



**Committee of the Whole  
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 ♦ 7:00 pm  
Boardroom**

**Trustees:**

Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice-Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard, Mark Watson, Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee), Ryan Toft (Student Trustee)

**Senior Administration:**

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), 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**

**1.5 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2024**

Pages 3-7

**1.6 Business Arising from the Minutes**

**2. Presentations**

**3. Delegations**

**4. Consent Agenda**

**4.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting  
- October 15, 2024**

Pages 8-10

**4.2 Unapproved Minutes of the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting  
- October 21, 2024**

Pages 11-12

**4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Accessibility Steering Committee Meeting  
- October 31, 2024**

Page 13

**5. Committee and Staff Reports**

**5.1 2024 Insurance Renewal  
Presenter: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary**

Pages 14-15

**5.2 Student Achievement Action Plan  
Presenter: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education**

Pages 16-20

**5.3 French Immersion 2025-2026  
Presenter: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education**

Pages 21-22

**6. Information and Correspondence**

**7. Trustee Inquiries**

**8. Business In-Camera**



# BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

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

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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**

Pages 23-24

**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, January 21, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



# BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

## Minutes

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

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**Committee of the Whole**  
**Tuesday, October 15, 2024 ♦ 7:00 pm**  
**Boardroom**

**Trustees:**

Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Dan Dignard, Mark Watson  
Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee), Ryan Toft (Student Trustees)

**Senior Administration:**

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple,  
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 Dignard.

**1.2 Attendance**

Attendance was as noted above.

**1.3 Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the October 15, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil**

**1.5 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2024**

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 17, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**1.6 Business from the Minutes - Nil**

**2. Presentations - Nil**

**3. Delegations- Nil**

**4. Consent Agenda**

**4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting – August 28, 2024**

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of August 28, 2024.

**Carried**



**4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee -September 17, 2024**

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 17, 2024.

**4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee –September 24, 2024**

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of September 24, 2024.

**4.4 Unapproved Minutes from the Accommodations Committee – October 7, 2024**

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Accommodations Committee Meeting of October 7, 2024.

**5. Committee and Staff Reports**

**5.1 Health and Safety Update**

Superintendent Greco presented the Health and Safety Report. This is a semi-annual report that is presented to the Board providing a summary of the types of employee accidents and/or incidents for the preceding six months. It was noted that the number of days lost have dropped over the last few years.

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Health and Safety Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

**5.2 Trustee Honoraria**

Director McDonald presented the Trustee Honoraria Report. It was noted that there have been no changes to the base amount for trustee honoraria. For the term of office starting November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025 the only change to the trustee honoraria will be the impact of enrolment changes.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the Trustee Honoraria for the period November 15, 2024, to November 14, 2025 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board.

**Carried**



**5.3 EQAO Update**

Superintendent Temple presented the EQAO Update Report. The overall results, highlights of success, and areas for attention moving forward were presented. It was noted that the BHNCDSD continues to work collaboratively with other school boards for continued learning. Intentional staffing at the grade 3 and 6 levels were discussed and a request for further EQAO survey results regarding student and staff responses to the surveys which were included with the test was made.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the EQAO board report on results for the 2023-2024 School year.  
**Carried**

**5.4 Contract Summary**

Director McDonald presented the Contract Summary Report. As part of the procurement policy a semi-annual report is presented to the Board of Trustees for information on all cooperative purchasing agreements, and lists all contracts approved by the Board in accordance with the policy.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Contract Summary (Q3/Q4) report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.  
**Carried**

**5.5 Alternative Education/ SAL Program**

Superintendent Della Fortuna presented the Alternative Education/ Supervised Alternative Learning Program report. The report includes a summary of programs offered along with current enrollment.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Alternative Education/ SAL Update report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.  
**Carried**

