

**Celebration of the Eucharist**  
**Celebrant: Father Vid Vlassic**  
**St. John XXIII Chapel, Catholic Education Centre**

**Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board**  
**Tuesday, December 1, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Board Room, Catholic Education Centre**

**A Opening Prayer and Call to Order by the Secretary of the Board—J. B. Kostoff**

At 7:00 p.m. the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, J. B. Kostoff, called the meeting to order. Director Kostoff reminded all of the importance of peace asked everyone to join in the Advent Prayer.

**B Approval of Agenda—J. B. Kostoff**

**Motion 001 (15-12-01) by A. Abbruscato**

**Seconded by S. Hobin**

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED.**

***CARRIED***

**C Welcoming of Guests—J. B. Kostoff**

Director J.B. Kostoff, welcomed guests, outlined the procedure of the Organizational Board Meeting and extended an invitation to all to attend the social that followed the meeting.

**D Presentation of the Director's Report—J. B. Kostoff**

Director J.B. Kostoff presented the Director's annual address to the Board.

As is the practice, and as is required, under the Education Act, the Director of Education's address covers the past year. Later, the board communicates these successes through the Directors Annual Report, which is shared with our community. This is just one in a number of communications that go to our community in which we share the good news of Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel.

This past year, we have again demonstrated financial stewardship by passing our eighth consecutive balanced budget, no easy feat, but an important one. With unspent monies, this board invested those funds, as we so often have done, by putting items on the desks of our students. Whether that be Wi-Fi in all of our schools, increasing our bandwidth, bringing forward policies allowing students to access their own devices in meaningful ways in the classroom, the largest investments in student technology with iPads and Microsoft items, or our pilot programs with the new Chromebooks. We have continued to invest in other forms of technology, but we have married this with instruction and direction to make sure our students

understand the potential of technology and the correct use of technology and social communication in becoming good digital citizens.

This past year, we were approved for a new elementary school in Brampton, a sign of this board's continued growth, the certification of St. James as an IB school, the exploring of an IB secondary school and the survey of an IB elementary school in Brampton. All responses address the needs of our students in a prudent and cost effective manner.

This past year, we have continued to work through labour agreements at both the provincial and local levels with our employees to ensure that our students have an uninterrupted learning year, and to provide our employees with the best we can in these challenging times. This process of negotiations will continue, and I am sure it will be marked with collective agreements in the weeks and months to come, because at the end of the day, we care about the children we work with.

This past year, I signed an agreement on behalf of the school board, along with our co-terminus board to work toward increasing graduation rates and the transition of those students who are in care with the Peel Children's Aid Society. These children must have our voices as advocates for them, to assist them in being successful in school and then moving on to other learning institutions. I was reminded, as I signed the document, that was worked on so hard by so many of our staff, the words of the Gospel. "What you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me." So, the challenge is clear. These students must see success despite the challenges they face.

Over the past three years, we continued to see improvements in student achievement and student well-being, while recognizing the need for improvements in certain pockets of the board. We have come to understand that student achievement cannot be attained, test scores cannot improve or students become engaged, unless we are also just as attentive to their well-being and care. Students who feel safe, comfortable and welcomed, perform better and are better able to integrate with society. We only need ask ourselves, "When do we do our best work?" I am sure it is when we feel valued, appreciated, cared for and without fear of failure, ridicule or embarrassment. Student achievement and well-being go hand-in-hand.

This year, we also celebrated the very successful Sir John A. McDonald speech and spoken word contest, where we heard, again and again, the quality of our students' work and the dedication of their teachers and superintendents in organizing school, family and board events. Each of the finalists reminded us that, although we live in the greatest country in the world, it is not a country without challenges.

Our board of trustees continued to advocate through local MPPs, the Minister of Education, the provincial associations, the Premier, local city councils and even the Prime Minister of Canada, on a host of issues to support our Catholic education system and, ultimately, to improve the quality of education for our students. Much of this was behind the scenes and was successful.

Outside audits on our Special Education, Section Class, Procurement process, Transportation system, all conducted by Ministry departments, all indicated a very high level of success, service and approval. I thank staff for their work to ensure that the good policy that has been set at this table is translated into good practice in our schools and offices.

