

**MINUTES FOR THE OPEN SESSION BOARD MEETING OF THE
HURON-SUPERIOR CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 @ 7:15 PM
IN THE BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT:

Trustees:

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

Officials:

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

Student Trustees:

Abbie Dasa Kumar, Michaela Kyle, Alexander Oraziatti

Guests:

Dave Coccimiglio

REGRETS:

Joe Chilelli

Vision and Values

Kenzie Vandenberg (Communication Officer) highlighted how students in grades 7-12 showcased innovative STEM projects at the 37th annual Rotary Algoma STEM Fair on April 10th. The Board boasted high participation, with students contributing 14 of the 22 total projects and securing numerous awards. Notably, student Vincent Mannarino earned first place and "Best in Fair" for his machine learning automated fault detection system.

Chris Czop (CPCO Representative) recognized Chris Vuorensyrja for his selection as the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO) Principal of the Year Award, an honor to be formally presented at the upcoming annual conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Over his ten-year tenure with the local CPCO unit, Vuorensyrja has served in numerous leadership capacities, including unit president, where he was a dedicated advocate for members and a key negotiator for local terms and conditions. He was commended for his principled leadership, mentorship of colleagues, and steadfast commitment to student life and community service within the Board. The recognition highlights his lasting impact on Catholic education and his role as a compassionate, service-oriented administrator.

The Board celebrated Curriculum Coordinator Anita Turcotte for receiving the International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Ontario Literacy Leader of the Year Award, presented at the Literacy and Learning Conference on April 12th. This prestigious honour recognizes her significant contributions to structured literacy, including her leadership in implementing universal screening and authoring the Board's literacy intervention flowchart and action plan. Turcotte

was commended for her dedicated efforts in early identification and for providing educators with the essential tools and training to support students with reading challenges. Her visionary work continues to build system-wide capacity and ensure equitable access to literacy for all students.

Director Lettieri acknowledged Administrative Professionals Day, expressing sincere gratitude to administrative assistants and clerical staff for their dedicated service to school communities and the Board office. It was noted that these professionals consistently model the Board's strategic directions through their commitment to customer service, care for others, and support of students and families.

Trustee Rosilius expressed sincere appreciation to the students and staff of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School (Elliot Lake) for their recent gesture of kindness and compassion. It was noted that the school community provided a hand-signed card offering prayers and support, demonstrating the core values of love and kindness taught within the Board. This act of care was highlighted as a meaningful example of the positive culture fostered within our Catholic schools.

Trustee MacEachern presented a very powerful song written by a former Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School (Hornepayne) student, Kevin Shaganash, that was written approximately one month ago. The song was written about his sister named August and was played today for all in attendance.

Students from St. Basil recently participated in the YMCA Exchange Program, engaging in a unique twinning experience with Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Gatineau, Quebec. During their week-long trip in April, students explored national landmarks like Parliament and the Museum of History to deepen their understanding of Canadian government and Indigenous heritage. This meaningful exchange was made possible by the dedicated Vice-Principal and teacher chaperones who volunteered their time to coordinate the travel and supervise the students. The commitment of these staff members continues into May, as they prepare to host the Gatineau students and showcase the highlights of our own community.

Trustee Amadio and Chair Turco expressed their appreciation on behalf of the Board to the organizers for the successful execution of the recent system-wide Faith Day. The event featured a keynote address by David Wells, whose impactful and humorous message encouraged staff to reflect on their vocational calling and celebrated their ongoing dedication to Catholic education. The day concluded with a community Mass, providing a valuable opportunity for staff from across the Board to gather in fellowship and spiritual celebration.

professional development to intensive, one-on-one sessions for new teachers and priority schools. Key initiatives include the transition to digital platforms through practice testing, the use of diagnostic assessments to pinpoint specific student needs, and the implementation of research-based scripted programming like JUMP Math to build teacher capacity. This proactive strategy ensures consistency across the board while addressing modern challenges such as teacher shortages and shifting educational mandates. Ultimately, the Board's integrated focus on instructional tools and targeted interventions aims to foster a culture of achievement and sustained student success.

- I-1 B-1103 Moved by: T. D'Agostino Seconded by: J. Caputo**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board award the construction contract for the LED Lighting, Barrier Free & Classroom Upgrades at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School (Hornepayne), to Helix Contracting.
CARRIED
- I-2 B-1104 Moved by: J. Bruno Seconded by: C. Amadio**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve Policy 6023 as presented.
CARRIED
- I-3 B-1105 Moved by: T. D'Agostino Seconded by: J. Bruno**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board approve Policy 6027 as presented.
CARRIED
- I-4 B-1107 Moved by: K. Rosilius Seconded by: W. Greco**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board allows Vice-Chair Bruno travel to Windsor, ON to attend the OCSTA/OCSBOA Business Seminar on April 30, 2026.
CARRIED
- J-1-a SMC Activity Report**
Student Trustees Dasa Kumar and Kyle highlighted some of the February events at the school, including components from faith, sports, Student Council, Indigenous Student Union and Student Senate. A few noteworthy items were Easter Masses, Faith Day preparations, 2026 Soaring conference preparations, Annual Junior Formal and the "Fill the Basket" food drive.
- N-1 B-1106 Moved by: J. Caputo Seconded by: K. Rosilius**
That the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board meeting of Wednesday, April 22, 2026, adjourns at 9:08 p.m.
CARRIED

Chairperson: _____

Secretary: _____