**5.6 International Excursion – Portugal Soccer Tour**

Superintendent Wilson presented the request from Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School for an international soccer tour to Portugal in 2026. Highlights include playing three soccer matches against local clubs and visiting various historical locations in the Lisbon area to provide a deeper historical perspective of the area. The students will also attend Mass.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Excursion Request from Holy Trinity for the Portugal Soccer Tour Excursion from Thursday March 12, 2026 to Friday March 20, 2026 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.  
**Carried**

**5.7 International Excursion – ACS Arts in New York City**

Superintendent Wilson presented the request from Assumption College for an international arts excursion to New York City in 2026. Highlights include visiting the Metropolitan Museum



Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art, and a variety of galleries in Chelsea. Students will develop a distinctive Catholic worldview with the opportunity to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral and attend mass.

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Excursion Request from Assumption College for an Excursion to New York City from Thursday May 14, 2026 to Monday May 18, 2026 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

**6. Information and Correspondence**

**6.1 Artificial Intelligence Guidelines.**

Superintendent Temple presented the Artificial Guidelines report. Last year the BHNCD SB began taking steps to learn about, and better understand Artificial Intelligence. The senior team and various BHNCD SB departments engaged in some learning and established a working group with input from other boards who had already started the process, to create guidelines of the use of AI for both educators and students. These guidelines were developed to support the ethical and pedagogically sound use of the AI tools available. Professional Development sessions for secondary educators were held and the guidelines will be rolled out to elementary educators soon.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the information and correspondence since the last meeting.

**Carried**

**7. Trustee Inquiries – Nil**

**8. Business In-Camera**

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board moves to an In-Camera session.

**Carried**

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

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the business of the In-Camera session.

**Carried**

**10. Future Meetings and Events**

Chair Petrella drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

**11. Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Chair Petrella.

**12. Adjournment**



## BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

## Minutes

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

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Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 15, 2024 meeting.

**Carried**

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – 1:00pm  
Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Lauren Freeborn (Contact Brant), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Lauren Moulton (Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services), 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), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), 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**

Superintendent Wilson welcomed the committee.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Sandra De Dominicis shared an opening prayer.

**3. Land Acknowledgement**

Superintendent Wilson read the board’s land acknowledgement.

**4. Introductions**

Superintendent Wilson welcomed all committee members, and all members introduced themselves to the committee.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Nil Woodcroft

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the October 15, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: Shannon Korber

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the September 17, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**7. SEAC Terms of Chair and Election of a Vice-Chair**



Superintendent Wilson reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

Lauren Moulton was elected as the Vice-Chair of SEAC.

## **8. Correspondence**

Nil

## **9. Community Agency Updates**

### **Lauren Moulton**

Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services has finished the accreditation process. The Annual General Meeting was held Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

### **Mischa Dinsmore**

Lansdowne Children's Services website has been updated with an events calendar.

Rock to Heroes Walk and Roll was held Saturday, October 5, 2024.

### **Nil Woodcroft**

Haldimand Norfolk REACH finished the Accreditation process and are awaiting the final report.

### **Patti Mitchell**

The planning for the Special Olympics is underway. Volunteers will be needed.

### **Kerri Lomax and Jennifer Rudyk**

At the BHNCDSD schools, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) have been completed. Currently, IEP team meetings are being scheduled with the Principal, Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) and the teacher.

Progress reports go home November 4, 2024.

### **Shannon Korber**

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie is partnering with SOAR Community Services and is converting an existing building to a five-bedroom youth facility and will be operational by April 2025.

The transportation funding will be offered again this year for the school boards for any children involved with Child and Family Services of Grand Erie.

## **10. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Wilson asked for feedback from the SEAC members regarding the Special Education section of the BHNCDSD website.

A Community of Practice meeting was held on September 20, 2024

A new SERT training session was held on September 23, 2024.

BHNCDSD has been involved with Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Council (SERCC) planning with four other school boards in regards to the science of math, recent research on metacognition, ministry updates and human rights and equity.

