



**DURHAM CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
*Learning and Living in Faith*

## **Regular Board Meeting – Open Session Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board – North Boardroom  
October 25, 2022 at 7:30 PM EST

### **Trustees Present**

M. Ste. Marie (Chair), J. Rinella (Vice Chair)\*

Trustees R. Damianopoulos, R. De Souza, M. Forster\*, J. McCafferty, J. Oldman

### **Regrets**

Trustees Yurkoski, Student Trustee Esan

### **Student Trustees Present**

S. Nwaoha

### **Director of Education Present**

T. Barill

### **Senior Administration Present**

K. Akomolafe, S. Grieve, M. Hammond, S. Lee-Fernandes, M. O'Neill, R. Rodriguez,  
P. Sorhaitz, K. Stevenson, J. Wilson, G. Winn

### **Senior Managers Present**

J. McVeigh, F. Pileggi

*\* Attended virtually*

#### 1. Opening

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

##### 1.1. Motion to Move In Camera

#### **Motion:**

B2022-10-25-01 - Motion to Move In Camera

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board meeting move into In Camera session."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by J. McCafferty. CARRIED

The meeting resumed at 7:33 p.m.

##### 1.2. Memorials and Prayer

Student Trustee Nwaoha offered the opening prayer.

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- 1.3. Land Acknowledgement  
Chair Ste. Marie acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.
- 1.4. Canadian Anthem  
Recorded performance by St. John XXIII Catholic School.
- 1.5. Roll Call and Apologies  
Vice Chair Rinella and Trustee Forster attended virtually. Trustee Yurkoski sent regrets.
- 1.6. Call to Order  
Chair Ste. Marie called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.
- 1.7. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion:**

B2022-10-25-02 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the agenda of the Tuesday, October 25, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as provided."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by J. Oldman.  
CARRIED

- 1.8. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings:

- 1.8.1. Special Board Meeting (Policy) held September 21, 2022

**Motion:**

B2022-10-25-03 - Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open Session of the September 21, 2022 Special Board Meeting."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Forster.  
CARRIED

- 1.8.2. Regular Board Meeting held September 26, 2022

**Motion:**

B2022-10-25-04 - Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open Session of the September 26, 2022 Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Forster.  
CARRIED

1.8.3. Special Board Meeting held October 17, 2022

**Motion:**

B2022-10-25-05 - Approval and Signing of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open Session of the October 17, 2022 Special Board Meeting."

Motion moved by J. McCafferty and motion seconded by M. Forster.  
CARRIED

1.9. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Items of Information

2.1. Announcements

2.1.1. Announcements from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting  
Chair Ste. Marie read the following announcement:

**Resignation**

Alessandro Nicoletto, All Saints CSS, effective October 7, 2022

2.1.2. Appointments and Transfers

None.

2.1.3. Fire Chief for a Day Contest Winner Recognition

- Congratulations to Jullian, a Grade 5 student from Good Shepherd Catholic School who won the "Fire Chief for a Day" contest for the Township of Scugog. Jullian's poster was selected as the winner out of more than 150 submissions. The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week was "Fire Won't Wait - Plan an Escape". Jullian's poster detailed the importance of having a fire plan highlighting escape routes, identifying a meeting place, getting low and going, and "Plan, Practice, Repeat - Saves Lives."
- Chair Ste. Marie and Director Barill thanked Jullian for his service and noted the importance of our partnerships with local fire departments in promoting safe and caring school environments.

2.2. Notices of Motions

None.

## 2.3. Presentations

### 2.3.1. Recognition of the Service of the Board of Trustees

- Director Barill expressed gratitude to all the Trustees for their last four years of service. On behalf of the Senior Administrative Team and all staff, the Director presented each Trustee with a small token of appreciation.
- She thanked each of them for their leadership, for sharing their voice and expertise, for their genuine passion, for their representation, for their advocacy, and for their authentic and unwavering support of the students, families, and staff of the Durham Catholic District School Board.
- The Director also thanked the late Paul Pulla, as well as former Trustees Kathy LeFort and Tricia Chapman for their commitment to the Durham Catholic District School Board.
- She acknowledged our current Trustees, as stewards of Catholic education. She said that the Trustees have committed both time, and effort to fulfilling a distinct role in the governance of our Board. She noted that this is not an easy job to do, it is one that requires authenticity, patience, willingness to listen deeply to the many voices and to model respect for all. The Director thanked the Trustees for being strong advocates for our Catholic education system and our school communities here in Durham Region.
- She also acknowledged the commitment and dedication of Trustee Rinella, Trustee Oldman, and Trustee Ste. Marie who have served as Chair and Vice-Chair during the past four years.

