



# 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, February 24, 2026 ♦ 4:30 pm Boardroom

#### Trustees:

Carol Luciani (Chair), Bill Chopp (Vice Chair), Dennis Blake, Dan Dignard, Toni Poirier  
Rick Petrella (on-leave) Mulan How (Student Trustee), Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee)

#### 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 Lawlor.

### 1.2 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Poirier.

### 1.3 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

### 1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Chair Luciani noted that due to inclement weather, the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for January 27, 2026, was cancelled and agenda items were moved to the February 24, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the February 24, 2026, meeting.

**Carried**

### 1.5 Declaration of Interest – Nil

### 1.6 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2025

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting.

**Carried**

### 1.7 Business from the Minutes - Nil

## 2. Presentations – Nil

## 3. Delegations- Nil

## 4. Consent Agenda

### 4.1 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – December 16, 2025



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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 December 16, 2025

**Carried**

#### **4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the School Year Calendar Committee – December 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 School Year Calendar Committee Meeting of December 16, 2025.

**Carried**

#### **4.3 Unapproved Minutes from the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee – January 19, 2026**

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 Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 19, 2026.

**Carried**

#### **4.4 Unapproved Minutes from the Faith Advisory Committee – January 19, 2026**

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 Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of January 19, 2026.

**Carried**

#### **4.5 Unapproved Minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee – January 20, 2026**

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 January 20, 2026.

**Carried**

#### **4.6 Unapproved Minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting – February 12, 2026**

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 Budget Committee Meeting of February 12, 2026.

**Carried**

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

#### **5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Policy Committee Meeting – February 17, 2026**

Trustee Chopp requested that the Electronic Monitoring Policy #400.18 be removed from the motion and voted on separately.



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Trustee Dignard presented the unapproved minutes and recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting which includes:

- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Respectful Workplace Policy #300.45 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Naming of Schools Policy #400.17 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Volunteers Policy #300.12 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT Committee of the Whole refers the Religious Accommodation Policy #200.04 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting of February 17, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval as amended

**Carried**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of February 17, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

### 5.1.1 Trustee Chopp put forward the following motion regarding the Electronic Monitoring Policy #400.18;

THAT the board amend the electronic monitoring and related administrative procedures to explicitly exclude trustees from any form of electronic monitoring, tracking data access or oversight process designed for employees;

THAT the Trustee Bylaws be amended to include a new section affirming that we as Trustees are elected officials and shall not be subject to employee-based electronic protocols;

THAT any access to Trustee devices or data occur only when required by law or the Chair acting on legal advice, or by a formal process approved by the board;

THAT the Director ensures all policies, procedures and IT practices are aligned with these governance requirements.

Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

The motion was on the floor for discussion. Staff spoke against the motion for various reasons and noted that it was not in the best interest of transparency to have the Board of Trustees removed from an electronic monitoring policy.

Speaking to his motion, Trustee Chopp stated that Trustees are not employees but elected officials and should be exempt from IT security and monitoring as it relates to employees. He requested to define electronic monitoring of Trustees with different requirements in the Board By-Laws. Staff noted that regardless of the stakeholder group



the policy applies to all those using Board devices and that the Information and Communications Technology Use Policy #600.02 which refers to Trustee emails will be coming to a Policy Committee soon.

Trustee Dignard tabled the motion to a future policy committee meeting when The Information and Communications Technology Use Policy #600.02 is brought to the policy committee to review both policies at that time.

## **5.2 2026/ 2027 School Year Calendar**

Superintendent Lawlor presented the 2026/2027 school year calendar. The school year calendar committee meeting was held on December 16, 2025. The draft calendars were shared and vetted by representatives from the three unions, staff, parent council, senior team and trustees. As has been past practice, the proposed calendars were also shared with representatives from the co-terminus board to maximize efficiencies in transportation and once again the calendars have complete alignment. Professional Development topics will be forthcoming from the Ministry. The Professional Development days were noted along with the secondary semesters.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the proposed 2026/2027 School Year Calendars to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

## **5.3 Kindergarten Registration Update**

Superintendent Lawlor presented the Kindergarten Registration Update report. Traditionally the kindergarten registration period would open in January of the year that children would enter year one of the kindergarten program. There are many benefits of an earlier registration process which include providing time for health and community service agencies to assess and support incoming early learners. The Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board will begin registering prospective Kindergarten students in October in the year prior to a child entering year one of school. This will commence in October 2026 for incoming pupils registering for the 2027-2028 school year. A working group that involves representation from the Early Years, Special Education, Communications, Student Achievement and Information Technology departments is developing a transition plan and infrastructure supports to achieve this goal. Discussion regarding French Immersion programming in kindergarten was had.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Kindergarten Registration Report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

## **5.4 Tuition Fees for Non-Resident Students in Ontario**

Superintendent Nelson presented the Tuition Fees for Non-Resident Students in Ontario report. The fees were last reviewed by the board in 2023. A survey of school boards found a variety of tuition fee ranges including the non-refundable administration/ application fee. Staff recalculated the fees to reflect board's current operating costs and to remain reasonably aligned with comparable school boards which are being presented to the board for approval.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Bill Chopp



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THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves an annual tuition fee of \$13,800 for secondary non-resident students, as defined by the Education Act.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves an annual tuition fee of \$12,900 for elementary non-resident students, as defined by the Education Act.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves a non-refundable Administration/Application Fee of \$400, a Cancellation Fee of \$100 be charged where a Study Permit is not granted, and a Cancellation Fee of \$500 in all other circumstances, with tuition refunds pro-rated based on the date of cancellation within the term, subject to review and approval by the Superintendent of Business & Treasurer.

**Carried**

### 5.5 **Manager of Information Technology Title Change**

Superintendent Della Fortuna presented the Manager of Information Technology Title Change report. The change in title reflects responsibilities that are already being carried out and provides clarity and alignment with sector practices, legislative expectations, and the Board's governance framework. This change represents a title alignment only and does not involve any change to duties, reporting structure, or financial impact.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Change in Title - Manager of Information Technology to Chief Information Officer report to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

## 6. **Information and Correspondence**

### 6.1 **New School Build Updates**

Superintendent Nelson provided an update on the Brantford Catholic Secondary School. Construction is 40% complete and stonework is underway. Staff are meeting on a bi-weekly basis regarding the construction progress.

### 6.2 **Attendance Boundary Review Updates**

Director McDonald provided an update on the attendance boundary reviews. The City of Brantford boundary review meetings are wrapping up. The final committee meeting for the secondary school boundary review occurred on February 23, 2026. The public session for the Brant County boundary review will be later in March. Board staff will stagger the various attendance boundary reviews reports to the board for approval over the coming months.

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

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

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

**Carried**

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



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Moved by: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the February 24, 2026, meeting.

**Carried**

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 4:30 p.m. – Boardroom