



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Committee of the Whole Tuesday, June 17, 2025, ♦ 7:00 pm Boardroom

Trustees:

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

Regrets: Rick Petrella (on leave)

Senior Administration:

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

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

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Trustee Blake requested that the Board By-laws be separated and added as agenda item 5.5.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the June 17, 2025, meeting.

Carried as amended

1.4 Declaration of Interest – Nil

1.5 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2025

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 May 20, 2025, meeting.

Carried

1.6 Business from the Minutes - Nil

2. Presentations – Nil

3. Delegations – Nil



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4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee – May 12, 2025

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Mark Watson

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 May 12, 2025

Carried

4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Accessibility Committee – May 20, 2025

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Accessibility Committee of May 20, 2025.

Carried

4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – May 20, 2025

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Mark Watson

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 April 15, 2025.

Carried

4.4 Unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee – June 10, 2025

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Faith Advisory Committee of June 10, 2025.

Carried

4.5 Unapproved Minutes from the Budget Committee – June 11, 2025

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the unapproved minutes of the Budget Committee of June 11, 2025.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Policy Committee Meeting – June 10, 2025, 2025

Vice-Chair Dignard presented the unapproved minutes and recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting which include;

- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy #300.20 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Workplace Harassment Policy #300.01 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Duty to Report Policy #300.23 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.



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- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Use of Service Animals in School Facilities Policy #200.40 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Purchasing Cards Policy #700.01 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 10, 2025, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 10, 2025, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.2 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Policy Committee Meeting – June 16, 2025

Vice-Chair Dignard presented the unapproved minutes and recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting excluding the Board by-laws;

- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Trustee Expenses Policy #100.10 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Trustee Code of Conduct #100.04 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Access to Legal Counsel Policy #100.09 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for rescinding.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 16, 2025, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval with the exception of the Board By-Laws.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 16, 2025, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.3 Special Education Annual Report – 2024/2025

Superintendent Wilson introduced Sandra DeDominicis, Student Achievement Leader Special Education to present the Special Education Bi-Annual report for 2024-25. The report underscores the broad array of supports and initiatives that enhance learners' access to the curriculum and promote their active engagement in both academic and personal development. In 2024-2025, the Special Education team initiated intentional, system-wide changes to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students. This report outlines key special education initiatives and



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projects, along with the strategic implementation of professional learning and training designed to ensure staff are well-prepared to deliver effective, individualized programming for all students. Guided by the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and rooted in Catholic faith, the board is committed to walking with our students and fostering inclusive, barrier-free learning environments that promote improved student achievement and well-being. The various supports for students as they enter the school system in kindergarten and age out of the system were highlighted. The realignment of supports ensures students receive the right supports at the right time.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Special Education Annual Report 2024-25 report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.4 Student Achievement Annual Report

Superintendent Wilson introduced Chandra Portelli, Student Achievement Leader: School Effectiveness K-12 to present the Student Achievement Annual Report. The Student Achievement Team, aligned with Ministry of Education priorities, focuses on building literacy and numeracy skills from Kindergarten to Grade 12. This work is informed by an understanding of the diverse strengths, needs, and identities of our students. In 2024-2025, significant efforts focused on literacy and numeracy development, early intervention, and building educator capacity across all grade levels which included the introduction of the early reader screener, continuation of the math achievement action plan, EQAO readiness, and the launching of the new Board Student Achievement Plan. It was noted that the number of English as Second Language learners have continued to grow across the system, continuous supports are in place for NTIP (New Teacher Induction Program) and the Arts, as well the growing success of the high skills major program and skilled trades were noted. Further, in June 2025, 65 BHNCD SB students are graduating with the DELF (Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française) certification which is widely recognized as proof of French proficiency by institutions and organizations globally.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Student Achievement Annual Report 2024-25 report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.5 Board By-Laws

Trustee Blake spoke on the areas that he would like to see reinstated or changed in the by-laws with regards to motions made at the Policy committee. These include relaxing the provisions around providing information prior for delegations, returning the Committee of the Whole to the third Tuesday of the month and the reinstatement of Trustee Inquiries.

5.5.1 Trustee Blake made a motion to have a separate vote on Board By-laws #7.1 Item 9 – Trustee Inquiries

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board reinstates the Trustee Inquiries as item 9 as part of the order of business.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

Discussion regarding the rationale for the removal of Trustee Inquiries and the avenue for submitting and obtaining answers to Trustee questions was had. For general inquiries,



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Trustees are encouraged to submit their questions to the Chair of the Board who will reach out to the Director of Education and the answer will be provided at the next Board meeting as part of the information and correspondence. For urgent inquiries, Trustees are encouraged to reach out to the Chair of the Board who will communicate with the Director of Education and respond back in a timely manner.

Trustee Watson called the question.

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board reinstates the Trustee Inquiries as item 9 as part of the order of business.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded: Bill Chopp

Defeated

5.5.2 Trustee Blake made a motion to have a separate vote on Item 6.2.1.1

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board reinstates the previous schedule and location of Board and Committee of the Whole meetings.

There was no seconder.

5.5.3 Chair Luciani put the original motion to a vote. A roll call recorded vote was requested by Trustee Blake

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the By-law changes including the preamble and sections 4.1.1, 5.4.1(l), 5.4.1(m), 6.2.1.1, 6.2.2.1, 6.2.2.2, 6.4.14, 6.4.16, 6.4.16.1, 6.4.16.2, 6.4.16.3, 6.4.16.4, 6.4.16.5, 6.4.16.6, 6.5.2, 6.5.3, 6.5.4, 6.5.5, 6.7, 6.9.2, 6.9.2.4, 7.1, 8.0.(b), 8.0.(d), 8.0.(h), 8.2, 8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.2.5, 8.2.6, 8.2.7, 9.2, 11.3, 15.0, 15.1, 16.0, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 17.0 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Trustee	Vote
Dan Dignard	Yes
Carol Luciani	Yes
Mark Watson	Yes
Dennis Blake	No
Bill Chopp	Abstain

Result

The motion **passed** with 3 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention
Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 Pastoral Theme

Superintendent Lawlor presented the 2025/2026 BHNCD SB Pastoral Theme Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness. Catholic Education Week aims to celebrate the unique identity and distinctive contributions of our Catholic schools and programming in Ontario. The Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association (OCSTA), leading our Ontario school boards, have been the caretakers of Catholic Education Week in Ontario for several decades. Next year's celebration will occur during the week of May 3 – May 8, 2026, and is themed, "Catholic



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Education: Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness.” The Catholic Education Week theme continues to be inspired by the Jubilee year theme – Pilgrims of Hope – proclaimed in December 2024 by our late Holy Father Pope Francis. The BHNCD SB Pastoral Package and local activities for Catholic Education Week 2026 will be made available to staff early in the 2025-2026 school year.

6.2 Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School – Opening Ceremonies

Director McDonald provided an update regarding the Opening Ceremonies for Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School. The opening ceremonies will be held jointly with the coterminous board on Monday October 6, 2025.

6.3 Hold and Secure

Director McDonald provided clarification regarding a Hold and Secure that was issued on Tuesday June 17, 2025.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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: Mark Watson

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: Mark Watson

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 Luciani drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

11. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Chair Luciani.

12. Adjournment

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the June 17, 2025, meeting.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 - 7:00 p.m. – Boardroom