### 2.3.2. 2022-2023 Strategic Goals

- Director Barill shared an overview of the [2022-2023 Strategic Goals and Actions Plan](#). The plan builds on the strategic priorities as outlined in the Discovery 2023 - Renewing the Vision Strategic Plan in its culminating year.
- The Senior Administrative team provided an overview of the actions that will be prioritized in the year ahead:
  - Strategic Priority 1: Witnessing Faith
  - Strategic Priority 2: Celebrating Inclusion and Well-Being
  - Strategic Priority 3: Teaching and Learning
  - Strategic Priority 4: Expanding Pathways
  - Strategic Priority 5: Managing Resources
- Director Barill recognized the Senior Administrative team for their work on the document and their dedication.

## 2.4. Delegations

None.

- 2.5. Order Paper: Resolutions Approved for Implementation  
Received for information.
- 2.6. Minutes and/or reports from Committee meetings  
The minutes and/or reports from Committee meetings were received for information. Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions.
  - 2.6.1. Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - October 4, 2022
  - 2.6.2. Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting - October 6, 2022
- 2.7. Staff Reports
  - 2.7.1. Class Size Compliance and Staffing Update  
The report was received for information. Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions.
3. Items for Decision
  - 3.1. Consideration of Motions for which previous notices has been given
    - 3.1.1. Amendments to By-Laws (as per Appendix 1 of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2022)  
Chair Ste. Marie read the motion and the amendments to By-Laws.  
**Motion:**  
B2022-10-25-06 - Amendments to By-Laws  
"THAT the DCDSB approve the following amendments to General Working By-law 2021:
      - 2.1 Inaugural Meeting  
In the years in which there is a municipal election, the Board shall hold an Inaugural Meeting not later than seven days after November 15, that being the day on which the Board's term of office commences.
      - 2.2 Oath of Office  
On or before the day fixed for the Inaugural Meeting, or on or before the day of the first meeting that the person attends, each person elected or appointed to the Board shall take the Oath and make the Declaration prescribed by the *Education Act*, before the Secretary of the Board, or before any person authorized to administer an oath or affirmation.
      - 2.3 Annual Meeting  
In each year that is not a municipal election year, an Annual Meeting shall be held at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following November 15.

## 2.6 Appointments

Following the election of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Board shall make the following appointments:

(a) the Auditor.”

Motion moved by J. Oldman and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos. CARRIED

## 3.2. Motions to be read in Open Session from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of September 26, 2022

### **Motion:**

B2022-10-25-07 - Motions Deemed Read

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve the Motions as deemed read from the In Camera session of the October 25, 2022 Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by M. Forster and motion seconded by R. De Souza. CARRIED

## 3.3. Business arising from previous meetings

### 3.3.1. Follow up to Capital Renewal Program Update

Superintendent Grieve provided further information to the Capital Renewal Program Update from last month's report.

- The Ministry of Education is not providing comparative Facility Condition Index (FCI) at this time, due to the timing of the facility assessment process being delayed during the pandemic and the contract expired.
- Of note our inventory of buildings averages in age approximately 1988, and the average FCI is 37.02%. We have some brand new buildings like St. Anne and St. Marguerite d'Youville with 0% and an older building 1953 like St. Francis de Sales with an FCI of 64.91%. The higher the FCI the more investment that is needed. The FCI is factored in when we are making business cases for replacement schools, or when assessing schools in a full review that could be associated with a Pupil Accommodation Review. The last one we did was in Port Perry, where Good Shepherd and Immaculate Conception FCI rates would have been part of the decision to amalgamate.