Sixteen new SERTs participated in Empower Training with SickKids hospital.

Superintendent Wilson and Sandra DeDominicis lead the first NTIP session for new educators on September 25, 2024.

Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) training, formally CCAT, was held for all Grade 4 teachers. The testing will take place between October 16 – 30, 2024 in all schools.

A document on "Programming for Students with Complex Special Education and Other Significant Needs" was created.

Bartimaeus support is continuing in the BHNCDSD school.

BHNCDSB increased our Educational Assistant complement in schools.

An Educational Assistant allocation document has been created.

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

Phil Wilson thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 2:14pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

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**REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, October 21, 2024 – 6:30pm**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

- Members:** John Della Fortuna (Superintendent of Education), Humberto Cacilhas (Principal Lead), Carol Luciani (Trustee), Sarah Lebel (Parent Chair), April Taylor (Senior Social Worker), Vanessa Heath (Minutes)
- Guests:** Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Chandra Portelli (Student Achievement Lead), Sandra Braga (Consultant: Indigenous Education)
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**1. Opening Prayer**

Superintendent Della Fortuna opened with a prayer.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Humberto Cacilhas provided a land acknowledgement.

**3. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Superintendent Della Fortuna welcomed all parents and Student Achievement Members.

**4. Approval of Agenda – October 21, 2024**

Approved by: Humberto Cacilhas

Seconded by: John Della Fortuna

THAT the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approves the agenda of the October 21, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**

**5. Declaration of Interest – Nil**

**6. Approval of the Minutes – April 29, 2024**

Approved by: John Della Fortuna

Seconded by: Humberto Cacilhas

THAT the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approves the minutes of the April 29, 2024, meeting.

**Carried**



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### 7. Update from Superintendent

Superintendent Della Fortuna made mention that all attendees interested in becoming a member of the RCPIC working group, can contact Humberto Cacilhas at [hcacilhas@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:hcacilhas@bhncdsb.ca) and Vanessa Heath at [vheath@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:vheath@bhncdsb.ca).

Additionally, any feedback or those wishing to share concerns about events in the news or issues at a school can direct all information to [communications@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:communications@bhncdsb.ca).

### 8. Board Student Achievement Plan

Superintendent Lorrie Temple and the Student Achievement Team (Chandra and Sandra), provided a review of the Student Achievement Plan, including updates on both the current and prior year plans. An in-meeting poll was conducted to survey all attendees, helping to identify the main areas they believe require focus regarding their children's education.

April Taylor (Senior Social Worker) also facilitated a discussion around Mental Health, incorporating feedback from the attendees through a poll to gather more insights on educational needs for their children/students.

### 9. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Superintendent Della Fortuna thanked all attendees, members, guests, and presenters for their support in participating in the RCPIC session.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

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**Next meeting date, time, location:** Monday February 03, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.- Via Microsoft TEAM's (Virtual Link to be sent out)



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**ACCESSIBILITY STEERING COMMITTEE  
Thursday October 31, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.  
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Members:** John Della Fortuna (Chair), Mark Watson (Trustee), April Taylor, Carlo Fortino, Dave Buist, Deborah King-Bonifacio, Gianni Silvestri, Carlee Webb, John Nicholson, Linda McFayden, Lou Citino, Rachel Moreau, Mischa Dinsmore, Vanessa Heath (Recording Secretary).

**Regrets:** Amy Pimentel, Philip Kuckyt, Rita Raposo, Sandra DeDominicis, Jennifer Charnish-Curie.

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**1. Opening Business**

**1.1 Opening Remarks and Prayer:** Superintendent John Della Fortuna welcomed the committee members and opened the meeting in prayer.

**1.2 Approval of the Agenda – October 31, 2024**

Moved: John Della Fortuna

Seconded: April Taylor

THAT the Accessibility Steering Committee approves the agenda of the October 31, 2024 meeting.

**1.3 Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes- February 13, 2024**

Moved: John Della Fortuna

Seconded: April Taylor

THAT the Accessibility Steering Committee approves the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting.

**1. Committee and Staff Updates**

**1.1 Accessibility in the Classroom**

Rachel presented on the physical accessibility updates within the schools and updates in progress to which assist students who may be hard of seeing or visually impaired.

Gianni reviewed the accessibility updates as well as those in progress, that apply to an educational level to ensure students who have an impairment to have the proper supplies and tools in place to learn.

**2. Other Business**

**2.1 AODA Audit**

On July 2, 2024, a Desk Audit was received from the ministry to ensure BHNCDSD met the appropriate Accessibility Standards based on the AODA Act for Ontarians. The Audit concluded on September 23, 2024, confirming BHNCDSD met all Accessibility Standards, except for minor changes to the frequency of the current training in place.

**3. Closing Remarks/ Adjournment**

Superintendent John Della Fortuna thanked the committee for joining.

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**Next meeting date, time, location:** Tuesday February 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.- Catholic Education Center

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

Prepared by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary  
Presented to: Committee of the Whole  
Submitted on: November 19, 2024  
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

**INSURANCE RENEWAL**  
Public Session

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Board’s property and liability insurance is currently covered by the Ontario School Boards’ Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), which is a reciprocal cooperative established in 1987. OSBIE insures most school boards and several joint ventures in Ontario.

As of January 1, 2025, OSBIE is in year four of the current five-year Subscription Period, which ends on December 31, 2026.

**DEVELOPMENTS:**

Overall premiums are determined by OSBIE’s appointed actuary to cover expected future claims. Premiums vary from year to year based on a number of factors such as: general experience of the entire pool, exposure and loss experience of the Board over the past five years, and inflation. It should be noted, as a not-for-profit, OSBIE does not build profit into funding models.

Based on actuarial estimates, OSBIE was able to provide the following general rate adjustments for 2025:

Insurance Line	Rate Adjustments	
	General	BHNCDSB
Property	0.99%	8.3%
Boiler & Equipment	0.0%	50.0%
Liability	7.29%	4.3%
Cyber	13.01%	10.0%
Legal	7.29%	43.0%
Crime	0.0%	0.0%
Fleet	0.0%	0.0%

In addition to their regular insurance program, OSBIE provides an incentive program to help reduce fees even further. As a subscriber, OSBIE provides additional value by returning premiums based on the pool’s experience. In 2024, the Board received a premium refund of \$29,487.64.

Appendix A summarizes the premium breakdown for 2025, compared to prior years.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2025 insurance renewal premium, payable to the Ontario School Boards’ Insurance Exchange, in the amount of \$186,983.00, excluding PST.

**Appendix A**  
**OSBIE INSURANCE PREMIUMS**

<b>Insurance Line</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>Change (%)</b>
Property	36,459.00	36,870.00	33,580.00	32,640.00	-2.8%
Crime	5,650.00	5,787.00	6,098.00	6,550.00	7.4%
Boiler & Equipment	7,003.00	7,276.00	8,009.00	12,018.00	50.1%
Liability	70,380.00	73,198.00	84,179.00	94,368.00	12.1%
Cyber	5,412.00	8,053.00	7,659.00	10,010.00	30.7%
Legal	14,432.00	14,783.00	15,579.00	23,859.00	53.1%
Fleet	6,137.00	7,232.00	7,538.00	7,538.00	0.00%
<b>Total Premium</b>	<b>145,473.00</b>	<b>153,199.00</b>	<b>162,642.00</b>	<b>186,983.00</b>	<b>15.0%</b>

<b>Insurance Line</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Deductible</b>
Property	Unlimited	\$10,000 / per occurrence
Crime	\$1 million	\$500 / per occurrence
Boiler & Equipment	\$5 million	\$5,000 / per occurrence
Cyber	\$1 million	\$50,000 / per occurrence
Legal	\$500,000	N/A

## REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent  
Presented to: Board of Trustees  
Submitted on: November 19, 2024  
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

### Student Achievement Plan for 2024-2025

Public Session

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board facilitated and created an improvement plan for student achievement that is developed within the context of our Vision, Motto, and Values. All commitments and goals for students, staff, and the community are based on our focus to ensure a commitment to Christ-centred, life-long learning rooted in the Essential Practices.

