



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Policy Committee Meeting Tuesday May 19, 2026 ♦ 3:00 p.m. Board Room/ Microsoft Teams

Trustees:

Dan Dignard (Chair), Dennis Blake, Bill Chopp, Carol Luciani, Toni Poirier

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)

Regrets:

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Dan Dignard

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was noted as above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

A request was made to add the board by-laws be added to the agenda for discussion purposes.

Moved by: Toni Poirier

Seconded by: Dennis Blake

THAT the Policy Committee of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the May 19, 2026, meeting as amended.

Carried

1.4 Approval of Minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting – April 21, 2026

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Bill Chopp

THAT the Policy Committee of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the April 21, 2026, meeting.

Carried

1.5 Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil

2. Committee and Staff Reports - Nil

3. At the Call of the Chair Discussion Items

Trustee Dan Dignard, Chair of the Policy Committee, called for the following items to be brought to the policy committee for discussion.

3.1 Succession Planning

Trustees discussed the need for clarity regarding their role in senior team hiring and succession planning.



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It was noted that current practices remain within policy but differ from past approaches, with concerns raised about communication to all trustees.

Staff participation on interview panels was identified as providing valuable input.

Trustees reaffirmed their governance role in reviewing and approving final recommendations, with a report to be presented to the Board.

Policy review remains under Board authority, and future Ministry direction may impact processes.

Differing perspectives were noted.

3.2 Staff Code of Conduct

Trustees discussed concerns regarding alignment between staff practices and the Board's values.

It was confirmed that staff conduct is guided by multiple existing policies and procedures, with processes in place to address concerns in accordance with legal requirements.

School and system leaders are expected to uphold a high standard of professional conduct.

Matters related to individual participation in church activities fall outside the Board's authority and are addressed at the parish level.

Trustees emphasized the importance of accountability, compassion, and maintaining alignment with Board values.

Consideration was given to consolidating existing policies into a single code of conduct; further discussion may be required.

3.3 Dress Code

Trustees discussed adherence to staff dress code expectations.

It was confirmed that existing policy outlines appropriate attire and is addressed at the school level through professional conversations.

Concerns were noted regarding consistency and challenges.

Reminders may be issued, with expectations varying for specific activities.

Trustees emphasized the need for consistent application with appropriate discretion.

3.4 Out of Province Professional Development for Trustees

It was noted that the Ministry has recently released information on this matter. Further direction is anticipated, and outstanding questions will be addressed upon release of the forthcoming PPM or report.

3.5 Defining Trustee Decision Making Process

It was noted that maintaining a cooperative approach and limiting significant changes during this period is advisable.



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Forthcoming Ministry direction is expected to further define governance and operational roles, which may impact current practices.

Trustees reaffirmed key governance responsibilities, including hiring the Director of Education and approving recommendations.

Current processes will remain in place until further provincial guidance is received.

3.6 Bylaws

It was noted that revisions to Board bylaws and related policies will be required as new legislation, regulations, and PPMs are released.

It was indicated that these updates may occur in phases, with some guidance anticipated in the near term and additional directions to follow.

4. Adjournment

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Toni Poirier

THAT the Policy Committee of the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board adjourns the May 19, 2026, Policy committee meeting.

Carried.

Next meeting: June 16, 2026, 3:00pm – Boardroom