## 3.4. Staff Reports

None.

## 4. Other Business

### 4.1. Board Communications

4.1.1. Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) Resolutions Received for information.

#### 4.2. Director's Report

Director Barill provided the following report:

- Welcome to the following new and returning trustees who will be sworn in by oath at the Inaugural Board Meeting on November 21, 2022:
  - Monique Forster and Marisa Hall, Town of Ajax
  - Kim Beatty and Morgan Ste. Marie, City of Oshawa
  - Jim McCafferty, City of Pickering
  - Richard Damianopoulos, Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge
  - Robert De Souza and Janelle Emanuel, Town of Whitby.
- Since the last Regular Board meeting in September, students and staff have focused their learning on the history of Residential School, the Most Holy Rosary, Learning Disabilities Month, Cyber Security Awareness Month, and more. The board has also celebrated designated appreciation days for Principals and Vice-Principals, Teachers, Custodians, and Early Childhood Educators. Thank you to the board's Chaplains and parish priests who are celebrating Chaplain and Clergy Appreciation Day on Friday, October 28 as part of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Week.
- Education workers represented provincially by CUPE will be in a legal strike position as of November 3, 2022. In Ontario, under the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, bargaining is a two-tier process – provincial and local. The current information being shared about potential job action is arising from the provincial bargaining process that is underway. While DCDSB has education workers who are represented by CUPE in these negotiations, the board and board staff are not directly involved in bargaining at this time. DCDSB will be establishing a dedicated page on the board website for Collective Bargaining Updates. We will communicate with parents and guardians as soon as we are able with regards to any impact on schools and/or potential school closures. That being said, we continue to be hopeful that job action will be avoided.
- In keeping with the Durham Catholic District School Board's (DCDSB) commitment to community engagement and transparent decision-making, thank you to staff for their work on organizing the following reviews that are currently seeking parents and guardians' feedback and input on:
  - A Special Education Review – DCDSB has partnered with the [Abilities Centre](#) to facilitate the [Leading Equitable and Accessible Delivery](#) (LEAD) Process, to engage in a comprehensive self-assessment and develop an improvement plan to work towards transformational change. The goal is to build capacity in special education knowledge and consistency in the implementation of effective programs and services for students with special education needs.

DCDSB is currently inviting parents, guardians, and caregivers with children with special education needs to complete a survey available on the board's website at [dcdsb.ca/engage](https://dcdsb.ca/engage). The board's Student Services Department is hosting a virtual parent and guardian engagement session on the Special Education Review on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

- [Archbishop Denis O'Connor and Notre Dame Catholic Secondary Schools Boundary Review](#) is hosting a public meeting open to Ajax families tomorrow, October 26, 2022 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at St. Jude Catholic School.
- [The Brooklin Regular English Track Study](#) is hosting public meetings for Brooklin families from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the following days:
  - November 8, 2022 at St. Leo Catholic School
  - November 9, 2022 is a Virtual Meeting
  - November 15, 2022 at St. John Paul II Catholic School
- The online application process for the Regional Arts & Media Program at All Saints Catholic Secondary School is open for students in Grade 6 and Grade 8 interested in applying and auditioning for September 2023. The Regional Arts & Media Program is hosting an open house for students and families interested in learning more about the program on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Visit [amp.dcdsb.ca](https://amp.dcdsb.ca) to learn more.
- I look forward to celebrating the Commissioning Mass for our Catholic Parent Council chairs and members on November 18, at the Pope Francis Centre. Being a part of this group is a special commitment from parents and we value their roles in making our schools faith-filled school communities.

