



# 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, March 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 Della Fortuna.

### 1.2 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Dignard.

### 1.3 Attendance

Attendance was as noted above.

### 1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

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

**Carried**

### 1.5 Declaration of Interest – Nil

### 1.6 Approval of Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2026

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the February 24, 2026, 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 – February 17, 2026

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 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of February 17, 2026.

**Carried**

**4.2 Unapproved Minutes from the Mental Health Advisory Committee – February 19, 2026**

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 Advisory Committee Meeting of February 19, 2026.

**Carried**

**5. Committee and Staff Reports**

**5.1 Unapproved Minutes and Recommendations from the Policy Committee Meeting – March 10, 2026**

Trustee Dignard presented the unapproved minutes and recommendations from the Policy Committee meeting. A question was raised about shifting approval of Community Use of Schools rental rates from the Trustees to the Superintendent of Business. It was noted that this is an operational item, as rates follow a cost-recovery model, and any increases will be provided to the Board for information.

- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Police Records Check Policy #300.15 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.
- THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the Community Use of Schools Policy #400.05 to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the recommendations of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 10, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval as amended

**Carried**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the unapproved minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 10, 2026, to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for receipt.

**Carried**

**5.2 International Excursions March 2028**

Superintendent Lawlor presented the International Excursion report. Two international excursions were presented for the 2027/2028 school year: one to Greece and one with stops in France, Monaco, and Italy and the Vatican. Discussion was had regarding affordability, and it was noted that international excursions are brought to the Board two years in advance to give students and families time to plan and fundraise. Student trustees also shared their views, noting that peers who returned from the 2026 international excursions described them as incredible learning experiences.



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Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the proposed international excursion by Assumption College School and St. John's College to Greece to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval

**Carried**

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the proposed international excursion by Assumption College School, St. John's College and Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School to France, Monaco, Italy and the Vatican to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

### 5.3 Global South Encounter - Guatemala

Superintendent Lawlor presented the Global South Encounter – Guatemala report. This International service excursion is open to grade 11 and 12 students to learn about and encounter their Catholic call to service. The positive aspects of the trip for both staff and students were noted.

Moved by: Dan Dignard

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole refers the proposed Global South Encounter – Guatemala international excursion to the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board for approval.

**Carried**

### 5.4 Trustee Determination

Superintendent Nelson presented the Trustee Determination report. Based on the calculations required under Ontario Regulation 412/00, the Board's trustee determination for the upcoming municipal election cycle remains six (6) trustees. Discussion regarding the forthcoming changes to the legislation regarding governance was had. Enrollment within the BHNCD SB is increasing however Catholic rate payers are declining year over year. Under Ontario provincial legislation, Catholic high schools accept students from both Catholic and public-school supporters. Correspondence will be sent to the local parishes, city clerks and parents to confirm their rate payer status.



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Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the following Trustee Determination and Distribution:

1. THAT, for purposes of the 2026 election, the number of trustees is determined to be six.
2. THAT, for purposes of the 2026 election, the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has not designated any low population areas within its jurisdiction.
3. THAT, for the purposes of the 2026 election, the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board has determined the distribution of trustees to be two trustees for the City of Brantford, two trustees for the County of Norfolk, one trustee for the County of Brant and one trustee for the County of Haldimand.

**Carried**

### 5.5 Student Achievement Update

Superintendent Wilson presented the Student Achievement Update. Some of the updates provided include success in early literacy and numeracy, achievement in grade nine mathematics, Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test action plans and achievement targets and the deployment of tablets in kindergarten to support teaching, learning and documentation of student progress. The alignment with the BHNCD SB strategic plan was noted along with next steps. System leaders will continue to work collaboratively with school teams to ensure that instructional practices and interventions remain responsive to student needs.

Moved by: Dennis Blake

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

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

**Carried**

## 6. Information and Correspondence

### 6.1 New School Build Updates

Superintendent Nelson provided an update regarding the new Brantford Secondary School. Construction is well underway and staff continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis.

### 6.2 Attendance Boundary Review Updates

Director McDonald provided an update regarding the three ongoing attendance boundary reviews. The Brant County public review meeting was held on Monday March 23, 2026. The new format was well received by the public. The feedback from the public will go back to the committee for consideration. The timelines for implementation include: The Brantford Secondary School Attendance Boundary Review recommendation coming to the Board in April, City of Brantford School Attendance Boundary Review in May, and Brant County School Attendance Boundary Review in June. The various methods of communication including (search tools, school messenger messages, school newsletters, social media, etc.) that have been sent out to the impacted families and communities were noted.

### 6.3 Staffing Timelines

Superintendent Greco presented the Staffing Timelines update. Staffing timelines are aligned to be competitive with other local school boards. Enrollment within the BHNCD SB continues to grow significantly year-over-year at both the elementary and secondary levels.



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**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**

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

Moved by: Toni Poirier

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: Bill Chopp

Seconded by: Dan Dignard

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

**Carried**

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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 4:30 p.m. – Boardroom