

Regular Board Meeting
May 5, 2025 - 12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

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

Student Trustee: Levi Nyenhuis, St. Michael CSS, Stratford

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

Absent: Fr. David Butler, Board Chaplain, Trustee Amy Cronin (personal), Sam Cronin, Student Trustee, St. Anne's CSS, Clinton

1. Opening Business

1.1. Opening Prayer & Condolences - Trustees

1.2. Attendance - Noted above at start of meeting

1.3. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Agenda

1.4.

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of May 5, 2025.

Carried

1.5. Declaration of Interest

1.6. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Tina Doherty

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 24, 2025.

Carried

1.7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 1.7.1.** Trustees inquired about the availability of updated literacy screening data, broken down by grade and school, which had been requested for the April or May Board meeting. Director Tigani responded that a comprehensive report, similar to the first

screening report, would be distributed to trustees shortly by email.

2. Presentations

3. Delegations

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1. March Board Highlights
- 4.2. Approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025
- 4.3. Approved Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism (EDIAR) Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2025
- 4.4. Approved Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism (EDIAR) Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2025.
- 4.5. Approved Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025.
- 4.6. Facility Project Approvals (Various)

Trustees sought clarification regarding the Multilingual Learner (MLL) section in the Board highlights report, specifically inquiring about the personnel resources dedicated to elementary support. Director Tigani reported that the MLL system support teacher conducts visits to all schools. Superintendent McDade further explained that upon identifying a student as an MLL, the MLL support teacher performs an initial assessment and collaborates with the school-based team to provide tailored support. It was emphasized that support strategies vary significantly for each student and school, reflecting a commitment to individualized needs. The system support teacher adjusts services based on need, and the classroom teacher delivers programming with that support.

Subsequently, trustees inquired about the funding allocation received from the Ministry for MLL students. Superintendent Ducharme clarified that funding is determined by enrollment and fluctuates annually based on the Ministry's rubric. Trustees requested specific details regarding the funding amount received by the Board and its distribution for MLL support. Additionally, inquiries were made about the availability of online programming to aid MLL learning. Superintendent Boreham responded that the Board provides the Lexia program, specifically designed for MLLs in Kindergarten to Grade 6. This blended learning platform facilitates speaking and listening skills development.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

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 April for information.

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2025

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism (EDIAR) Meeting minutes of October 30, 2025

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism (EDIAR) Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2025

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2025.

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the St. Aloysius School roof deck replacement project to Accuratus Design & Build for a total amount of \$330,525.00 (including HST).

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the St. Mary's School, Goderich - South Wing HVAC Replacement project to Stratford Metal Product for a total amount of \$292,274.50 (including HST).

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1. Policy

5.1.1. Board Policies for Review:

a) Sun Safety

Trustees discussed the overall balance between sun safety and health considerations, expressing concerns about whether the current guidelines might be overly restrictive. They emphasized the need for clearer direction and noted some missing elements in the document. There was also a discussion about the appropriate content for guidelines versus policies. In response, the Director indicated that the guidelines would be reviewed in consultation with Huron Perth Public Health recommendations and Ministry of Education regulations.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board refers the policy Sun Safety back to staff for review.

CARRIED

5.1.2. Board Policies Recommended for Approval/Rescinding:

b) Workplace Harassment

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the following policy:
Workplace Harassment

Carried

5.2. Student Achievement and Catholicity

5.2.1. Catholic Education Week Report

Moved by: Tina Doherty

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Catholic Education

Report for information.

Carried

5.2.2. Strategic Focus: Improving Student Attendance Report

Correction noted on page 69 "Documentation and Compliance: summer 2025, should be summer 2024 and September 2025, should be September 2024.

Trustees inquired about the increase in persistent absence referrals, and the reason for the increase. Superintendent Boreham explained that the increase was due to earlier intervention resulting from the implementation of a multi-tiered intervention strategy, and that the rise was in referrals, not necessarily in the number of students absent. Trustees also expressed concern about students who might miss multiple non-consecutive days per week, or consistently miss a specific day, potentially "slipping through the cracks." Superintendent Boreham responded that the school board now uses "Compass for Success" software, which is a data warehouse that provides student profile pictures and attendance trend data, enabling tracking of patterns such as consistently missing one day per week.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Strategic Focus: Improving Student Attendance Report report for information.

Carried

5.2.3. Student Trustees' Report

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

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. February 28, 2025 Financial Report

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the February 28, 2025 Financial Report.

Carried

5.3.2. 2025-2026 Budget Report Preliminary Enrolment Projections

Trustees questioned why the comparison was with revised estimate numbers rather than current enrollment. Superintendent Ducharme clarified that actual enrollment figures are based on averages of counts taken on October 31 and March 30, and the March 30 numbers were not yet finalized, necessitating the use of revised estimates. The next report will utilize actual figures. Trustees also raised concerns about declining enrollment at St. Michael, Director Tigani responded that secondary staff are actively engaged in recruitment and retention efforts, and staff is keen to understand the reasons for the enrollment trends. It

was noted that there is a dip from grades 11 to 12, likely related to fewer students opting for a fifth year, with many students now prepared for post-secondary education after four years. The presented projections were close to demographic predictions made several years prior by the demographers.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the 2025-2026 Preliminary Enrolment Projection Report.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1. Core Ed Funding Announcement

- 6.1.1.** Superintendent Ducharme shared that we have not yet received the Core Ed Funding announcement.

7. Notices of Motion

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

9. Trustee Inquiries

- 9.1.** Trustees inquired about student recognition at Board meetings. Director Tigani explained that the practice has been to extend invitations to students receiving first-place awards at the provincial, national, or international level. The Board then discussed the invitation process and the potential for adopting alternative recognition methods to ensure fairness for all students.

- 9.2.** Trustees inquired about the Board's current initiatives regarding human trafficking awareness. Director Tigani responded that the Board collaborates with community partners and utilizes curriculum resources to raise awareness. This includes community-wide events, such as a partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at St. Anne's, Clinton and St. Mary's in Listowel, which extends beyond school-based activities. Professional development on this topic has also been provided to staff.

10. In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting

Moved by: Jim McDade

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. Future Meetings and Events

- Catholic Education Week Mass - Monday, May 5, 2025
- SEAC - May 12, 2025
- Board Meeting - May 26, 2025
- CPIC - June 10, 2025
- Board Meeting - June 16, 2025
- Special Meeting of the Board - June 23, 2025
- CCSTA 2025 AGM and Conference - June 5-7, 2025
- SLICE - Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre - June 12-13, 2025
- Graduation Ceremony - St. Anne's CSS - June 26, 2025
- Graduation Ceremony - St. Michael CSS - June 26, 2025

12. Closing Prayer - Chair Van Loon

13. Adjournment

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board adjourns the Regular Board Meeting of
May 5, 2025

Carried