

Regular Board Meeting
March 24, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

Trustees: Chair Mary Helen Van Loon; Vice-chair Tina Doherty; Trustees Amy Cronin; 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, Sam Cronin, Student Trustee, St. Anne's CSS, Clinton

1. Opening Business

1.1. Opening Prayer & Condolences - Trustees

1.2. Land Acknowledgement -Trustee McDade

1.3. Attendance - Noted above at start of meeting

1.4. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Agenda

1.5.

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Jim McDade

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

Carried

1.6. Declaration of Interest

1.7. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

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

Carried

1.8. Business Arising from the Minutes

2. Presentations

3. Delegations

4. Consent Agenda

- 4.1. March Board Highlights
- 4.2. Approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025
- 4.3. Nutritional Management Services
- 4.4. 2024 Public Sector Salary Disclosure
- 4.5. Facility Project Approvals

Trustees inquired about the tender selection process. Superintendent Ducharme responded that our purchasing policy requires that the contract be awarded to the lowest tender. Before being awarded the purchasing policy process is followed by the Facilities Manager, which includes vendor reference checks.

Trustees inquired about the early reading screening data. Director Tigani responded that data received by email was from the first screening and the data in the Board Highlights report is referencing the second round of screening which is just being completed in schools now. Trustees inquired about receiving a report once the second round of screening is complete. Superintendent McDade shared that the internal team will be reviewing data this week and a final report will be shared through the Director in April or May.

Trustees inquired about the Nutritional Management Services (NMS) report, showing sales are down 20%, and what this would mean for supporting OFSAA athletes. Superintendent Ducharme responded that NMS is investigating the decline in sales. There are additional funds set aside for OFSAA support. NMS has indicated that sales are not a concern at this time but the business department will be continuing to review with NMS.

Moved by: Sue Muller

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 March for information

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the approved Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025

AND

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

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the 2024 Public Sector Salary Disclosure report

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the Jeanne Sauvé Catholic School roof area B project to T.P. Crawford Limited for a total amount of \$390,035.43 (including HST).

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School roof area O project to Atlas-Apex Roofing Inc. for a total amount of \$329,892.20 (including HST).

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the St. James Catholic School roof areas C & D project to T.P. Crawford Limited for a total amount of \$402,958.00 (including HST).

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the St. Joseph Stratford Catholic School roof area B project to T.P. Crawford Limited for a total amount of \$281,194.59 (including HST).

AND

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board awards the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School roof area A project to T.P. Crawford Limited for a total amount of \$481,007.10 (including HST)

Carried

5. Committee and Staff Reports

5.1. Policy

5.1.1. Board Policies for Review:

5.1.2. Board Policies Recommended for Approval/Rescinding: (pull out separately)

- a) Harassment
- b) Infectious Disease Emergency

Director Tigani shared that additional recommendations were received by administration pertaining to the Harassment policy.

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board refers the Harassment policy back for review.

Carried

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the policy Infectious Disease Emergency.

Carried

5.2. Student Achievement and Catholicity

5.2.1. Faith Formation

Moved by: Jim McDade

Seconded by: Sue Muller

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Faith Formation report for information.

Carried

5.2.2. Artificial Intelligence Background and Development

Director Tigani shared that the Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy will be reviewed and kept short, recognizing that AI is evolving at an unprecedented pace, an AI Guideline will be developed and exist outside of the formal AI policy.

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Jim McDade

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Artificial Intelligence Background and Development report for information.

Carried

5.2.3. Student Trustees' Report

Moved by: Sue Muller

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. International Student Program

Trustees inquired at what point is a decision made if the program is not sustainable. Director Tigani responded that the report covers a budget over a series of years, with early investments to build the program, followed by cost recovery and building towards a revenue stream. Superintendent Ducharme responded that it is projected that the program will generate a revenue stream for the Board in 2027-28. The program will be continually reviewed and budget tracked with revisions made on original projections if needed.

Moved by: Tina Doherty

Seconded by: Jim McDade

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

Carried

5.3.2. 2025-2026 Budget Community Consultation

Trustees commented on the key thought that "students need to be well to learn well". This pertains to mental health and needs to be taken into consideration when discussing and implementing student attendance programs.

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the 2025-2026 Budget Community Consultation Report.

