

Regular Board Meeting
February 23, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees: Chair Mary Helen Van Loon; Vice-chair Amy Cronin; Trustees Tina Doherty; 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; Superintendent of Education Tara Boreham, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer Mary-Ellen Ducharme, Manager of Finance Sarah Devereaux, (newly appointed as Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)

Absent: Superintendent of Education Sean McDade

1. Opening Business

1.1. Opening Prayer & Condolences - Deacon Dan McPhee

1.2. Attendance - Noted above at start of meeting

1.3. 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 February 23, 2026

Carried

1.4. Declaration of Interest

1.5. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 26, 2026.

Carried

1.6. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Board engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the ongoing separation of Board Policies from Administrative Procedures (APs). The Board discussed the need for

enhanced oversight following the separation of policies from procedures, directing staff to implement structured reporting mechanisms, compliance attestations, and outcome-based monitoring within future policy frameworks.

2. Presentations

3. Delegations

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1. February Board Highlights
- 4.2. Approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2025
- 4.3. Approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2026
- 4.4. Approved Huron Perth School Transportation Services (HPSTS) Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2025
- 4.5. Travel Reimbursement Rate Effective January 1, 2026 Report.

Moved by: Amy Cronin

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 March for information

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2025

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2026

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Huron Perth School Transportation Services (HPSTS) Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2025

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Travel Reimbursement Rate Effective January 1, 2026 Report.

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1. Policy

5.1.1. Board Policies for Review:

- a) Concussion Management (P2.1.19)
- b) Educational Field Trips (P2.2.3.)
- c) Development and Review of Board Policies (P1.1.4.)

Trustees reviewed the policies and provided feedback.

Trustees inquired about the inclusion of the guiding role and responsibility of school staff in the Concussion Policy and about an annual report on concussions as a tool to mitigate the risk and identify specific areas or locations of risk.

Trustees inquired about the inclusion of the principals' role in the Excursions policy. Trustees inquired about the point "Be inclusive of all students, actively supporting the principles of diversity, equity, and accessibility" being removed; They noted that we have an Equity policy and the line below states that it must adhere to all policies, therefore it seems redundant to include the equity point. If this line must be included, should it be included in all policies?

Trustees discussed the Development of Board Policy, stating the need for accountability for growth, gap analysis and emphasizing the need for reporting measures. Trustees inquired about a guiding document for all policies.

Director Tigani responded that staff will consider all feedback as they prepare to bring the policies for approval. Director Tigani requested that trustees articulate the desired oversight mechanisms, reporting measures and specific recommendations for the policy guiding document. Director Tigani requested that trustees submit feedback on the proposed policy changes to the Director of Education before the next scheduled meeting.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the following policies for review: Concussion Management (P2.1.19), Educational Field Trips (P2.2.3.) and Development and Review of Board Policies (P1.1.4.)

Carried

5.1.2. Board Policies Recommended for Approval/Rescinding:

- a) Student and Family Support Office and Parent Communication Protocol (P2.1.16.)

Trustees requested a mechanism for accountability be included in the policy and would like staff to share ministry data submissions with the Trustees. An amendment to the policy was made.

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board amends the Student and Family Support Office and Parent Communication Protocol (P2.1.16.) policy to include "There will be a report back mechanism from the Director of Education to the Board of Trustees".

Carried

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the policy Student and Family Support Office and Parent Communication Protocol (P2.1.16.) with the amendment.

Carried

5.2. Student Achievement and Catholicity

5.2.1. School Year Calendar 2026-2027

Moved by: Tina Doherty
Seconded by: Jim McDade
THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the School Year Calendar 2026-2027 report for information.

Carried

5.2.2. Blaze the Trail Launch

Moved by: Sue Muller
Seconded by: Amy Cronin
THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Blaze the Trail report for information.

Carried

5.2.3. Catholic Identity Report

Moved by: Sue Muller
Seconded by: Jim McDade
THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Catholic Identity report for information.

Carried

5.2.4. Math Common Assessment Data

Trustees expressed a need for clarity regarding the continuity of the district's strategic path, specifically inquiring how the focus on the "number strand" integrates with broader student assessment metrics. To address these concerns and better illustrate the effectiveness of current reporting, the Director of Education proposed a fifteen-minute presentation for a future meeting to detail provincial math standards, current district initiatives, and specific performance goals. Additionally, the Board requested that future reports include grade-level sample math questions to provide practical context for student achievement data.

Moved by: Amy Cronin
Seconded by: Jim McDade
THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Math Common Assessment report for information.

Carried

5.2.5. Student Trustees' Report

Moved by: Tina Doherty
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. International Student Program

Trustees inquired about the staffing expense for the program. Superintendent Ducharme

will prepare an in-camera report with staffing actuals and projections to a future board meeting.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the International Student Program Report.

Carried

5.3.2. 2026-2027 Budget Goals

Trustees inquired about student wellbeing fitting into the goals. Director Tigani responded that wellbeing is encompassed in the third goal, which focuses on student success and well-being from K-12.

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the 2026-2027 budget goals:

1. Catholic faith development of staff and students
2. Student-centred learning focusing on mathematics and literacy
3. Student Success

Carried

5.3.3. New Website Communication Update

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the New Website Communication Update.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1. OCSTA Memo re: Advocacy

Trustees discussed the memo received by OCSTA and possible actions. It was determined that the Chair and Director will personalize some of the slides provided by OCSTA to be shared by trustees with the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) and any other committees in which it would be appropriate.

6.2. Meeting with Members of Provincial Parliament

Trustees discussed presenting themselves as a resource and support for parents and taxpayers and expect to be here to continue the work and support of Catholic education. Chair Van Loon will include in her opening remarks at the meeting.

6.3. Before and After School Childcare Townhall update

Chair Van Loon shared a verbal summary update.

7. Notices of Motion

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

9. Trustee Inquiries

- 9.1. Trustees inquired about the number of bus cancellations and alternate solutions to cancelling routes such as a central meeting point or modified routes. It was noted by trustees that this can be taken to the Transportation committee for consideration and investigation.

10. In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting

Moved by: Tina Doherty

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Manager of Finance be present in the In-Camera Session of the Board Meeting
AND

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: Amy Cronin

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 retirements were announced:

- Faye Hickey, Teacher, Jeanne Sauve School, effective June 30, 2026
- Patrick McCarroll, Teacher, St. Joseph's School, Stratford, effective June 30, 2026

12. Future Meetings and Events

- March 9, 2026 - SEAC Meeting
- March 23, 2026 - Regular Meeting of the Board
- March 25, 2026 - Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting
- April 14, 2026 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism Committee meeting
- April 30 - May 2, 2026 - OCSTA AGM & Conference

13. Closing Prayer - Deacon Dan McPhee

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board adjourns the Regular Board Meeting of February 23, 2026.

Carried

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY