

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 11, 2001**

**4:00 p.m.**

Minutes

Trustees Present: Chairperson - W. Goetz Vice-Chairperson - N. Bethune  
Members - M. Lemme, D. Slosser, J. Vanhaelemesch  
Student Rep. A. Hanif, C. McGrath  
Board Officials: V. Batte, C. Colton, J. Contois, P. Cureton, J. Sheppard  
Regrets: C. Zettel  
Absent: B. Herney  
Recording Secretary: A. Dietz

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A. 1) The Board was led in prayer by Dave Slosser.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

**Addendum:**

- i) Travel Allowance
- ii) EQAO

**01-354** *Motion By:* Norm Bethune and seconded by Mike Lemme that the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting on December 11, 2001 be accepted as amended.

*Carried*

3) **Conflict of Interest** ~ None were declared

**B. Approval of Minutes**

**01-355** *Motion By:* Jules Vanhaelemesch and seconded by Mike Lemme that the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 27, 2001 be approved as printed.

*Carried*

**C .**

**Committee of the Whole Report**

**01-356** *Motion By:* Dave Slosser and seconded by Jules Vanhaelemesch that the Board approve the Staff Report J.S. 2001-12-11 and the recommendations contained therein.

*Carried*

**01-357**     *Motion By: Dave Slosser* and seconded by *Mike Lemme* that the Board accept the Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2001 and approve the changes in Reserve Funds as presented.

*Carried*

**NS / SUBMISSIONS / EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Inaugural Address**

At the last meeting of the Board, Bill Goetz was acclaimed to the position of Chairperson for the next year. In his inaugural address, Bill thanked the trustees for the opportunity to serve as their chairperson once again. He is confident that, with the cooperation of all partners, the Board should be able to address any concerns that they will encounter. Bill stated that the immediate priorities for the Board will be to hire a new director of education and to complete the construction project at St. Basil's School. Some of the major concerns facing the Board include the transportation funding and the challenge to continue to provide a rich Catholic education to the students of Bruce and Grey in a time of declining enrolment.

**2. Cheque Register**

**01-358**     *Motion By: Jules Vanhaelemeesch* and seconded by *Norm Bethune* that the Cheque Register to November 30, 2001 be approved as printed.

*Carried*

**3. Elementary Average Class Size**

Cathy Colton stated that the amount of provincial grants is determined by using enrolment figures at October 31<sup>st</sup>. Cathy shared information relative to elementary class sizes showing that this Board is compliant with the provincial requirements.

Secondary class size information is due to the province by May 15 at which time Cathy will share that information.

**4. Life at S.H.H.S. (Alia Hanif)**

Alia Hanif, Student Representative from SHHS provided an interesting and informative power point presentation of the many events that have taken place there. Alia had surveyed teachers and students at SHHS for their comments about the various events and programs that have been offered. Some of the events Alia referred to include the Terry Fox Run, Grade 9 Appreciation Day, a visit from Dr. Simone who helps the poor and homeless, monthly masses, food drive, spirit week, blood donor clinic and Operation Christmas Child. With all the events going on at SHHS, trustees wondered how Alia gets time to study!. Well done, Alia.

**5. St. Basil's Project Update**

Cathy provided an update of the construction project and the expenditures incurred to this point. Outside construction ~ the main entrance doors were to arrive today and installation is expected to take place in the next few days. The roof is 99% complete.

Inside Construction ~ most plumbing is complete as is duct work in hallways. Painting is underway and so is the electrical wiring.

Bill Goetz recently visited the site and was impressed with the outside appearance. He feels that everything inside will start to fall into place and that this will be a first class facility when it is completed.

Expenditure - the total budget for this project is \$2.2 million and the Board has incurred \$1.6 million thus far. Cathy mentioned that we are looking at a few change orders which could amount to approx \$70,000 in additional costs.

#### 6. **Financial Presentation**

Cathy presented the 2000-2001 actual figures that have been audited and also the revised figures for the 2002 budget.

- enrolment, which is the starting point for all calculations, was slightly ahead of projections
- revenue - a significant portion of revenue comes from municipal taxes and from the province
- expenditures - Cathy compared last year's actual with this year's revised projection ~ 60% of expenditures will be spent in the classroom
- reserves - after financing St. Basil's project, our reserves will be at \$1.7 million which has been allocated to specific account areas.
- the overall picture shows our Board in a positive position which allows us to spend more money in the classroom
- projections for this year ~ we have resolved all collective agreements, have funds to finance St. Basil's project. Our issues remain unchanged ~ we would like to see a new funding model for transportation, and it is important to plan for declining enrolment.

#### 7. **Information Technology Update**

Pat Cureton explained that last year he had presented a plan for high speed connection using a company named Rodin. However, when the company appeared to be having financial difficulty, plans changed. A hybrid solution was put together by our own staff, with some assistance from Packet Works in Kitchener, using cable and DSL. Each facility is now operating at high speed and are getting good download speeds for data at approx. 50-100 times faster than 56k

Pat then provided a computer update:

- the Board prides itself in having a good computer ratio ~ now at 3.33:1
- some older Dos machines and Sidus machines are being replaced
- video editing equipment is about 5 years old at each school - and is being updated at two high schools - more user friendly and allows for more creativity
- plan to upgrade one lab at St. Mary's
- addition of 8 research computers in library at SHHS
- have purchased 265 refurbished machines with 3-year warranties to replace all Dos and Sidus machines in the next 6 weeks - will move computers around in our schools to maintain our ratio

#### ***Addendum:***

##### i) **Travel Allowance**

Cathy mentioned that, in compliance with Board Policy, she has completed a 6 month review of travel allowances. Costs show a decrease from June, which mostly reflects a change in the gas price. The travel rates will be adjusted to 32¢ and 28¢ effective January 1st.

##### ii) **EQAO Grade 9 Math Results**

Jane Contois mentioned that since we are a very small school board with fewer than two schools with five or more reportable scores, we did not receive Board results. However, in looking at the results from our two high schools, we are pleased with the above provincial averaged results of the two schools, but not complacent realizing that growth and improvement is an on-going process. Jane commended our teachers and principals for their hard work and devotion of many hours to the implementation of the new curriculum and this new assessment tool. Jane referred to EQAO's key messages and most importantly noted that the assessment results are used to

improve learning and teaching, not to rank schools.

**E. INFORMATION and REPORTS**

–For Information Only:

1. Correspondence from Ministry of Education
  - International Test Results Show Ontario Near the Top
  - Parent Survey Helps Set Direction for Education Improvements
  - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
  
2. Correspondence from O.C.S.T.A.
  - Resolutions 15 & 62, 2001
  
3. Approved Excursion, Field Trips Outdoor Education Trips
  - Requests submitted from November 1 - November 30, 2001
  
4. Other:
  - Walkerton Health Study
    - Screening Clinic at SHHS
  
  - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
    - Special Education Advocate
  
  - Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board
    - Transportation Funding
  
  - Knights of Columbus
    - In appreciation of assistance received in regard to K of C float in parade
  
  - Notes of Appreciation
    - Jason Kuntz ~ John Korman Scholarship
    - Sarah Varsava ~ Scully Scholarship

**F. FUTURE BUSINESS**

Next Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 2:30 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting @ 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, **January 15, 2002**

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

**01-359 Motion By:** *Norm Bethune* and seconded by *Jules Vanhaelemesch* that the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

*Carried*

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William Goetz  
Chairperson of the Board

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Vern Batte  
Director of Education and Secretary

