



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

September 15, 2016

MEMO TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Marino Gazzola, Chair, Resolutions Committee

RE: 2017 AGM & Conference Resolutions

| |
|--|
| PLEASE REVIEW THIS INFORMATION AT A MEETING OF YOUR BOARD |
|--|

The OCSTA Annual General Meeting will once again offer an opportunity for delegates to consider and vote on all resolutions received from OCSTA members.

The study and processing of resolutions is one of the fundamental responsibilities of the Association. The resolution process provides member boards with the opportunity to shape the work of the Association by bringing important issues which have provincial implications to the attention of all trustees in the province.

During the year, important issues of a provincial nature that arise at the board level may be used to develop resolutions for OCSTA. Resolutions may be submitted to OCSTA any time up until the deadline of *January 31, 2017 (to be confirmed)*.

Please Note:

*OCSTA's Annual Finance Brief to the Minister and submission to the yearly Pre-Budget Consultation process serve as effective opportunities for advocacy regarding education funding issues. Boards are encouraged to submit education funding issues requiring Association action and advocacy by **Mid-October each year**. However, should a board prefer to use the AGM Resolutions process for funding issues with provincial implications, they are, of course, welcome to do so. Funding issues submitted through the resolutions process may be recommended for inclusion in the OCSTA Finance Brief the following year. **Resolutions may be submitted to OCSTA at any time up to the deadline of January 31, 2017.***

Attachments

- Guidelines
- Template
- Explanation of Committee Recommendations & Resolution Procedures
- OCSTA Mission, Vision, Strategic Priorities
- Chart of 2016 Resolutions with AGM Decisions
- Related By Law Section 5.9 (Resolutions)

Guidelines for Preparing Resolutions

To improve the effectiveness of the resolution process, we ask boards to review the following guidelines.

Resolutions are your opportunity to shape the work of the Association by addressing problems, solutions or concerns, which affect Catholic education in Ontario. **A resolution approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting calls for priority action by OCSTA and the commitment of OCSTA resources to address the particular issue outlined in the resolution.**

A. All Resolutions will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee and a Committee Recommendation will be added to each Resolution. Committee Recommendations will be guided by the following criteria.

The resolution:

- a. Is in keeping with the Mission, Vision and Strategic Priorities of the Association.
- b. Is of a provincial nature and addresses an area of concern for the province's Catholic school boards is a matter that requires attention or action.
- c. Is written in language appropriate for province-wide consideration (language contained in resolutions is often incorporated into subsequent communications to the government or other relevant parties).
- d. Is accompanied by substantiated rationale.
- e. Does not deal with education funding issues.
 - OCSTA addresses education funding issues in the Annual Finance Brief to the Minister and submission to the yearly Pre-Budget Consultation. Boards are encouraged to submit education funding issues requiring Association action and advocacy **by the middle of October.**

B. Steps in Preparing a Resolution

1. Review the Mission, Vision and Strategic Priorities of OCSTA.
2. Identify the concern. Be sure the concern is a matter of **province-wide** scope.
3. Research and gather sufficient supporting background materials to substantiate the resolution. If the concern has been presented/dealt with in a previous resolution, review the outcome of that process to assess what changes in approach/additional information might be useful.
4. Write the resolution in the following proposed format taking care to ensure that:
 - a. Each "*Whereas*" is accompanied by adequate background material.
 - b. The "*Therefore be it Resolved*" directs OCSTA to take specific action.

C. Writing A Resolution

Structure

The resolution should be assigned a succinct title that identifies the problem or issue (or its proposed solution). There should be two parts to the resolution: a preamble followed by a resolving clause (or clauses).

1. Preamble

The preamble is a brief statement of background or rationale coming before the resolving clause(s). The purpose of the preamble is to provide information without which the point or the merits of a resolution are likely to be poorly understood.

Each clause in a preamble is written as a separate paragraph, beginning with the word "WHEREAS".

2. Resolving Clauses

A resolving clause indicates what action(s) is to be taken given the “WHEREAS” clause(s) in the preamble. If more than one action is being recommended, the “Therefore be It Resolved” portion should be divided into a), b), c), etc.

3. Submission Statement

Please include the following information in the submission statement.

[Mover’s Name]

[Secunder’s Name]

[Board Name]

[Topic]

D. **Submission Deadline Date**

The **final** deadline date for receipt of resolutions in the OCSTA office is **12:00 p.m. EST, January 31, 2017**. We encourage boards to submit their resolutions at any time from September to January 2017 by email to Jane Ponte at jponte@ocsta.on.ca.

E. **Regulations**

Please see the attached current regulations regarding submission and presentation of resolutions at the AGM.

These guidelines and the enclosed template and the resolution session procedures have been provided as a reference that we hope you will find useful in preparing effective resolutions for your Association and Catholic education in Ontario.