#### 4.3. Chair's Report

Chair Ste. Marie provided the following report:

- Thank you to the Board of Trustees, staff, partners and ratepayers for their involvement and continued support of the board's quality Catholic education system here in Durham Region.
- With this being our final Regular Board Meeting together with this group of Trustees, I am pleased to have an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your advocacy in our shared purpose of promoting our Catholic school system – and making it a thriving, welcoming and faith-filled place to be for students and families in our Catholic communities.
- During the past four years, I have had the honour of serving as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board. I also was privileged to work alongside two outstanding colleagues during that time, Vice-Chair Rinella, and Trustee Oldman who also served as Chair and then Vice-Chair in this current term. Trustee Oldman has been a Trustee



with our Board since 1991 - 31 years. That was 9 terms, 5 of the 3 year terms, and 4 more in 2006 when they switched to 4 year terms. She has been a dedicated advocate for Catholic education and her family are a part of the current and past history of the board. Trustee Oldman has been a stable presence in our system. Our Board has been well-served by both Trustee Oldman and Vice-Chair Rinella, who is finishing his second term as an elected Trustee advocating for students and families. The contributions and commitment to our system from these colleagues will certainly be missed. This is our final Regular Board Meeting together and I am pleased to have an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your advocacy in our shared purpose of promoting our Catholic school system – and making it a thriving, welcoming and faith-filled place to be for students and families in our Catholic communities.

- I extend my thanks to Trustee Yurkoski who was appointed as Trustee for the Town of Whitby in 2021. As a skilled trades professional, Trustee Yurkoski has advocated for experiential learning opportunities for students and the board is grateful for his commitment to Catholic education.
- To our returning Trustees, congratulations on your election wins and I look forward to working with everyone in the new term.
- I also acknowledge the commitment and dedication of former Trustees, the late Paul Pulla, Kathy LeFort, and Tricia Chapman who were elected in 2018 and thank them for their dedication.
- Much has happened during the past four years:
  - Retirement of former Director Anne O'Brien and appointment of current Director Tracy Barill and almost a full turnover of the Senior Administrative team.
  - The opening of two new Catholic elementary schools, St. Anne and St. Marguerite d'Youville.
  - Ministry of Education approval for a new Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School and the board's first Catholic school in the Seton lands, in Pickering.
  - During this time, DCDSB has expanded its childcare sites across the region and has seen an increase in student enrolment.
  - While we have had much to celebrate, we have also weathered perhaps the most challenging and unpredictable time in history, first navigating provincial labour disruptions, then the global pandemic and even our first snow days (not one but two) in anyone's recent memory.
  - As a Board, we have worked collaboratively, sought input from all parties and done so respectfully in a manner that reflects our Catholic beliefs of the dignity of every person.
  - The board has expanded opportunities for engagement through the use of innovative technologies and policy adjustments.

- We have been fiscally responsible and made necessary investments when and where needed to ensure smaller class sizes at the height of the pandemic.
- We have worked hard to develop policies and practices that promote student achievement while creating a safe and welcoming environment for each student.
- We have conducted a comprehensive process to develop the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan that the board hopes will inspire all members of the Board in its journey to 2026.
- Ultimately, we have been faithful to our mission to celebrate and nurture the God-given talents of each student as we serve with excellence in the light of Christ.
- Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Trustees who will take office following the Inaugural Board Meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022 at the Catholic Education Centre.
- On Thursday, October 27, 2022 staff and Trustees will attend the 19th Annual Durham Regional Police Appreciation Dinner and Awards Night. The evening event honours the dedicated Durham Regional police officers who keep our communities safe. It is also attended by this year's winner of Police Chief for a Day – a DCDSB student from St. Paul Catholic School. An invitation has been extended to Gabriel to attend the December Board meeting where we hope to recognize him for this honour.
- On Saturday, October 29, 2022, staff and Trustees will attend the 36th Annual Father Patrick Fogarty Awards Dinner which recognizes a student from each Ontario Catholic high school with a 2022 Catholic Student Award.
- As we look ahead, I invite you to recognize the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1, and All Souls Day on November 2. The privilege of recognizing these holy obligations in Catholic learning communities makes DCDSB's schools special and unique.
- I also invite trustees to attend the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee's (DCPIC) Commissioning Mass on Friday, November 18, at the Pope Francis Centre, to celebrate parent engagement among Catholic School Councils and the broader Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.
- In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the Durham Catholic District School Board.

