

**MINUTES FOR THE OPEN SESSION BOARD MEETING OF THE
HURON-SUPERIOR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 @ 7:15 PM
IN THE BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT:

Trustees:

Sandra Turco (Chair), John Bruno (Vice-Chair), Carol Amadio, John Caputo, Kerri Commanda (virtual), Tony D'Agostino, Wayne Greco, Lindsay Liske, Carol MacEachern (virtual), Kathleen Rosilius

Officials:

Fil Lettieri (Director of Education) (virtual), Joe Chilelli (Designate), Stephanie Circelli, Justin Pino (virtual), Franca Spadafora, Syndy Withers

Student Trustees:

Abbie Dasa Kumar, Michaela Kyle, Alexander Oraziatti

Guests:

Brian McKinlay

Vision and Values

Director Lettieri took this opportunity to recognize Trustee Appreciation Day. He thanked the trustees on behalf of the Board for their dedicated service through sound governance, servant leadership and a deep commitment to the Board's mission. Trustees play an essential role in Catholic education and help to ground our system in gospel values, ensuring our schools are nurtured with care, guided by vision, and sustained for the future.

Superintendent Chilelli celebrated the St. Mary's College VEX B5 Robotics Team's recent achievement of significant success in their inaugural regional competition, highlighting the growth of the HSCDSB robotics program. They ranked 10th overall in a large provincial field and advanced to the quarterfinals. This achievement serves as a milestone in building a community where faith, learning, and leadership intersect to prepare students for future success.

Superintendent Circelli highlighted the letter the Board received from the Canadian Cancer Society congratulating St. Mary's College staff and students on raising \$106,221.78 for cancer research at their Relay for Life last spring. The Board recognizes the work they have done to draw hope in our community and support one another to transform the world as part of our values.

Superintendent Withers acknowledged the recent special event at Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School and Ecole catholique La Renaissance in Espanola, Ontario, which allowed the Board to celebrate the unique gift of Catholic education through a school blessing. School Administrators and our Faith Animator collaborated in planning the event, which culminated in Bishop Dowd blessing every room in the school — a significant milestone since the building opened during the pandemic when only outdoor blessings were possible. This was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate collaboration between the two

school boards as students participated in a bilingual prayer service where songs and readings alternated between French and English. We'd like to give special thanks to the school administrators, Bishop Dowd and Father Frances for this extraordinary event.

Chair Turco reiterated the "What Christmas Means to Me" contest held by the Lakeshore Kiwanis Club, in which seven of the Board's students were recognized. The students all participated in the Weekend Club with Lou Turco on Oldies 93 Radio. It was a beautiful way to celebrate the Christmas season because the children spoke from their hearts. Turco appreciated and thanked the staff for ensuring the letters were submitted for this contest.

Director Lettieri recognized the recent awarding of the City's Medal of Merit to our late Trustee Gary Trembinski. This award speaks to his servant leadership and the important role that he played in our community. The Board is very proud of this honour, as is all of Sault Ste. Marie who benefited from him sharing his gifts with us.

Adg# Mtn#

- B-1 B-1070 Moved by: T. D'Agostino Seconded by: J. Bruno**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board adopts the Agenda for the Board Meeting of Wednesday, January 21, 2026.
- Addition of item: I-5 – Fieldtrips:
5. St. Mary's College – travelling to Pond Inlet, Nunavut on May 28, 2026 and returning June 2, 2026.
CARRIED
- E-1 B-1071 Moved by: J. Caputo Seconded by: W. Greco**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Open Board Meeting of December 10, 2025.
CARRIED
- E-2 B-1072 Moved by: C. Amadio Seconded by: L. Liske**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In-Camera Board Meeting of December 10, 2025.
CARRIED
- E-3 B-1073 Moved by: L. Liske Seconded by: C. MacEachern**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board - In-Camera Board Meeting of January 13, 2026.
CARRIED

- G-1 Evidence-Based Success: Our Literacy Roadmap**
Anita Turcotte (Catholic Curriculum Coordinator K-12), Melissa Valenti (Curriculum Consultant Early Years and Literacy K-12), Shawna Bock (Vice-Principal, St. Paul Catholic Elementary School), and Stephanie Vendramin (Vice-Principal, St. Basil Catholic Elementary School) walked the trustees through the Board’s literacy journey over the past few years. Professional development and resources provided to teachers to support current curriculum and new initiatives were highlighted. The Board is committed to supporting our students and teachers in the classrooms, engaging them in learning and constantly learning through teacher and student feedback.
- I-1 B-1074 Moved by: T. D’Agostino Seconded by: C. Amadio**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approves the 2025-26 Revised Estimates as presented.
CARRIED
- I-2 B-1075 Moved by: C. MacEachern Seconded by: J. Caputo**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approves the appointment of Anna Moody as an alternate SEAC member, representing Community Living Algoma.
CARRIED
- I-3 B-1076 Moved by: C. Amadio Seconded by: J. Bruno**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve Policy 4012 as presented.
CARRIED
- I-4 B-1077 Moved by: L. Liske Seconded by: T. D’Agostino**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve Policy 6021 as presented.
CARRIED
- I-5 B-1078 Moved by: W. Greco Seconded by: K. Rosilius**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approves the following field trip applications:
1. St. Mary’s College – Skills Ontario Competition – travelling to Toronto, ON on May 4, 2026, and returning on May 6, 2026.
 2. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School (EL) – travelling to Camp ABK on June 17, 2026, and returning June 18, 2026.
 3. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School (EL) – travelling to John Island Camp on June 17, 2026, and returning June 19, 2026.
 4. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School (EL) – travelling to Toronto, ON on June 22, 2026, and returning June 24, 2026.
 5. St. Mary’s College – travelling to Pond Inlet, Nunavut on May 28, 2026, and returning June 2, 2026.
- CARRIED**

J-1-a

Mid-Year Review of the SEAC Recommendations

Superintendent Spadafora presented the mid-year review that outlines the Board's current progress on the SEAC recommendations that were presented to the Board in June 2025. The Board has made meaningful progress on several recommendations, and Spadafora highlighted several items.

J-1-b

SMC Activity Report

Student Trustees Dasa Kumar, Kyle and Oraziatti highlighted some of the January events at the school, including components from faith, sports, Student Council, Indigenous Student Union and Student Senate. A few noteworthy items were the Heaven Cent Campaign, Christmas cards for seniors, Winter Arts Night, and Cocoa and Cram Exam Prep.

N-1

B-1079

Moved by: J. Bruno

Seconded by: J. Caputo

That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board meeting of Wednesday, January 21, 2026, adjourns at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Chairperson:

Secretary:
