



Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 ♦ 7:00 pm
Boardroom

Trustees:

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

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Rajini Nelson (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

1.5 Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes – November 19, 2024

Pages 3-6

1.6 Business Arising from the Minutes

2. Presentations

3. Delegations

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee
- November 19, 2024

Pages 7-8

4.2 Unapproved Minutes of the Mental Health Steering Committee
- November 25, 2024

Pages 9-10

4.3 Unapproved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee
- December 17, 2024

Pages 11-12

4.4 Unapproved Minutes of the School Year Calendar Committee
- January 13, 2025

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5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 2025/2026 School Year Calendar
Presenter: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education

Pages 14-15

5.2 PowerSchool Cyber Incident
Presenter: Mike McDonald, Director Superintendent of Education

Pages 16-17



6. Information & Correspondence

7. Trustee Inquiries

8. Business In-Camera

207. (2) Closing of certain committee meetings. A meeting of a committee of a board, including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject-matter under consideration involves,
- a. The security of the property of the board;
 - b. The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
 - c. The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
 - d. Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
 - e. Litigation affecting the board.

9. Report on the In-Camera Session

10. Future Meetings and Events

Page 18

11. Closing Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we thank you for your gifts to us: for making us, for saving us in Christ, for calling us to be your people. As we come to the end of this meeting, we give you thanks for all the good things you have done in us. We thank you for all who have shared in the work of this Board and ask you to bless us all in your love. We offer this prayer, Father, through Christ our Lord. **Amen***

12. Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



**BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**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 Trustees)

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

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Vice Chair Luciani.

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 November 19, 2024, meeting.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

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

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

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

Carried

1.6 Business from the Minutes - Nil

2. Presentations – Nil

3. Delegations- Nil

4. Consent Agenda

Clarification surrounding two items in the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes were requested. The questions were regarding the Empower Reading Program PD and the recent creation of the document, *Considerations When Programming for Students with Complex Needs*, which is a compilation of Health & Safety and Special Education resources now in one central location. This document will be released to the system soon.



4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – October 15, 2024

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

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 October 15, 2024.

4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee – October 21, 2024

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of October 21, 2024.

4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Accessibility Steering Committee – October 31, 2024

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Accessibility Steering Committee Meeting of October 31, 2024.

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 2025 Insurance Renewal

Director McDonald presented the 2025 Insurance renewal report. The Board's property and liability insurance is currently covered by the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE). As of January 1, 2025, OSBIE is in year four of the current five-year subscription period, which ends on December 31, 2026. Overall premiums are determined by OSBIE's appointed actuary to cover expected future claims. Premiums vary from year to year based on several factors including enrollment and coverage. Discussion regarding the rate increases in a couple of line items was had.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole 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.

Carried



5.2 Student Achievement Plan for 2024-2025

Superintendent Temple presented the 2024-25 Student Achievement Plan. 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. 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. The math achievement and literacy plans were highlighted along with computation fluency.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

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

Carried

5.3 French Immersion 2025-2026

Superintendent Temple presented the French Immersion 2025-26 report. To support evidence and research coming from the *Right to Read* report 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. The changes will include a shift to full French Immersion programming which will begin in grade one. However, students will still enter the class at the designated French Immersion school in Kindergarten with programming to include building in monthly French culture and language experiences and opportunities. The program changes, timelines, and communication to the system were all addressed.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

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.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 Con Ed Afternoon Programming

Superintendent Della Fortuna provided information regarding the addition of the pilot con-ed afternoon programming. Information will be sent out to parents shortly. It was noted that transportation will not be provided and the SWAC and Dual credit programs are still available.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

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

Math tutoring was discussed and as per the funding, is only being offered to grade nine students.

8. Business In-Camera

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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: Bill Chopp

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

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the November 19, 2024 meeting.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom



**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 – 1:00pm
Catholic Education Centre and Microsoft Teams**

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

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.

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Lauren Freeborn

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the November 19, 2024, meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Lauren Moulton

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

Carried

7. Correspondence

An e-mail was received from Limestone District School Board, related to concerns of the current state of teacher training at Ontario's Teacher Colleges across the province, particularly in the area of Special Education.

8. Mary Hanhan – Complex Communicator's Guidebook

Mary Hanhan, Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) presented The Complex Communicator's Guidebook created as an additional support for Educators to support transitions and growth with complex communicators. The guidebook includes an Educator's section, Interaction, Basics of Alternative Augmentative Communication, Resources for Teachers, parents, and administrators, Access in schools, Modeling including a practice and planning page, Communication Opportunities, Communication Functions, Nutrition Break Placemats, and Hygiene Routines.

9. Community Agency Updates

Tara Buchanan

Project search has been successful in students being permanently hired. Project Search provides employment support for students aged 18 and up.

Mischa Dinsmore

Lansdowne Children's Centre has been busy preparing Christmas Baskets. Discussions are already beginning for the kindergarten registration.

Michelle Drake

Crossing All Bridges is holding their Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 23, 2024, from 9am - 12pm.

Jennifer Rudyk

The BHNCDsB, elementary school, parent teacher conferences are completed. Additionally, the kindergarten to Grade 2 early reading screeners are complete.

Shannon Korber

Child and Family Services of Grand Erie is collecting donations for Christmas. Stability funding is available for families.

10. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

Special Education continues to monitor and approve or reject all modified day requests and IEP modification requests to create accountability measures.

Two additional Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) have been added to the Empower training. Consultants and the Student Achievement Lead gathered for more EA allocation meetings. We are awaiting approval of a revised budget in order to place more supportive adults out into our growing system.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) has been completed. Over 800 students were tested and currently Parent Guides and OSR documentation for families and schools is being created to communicate student results.

BHNCDsB completed thirty-two speech screens. Currently BHNCDsB has 77 students on the list to be tested.

New SERTs and some secondary Special Education teachers underwent achievement test training on topics including Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Elopement, Chromebook and Boardmaker tips, supporting all learners through accommodations, Smorres Training Program, and Individual Education Plan's.

The Special Education Department recently had a virtual Community of Practice meeting which focused on Secondary Special Class Placement opportunities and eligibility speech language services, Lexia, Sacramental retreats, CogAT, Story Champs, PowerSchool, and the Complex Communicator Guidebook.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Phil Wilson thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:57pm. The next meeting will be held on



Mental Health Steering Committee

November 25, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Present: Dianne Wdowczyk-Meade (Chair), John Della Fortuna (Superintendent of Education), April Taylor (Senior Social Worker), Rita Raposo, Chandra Portelli, Thanh-Thanh Tieu, Tracie Witteveen, Jennifer Rudyk, Keri Calvesbert, Razak Aziz, Andrea Perras, Jillian Marranta, Irene Perro (HN Reach), Vanessa Heath (Minute Taker)

Regrets: Amy Pimentel, Christina Farrell, Sandra DeDominicis, Cynthia Miller, Lori Skye-Laforme, Bill Chopp (Trustee)

1. Land Acknowledgment

April Taylor provided the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Opening Prayer

Keri Calvesbert provided the opening prayer.

3. Introductions and Welcome

Dianne welcomed all in attendance, committee did a round table to introduce all members

4. Approval of the Agenda

November 25, 2024, Agenda approved by consensus.

5. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 10, 2024, approved by consensus.

6. Information Items

6.1 Ministry/Board Updates

6.1.1 Whole School Approach to Mental Health (review)

- Dianne reviewed the slides for the Whole School Approach to Student Mental Health and Well-being as outlined in PPM 169

6.1.2 Wayfinder

- Dianne shared a SMHO promotional video outlining Wayfinder - a tool for educators that gathers mental health learning resources in an easy-to-use and sequenced way. This digital, clickable guide offers a variety of mental health lessons and learning activities organized by grade (K-12), including virtual field trips, lesson plans, read aloud, grab and go activities, and much more. Dianne shared she has been able to share the resource not only with the Student Support Services team, but at the New Teacher Induction Program orientation session, with primary prep teachers at the September PD Day and with all administrators at the monthly principal's meeting.
- Action item: the committee recommended Wayfinder postcards be printed and be made available to educators in the staff room.



Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive, Brantford, ON

6.1.3 Grade 10 Careers

- Dianne and Chandra provided an overview of the new mental health modules housed in the Grade 10 Careers course.
- Materials are housed in Brightspace for easy access by teachers.
- Careers educators, administrators and guidance educators received a professional development session regarding the course on the September PD Day.

6.1.4 Upcoming events related to Mental Health & Wellbeing – ALL

- Those at the table spoke about initiatives occurring at their schools or on the board. Initiatives included RCMP, 60 Minutes of Mental Health and monthly principal meetings (AAC), Roots of Empathy, PALS, Mind Up, Wellness clubs, and Jack Chapters.

7 Discussion Items

7.1 Mental Health Action Plan

Dianne provided an overview of the Mental Health Action Plan.

Dianne requested a motion to approve the forward-facing Mental Health Action Plan.

Moved by: John Della Fortuna

Seconded by: Tania Flynn

7.2 Review of Terms

Dianne presented the revised Terms of Reference, with a recommendation to defer the finalization of the document until the next meeting, with the aim of solidifying it in February

8 Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Next Meeting: 9:00 am -11:00 am – February 3, 2024

Catholic Education Centre, 322 Fairview Drive, Brantford, ON



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 – 1:00pm

Microsoft Teams

- Members:** Dennis Blake (Trustee), Lauren Freeborn (Contact Brant), Patti Mitchell (Parent, County of Brant), Lauren Moulton (Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services)
- Regrets:** Brandi Bertling (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Tara Buchanan (Community Living Brant), Mischa Dinsmore (Lansdowne Children’s Centre), Michelle Drake (Crossing All Bridges), Shannon Korber (Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Marilyn Noi (Autism Ontario), Janelle Sandy (Indigenous Child and Youth Team at Child and Family Services of Grand Erie), Nil Woodcroft (Haldimand Norfolk REACH)
- Resources:** Sandra DeDominicis (Student Achievement Lead: Special Education), Kerri Lomax (Principal, Elementary), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, Elementary), Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education)

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

Lauren Moulton welcomed all committee members.

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Lauren Freeborn

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the agenda of the December 17, 2024, meeting.

Carried

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: Lauren Freeborn

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the minutes of the November 19, 2024, meeting.

Carried

7. Correspondence

Nil

8. Community Agency Updates

Patti Mitchell

The Special Olympics team is preparing for the July 10-13, 2025, Summer Games. In the new year, the team will be looking for 700 volunteers to assist with the games. High school students are welcome to volunteer to obtain volunteer hours. Volunteers do not need to commit to the entire games but can work to their availability. Thirty Brantford athletes will be participating this year.

Lauren Moulton

Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services held their Children's Holiday Party. There were over one hundred children in attendance. Woodview will be open throughout the holiday season, except for the statutory holidays.

10. Student Achievement Lead and Superintendent of Education

- Superintendent Wilson and Sandra De Dominicis visited with one class and one of the Speech Language Pathologists working with Story Champs. After only two weeks using the Story Champs program, students are already making gains and learning.
- Two Special Education consultants trained our Special Education Resource Teachers and Special Class Secondary teachers on the Key math diagnostic tool.
- BHCNDSB welcomed a new service dog to our school system.
- A Community of Practice meeting was held on December 12, 2024.
- BHCNDSB has had tremendous success with our Special Education students in regards to EQAO scores. Researchers from EQAO have reached out to Superintendent Wilson to determine the programming BHCNDSB is providing to students to assist in achieving these results.
- Superintendent Wilson discussed the BHCNDSB website in regards to Special Education. He noted that revisions are currently being made to improve user friendliness, providing relevant information for families, as well as ease in finding Special Education on the website.

11. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Phil Wilson thanked everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.



**Calendar Committee Meeting
January 13, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Teams Meeting**

Members: Mark Watson (Trustee), Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Carlee Bond, Sandra DeDominicis, Carlo Fortino, Mario Pasquini, Chandra Portelli, Paul Rusyn, Shannon Mason, Tara Williams, Sarah Lebel

Absent: Mark Watson, Carlo Fortino, Paul Rusyn

-
1. **Welcome** Lorrie Temple
 2. **Prayer and Land Acknowledgement** Lorrie Temple
 3. **Outline of Regulation** Lorrie Temple
 - 194 minimum school days, 7 PD Days
 - 187 minimal instructional days
 - 3 Ministry Directed PD days:
 - November 14th, 2025
 - April 17th, 2026
 - June 26th, 2026
 - 10 exam writing days 5 in each semester
 - January 23rd – 29th 2026 followed by two PD Days January 30th and February 2nd 2026
 - Second Semester Exam writing days June 19th– 25th 2026
 - 4 additional pd day (Board)
 - September 12th, 2025
 - October 7th, 2025 – Fair day both boards (GEDSB)
 - Elementary Report Card writing Days January 19th and June 5th 2026
 - Secondary January 30th and February 2nd 2026
 4. **Outline of proposed dates for 2025-26** Lorrie Temple
 - 100%compliance with GEDSB
 - We have 194 days
 - First day Sept 2nd, 2025, Last day June 25th, 2026
 5. **Consensus agreement to dates**
 - Committee agreed to the school year calendar as proposed for the 2025-2026 school Year.
 6. **Adjournment: 3:20pm**

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

Prepared by: Lorrie Temple, Superintendent of Education
Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: January 21, 2025
Submitted by: Michael McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2025-26

Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Regulation 304 “School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days”, and Policy/Program No. 151 set out the conditions governing and establishing school year calendars and outlines the following criteria that must be met:

- school year commences on or after September 1 and ends on or before June 30;
- the minimum number of school days required is 194;
- the minimum number of instructional days is 187;
- school boards must dedicate three PA days per school year to provincial education priorities and may dedicate up to four additional PA days per school year; and
- a board may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days.

Professional activities are focussed on ensuring equity of outcome and wellbeing for all students. The three mandatory PA days must be focused on teacher’s professional learning with respect to the following current provincial education priorities as outlined in *Achieving Excellence*:

- Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
- Preparation of Students for Future Success
- Student Engagement and Well-Being

Calendar specifications, at this point in time:

- The school year has been set at 194 days;
- The first day of school will be September 2, 2025, and the final day will be June 26, 2026;
- The calendars designate seven Professional Activity days (three designated as Ministry days; four designated as Board-directed days). Of the seven days, five are shared between secondary and elementary;
- For the three Ministry-designated days, elementary and secondary calendars will share the same PA days (November 14, 2025, April 17, 2026, and June 26, 2026);
- The elementary calendar includes two PA days for report card writing (January 19, 2026, and June 5, 2026);
- We also have October 7, 2025 (Fair Day) set as the PD Day for all our schools both elementary and secondary which will be considered for our Faith Day;
- The calendars align for busing with our co-terminus board; and
- We will consider moving to remote on March 13, 2026 at St. Cecilia weather dependent.

DEVELOPMENTS:

A School Year Calendar Committee meeting was held on January 13, 2025. The draft calendars were shared and vetted by representatives from the Curriculum and Special Education Departments, OECTA, OSSTF – Educational Support Staff/Early Childhood Educators/Plant Support Staff, the BHN Catholic Principals’ Council, Senior Administration, Board of Trustees, and the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee executive. As has been past practice, the proposed calendars were also shared with representatives from the Grand Erie District School Board to maximize efficiencies in transportation. As noted previously, we have once again been able to have complete alignment for transportation with the dates/calendars being proposed for approval.

