



# **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 28, 2025 ♦ 4:30 pm Boardroom**

#### **Trustees:**

Carol Luciani (Chair), Dan Dignard (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp  
Mulan How (Student Trustee), Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee)

**Regrets:** Rick Petrella (on leave), Mark Watson (excused)

#### **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)

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## **1. Opening Business**

### **1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

The meeting was opened with a land acknowledgement by Superintendent Greco.

### **1.2 Opening Prayer**

Trustee Dignard led the meeting in prayer.

### **1.3 Attendance**

Attendance was as noted above.

### **1.4 Approval of the Agenda**

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 October 28, 2025, meeting.

**Carried as amended**

### **1.5 Declaration of Interest – Nil**

### **1.6 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2025**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the September 23, 2025, meeting.

**Carried**

### **1.7 Business from the Minutes - Nil**

## **2. Presentations – Nil**

## **3. Delegations – Nil**



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### **4. Consent Agenda**

A question was posed regarding the Terms of Reference at the Mental Health Committee. It was noted that the terms of reference were not discussed at the September 29, 2005 meeting. Discussion was had explaining why those were not brought to the Board and how it is a recommendation of School Mental Health that there should not be a Trustee representative on that committee.

#### **4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – September 16, 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 unapproved minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 16, 2025.

**Carried**

#### **4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Mental Health Steering Committee – September 29, 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 unapproved minutes of the Mental Health Steering Committee Meeting of September 29, 2025.

**Carried**

#### **4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Accommodations Committee – October 1, 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 unapproved minutes of the Accommodations Committee of October 1, 2025.

**Carried**

### **5. Committee and Staff Reports**

#### **5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Policy Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025**

Vice-Chair Dignard presented the unapproved minutes and recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting which includes:

- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Catholic Family Life Program Policy #200.04 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Volunteer and Staff Trip Drivers Policy #200.21 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Progressive Discipline (Employees) Policy & AP #300.19 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Educational Partnerships Including Third Party Professional and Paraprofessional Service Providers Policy #400.36 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.



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Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 21, 2025, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 21, 2025, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

### **5.2 Health and Safety Update**

Superintendent Greco presented the Health and Safety Update report. The Board works closely with the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) fostering employee health and safety in the workplace through cooperation and joint efforts in the design and implementation of educational programs for employees; investigation and resolution of safety problems; training and support of committee members; and development and promotion of enhanced awareness of occupational health and safety matters. Discussion was had regarding the number of incidents, and it was noted that lost time is down.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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

**Carried**

### **5.3 Trustee Honoraria**

Superintendent Nelson presented the Trustee Honoraria report. Ontario Regulation 357/06 Honoraria for Board Members establishes the methodology for calculating the limits on honoraria paid under Section 191 of the Education Act. In accordance with Board Policy #100.06 Trustee Honoraria, the annual trustee honorarium is composed of the following three components, the base amount, enrolment amount and chair/vice-chair amounts. These components collectively determine the total annual compensation for trustees, ensuring consistency with provincial legislation and board policy. There are no changes to the base amount for the new term and the adjustment to trustee honoraria reflects changes in student enrolment.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Trustee Honoraria for the period November 16, 2025, to November 14, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**



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### **5.4 Contract Summary**

Superintendent Nelson presented the contract summary report. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a summary of cooperative purchasing agreements and contracts approved in accordance with Policy 700.01 Procurement for the 2024- 25 school year. This annual reporting fulfills the Board's policy requirement for accountability and transparency in procurement activities and aligns with the principles outlined in the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers to the Contract Summary report for the 2024-25 year to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

### **5.5 Mental Health Update**

Superintendent Della Fortuna presented the Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan 2025-2026 to the board. The Mental Health and Well-Being Action plan 25-26 is part of the three-year mental health and additions strategy, and continues to reflect the Boards Strategic Plan, with a focus on Belonging, Teaching and Learning, and Wellness for all. The action plan highlights the Board's commitment to mentally healthy learning environments that honour, celebrate and support the identities and lived realities of every student; where meaningful connections to life at home and in the community, while promoting hope, resilience, and optimism are made. Discussion regarding the anticipated changes for the next three-year mental health and additions strategy was had including the rise of Artificial Intelligence and its mental health impacts on youth, along with a greater focus on student attendance and how it relates to mental health.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board refers the Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan 2025-2026 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

### **5.6 Student Achievement Update**

Superintendent Wilson presented the Student Achievement update. This update highlights the collaborative work being undertaken across all BHNCDSB schools to enhance student learning and achievement through faith-based education, data-informed instructional practices, and targeted professional development. The implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) across all BHNCDSB schools, the expanded and refined New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP), the implementation of new religion and family life curriculum, along with updates in elementary literacy and numeracy, secondary literacy and various other programs were provided.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Student Achievement Department Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**



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### **5.7 Special Education Department Update**

Superintendent Wilson presented the Special Education Department Update. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an update on current initiatives, staffing, programming, and supports within the Special Education Department as of October 2025. This update reflects the department's ongoing commitment to providing equitable, inclusive, and evidence-based support for students with diverse learning needs across all BHNCD SB schools. An update on the staffing overview of Educational Assistants was provided. There have been several additional permanent allocations made to meet emerging identified needs. These flexible staffing adjustments ensure that schools can respond promptly to emerging student needs and maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for all. Additional updates were provided on specialized student support services including the benefit of the services of Bartimaeus. Intervention Programs and Literacy Initiatives that align with the *Right to Read* report and the Board's focus on literacy improvement for all learners were highlighted. New SERT appointments, professional learning, communication and inclusion resources, speech-language and occupational therapy support, and various other initiatives were discussed. The board highlighted the great work of allocating ample special education supports in the budget process and the student successes that come from it.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Special Education Department Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

## **6. Information and Correspondence**

### **6.1 New School Builds Updates**

The BHNCD SB is in the process of purchasing the land for the two new elementary schools and the construction and wastewater contract for the Brantford high school was recently issued. With the Brantford elementary and Brantford/ Brant County secondary boundary reviews currently underway, a question was asked how the information is being communicated to parents. It was noted that all boundary review minutes are on the board website for public viewing.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the information and correspondence since the last meeting.

**Carried**

## **7. Business In-Camera**

Moved by: Bill Chopp

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**



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### **8. Report on the In-Camera Session**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

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**

### **9. Future Meetings and Events**

Chair Luciani drew attention to the upcoming meetings and events.

### **10. Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Chair Luciani.

### **11. Adjournment**

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the October 28, 2025, meeting.

**Carried**

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 28, 2025 - 4:30 p.m. – Boardroom