Carried

5.3.3. 2025-2026 Budget Goals

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board approves the 2025-2026 budget goals:

1. Catholic faith development for staff and students.
2. Student-centered learning focusing on mathematics and literacy.
3. Focus on preparing students for post-secondary pathways.
4. Focus on systems of support to improve student attendance.

Carried

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1. Provincial Awards OECTA AGM 2025

Michael Ennett was honoured with the Pearse Shannon Memorial Association Service Award for his outstanding contributions to OECTA. A dedicated educator at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School in Stratford, he became Unit President of the Huron-Perth Secondary Unit during the political-protest era in the late 1990s, serving for 16 years as a local President. Later, as a Staff Officer in Bargaining and Contract Services, he brought sharp analytical skills and a thoughtful approach to negotiations. Known for his intelligence, kindness, and humour, Mike fostered respectful board and union relations, enriching his colleagues and community. Though he passed in 2023, his legacy of service, friendship, and leadership continues to inspire.

6.2. CPCO - Principal of the Year Award 2025

Lori Lynn Stapleton, Principal at St. Boniface School, has been recognized as the Principal of the Year by principals and vice-principals of the Board for her exceptional leadership and dedication to Catholic education. With 30 years of service, she has nurtured students and staff with faith, compassion, and uplifts others with kindness. Her journey has included teaching, a transformative exchange in Australia, and leadership roles supporting various educational initiatives. For the past 9 years as a principal, she fosters unity, joy, and academic excellence, inspiring her community through her faith and music. Grateful for this honour, she remains committed to guiding and nurturing students in faith and learning.

6.3. Director Tigani met with Episcopal Vicar Father Philip to continue fostering the relationship between the Board, schools, priests, deacons and family of parishes.

6.4. Symposium for Leaders Igniting Catholic Education (SLICE) will be held June 12-13 at Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, London with system leaders, trustees and Bishop Fabbro invited. The symposium will be facilitated by Dr. Josephine Lombardi.

6.5. The bi-annual Climate Survey will begin this week.

6.6. 2025 LUSO Community Services "Racism Hurts us All" Video Award contest, the Board had 4 schools participate with St. Michael CSS winning first in the secondary division.

7. Notices of Motion

8. Notices of Motion Being Considered for Adoption

9. Trustee Inquiries

9.1. Trustees discussed the frequency and meaningfulness of the Land Acknowledgement at Board meetings, considering whether it should be said monthly or reserved for special occasions. They emphasized the importance of reflection in both Indigenous and Catholic faith contexts during meetings. Director Tigani noted that the Indigenous Education Advisory

Committee (IEAC) recommended including a personal reflection with the Land Acknowledgement and emphasized avoiding performative practices. The IEAC respects the Board's decision on frequency. It was determined that the Land Acknowledgement will be included at the following meetings:

- September (Truth & Reconciliation month)
- November (Treaties Recognition month and the annual/inaugural meeting)
- June (Canada Day)

Superintendent Boreham will seek additional feedback from the IEAC on an additional date of significance. The next Land Acknowledgement will take place at the June meeting of the Board.

- 9.2.** Trustees asked about the Board Fundraising Policy and its support for United Way. Director Tigani explained that employees can contribute to United Way Perth Huron, with all funds staying local and donors able to direct their gifts to specific initiatives. Program details are available on the United Way website.

10. In-Camera Session of the Regular Board Meeting

Moved by: Amy Cronin

Seconded by: Tina Doherty

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: Jim McDade

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

Carried

The following motion was approved:

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board moves the April board meeting to May 5, 2025 to coincide with Catholic Education Week Mass to begin at 12:30 pm.

12. Future Meetings and Events

- Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) - Tuesday, March 25, 2025
- SABTF Trivia Night - April 3, 2025, The Barn, Exeter
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-racism Committee Meeting - April 23, 2025
- Regular Meeting of the Board - April 28, 2025
- OCSTA 2025 Business Seminar - May 1
- OCSTA 2025 AGM and Conference - May 1 - 3 - Hosted by York CDSB
- Catholic Education Week Mass - Monday, May 5, 2025
- CCSTA 2025 AGM and Conference - June 5-7, 2025
- SLICE - June 12 - 13, Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, London

13. Closing Prayer - Chair Van Loon

14. Adjournment

Moved by: Sue Muller

Seconded by: Amy Cronin

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

Carried