Quietly and without much fanfare, the board of trustees and superintendents have respectfully reviewed, updated and changed over 80% of Board Policies and General Administrative Procedures to provide our students and employees with the most current practices possible.

Pope Francis has indicated that we will begin a Jubilee Year of Mercy on December 8<sup>th</sup> and I already see preparations taking place to make this year an important one for our students. The words of Pope Francis remind us, "Let us seek forgiveness and grant forgiveness to all who come to our door." I can only image the impact that this year will have on our students as we prepare for the year of jubilee.

The Strategic System Plan governs all that we do, and each year staff brings forward, to our trustees, the incremental progress we are making in turning those expectations and directions into action. Much of what I have addressed tonight is the result of sound policy, established by the board of trustees and carried out by superintendents, principals, teachers and support staff. Our successes this past year are due to the good work of too many to mention. No one group or person can take credit for this extraordinary year, but all should take time to pause and appreciate their contribution to the successes of Dufferin-Peel.

Many schools went beyond. We are only one of two boards in the province to achieve ECO School success with 100% certification. We are, in fact, reducing our carbon footprint.

Finally, as I look to the next year, I realize that I will not be in the role of Director of Education. After over 39 years in education, I leave this post. Trustees selected Marianne Mazzorato to be the next Director of Education, which commences in January. I know your new Director will continue with the success of this board with a strong respectful relationship with trustees and all parts of the board. This has been the hallmark of past success, and I am sure it will be an indicator of future successes as well.

I would be remiss if I did not publically thank my Associate Directors, John Hrajnik, Sheila McWatters, and past Associate Director Ralph Borrelli for their support, confidence and dedication during my term as Director. To my Superintendents, thank you for your ongoing hard work, professionalism and dedication to Catholic education and to the students of this board. As well, the outstanding work of Ann Di Iorio, Kathy Smyth, Sandra Bellini, Laurie Mackereth, Ana Aleixo, Caroline McFarland, Nancy Marshall and the late Agatha DeLemos, all deeply committed to this board. As well, to Bruce Campbell for your dedication to tell our story at Dufferin-Peel. Finally, to my family, thank you for your support, encouragement and understanding. This is a lonely job and your support made the weight lighter.

I am told that St. John XXIII would end his prayers each night by saying, "God, it is your Church, so I leave it in your hands." This is both a freeing statement and a statement of recognition that he was involved in something greater than himself. I end tonight with a similar point, "God, Catholic Education is in your hands. We are only your servants, so we leave Dufferin-Peel in your hands, help us to choose wisely in the years to come."

Again, thank you for the opportunity you have given me to serve. It has been an important time.

**Motion 002 (15-12-01) by M. Pascucci**

**Seconded by A. Abbruscato**

**THAT THE YEAR END REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SECRETARY TO THE BOARD BE RECEIVED AND READ INTO THE MINUTES.**

***CARRIED***

**E Election of Chair of the Board In Accordance with Procedural By-Law**

Elections were conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Board’s Procedural By-Law.

Nominations for Chair of the Board were opened by Secretary to the Board, J. B. Kostoff.

Trustee M. Pascucci was nominated by Trustee A. Abbruscato.

Trustee M. Pascucci was asked by the Secretary of the Board, J.B. Kostoff if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee M. Pascucci accepted the nomination.

Trustee E. O’Toole was nominated by Trustee A. da Silva.

Trustee E. O’Toole was asked by the Secretary of the Board, J.B. Kostoff if she wished to allow her name to stand in nomination. Trustee E. O’Toole respectfully declined the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Secretary of the Board, J. B. Kostoff, requested further nominations three times. There being none, nominations were declared closed. Trustee M. Pascucci was acclaimed Chair of the Board.

Chair M. Pascucci assumed the chair in order to conduct the remainder of the proceedings. The Chair thanked Trustees for their support and confidence and his wife for her support.

**F Election of Vice-Chair of the Board In Accordance with By-Law**

Elections were conducted by secret ballot in accordance with the Board’s Procedural By-Law.