The Essential Practices include knowing the learner, learning goals and success criteria, as well as descriptive feedback.

This Student Achievement (SAP) stems from, aligns with, and is an extension of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan launched last September 2023, as well as current Ministry of Education priorities.

The Ministry priorities are:

- 1. Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills**
- 2. Preparation of Students for Future Success**
- 3. Student Engagement & Well-Being**

Included in this year's SAP is a focus on EQAO data for literacy (reading and writing), early reading screening data, as well as success and achievement in mathematics. In addition, there is a focus on attendance, suspension data, 16 credits by age 16 attainment in secondary, as well as a continued focus on mental health and well-being including equity and belonging to support engagement.

#### **INFORMATION GATHERING and RECOMMENDATION:**

A small team of consultants and leads have met with different community partners, reviewed EQAO data and report card data, looked at success of the MAAP (Math Achievement Action Plan) and school climate surveys, to develop this year's goals and plan moving forward.

Superintendent of Education for Curriculum, as well as Curriculum Student Achievement Lead, have met with all school administrators to discuss EQAO data, plans for this year and how the goals will be monitored and met. We will continue these visits in February to challenge schools to look at who is doing well and how to move them forward; look at what the educators need to support moving these students forward; and what supports are needed from the SAT team to meet and support the achievement of these goals to ultimately support student success and better EQAO scores and overall skill building for our students and staff.



## School Student Achievement Plans (SAPs):

The Ministry documents, including the 11 indicators, were shared with each school administrator and the Family of Schools, Superintendent. School Principals were also shared all the data to support decision making and encouraged to focus on a few key areas: Literacy and Numeracy; Engagement (Equity and Mental Health); and Faith (bringing the Spiritual Theme to life across the district uniquely in each school community). Principals were asked to complete action items for each of the indicators. We challenged them to go deep; meaning specific instructional practices in literacy and numeracy that could be monitored and supported. We asked them to look at students not achieving success and share with staff to discuss a plan to support moving them forward, with a focus on level 2 students. Our BHNCD SB EQAO data showed us that this is where the focus needs to be.

Highlighting a few key areas of focus for 2024-2025:

### Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP)

The Ministry shared once again, a list of priority schools for us to support; however, using our own data; the focus to build support using the staff and funding we have; the educators in those classrooms, and our own data from last year, we tweaked those schools to include:

#### Grade 3 Schools

Notre Dame Brantford  
St. Pius  
Holy Cross  
St Michael's Dunnville  
Madonna Della Libera  
Christ the King

#### Grade 6 Schools

Notre Dame Brantford  
St. Mary's  
Holy Cross  
St Michael's Dunnville  
St. Bernard of Clairvaux  
St. Frances Cabrini

We have three priority action areas (see chart in Appendix 1):

1. Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation including the intentional use of proven strategies that support academic math achievement.
2. Engaging in ongoing math learning on mathematics content knowledge for teaching.
3. Knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions, and supports are relevant and timely.

Priority Action 1:

As the appendix notes, each area has a need, and then action items at the classroom, school, and board level. We have included monitoring actions as well to support tracking the work intentionally..

- a. Highlighting the High Impact Instructional Practices. We chose three (tools and representations, small group instruction, and math conversations).
- b. Looking for a shift in confidence from educators and students.
- c. Looking for PD engagement and the focus in on the priority schools, Grades 3 and 6 as noted above.
- d. Looking for a shift in practice utilizing a checklist for administrators to use to track and monitor; and board supported resources.