We have yet to receive the Ministry of Education Memo announcing the Professional Development topics for the year ahead. We were working off the topics from last year devoting time for Literacy, Numeracy, key priority areas in curriculum, assessment and evaluation, health and safety, as well as mental health and wellbeing, cyber security, and our Board Wide Faith/Spiritual Development Day.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the proposed 2025/2026 School Year Calendars to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

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: January 21, 2025
Submitted by: Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary

POWERSCHOOL CYBER INCIDENT Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board was identified as one of many North American school districts involved in a PowerSchool cyber incident. This cyber incident was not caused by BHNCD SB staff or negligence on their part.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Late afternoon, on January 7, 2025, the Supervisor of Classroom Support at IT services was contacted by PowerSchool Communications and notified of our possible involvement in a cyber security incident involving unauthorized access to certain information through the *PowerSource* support portal. This communication arrived via email and was sent on behalf of Hardeep Gulati (Chief Executive Officer), Paul Brook (Chief Customer Officer) and Mishka McCowan (Chief Information Security Officer). It is important to note that the cyber incident was PowerSchool's and did not occur because of anything involving BHNCD SB staff.

Soon after getting more information and clarification, the breach was reported to senior staff and trustees. IT Services met to discuss the next steps, and a ticket was put in with PowerSchool requesting a report on the extent of BHNCD SB's involvement in the breach. The Manager of IT Services provided a status update to the Cyber Division of the Ministry of Education. IT Services and Communications attended a PowerSchool breach session where the organization divulged some details of the breach and what possible information may have been included, depending on the organization. They announced their hiring of an independent third-party investigator and announced the goal of providing each North American district involved, with a report outlining what data had been breached, by January 17, 2025.

On January 9, 2025, notification to the Ontario Privacy Commissioner, BHNCD SB Union partners, the Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), staff, and families took place. At that time, the Board did not have details of our data involved in the breach, but we felt it was important to take a proactive approach focusing on notification and transparency.

On January 10, 2025, Communication Services attended a legal information session with other Ontario school districts to obtain guidance and action items. BHNCD SB's staff had already completed all items. IT Services received key factors to investigate and began a proactive internal investigation (rather than waiting for the independent third-party PowerSchool report). Communication Services fielded media questions.

On January 11, 2025, Communication Services organized a PowerSchool Cyber Incident webpage and quick access button (on the BHNCD SB default website page) to house all public information about the breach. Preliminary results came back from the IT Services investigation indicating that teacher and student data, specific to BHNCD SB, potentially had been involved in the PowerSchool cyber incident. Communication Services fielded media questions.

On January 17, 2025, IT Services and Communication Services attended a meeting with the Ministry of Education to discuss school board impact of the cyber incident. The two departments will review a shared plan and templates and begin sharing additional information in the form of notifications once our data is verified by the third-party independent PowerSchool Cyber Incident Report. Communication Services fielded media questions.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the PowerSchool Cyber Incident to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

2024-25
Trustee Meetings and Events

Date	Time	Meeting/Event
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
January 21, 2025	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
January 28, 2025	1:30 pm	Faith Advisory Council Meeting
January 28, 2025	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
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
February 18, 2025	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
February 25, 2025	9:00 am	Student Transportation Services BHN
February 25, 2025	1:00pm	Accessibility Steering Committee
February 25, 2025	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
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
March 18, 2025	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
March 25, 2025	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
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
April 15, 2025	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
April 17, 2025	1:30 pm	Faith Advisory Council Meeting
April 22, 2025	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
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
May 20, 2025	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
May 26, 2025	9:00 am	Mental Health Steering Committee
May 27, 2025	9:00 am	Student Transportation Services BHN
May 27, 2025	7:00pm	Board Meeting

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
June 17, 2025	7:00 pm	Committee of the Whole
June 24, 2025	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
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.