Chair M. Pascucci called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Trustee F. Di Cosola was nominated by Trustee S. Hobin. Trustee F. Di Cosola was asked by the Chair of the Board M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee F. Di Cosola accepted the nomination.

Trustee T. Thomas was nominated by Trustee L. del Rosario. Trustee Thomas was asked by the Chair of the Board, M. Pascucci if he wished to allow his name to stand in nomination. Trustee T. Thomas accepted the nomination.

In accordance with Board practice, the Chair requested further nominations three times.

**Motion 003 (15-12-01) by D. D’Souza**

**Seconded by B. Iannicca**

**THAT THE NOMINATIONS BE CLOSED.**

***CARRIED***

The nominees briefly addressed the assembly.

Trustee F. Di Cosola congratulated Chair Pascucci on his acclamation and thanked Trustee S. Hobin for the nomination. Trustee Di Cosola provided an outline of his experience on the board and indicated he would continue to advocate for his community and support trustees in advocating for their communities.

Trustee T. Thomas congratulated Chair Pascucci on his acclamation and thanked Trustee L. del Rosario for the nomination of Vice Chair. Trustee T. Thomas indicated he is grateful, thankful and honoured to represent Dufferin-Peel at OCSTA. He has been negotiating with the unions at the labour relations central table.

Director Designate M. Mazzorato, Associate Director of Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, J. Hrajnik, and Associate Director of Instructional Services, S. McWatters were appointed scrutineers.

Ballots were counted and Chair M. Pascucci announced Trustee T. Thomas was elected Vice Chair.

Vice-Chair T. Thomas thanked his fellow trustees for their support and the opportunity to serve the Board in this new capacity.

**Motion 004 (15-12-01) by B. Iannicca** **Seconded by L. del Rosario**

**THAT THE BALLOTS BE DESTROYED.**

***CARRIED***

**G Appointment of Auditors—J. B. Kostoff**

**Motion 005 (15-12-01) by S. Hobin** **Seconded by A. da Silva**

**THAT THE REPORT, APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS, DATED DECEMBER 1, 2015, BE RECEIVED.**

***CARRIED***

**H Meeting the Goals of our Strategic System Plan 2014-15—J. B. Kostoff**  
*(The report was distributed at the Meeting)*

J. B. Kostoff, Director of Education noted, under the Education Act, Boards are required to publish the results of how they met the goals of their Strategic System Plan and EQAO results on the board website. Trustee M. Pascucci requested an electronic copy of the report.

**Motion 006 (15-12-01) by L. del Rosario** **Seconded by A. Abbruscato**

**THAT THE REPORT, MEETING THE GOALS OF OUR STRATEGIC SYSTEM PLAN 2014-15, BE RECEIVED.**

***CARRIED***

**I 2014-15 Director’s Annual Report—J. B. Kostoff**

*(The report was distributed at the meeting)*

J. B. Kostoff, Director of Education, briefly outlined the report, an overview of activities, budget, board updates, and highlights of meeting the Strategic System Plan goals.

Trustee S. Hobin thanked staff for the excellent report that summarizes Dufferin-Peel successes. Chair M. Pascucci requested an electronic copy of the report.

**Motion 007 (15-12-01) by A. da Silva**

**Seconded by D. D’Souza**

**THAT THE REPORT, MEETING THE GOALS OF OUR STRATEGIC SYSTEM PLAN 2014-15,  
BE RECEIVED.**

***CARRIED***

**J Remarks from the Vice-Chair of the Board – T. Thomas**

Trustee T. Thomas thanked trustees for their support and trust.

**K Remarks from the Chair of the Board – M. Pascucci**

Trustee M. Pascucci thanked Fr. Vid and the St. Roch Secondary School Choir for the mass before the board meeting and thanked J. B. Kostoff for his many contributions to Catholic Education. Trustee M. Pascucci noted the board looks forward to working with M. Mazzorato, Director Designate, to continue to build our Catholic System and welcomed trustees for year two of their term.

**L Adjournment**

**Motion 008 (15-12-01) by A. da Silva**

**Seconded by B. Iannicca**

**THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED (7:33 p.m.)**

***CARRIED***