

Regular Board Meeting
September 22, 2025 - 3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees: Chair Mary Helen Van Loon; Vice-chair Tina Doherty (virtually); Trustees Amy Cronin; Sue Muller, and Jim McDade

Board Chaplain: Deacon Daniel McPhee

Student Trustee: Dean DeLuca, St. Michael CSS, Stratford, Addison Thuss, St. Anne's CSS, Clinton

Senior Administration: Director of Education & Secretary Karen Tigani; Superintendents of Education Tara Boreham, Sean McDade; and Superintendent of Business & Treasurer Mary-Ellen Ducharme

Absent: N/A

1. Opening Business

1.1. Opening Prayer & Condolences - Board Chaplain, Dcn. Dan McPhee and Trustees

1.2. Land Acknowledgement - Director Tigani

1.3. Attendance - Noted above at start of meeting

1.4. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of date, September 22, 2025.

Carried

1.5. Declaration of Interest

1.6. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 2025.

Carried

1.7. Business Arising from the Minutes

2. Presentations

3. Delegations

4. Consent Agenda

4.1. September Board Highlights

4.2. Nutritional Management Services

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives all reports, committee minutes, and approves all motions under the consent agenda, which are:

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Board Highlights for September for information.

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Nutritional Management Services Report.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1. Policy

5.1.1. Board Policies for Review: N/A

5.1.2. Board Policies Recommended for Approval/Rescinding:

a) School Generated Funds

b) Fraud Prevention and Management

c) Advocacy

d) Smoking and Vaping on Property Under the Board's Jurisdiction

Trustees requested clarification on eligible expenditures within the Advocacy policy, specifically the scope of "other" educational organizations that qualify for membership fees and business expenses. The Superintendent of Business advised that the verbiage originated from the Ministry of Education and is intended to cover expenses to organizations such as the Council of Senior Business Officials (COSBO).

Trustees requested that the policy be amended to require that such expenditures be made "at the discretion of the Director of Education" or "as approved by the Director of Education."

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board amends the Advocacy policy under procedure item 1.1 to include in brackets at the end, ("at the discretion of the Director of Education.")

Defeated

Staff will review the Advocacy policy and bring forward an amendment reflecting the Board's direction.

Amy Cronin

Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board refer the Advocacy policy back to the Senior Administration to take into consideration trustee comments at the meeting.

Carried

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves Policy School Generated Funds

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves Policy Fraud Prevention and Management

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves Policy Smoking and Vaping on Property Under the Board's Jurisdiction.

Carried

5.2. Student Achievement and Catholicity

5.2.1. Faith Formation - Notre Dame Course

Superintendent McDade shared a summary of the Faith Formation Notre Dame course. Trustees inquired about inclusion in the course. Director Tigani responded that Superintendent McDade is exploring the opportunity to provide the course materials to trustees. Superintendent McDade will reach out to Notre Dame and share with trustees course options available.

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Faith Formation - Notre Dame Course for information.

Carried

5.2.2. Special Education Summer Programming and Transition Support

Superintendent Boreham shared a summary of the programming that was offered. Trustees inquired about student participation in the Welcome to the Nest program. Superintendent Boreham responded that 17 students participated.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Special Education Summer Programming and Transition Support for information.

Carried

5.2.3. Student Trustees' Report

Student trustees shared highlights from the report. Trustees inquired about the Grade 12 retreat, the eSports club and co-curricular sports.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Student Trustees' report for information.

Carried

5.3. Corporate Services and Operations

5.3.1. 2025-26 Enrolment Update - September 2025 (walk-in)

Superintendent Ducharme shared that enrolment has gone up by 19 students from original estimates, these are preliminary counts and the final count will be done on October 31, 2025. Superintendent Ducharme will bring a report broken down by grade to the October meeting.

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the 2025-26 Enrolment Update - September 2025 Report for information.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1. School Energy Coalition June 2025 Summary Status Report

6.1.1. Trustees inquired how many schools are included in this report. Superintendent Ducharme will confirm.

6.2. Information to Transformation Commissioning

6.2.1. The Information to Transformation program concluded with 26 participants. A commissioning ceremony for six Board employees took place at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. Director Tigani and Superintendent McDade attended the Mass in support of these staff members. The Trustees formally requested that congratulation cards and a Mass intention be offered for the six commissioned participants.

6.3. "Extend the School Day" organization is circulating a petition to the Huron-Perth Catholic DSB and the Avon Maitland DSB. Director Tigani will advise trustees if this petition is received.

6.4. Director Tigani informed trustees that a request has been received to fly an additional flag at a secondary school. Direction was provided to review the flag policy, the request does not fall within the scope of the policy to fly the flag on the exterior flag pole.

7. Notices of Motion

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

9. Trustee Inquiries

9.1. Trustees mentioned the Toronto Star news article "Are Ontario's middle schools hurting student achievement?" - September 22, 2025 for contemplation.

9.2. Trustees inquired about screen time for students JK to Grade 3, specifically asking how the Board is encouraging personal interactions between teachers and students. Director Tigani responded that staff are actively mindful of screen time and several changes have been implemented, including: enforcing the existing cell phone policy, making efforts to reduce access to Chromebooks in primary grades and moving away from the 1:1 device model in primary divisions. Director Tigani further noted the Board's focus on the "Year of Learning"

for Artificial intelligence, and efforts to leverage these new tools to increase human interactions. All digital tools used are thoroughly vetted by Board staff.

- 9.2.1.** Trustees inquired about the average daily screen time for a Grade 1 student and formally requested this information. Director Tigani responded that staff would inquire about the information, but cautioned that specific data may be difficult to provide due to variability across individual classrooms and daily schedules.

- 9.3.** Trustees inquired if all trustees have completed the mandatory OESC governance modules. Chair Van Loon responded that she received confirmation that all trustees have completed the required training.

10. In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board moves to an In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting

Carried

11. Rise and Report on the In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting and Approval of the Business of the In-Camera Session

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves all motions in the In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting.

Carried

The following retirement was announced:

Lisa Reis, Educational Assistant, St. Michael Catholic SS, Stratford, effective August 31, 2025.

12. Future Meetings and Events

- September 30 - OCSTA Regional meeting - Guelph
- October 14 - Trustee, Executive Leaders Retreat
- October 20 - Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting
- October 27 - Regular Board meeting
- October 30 - Bishop Fabbro's 75th Celebration - Windsor

13. Closing Prayer - Board Chaplain, Dcn. McPhee

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board adjourns the Regular Board Meeting of September 22, 2025

Carried