



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Committee of the Whole Tuesday, November 25, 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)

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 Land Acknowledgement

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

1.2 Opening Prayer

Trustee Blake led the meeting in prayer.

1.3 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Chair Luciani noted that there are no in-camera Committee of the Whole agenda items, therefore the committee will not move to an in-camera meeting.

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 November 25, 2025, meeting as amended.

Carried as amended

1.5 Declaration of Interest – Nil

1.6 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – October 28, 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 October 28, 2025, meeting.

Carried

1.7 Business from the Minutes - Nil

2. Presentations – Nil

3. Delegations – Nil



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

4. Consent Agenda

4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee – October 14, 2025

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

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 October 14, 2025.

Carried

4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – October 21, 2025

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

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 October 21, 2025.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1 New Teacher Induction Program Update

Superintendent Wilson presented the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) Update report. NTIP is one of many mentorship and leadership opportunities available through the Board. NTIP is designed to provide new teachers with the professional learning, mentorship, and evaluation necessary to support a successful transition into the teaching profession. The 2025–2026 BHNCDSB NTIP program embodies both the provincial NTIP vision and the board's Catholic mission. With over 100 educators engaged and 394 release days supporting their growth, the program promotes mentorship, professional learning, and faith-based formation. Grounded in the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope,' this year's program fosters collaboration and lifelong learning among BHNCDSB's newest educators.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the New Teacher Induction Program Update to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

5.2 Special Education Department Report: Literacy Intervention Program for Complex Learners (Readopia)

Superintendent Wilson presented the Literacy Intervention Program for Complex Learners (Readopia) Report. This initiative directly responds to the recommendations from the Right to Read Report, which emphasized the need for evidence-based, comprehensive literacy instruction accessible to all students — including those with the most significant learning challenges. Readtopia provides a holistic, developmentally appropriate approach that values the dignity and potential of every learner. This program allows BHNCDSB students to experience the full cognitive, academic, and social benefits of literacy, advancing the Board's commitment to equity, excellence, and high expectations for all learners. This initiative reflects the BHNCDSB's steadfast dedication to fostering inclusion, honouring each person's dignity, and believing in the potential of every learner.



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Special Education Department Report: Literacy Intervention Program for Complex Learners (Readopia) to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1 New School Builds Updates

Superintendent Nelson presented updates on the new school build projects. At the secondary school in Brantford, construction has begun. The total cost of the project was discussed, which includes the land purchase and contingency fund. The tender for construction has been awarded and when the design plans have been finalized, they will be shared with the Trustees. Discussion was had surrounding the role that Trustees play in a new school being built. Trustees are involved in the tendering process to fulfill their fiduciary duties, but not the design phase as it falls under operations. There are no new updates regarding the two new elementary schools.

6.2 Attendance Boundary Review Updates

Director McDonald presented updates regarding the attendance boundary reviews. He noted that this is a busy year as three boundary reviews are taking place simultaneously (City of Brantford elementary, Brant County elementary and Brant/Brantford secondary). The first three committee meetings are complete for all three boundary reviews. The committees consist of parent representatives from the schools impacted. The public meeting for the City of Brantford is Monday December 1, 2025, and various options will be presented. The messaging continues to be that this is still very early in the process. The public meeting for the Brantford/ Brant County secondary school boundary review and the Brant County elementary school boundary review will take place in the new year. Discussion regarding the information that is shared at the public meetings was had. Before the public meeting, the committee's final task is to decide which options will be presented to the public. It was noted that the final recommendation that comes to the senior team prior to going to the board of trustees is made by the committee—not by staff or external planners. Discussion regarding the selection process for school representatives was had.

7. Business In-Camera- Nil

8. Report on the In-Camera Session – Nil

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 November 24, 2025, meeting.

Carried

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 - 4:30 p.m. – Boardroom
