



# Minutes

The Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Board Meeting, held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough, and virtually, by Google Meet.

Present:

Trustees – Loretta Durst, Madelyn Gaskell (Senior Student Trustee), Claire Heitzner (Junior Student Trustee), Jenny Leahy, Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson), Mary Ann Martin, and Kathleen Tanguay.

Administration – Jeannie Armstrong, Jonathan Di Ianni, Galen Eagle, Sean Heuchert, Darren Kahler, Father Paul Massel, Stephen O’Sullivan, Sheila Piggott, and Julie Selby.

Recorder – Michelle Kennedy

Regrets: Trustee John Connolly

**A. Call to Order of the Open Meeting:**

The Board Chairperson Kevin MacKenzie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed guests in attendance in person and guests who were joining the meeting online by Google Meet.

The Chairperson welcomed the principal representatives Bridget McCann-Girard, Principal of Continuing, Adult and Experimental Learning, and Becky Brady, Principal at St. Alphonsus Catholic Elementary School.

1. Examen and Opening Prayer

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie invited Father Paul Massel to begin the meeting with the Daily Examen and prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson, respectfully acknowledged that the board meeting was taking place on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg.

3. Singing of the National Anthem

The National Anthem was sung.

4. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Jenny Leahy  
that Trustee John Connolly be excused from the February 27,  
2023, Regular Board Meeting, open session.

Carried.

**MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Mary Ann Martin  
that the agenda be approved with the addition of items I.2, Supply  
Teachers, and I.3, OCSTA Annual General Meeting Donation, and  
that Section D be placed before section B on the agenda.

Carried.

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

6. Approval of the minutes from the January 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Jenny Leahy  
that the minutes of the January 23, 2024, Regular Board  
Meeting be approved.

Carried.

7. Business Arising Out of the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**D. Programs and Services:**

1. Student Excursions.

**MOTION:** Moved by Jenny Leahy, seconded by Mary Ann Martin  
that items D.1 a) through D.1 c) be approved as presented:

D.1 a) that the proposed Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Student Excursion to Greece, from March 6-15, 2025, be approved in principle and that the trip will include mandatory insurance for all travelers. Such insurance must cover school board or principal rulings for cancellation of the trip.

D.1 b) that the proposed St. Peter Catholic Secondary School Student Excursion to Guatemala, from March 29 to April 5, 2025, be approved in principle and that the trip will include mandatory insurance for all travelers. Such insurance must cover school board or principal rulings for cancellation of the trip.

D.1c) that the proposed St. Peter Catholic Secondary School Student Excursion to France and the Netherlands, from May 1-9, 2025, be approved in principle and that the trip will include mandatory insurance for all travelers. Such insurance must cover school board or principal rulings for cancellation of the trip.

Carried.

## **B. Reports from the Office of the Director and Student Trustees:**

### **1. Report from the Director of Education.**

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, presented the Report from the Director of Education, which included the following points:

- February was a month for celebrating Black History, valuing equity and fostering school environments where everyone is respected and valued.
- The kick-off event was a success, Benjamin was thanked for her leadership to bring the Honourable Bernadette Clement, Senator, poet Dwayne Morgan, Emmanuel Iheme, retired Staff Sergeant from the Durham Regional Police Service, and Tony Jno Baptiste, professional training and development consultant, as guest speakers to the event.
- Ash Wednesday celebrations in the schools and the Catholic Education Centre marked the beginning of Lent.
- A virtual parent engagement event to support the transition of students from elementary to secondary school mathematics was held.

- St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville had 100 students on hand to sing the National anthem at an Oshawa Generals game recently.
- The Adult Faith Formation program is reaching out and going into the community to serve others at community agencies such as the St. Vincent de Paul store and Bethesda House in Bowmanville, Durham Outlook for the Needy in Oshawa, and One City in Peterborough. Many also participated in the “Coldest Night of the Year” events in Peterborough, Lindsay, and Port Hope. Thank you to trustees Jenny Leahy and Mary Ann Martin for their participation.
- Will be meeting with MPP Dave Smith and Rita Russo, Director of Education at Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board to discuss local education issues.
- We keep the Latimer family and the St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School community in our prayers as they mourn the passing of student, Alex Latimer.

