEVELOPMENTS:**

Assumption Catholic School, St. John’s College, and Holy Trinity Catholic School are seeking approval for the following six International Excursions in 2026. The dates indicated are tentative based on flight schedules. All trips are scheduled during the March Break of 2026 or Victoria Day Weekend of 2026.

Destination	Date	School(s)	Team	Teacher	Ratio	# of Students Attending	Approx Cost
Italy	Saturday, March 7 to Sunday March 15, 2026	Holy Trinity	Multi Discipline	Mary Sullivan, Christine Revie, Rossa Vezsenyi, Joanne Freund	1:6	42 (grade 9-12)	\$5000
Italy	Saturday, March 7 to Sunday March 15, 2026	Assumption College School	Religion and Humanities	Daniela Dabrowski, Vincenzo Prior, Sean Roche Julie Mosher	1:6	40 (grade 9-12)	\$5352
Germany and Switzerland	Friday, March 6 to Sunday March 15, 2026	Assumption College School and St. John’s College	Science STEM	Healy Koolen, Brooklyn Martin, Cassidy Sinclair	1:8	40 (grade 9-12)	\$5358
Spain and Portugal	Saturday, March 7 to Sunday, March 15, 2026	Holy Trinity	World Religion	Tara Williams & Doug Ivak	1:6	42 (grade 11-12)	\$5013
Ireland	Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 15, 2026	St. John’s College	Athletics Rugby	Scott Chisholm & Mitch Santilli	1:10	30 (grade 11 to 12)	\$4000
Chicago	Friday, May 21 to Tuesday, May 24, 2026	St. John’s College	Drama	Krystan Tchegus	1:8	TBD (grade 10-12)	\$1571

### Italy: Multi Discipline – Holy Trinity Catholic High School

Multi-Disciplines of Holy Trinity Catholic High School are requesting approval for the Italy excursion from Saturday, March 7, 2026, to Sunday, March 15, 2026, through EF Tours. (This is the requested departure and return date.)

This excursion has a focus on Italy's culture, language, religion, history, literature, art, and architectural wonders. Students will be travelling Saturday overnight to arrive in Milan, Italy, to explore its culture and history. Students will continue to Verona to explore its literary connection to William Shakespeare's famous play. Students will explore the cultural brilliance of Venice, and then attend a mass in the afternoon. From Venice, students will continue to Florence to explore Florence's history, culture, business district, and famous architecture. Students will travel to Pope Francis' namesake, to Assisi, and follow St. Francis' life through a guided tour of the town. The last three days will be spent in Rome. Students will take a guided tour of the Colosseum, the Forum, and spend a day touring the Vatican.

### Italy: Religion and Humanities – Assumption College School

The Religion and Humanities Department of Assumption College is requesting approval for the Catholic Experience in Italy excursion from Saturday, March 7, 2026, to Sunday, March 15, 2026, through EF Tours. (This is the requested departure and return date. There is a chance the tour could be booked Friday to Saturday or Sunday to Monday).

This trip will offer students of religion, along with students from all disciplines, the opportunity to explore Roman religious history and culture firsthand. Italy is renowned for its rich religious heritage, spanning centuries of influence from Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and various other belief systems.

Students studying religion will delve into the heart of Italian spirituality, visiting iconic religious sites such as the Vatican City, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel. They will gain a deep understanding of the historical context behind religious artifacts, symbols, and practices, witnessing firsthand the fusion of art, architecture, and faith.

Throughout the trip, students will engage with sacred texts, rituals, and traditions that have shaped Italian religious life. They will visit ancient churches, cathedrals, museums and more each offering a unique perspective on the evolution of religious thought and practice.

Additionally, students will have the opportunity to interact with local communities, engaging in discussions with locals and the clergy. This immersive experience will not only deepen their understanding of Catholicism but also broaden their worldview and foster intercultural dialogue.

By experiencing Italy's diverse religious landscape firsthand, students of religion, alongside their peers from various disciplines, will gain invaluable insights into the intersections of faith, history, and society. This journey will undoubtedly enrich their academic pursuits and shape their perspectives in profound ways.

### Germany and Switzerland: Science and STEM – Assumption College and St. John's College

The STEM Departments of Assumption College and St. John's College are requesting approval for the STEM in Germany and Switzerland excursion from Friday, March 6, 2026, to Sunday, March 15, 2026, through EF Tours. (This is the requested departure and return date. There is a chance the tour could be booked Friday to Saturday or Sunday to Monday).