Template

Please **do not use** tables, text boxes or any type of graphic or letterhead. The type of font to be used in this document is **Times New Roman 12pt**.

The following example is taken from a Resolution dealt with at a previous AGM and is provided for your reference.

Moved by: [Mover's Name] [Board Name]

Seconded by: [Seconder's Name]

Topic: [e.g. Vacancies on School Boards]

Whereas: from time to time a vacancy occurs in the office of a member of the board; and

Whereas: according to Section 221(1) of the *Education Act*, the vacancy must be filled by either a by-election or by appointment; and

Whereas: boards choosing to appoint a new trustee will, most commonly, engage in an open and fair process of selection; and

Whereas: the *Education Act* requires that the process be fully completed within 60 days of the office becoming vacant; and

Whereas: the 60 day time period may encompass a part of the year (e.g. Christmas, summer months, March Break) when board operations and processes are reduced, thus making the timelines very tight and, potentially, unmanageable;

Therefore be it Resolved that:

OCSTA petition the Ministry of Education to review the section of the *Education Act* which relates to trustee vacancies with a view to extending the timeline by either increasing the number of days or altering the requirement that the process be completed within a designated number of regular school days.

If you have any questions regarding this template please contact Jane Ponte either by telephone at 416-932-9460 ext. 223 or by e-mail at jponte@ocsta.on.ca.

Explanation of Committee Recommendations & Resolution Session Procedures

Resolution sessions will be conducted using “**Robert’s Rules of Order**” and the provisions of the OCSTA Constitution. The chairperson of the session will ensure compliance with their rules.

Explanation of Committee Recommendations

The **Resolutions** Committee will study the resolutions and offer recommendations on the best way to meet their intent. The recommendations and their implications are:

- i. **Approve**
The direction given in the “therefore be it resolved” section of the resolution will be carried out.
- ii. **Approve and refer to the committee for appropriate implementation.**
The resolution will be forwarded to the designated committee for implementation.
- iii. **Receive and refer to the committee for study.**
The resolution will be forwarded to the designated committee for study. Following the study and receipt of the committee’s recommendation, the Board of Directors will determine whether or not the resolution will be implemented.
- iv. **Not approve**
No action will be taken.
- v. **No recommendation**
The committee is not making any recommendation with respect to the resolution.
- vi. **No action required**
The intent of the resolution has been met. No further action will be taken.

Resolution Session Procedures

Delegates wishing to speak to a resolution must go to one of the floor microphones and state their name and the name of the board they represent.

The mover of a resolution will have the opportunity to be the first and last to speak to that resolution. Other trustees may speak **once** to a resolution.

The chairperson may declare a motion out of order giving the reasons for doing so. The chairperson’s decision may be challenged by a majority vote of those voting delegates present **at the session** when the vote is called.

Voting will be by a show of hands. Delegates carrying proxies must have and show proper identification - i.e. proxy badge. Ballots will be provided in the event that a vote by ballot is called for.

Note Re Quorum: *A quorum for the transaction of business at any general meeting of Members shall consist of not fewer than forty (40) individuals entitled to vote, present in person.*

Grouped Resolutions

- a. the chair of the session will ask for a mover and seconder to approve the **grouping** of various related resolutions.
- b. the chair of the session will ask for movers and seconders for the committee recommendation for each group.
- c. delegates will vote on the committee recommendation for each group.

Delegates may request that any resolution(s) be removed from a “group” to be handled individually. These will be addressed when the group from which they have been removed has been dealt with.

Resolutions Handled Individually

These will include resolutions removed from the groups, resolutions for which the committee has not made any recommendation and resolutions from the floor.

A. Resolutions with committee recommendations

1. The chair of the session will announce the resolution number and the name of the sponsoring board:
 - the chair will call for the sponsoring board to move and second **the committee recommendation;**
 - delegates will speak to the committee recommendation;
 - delegates will vote on the committee recommendation.
2. If the sponsoring board does not move the committee recommendation from the floor:
 - the chair will call for the sponsoring board to move their **original resolution;**
 - delegates will speak to the resolution;
 - delegates will vote on the resolution.
3. If the original resolution is not moved by the sponsoring board, the resolution will be withdrawn.

B. Resolutions without committee recommendations

1. These resolutions will be handled as follows:
 - the chair will call for the sponsoring board to move their **original resolution;**
 - delegates will speak to the resolution;
 - delegates will vote on the resolution.
2. If the original resolution is not moved by the sponsoring board, the resolution will be withdrawn.

C. Amendments from the Floor

Amendments made on the floor relate to the “therefore be it resolved” section of the resolution and **must be written out** and handed to the chairperson. The chairperson will consider the amendment and, if necessary, discuss it with the parliamentarian or others to ensure that it is clearly understood.

- the chair will **read** the amendment;
- delegates will speak to the amendment;
- delegates will vote on the amendment;
- delegates will vote on the resolution as amended.