Stephen O’Sullivan invited and answered questions from the trustees at the conclusion of the report.

## 2. Report from the Student Trustees.

Senior Student Trustee, Madelyn Gaskell and Junior Student Trustee, Claire Heitzner, gave the Student Trustee report which included the following highlights:

- St. Peter Catholic Secondary School student activities included the installation of a mural in the gender-neutral bathroom by the student council, flower love-a-grams, Black Excellence Day celebrations, and talent showcases by the jazz band and robotics club.
- Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and St. Peter Catholic Secondary School jointly held a semi-formal dance for both schools.
- Student activities at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School included participation in the ‘Coldest Night of the Year’ charity event, the launch of the Equity Club, Special Olympics participation, painting of the Métis creation story by Indigenous language class students, outreach initiatives, Sweater Day, and Shakespeare in Love performances.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School students began delivering video announcements which include student interviews, held an Aviation and Aerospace workshop, recognized Titans of the Month, and participated in the Waterloo math contest.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School student activities included daily recognition of prominent Black figures for Black History Month, Sweater Day, excursion to a Raptors 905 game, organization of a sock drive and will host a Math Parent Engagement night.
- St. Mary Catholic Secondary School’s senior girls volleyball team will be heading

to OFSSA. Students also held an Ash Wednesday liturgy, a student-led Black History Month Heritage event, the Learning for Living Students offered a Coffee Cart, and the school dance team recently attended a competition.

- The student trustees attended the Education Action Conference hosted by OSTA-AECO that included opportunities to network with other student trustees, guest speaker presentations, and workshops.
- The students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to attend the event and gain from the valuable experience.

Student trustees Madelyn Gaskell and Claire Heitzner invited questions and comments from the trustees at the conclusion of their report.

### 3. Report from the Communications Department.

Galen Eagle, Manager of Communications shared the following highlights and initiatives from the Communications Department for the month of February:

- A family engagement event involving several community partner businesses was held for the St. John CES community to encourage Math skills and their application at a local Grocery Store.
- St. Luke CES teacher Kate Winn was present with Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce to introduce the province's new kindergarten curriculum being implemented in the fall of 2025.
- Innovative business students at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School participating in the Junior Achievement Company Program, launched their own company producing eco-friendly lip balm.
- Black History Month kick-off event was held at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School on February 1, with many dignitaries and students participating.
- Hair Therapy: Our Hair is Our Crown was a student-led event held at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary school where students could learn about the history of hair care in the Black community.
- St. Anne CES student Henry Pye was recognized by SickKids for his tremendous fundraising efforts.
- Sam Cooper, a student from St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Bowmanville has, over the last 10 years, raised just over \$45,000 as a Cops for Cancer Pedal for Hope participant.
- The drama production "Shakespeare in Love" is being staged by students at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School from February 29-March 1.

At the conclusion of the report, Galen Eagle invited questions and comments from the trustees.

**C. Presentations:**1. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Experiential Learning and Continuing Education.

Superintendent of Learning, Julie Selby introduced Bridget McCann-Girard, Principal of Continuing, Adult and Experiential Learning, who gave a presentation about the Experiential Learning, OYAP, Night School, Summer School, Adult Learning, and Focus on Youth programs that are taking place throughout the PVNCCDSB.

The presentation included an explanation of what experiential learning opportunities are and gave examples of projects that are taking place in elementary and secondary schools in PVNC Catholic. At the conclusion of the presentation, Bridget McCann-Girard answered questions from the trustees.

2. Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Student Success – Specialist High Skills Majors and Dual-Credit School College Work Initiative.

Superintendent of Learning, Julie Selby introduced Alex Duketow, Learning Consultant, who explained the Specialist High Skills Major programs that are taking place at each of the secondary schools. It was noted that the participation rates and completion rates at PVNC Catholic for SHSM participants are higher than the provincial rates. Statistics were shared which illustrated the increase in the number of workplace pathway students who are graduating compared to 10 years ago. The Dual-Credit College Work Initiative was also explained. Alex Duketow answered questions posed by the trustees at the end of the presentation.

**E. Business, Finance and Governance:**1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Open Session Report.

The Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie, reported that information from OCSTA has been shared with the trustees and highlighted the following information: resources for Catholic Education Week being held May 5-10, a reminder about the upcoming AGM being held in Niagara Falls, a call for peace for Ukraine from the Canadian Conference of Bishops, and a Region 9 report received from representative Morgan St. Marie.

2. Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) Governance Committee, February 14, 2024, Open Session Report.

Kevin MacKenzie, Board Chairperson reported on the discussions and outcomes from the STSCO Governance Committee meeting on February 14, 2024. The trustees were notified that Administrative Procedure 1302, Bus Operator Contracted Services will be updated to allow more companies to engage in the RFP (Request for Proposal) process.

Recent consolidation in the student transportation industry has resulted in fewer transportation providers. The current language of the administrative procedure precludes operators from competing for routes due to the ownership structure of the bus operations and the percentage of routes each owner can have. Superintendent Sean Heuchert noted that the change to administrative procedure would maintain the percentage thresholds for operators, but ownership structure would not be included.

3. Trustee Professional Development: Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting and Conference, May 30-June 2, 2024.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay that a recorded vote be taken for the recommended action for agenda item E.3, Trustee Professional Development: Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting and Conference, May 30-June 2, 2024.

Carried.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mary Ann Martin seconded by Jenny Leahy that trustees wishing to do so, be authorized to attend the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) Annual General Meeting and Conference, May 30-June 2, 2024, in Calgary, Alberta.

Defeated.

Trustee Vote:

Loretta Durst – opposed  
 Jenny Leahy – opposed  
 Kevin MacKenzie – opposed  
 Mary Ann Martin – in favour  
 Kathleen Tanguay – opposed

**MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Mary Ann Martin that one trustee be authorized to attend the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association (CCSTA) Annual General Meeting and Conference, May 30-June 2, 2024, in Calgary, Alberta.

Carried.

4. Recommended Actions from the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, February 12, 2024:

2024-2025 School Year Calendar, Updated Student Excursions, Support of Federal Funding for School-Based Nutrition Programs.

- MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Jenny Leahy that the following recommended actions from the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on February 12, 2024, be approved.
- a) that the draft 2024-2025 school year calendar be approved and submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval, as required.
  - b) that the Board approve a second trip for the St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School to Greece in March 2025.
  - c) that the Board approve the St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Trip Amendment for New York in April 2024.
  - d) that a letter be written in support of stronger federal funding for school-based nutrition programs.

Carried.

**F. Human Resources:**

1. Implications of the Repeal of Bill 124.

Superintendent of Human Resource Services, Darren Kahler provided the trustees with information about the Ontario government's repeal of Bill 124 and the implications on the board. The update included an overview of the timelines of the establishment and appeal of Bill 124 and explanation of the salary increase remedies that have been established. Remedy retroactive payments must be made by the board to approximately 900 PVNCCDSB CUPE workers by June 12, 2024. The payroll department is working diligently to ensure that PVNC Catholic will be compliant with the imposed timeline.

Trustees were invited to ask questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

**G. Policy Development:**

1. Recommended Action from the Policy Development Committee Meeting, February 6, 2024.

- MOTION:** Moved by Loretta Durst, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay that the board receive the reports and recommendations from the



Policy Development Committee meeting dated February 6, 2024,  
for publication and implementation.

Carried.