Staff supervisors will be assigned according to the number of student registrations. EF Tours covers the cost of 1 chaperone per 8 students (8:1 ratio).

Students will be traveling by air from Toronto Pearson Airport to Berlin, Germany then onto Munich, the Lucerne region, and Geneva before returning home.



The tour provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain insight and address local and global challenges. They will have the opportunity to visit innovative and scientific sites such as a working innovative company and Futurism Museum in Berlin, Enthlebuch Biosphere, and CERN. The students will also be able to learn about the history of Berlin and Munich by visiting the remains of the Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Kurfurstendamn, and Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site. The group will attend a Eucharistic Mass in Berlin, Germany on the first Sunday of the trip.

Both Germany and Switzerland are leaders in technology, sustainable living, and clean energy. Environmental engineers in Canada use their developments as templates for what we can do better in Canada. In Switzerland, the students will also be able to visit Einstein's House and CERN to learn about The Large Hardon Collider.

#### Spain and Portugal: World Religion – Holy Trinity Catholic High School

The Religious Studies Department of Holy Trinity Catholic High School is requesting approval for the Catholic Experience in Italy excursion from Saturday, March 7, 2026, to Sunday, March 15, 2026, through EF Tours.

Students from the program will be traveling by air to Madrid and via tour buses will visit Salamanca, Porto, Fatima, Coimbra, Lisbon, Sintra, and Cascais. This tour provides an excellent opportunity for students to increase their awareness of global perspectives, foster appreciation for different cultures, become effective communicators, reflective thinkers, gain a love of/for learning and embrace the responsibility of being global citizens as well as develop leadership skills navigating through new experiences with confidence.

The students will develop a distinctive Catholic worldview with opportunities of visiting the Prado Museum, the former capital of Spain, Toledo where students will see the influences of 3 of the world religions, Jewish, Muslim and Christianity. They will visit St. Mary's Cathedral that was designed to be a mosque then used as a synagogue and then finally converted to be used as a Catholic Church. Students will visit Avila, the birthplace of St. Teresa and see the Monaterio of Encarnation where she lived for 30 years. In Salamanca students will visit 2 cathedrals, the 12<sup>th</sup> century "Old Cathedral" and the 17<sup>th</sup> century "New Cathedral". In Porto students will also visit the Oporto Cathedral. In Fatima, they will visit the Shrine where millions of Catholics worship each year and visit the Batalha Dominican Monastery. This trip will give students many opportunities to experience visit hand the influences of several world religions and visit many prominent Catholic heritage sites. Students will also be privileged to attend a mass at one of the locations.

#### Ireland: Athletics and Rugby – St. John's College

The Athletics and Rugby Department of St. John's College is requesting approval for the Ireland excursion from Friday, March 6, 2026, to Sunday, March 15, 2026, through Sky High Sports.

This excursion is to provide students the opportunity to understand and appreciate the culture and customs of a foreign country. Student athletes will learn the history and tradition of one of Europe's most fascinating nations - Ireland. Another objective of this excursion is to provide the students with an alternative learning experience. In addition, providing the students with a maturing process which will result from the experience of travelling abroad and being away from home. Lastly, we wish to provide students the opportunity to compete in an international athletic competition by participating in three rugby matches against high schools in Ireland.

#### Chicago: Drama – St. John's College

The Drama Department of St. John's College is requesting approval for the Chicago excursion from Friday, May 20, 2026, to Tuesday, March 24, 2026, through Brightspark Tours.

The tour will take place over four days and three nights and will include visits to the iconic theatres and attractions in the city, such as Broadway shows, Shedd Aquarium, Wills Tower, Millenium Park and "The Bean", A Gangster Tour a tour of TV and Filming locations. This is an incredible opportunity for the student to gain exposure to the world of theatre and learn from experienced professionals.

## **CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS**

With these trips, the specific curriculum expectations are many and have been attached in the Application for Approval.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for the Italy International Excursion in 2026.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Assumption College for the Italy International Excursion in 2026.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Assumption College and St. John's College for the Germany and Switzerland International Excursion in 2026.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from Holy Trinity for the Spain and Portugal International Excursion in 2026.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from St. John's College for the Ireland International Excursion in 2026.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the request from St. John's College for the Chicago International Excursion in 2026.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>
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>
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
May 30-June 1, 2024		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