Priority Action 2:

- a. We are focusing the work on computational fluency for Grade 3s and Algebra and Spatial Sense for Grade 6.
- b. Looking for a shift in practice utilizing a tracking form by our Math Facilitators.
- c. Collaborative work: content webinars, coaches' corner, number routines, and EQAO support sessions (November, February, and April).
- d. Looking for a shift in confidence with content knowledge as noted by a self-assessment survey.
- e. Looking for student progress using Knowledgehook data in Grades 3 and 6 priority school classrooms.

### Priority Action 3:

- a. Utilizing and supporting board supported diagnostic tools to get to know students.
- b. Looking for a shift in practice using diagnostic tools to respond with instruction and assessment intentionally. Using Knowledgehook data and surveys.
- c. Looking for a shift in practice in use of relevant and responsive interventions and instruction.
- d. Looking for student progress in use of digital tools to support learning as noted by Knowledgehook reporting, teacher usage and EQAO results.

### Literacy Plan

#### Elementary K-8:

We have successfully screened, all 2458 students in year 2 Kindergarten – Grade 2 across BHNCD SB since September. Using that data, broken down to school, classroom, and student level, the literacy team met with educators to support next steps. Those steps include creating small groups to support intentional and explicit teaching of the skills that need growth, using FlyLeaf, Heggerty, and the Phonics Companion (Board Supported Resources) at the Tier 1 level. Special Education is supporting Tier 3 via Lexia licenses and Empower reading to support 6% of the population needing this extensive support.

Our next learning and action is how to best support Tier 2 instruction focusing on Grade 2, where our data shows the gaps in learning and students not meeting benchmark using the Acadience screener; as well as piloting other resources such as Catch Up Your Code beyond Grade 4 to continue to close learning gaps and address skill deficits in Junior and Intermediate.

Our EQAO data shows that we are on par for Primary reading and our focus needs to be on writing in Junior and Intermediate as well as ensuring all students can read as early as they can. Schools are using a writing focus with EQAO questions, monthly writing challenges, and SAT is piloting, tracking, and monitoring, some other Junior and Intermediate resources (Write to Read and Teaching Phonics and Word Study in the Intermediate Grades) to support gap closing in those divisions.

The Student Achievement Literacy Team continues to grow their knowledge, skills, and work with the new curriculum, structured literacy, supporting the screener roll out, and intervention work for Tier 1 and 2 instruction (teaching and learning) across the system.

#### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT):

The Literacy Consultant for Secondary has met with all secondary school administrators with literacy as their portfolio. A plan was created for each school regarding when students would write and who would write when (spring or fall). Detailed preparation supports unique to each school were developed and direct school support from the Consultant for test prep and writing is happening consistently and regularly.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the 2024-2025 Student Achievement Plan to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.