**H. Old Business:**

**I. New Business:**

1. Elections:

By consensus, the trustees agreed to discuss the open positions to determine amongst themselves if any trustees were interested in fulfilling the vacant roles, thus avoiding the need to hold formal elections.

a. Chairperson, Policy Development Committee.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Jenny Leahy that Loretta Durst be appointed as Chairperson for the Policy Development Committee effective immediately, for the balance of the one-year term ending on November 14, 2024.

Carried.

b. Trustee Representation on the Accessibility for All Committee.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Jenny Leahy that Kathleen Tanguay be appointed as Trustee Representative on the Accessibility for All Committee, effective immediately, for the balance of the two-year term ending on November 14, 2024.

Carried.

2. Supply Teachers.

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie presented background information about the shortage of supply teachers and the detrimental effects that unfilled absences have on school operations and student achievement.

**MOTION:** Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by Kathleen Tranguay that the board of trustees authorizes the Chairperson to write a letter to the Minister of Education to advocate for an increase to

the number of allowable days retired teachers can work from 50 to 95, to allow schools to run more effectively.

Carried.

3. OCSTA Annual General Meeting Donation.

The trustees engaged in a conversation about the call for donation items for a charity auction at the upcoming OCSTA AGM. It was agreed that the trustees would coordinate their personal funds and purchase an item to donate to the event. The funds raised will benefit the Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association campaign for "Toonies for Tuition".

**J. Bring Forward:**

**K. Information Items:**

1. Chairperson's Report.

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie expressed his sadness and condolences to the Latimer family for the loss of their son, a student from St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School.

Kevin MacKenzie reported that he and a team from PVNC Catholic attended a webinar hosted by FACE (Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education). FACE continues to share information and messaging to promote Catholic education. Attendees were encouraged to engage in dialogue with Members of Provincial Parliament to promote the history and benefit of Catholic education in Ontario.

Chairperson MacKenzie also reported on his attendance at the Black History Month opening ceremonies that took place at Holy Cross CSS on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the Parent Math night that was held on February 15<sup>th</sup> which focused on supporting the transition from elementary to secondary grades.

2. Committee and Committee Chairperson's Reports:

a. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, January 29, 2024

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that the committee heard a presentation on the pastoral plan which is in year two and has the theme of Hope. A presentation about the Equity Action Plan was also heard. There were some discussions about parent engagement events and discussions about increasing participation in meetings and a hope to bring back participation through possibly hosting meetings regionally.

- b. Special Education Advisory Committee, February 15, 2024.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay reported that the SEAC committee heard a report from Superintendent Jonathan Di Ianni about professional development and training of Special Education Resource Teachers. Information was shared about the Peterborough Youth Commission's youth exposition which aims to share information about agencies in the community. Consultant Jeff Hockett gave a presentation about equity in special education.

- c. Accessibility for All Committee, February 22, 2024.

Trustee Jenny Leahy reported on the Accessibility for All committee which is comprised of participants from various PVNC Catholic departments. The committee is chaired by Karen Spencely, Vice-principal of Special Education. The committee examines issues throughout the board which can affect accessibility to facilities and programs. An audit was conducted on the Catholic Education Centre large boardroom to recognize deficiencies which may affect accessibility. More information about National Accessibility Awareness week which will take place from May 26 through June 1 will be shared when it is available.

- d. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, February 22, 2024.

Trustee Loretta Durst reported on the Faith and Equity Advisory Committee which is supported by Superintendent Julie Selby. There were three presentations given at the meeting: an update on the Equity Action Plan by Benjamin, a presentation about the Black Excellence Ceremony, and Father Paul Massel and consultant Jennifer Koch gave a presentation on the board's faith ambassadors and chaplaincy leaders. It was requested by Trustee Durst that the third presentation be brought to a future board meeting.

3. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association Information Items:

- a. January 22, 2024 - Release of Catholic Secondary Online Courses
- b. January 22, 2024 - OCSTA Short Video Contest Winners
- c. January 22, 2024 - Catholic Trustees Seminar Presentations
- d. January 24, 2024 - Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media – Conference of Catholic Bishops
- e. February 6, 2024 - Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2024.