If the amendment is defeated:

- delegates will be asked to speak to the original resolution;
- delegates will vote on the original resolution.

D. Resolutions Presented from the Floor

After resolutions presented by the committee have been dealt with, other resolutions may be presented from the floor. The following rules apply:

- 2/3 of the voting delegates present at the session must consent to consider the resolution;
- sufficient copies of the resolution (and background material) must be provided for all those present at the resolution session;
- these resolutions will be handled as outlined above.



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Our Mission

Inspired by the Gospel, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association provides the provincial voice, leadership and service for elected Catholic school trustees to promote and protect publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

Our Vision

Ontario is enriched by a publicly funded Catholic education system governed by locally elected Catholic school trustees who serve with faith, commitment and compassion.

The Association's **Strategic Priorities** are as follows:

1. Enhance Political Advocacy for Catholic Education

- a. Strengthen current advocacy platform by building positive new relationships and reinforcing existing ones with groups like OAPCE, OCSOA, CWL, etc.
- b. Communicate and promote current messages about the value of Catholic education to our key target audiences: parents, students, politicians, teachers, alumni, parishioners, etc.

2. Engage Trustees in an Enriched Development Program

- a. Assess the current needs and interests of members to guide development of appropriate programming.
- b. Ensure OCSTA programming provides timely and relevant content to support trustees in their roles as advocates and spokespersons for Catholic education.

3. Manage Human and Fiscal Resources to Effectively meet Changing Needs

- a. Align the work of committees, staff and fiscal resources behind structures and initiatives that support the association's three key priorities.
- b. Ensure OCSTA is structurally aligned to successfully fulfill its role as the legislated Employer Bargaining Agent for all of Ontario's English Catholic District School Boards.

2016 OCSTA Resolutions Chart with AGM Decisions

| # | Board | Topic | AGM Decision |
|-----|---------------|---|--|
| A | OCSTA | Region Designation | Approve |
| B | OCSTA | Continuation of Support for FACE Project | Approve |
| 1. | York | Information Technology Infrastructure | Approve |
| 2. | Simcoe | Home, School, Church | Approve and refer to Catholic Education Committee (Catholic Education & Trustee Enrichment Committee) |
| 3. | Simcoe | Negotiations | Approve and refer to Labour Relations Committee |
| 4. | York | Earned Leave Plan | Approve and refer to Labour Relations Committee |
| 5. | York | Employee Life & Health Trustee (ELHT) – Cost Base for Individual Boards | Approve and refer to Labour Relations Committee |
| 6. | Dufferin-Peel | Funding Formula Reform and School Board Budget Reductions | Approve and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee (Political Advocacy Committee) |
| 7. | Dufferin-Peel | 21 st Century Programs and Services for Students with Differing Abilities Including Diverse Learning Needs (e.g. – mental well-being and mental health challenges, transitions to meaningful employment) | Approve and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee (Political Advocacy Committee) |
| 8. | Simcoe | Trustee Outreach | Approve and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee (Political Advocacy Committee) |
| 9. | York | Special Education | Approve and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee (Political Advocacy Committee) |
| 10. | York | Sick Leave/Short Term Leave & Disability Plan | Receive and refer to Labour Relations Committee |
| 11. | Dufferin-Peel | Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines - Timelines | Receive and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee (Political Advocacy Committee) |
| 12. | Kenora | School Bus Transportation | Receive and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee (Political Advocacy Committee) |
| 13. | York | Canadian Dollar Exchange Rates | Receive and refer to Legislation & Finance Committee |

2016 (15) OCSTA=2, Dufferin-Peel=3, Kenora=1, Simcoe=3, York=6

2015 (27) Brant=1, Dufferin-Peel=4, Huron Superior=4, Kenora=1, Ottawa=1, Renfrew=1, Simcoe=6, Superior North=1, Windsor=5

2014 (16): Algonquin=1, Eastern Ontario=1, Dufferin-Peel=6, Nipissing= 1, Northwest=1, Ottawa=3, Renfrew=1, Waterloo=1

2013 (16): Brant=1, Dufferin-Peel=2, London=1, Renfrew=1, Simcoe=1, Toronto=9, York=1

**Excerpt from
Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association
General Working By-law 2016-1**

5. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

5.9 Resolutions from CDSB's

Any CDSB may submit a Resolution for consideration at an Annual Meeting to address any challenge or opportunity which affects Catholic education in Ontario, subject to the following:

- 5.9.1 each such Resolution shall have been received at the Head Office of the Corporation not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting;
- 5.9.2 each such Resolution shall have been considered and reported upon by a Committee of the Board, or by the Board of Directors;
- 5.9.3 each such Resolution shall be circulated among all CDSB's not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting;
- 5.9.4 each such Resolution shall be included in the notice of the Annual Meeting; and
- 5.9.5 no such resolution shall be acted upon unless approved by a majority of the votes cast at an Annual Meeting.