#### 4.4. Student Trustees Report

The Student Trustees provided the following report:

**Intro:** In the month of October, the Student Senate has been hard at work learning the ins and outs of how to work collaboratively as a newer and bigger team. We have had info sessions, subcommittee meetings and so much more internal professional development. Our school clubs and

student councils have also been hard at work organizing Halloween spirit weeks, semi-formals, homecomings, bake sales and other school events. November is definitely shaping up to be a month full of amazing events for students.

**Senate:** As always, our Senate met today for our second Student Senate meeting of the year. We were glad to welcome the board's Human Rights and Equity Advisor, Mr. Akomolafe to Senate. We had a lengthy 1 hour conversation about concerns the Senate had regarding discrimination in schools and we were able to take away very important notes from Mr. Akomolafe. As the year goes on, we are hoping to work with the board's equity department on giving student input on equity strategies and initiatives they come up with. We also discussed our ideas for initiatives we hope to carry out during exam week as well as mental health resources we want to provide to students.

**Comms Update:** Our communications team has been hard at work crafting our next few upcoming posts and newsletters for our social media. We hope to give a formal introduction to our Senate, along with continuing our tradition of putting out a monthly Senate Star. We are also looking at doing a mental health series on our Instagram during exam week and sporadically throughout the year.

**Operations Team:** For those who may not know, the Student Senate has an operations team, comprised of 8 members of our Senate, who oversee extra responsibilities within Senate. We selected this year's operations team last month and we were able to have our first successful Operations team meeting 2 weeks ago. During this meeting, Moyin and I went over their job responsibilities, information about what they will have to do this year and overall initiatives for Senate. Moyin and I are very excited to work with this group of extraordinary individuals.

**Student Outreach:** Late September, Moyin and I were approached by the chaplain of Monsignor Paul Dwyer inviting us to come to do some Student Trustee outreach at Monsignor Paul Dwyer. We were given the opportunity to formally introduce ourselves to the students at Monsignor Paul Dwyer and tell them a bit about who we are and what we do. We are very appreciative to the chaplain and administrative team at Monsignor Paul Dwyer for allowing us this opportunity. We hope to continue doing student outreach to help better inform students about who we are, why student advocacy is so important and empowering students to use their voices.

**OSTA-AECO:** This past Thursday to Sunday, Moyin and I attended OSTA-AECO's FGM in Toronto. We were able to have 2 full days of PD and meet with our fellow student trustees on issues we see in our regions and boards. We had an in-person presentation from the minister of education, Stephen Lecce, a presentation from the Ontario Physical and Health

Education Association (OPHEA), roundtable discussions and so much more. I was also able to form my working group for the year. My Co-Chair and I spoke to OSTA's general assembly about our plans and initiatives for the year and worked out a few tentative projects. Moyin also led a regional round table discussion about post-pandemic learning and mental health to the Golden Horseshoe Student Trustees in the Catholic Board Council. It is always a pleasure to attend these conferences and Moyin and I are very excited for the work and advocacy to come.

**Closing:** In closing, Moyin and I are very excited for all the upcoming events in schools and the work we will be doing provincially. Our Senate has a few possible projects lined up for November, so we are eager to see their success and the impact they have on students. We hope to continue our student outreach and will continue to always empower students to use their voices and make their thoughts, feelings and opinions heard.

4.5. Trustee Questions

None.

4.6. Motion to Move In Camera (9:02 p.m.)

**Motion:**

B2022-10-25-08 - Motion to Resume In Camera

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School resume the In Camera session of the October 25, 2022 Regular Board Meeting."

Motion moved by R. Damianopoulos and motion seconded by J. Oldman.  
CARRIED

Resumption of the Open Session (10:05 p.m.)

4.7. Motion to Adjourn

**Motion:**

B2022-10-25-09 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, October 25, 2022."

Motion moved by R. De Souza and motion seconded by R. Damianopoulos. CARRIED

4.8. Closing Prayer

Student Trustee Nwaoha offered the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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Morgan Ste. Marie Chair of the Board  
Durham Catholic District School Board

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Tracy Barill, Director of Education  
Durham Catholic District School Board

Recording Secretary: L. Beckstead