**L. Future Meetings and Events:**

1. Board Meetings:

- a. Regular Board Meeting Open Session, March 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.  
(In-camera Session, 6:00 p.m.)
2. Board Standing Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.)
  - a. Chairperson's Committee Meeting, March 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
  - b. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, March 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
  - c. Policy Development Committee Meeting, April 30, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
3. Other Committee Meetings: (Listed in chronological order.):
  - a. First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee, March 5, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
  - b. Special Education Advisory Committee, March 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
  - c. Student Council Liaison Committee, March 26, 2024, 4:15 p.m.
  - d. STSCO Governance Committee, March 27, 2024, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
  - e. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee, April 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
  - f. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, April 24, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
  - g. Accessibility for All Committee, May 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
  - h. Faith and Equity Advisory Committee, May 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
  - i. Audit Committee, TBA
  - j. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL), TBA.
4. Board Events:
  - a. Ontario Catholic Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting and Conference, Niagara Falls, ON.
  - b. Catholic Education Week, May 5-11, 2024.

**M. Conclusion:**

1. Reports from the In-camera and Double In-camera Sessions held October 17, 2023, October 24, 2023, February 6, 2024, February 12, 2024, and February 27, 2024.

**MOTION:** Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Mary Ann Martin that the Board approve the actions and the discussions arising from:  
  
the Special Board Meeting, Double In-camera session, held on

October 17, 2023, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
  - 1. Opening Prayer.
  - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
  - 3. No conflicts of interest were declared.
- H. New Business:
  - 1. Trustee Matter.
- I. Conclusion:
  - 1. Closing Prayer.
  - 2. Motion to adjourn.

the Regular Board Meeting, Double In-camera session, held on October 24, 2023, as follows:

- A. Call to Order
- H. New Business:
  - 1. Double In-Camera Minutes.
- I. Conclusion:
  - 2. Motion to convene in the regular in-camera session.

the Special Board Meeting, Double In-camera session, held on February 6, 2024, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
  - 1. Opening Prayer.
  - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
  - 4. There were no conflicts of interest declared.
- H. New Business:
  - 1. Trustee Matter.
- I. Conclusion:
  - 1. Closing Prayer.
  - 2. Motion to adjourn.

the Special Board Meeting, Double In-camera session, held on February 12, 2024, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
  - 1. Opening Prayer.
  - 2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
  - 4. There were no conflicts of interest declared.
- H. New Business:
  - 1. New Business:
    - Motion was approved to receive written submissions from Trustee Glover requesting reconsideration of the sanctions and consideration of his appeal.
    - Motion was approved that the board maintain the sanctions imposed in the motion passed at the Regular Board Meeting on January 23, 2024.

- I. Conclusion:
  1. Closing Prayer.
  2. Motion to adjourn.

the Regular Board Meeting, In-camera session, held on February 27, 2024, as follows:

- A. Call to Order:
  1. Opening Prayer.
  2. Motion for the Approval of agenda.
  3. There were no conflicts of interest declared.
  4. Approval of the Minutes:

October 17, 2023, Double In-camera minutes;  
October 24, Double In-camera minutes;  
January 23, 2024, Double In-camera minutes;  
January 23, 2024, In-camera minutes;  
February 6, 2024, Double In-camera minutes; and  
February 12, 2024, Double In-camera minutes.
- D. Business, Finance and Governance:
  1. OCSTA In-camera Report.
  2. STSCO Governance Committee In-camera Session Report, February 14, 2024.
- I. Conclusion:
  1. Closing Prayer.
  2. Motion to convene in Open Session.

Carried.

2. Closing Prayer

Board Chairperson, Kevin MacKenzie invited Trustee Mary Ann Martin to lead the closing prayer to end the meeting.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Jenny Leahy that the open session meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Carried.

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Kevin MacKenzie  
Board Chairperson

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Stephen O'Sullivan  
Director of Education, Secretary-Treasurer  
per M.K.