Appendix A

Key Performance Indicators for the Three Priority Action Items: MAAP 2024-2025

	<b>Priority Action 1</b> <i>Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation including the intentional use of proven strategies that support academic math achievement (HIIP)</i>	<b>Priority Action 2</b> <i>Engaging in ongoing learning on mathematics content knowledge for teaching</i>	<b>Priority Action 3</b> <i>Knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions and supports are relevant and responsive</i>
<b>Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused work on Algebra and Spatial Sense (Number) expectations and using the teachers' resources in the DCP</li> <li>Highlighting three HIIP: Small group instruction, conversations, Tools &amp; Representations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grade 3 – Computational Fluency (fall);</li> <li>Grade 3 and 6 - Focused work on Algebra and Spatial Sense (Number) expectations and using the teachers' resources in the DCP</li> <li>Highlighting three HIIP: Small group instruction, conversations, Tools &amp; Representations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educators need support in better utilizing student assessment data, from a variety of sources, to determine student learning needs</li> </ul>
<b>Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shift in confidence</li> </ul> <p>100% of Grade 3 and 6 Priority School educators will report an increase in confidence using the <b>DCP</b> and the <b>high-impact instructional practices</b> (i.e. teacher supports; tools and representations, math conversations, small group instruction) through job-embedded support</p> <p>Current Value: Survey question</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shift in practice</li> </ul> <p>100% of Grade 3 and 6 Priority School educators will work collaboratively with a math facilitator or consultant to deepen their content knowledge in Algebra and Spatial Sense so that they plan and teach at least one activity together</p> <p>Current Value: track using a form completed by Math Facilitator</p> <p><i>Collaborative work includes content webinars, coaches' corner, number routines, EQAO support sessions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shift in practice</li> </ul> <p>100% of Grade 3 and 6 Priority School educators will use diagnostic assessments in Algebra and Spatial Sense (e.g. Knowledgehook, MathUP, Nelson Pre-Assessments) to identify student learning needs and respond accordingly in their instruction and assessment</p> <p>Current Value: KH tracking, Self-Assessment Survey</p>
<b>School</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PD engagement</li> </ul> <p>100% of Grade 3 and 6 Priority School educators will participate in PD sessions focusing on the use of High Impact Instruction Practices (e.g. visual representations) in the <u>Algebra</u> and <u>Spatial Sense</u> strand.</p> <p>Current Value: Attendance tracking</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shift in confidence</li> </ul> <p>After engaging in collaborative meetings (e.g. MOE webinars), 100% of Grade 3 and 6 Priority School educators will report increased confidence of their content knowledge of Algebra and Spatial Sense</p> <p>Current Value: Self-Assessment Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shift in practice</li> </ul> <p>100 % of Grade 3 and 6 Priority School educators will report an increased use of mathematics achievement data from a variety of sources, (e.g. EQAO, report cards, board-developed assessment tools) to provide relevant and responsive interventions.</p> <p>Current Value: Survey</p>
<b>Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shift In Practice</li> </ul> <p>Using board-created materials to share during staff meetings, Administrators of all schools will report an increased number of classroom observations of <b>high-impact instructional practices</b> (i.e. tools and representations, math conversations, small group instruction) documented through a board-provided observation checklist</p> <p>Current Value = Administrator observation checklist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Student progress</li> </ul> <p>In Grade 3 and 6 Priority Schools, 100% of students will show improvement in Algebra and Spatial Sense scores (i.e. pre and post assessment in Knowledgehook).</p> <p>Current Value: KH reports - Last year's scores as a baseline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Student progress</li> </ul> <p>An increased use of digital tools (e.g. Knowledgehook) to provide relevant and responsive interventions (e.g. teacher supports) will result in an increase in the number of Grade 3 and 6 students at provincial standard as measured by EQAO (spring 2025 data)</p> <p>Current Value: KH report – teacher support usage + results by strand; EQAO results</p>

## 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: November 19, 2024  
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

### French Immersion Programming 2025-2026

Public Session

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

To support evidence and research coming from the Right to Read and changes to the Language Curriculum, as well as the anticipated new Kindergarten program, the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board is proposing a change to the French Immersion Programming beginning next September for the 2025-2026 school year for Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten.

#### **DEVELOPMENTS:**

##### **Research and Evidence:**

Research, brought to light through the Science of Reading Report and move to structured literacy in the Language curriculum with explicit instruction of skills, clearly shows that students need a good foundation in the English Language and with literacy skills, before moving on to learn a new language. The BHNCDSD wants to ensure students are prepared in Grade 1 for the acquisition of another language, building on a solid foundation of what is learned in Kindergarten and from families at home, prior to formal school starting.

Shifting French Immersion to Grade 1 supports the need to develop fluency and strong foundational English language skills first. The move we are proposing will provide more time for children to develop foundational English language skills including oral language, fluency, decoding, and good reading and writing success.

In addition, the BHNCDSD would be able to access French Kindergarten educators for other French staffing positions to serve the needs of the system in French Immersion and Core French Programming.

As the BHNCDSD makes this shift in programming it would:

1. Still permit registration to French Immersion in Kindergarten to allow all children a seamless start to school and into the Grade 1 French Immersion Program.
2. Offer opportunities for French language and French cultural experiences in Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten in those classes.
3. Build in intentional French opportunities through play-based Kindergarten program such as French songs and games in all four frames of the Kindergarten Program, as well as through centres/provocations set up in the classroom.
4. Continue to allow for children/families to enter the Grade 1 French Immersion program, if there are spots available from Kindergarten.
5. Allow for the continuation of caps for the French Immersion program as they currently exist following the same registration period that runs January 6-February 21, 2025.

**Timelines:**

Once approved, communication will happen with Administrators of the French Immersion schools. Followed by communication to families of current Year 1 students moving to Year 2 French Immersion. After which, communication for registration will happen explaining this change to all families looking to register for French Immersion in 2025-2026.

The French and Early Years Consultants, alongside the Administrators of the French Immersion schools, would support the transition and focus on offering good French language and cultural opportunities for Year 1 and Year 2 students at those French Immersion schools in the Kindergarten Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the changes to the French Immersion Kindergarten (Year 1 and Year 2) Program beginning in September 2025 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**2024-25**  
**Trustee Meetings and Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>
November 19, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>November 19, 2024</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
November 25, 2024	9:00 am	Mental Health Steering Committee
<b>November 26, 2024</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
December 2, 2024	3:00 pm	Accommodations Committee
December 4, 2024	3:00 pm	Executive Council
<b>December 10, 2024</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Board Meeting</b>
December 11, 2024	3:00 pm	Budget Committee
December 17, 2024	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>December 17, 2024</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
<i>December 23 2024- January 3, 2025</i>		<i>CHRISTMAS BREAK</i>
January 15, 2025	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
January 17-18, 2025		OCSTA Trustees Seminar
January 21, 2025	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>January 21, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
January 28, 2025	1:30 pm	Faith Advisory Council Meeting
<b>January 28, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
February 3, 2025	9:00am	Mental Health Steering Committee
February 3, 2025	6:30pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
February 12, 2025	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
February 18, 2025	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>February 18, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
February 25, 2025	9:00 am	Student Transportation Services BHN
February 25, 2025	1:00pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
<b>February 25, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
March 5, 2025	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
<i>March 10-14, 2025</i>		<i>MARCH BREAK</i>
March 18, 2025	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>March 18, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
<b>March 25, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
April 7, 2025	3:00 pm	Accommodations Committee Meeting
April 9, 2025	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
April 14, 2025	6:30 pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
April 15, 2025	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>April 15, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
April 17, 2025	1:30 pm	Faith Advisory Council Meeting
<b>April 22, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
May 1-3, 2025		OCSTA AGM & Conference
<i>May 5-9, 2025</i>		<i>Catholic Education Week</i>
May 5, 2025	5:00 pm	Catholic Student Leadership Awards
May 7, 2025	3:00 pm	Budget Committee
May 12, 2025	1:00 pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
May 12, 2025	6:30 pm	Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
May 14, 2025	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
May 20, 2025	1:00 pm	Special Education Advisory Committee
<b>May 20, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
May 26, 2025	9:00 am	Mental Health Steering Committee
May 27, 2025	9:00 am	Student Transportation Services BHN
<b>May 27, 2025</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>

June 5-7		CCSTA AGM
June 9, 2025	1:00 pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
June 9, 2025	5:00pm	Audit Committee
June 10, 2025	1:30 pm	Faith Advisory Committee Meeting
June 10, 2025	1:30 pm	Mental Health
June 11, 2025	3:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting
<b>June 17, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole</b>
<b>June 24, 2025</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
June 26, 2025	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.