TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TOPIC: **UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2026, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2026:

7.1.1 ***Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2)***

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2), as presented.

7.1.2 ***Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4)***

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4), as presented.

7.1.3 ***Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027***

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027, as presented.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Burkholder.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. ***Opening Prayer***

Opening Prayer was led by Student Trustee Pasma

2. ***Roll Call***

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Huibers and Trustee Turner were asked to be excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit	✓			
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers				✓
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner				✓
Student Trustees				
Mason Pasma	✓			
Alan Sony	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer; **Kim Kinney,** Chief Education Officer; **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Gino Pizzoferrato, Domenic Massi, Joseph Zaroda,** Superintendents of Education; **Rosa Rocca,** Chief Financial Officer; **Julia Tiessen,** Chief Human Resources and Communication Officer; **Anna Lisa Conidi**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

3. ***Approval of the Agenda***

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED

4. ***Declaration of Conflict of Interest***

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. ***Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2026***

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2026, as presented.

CARRIED

6. ***Consent Agenda Items***

6.1 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities

Presented for information.

6.2 ***In Camera Items G1***

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. ***Board of Trustee 2022-2026 Appreciation***

Chair Di Lorenzo recognized and thanked Trustee Joyner and Trustee Bruzzese as they conclude their terms of service.

Trustee Joe Bruzzese (2022 – 2026)
Trustee Douglas Joyner (2022-2026)

Chair Di Lorenzo shared serving as a Catholic school trustee is much more than holding elected office. It is accepting a responsibility to serve our students, families, staff, parishes, and Catholic communities, while ensuring that the gift of publicly funded Catholic education remains strong for generations to come. That tradition of leadership and stewardship is central to the role of Niagara Catholic's trustees. During your time on the Board, Niagara Catholic continued to grow and strengthen as a Catholic school system with a proud history of more than 160 years in Niagara.

The accomplishments of any school board are never the work of one individual. They are the result of trustees, senior leadership, administrators, staff, students, families, parishes, and community partners working together with a common purpose. As members of this Board, both of you helped provide the governance, stewardship, and leadership that allowed Niagara Catholic to move forward with confidence and to be recognized as a leader in Catholic education in Ontario.

Chair Di Lorenzo and Chief Executive Officer Vetrone, on behalf of the students, staff, families and partners in Catholic education throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board presented a token of gratitude, to Trustee Bruzzese and Trustee Joyner.

Trustees Bruzzese and Joyner shared their memories as Catholic Trustees and expressed their appreciation to their fellow Trustees, their families, Senior staff and all who contribute to Catholic education.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. ***K-12 Experiential Learning and Technology, Cooperative Education, School College to Work, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)***

Superintendent Zaroda provided background information and introduced Mr. David Cristelli, Coordinator-Experiential Learning (K-12) – Technology, Specialist High Skills Major, Cooperative Education and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Mrs. Fran Vella, Coordinator of Student Success, Mr. Gerry DiSanto, Consultant- Specialist High Skills Major Certifications, Dual Credits and Experiential Learning and Mr. Dino Nardangeli, OYAP/Cooperative Education.

Mr. Cristelli and Mrs. Vella presented and provided information on the K-12 Experiential Learning and Technology, Cooperative Education, School College to Work, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) report and answered question of the Trustees. This report was presented for information.

2. Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027

Chief Education Officer Kinney, presented the Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027 report. Chief Education Officer Kinney answered questions of the Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027.

APPROVED

3. ***Capital Project Progress Report Update***

Chief Executive Officer Vetrone presented the Capital Project Progress Report Update.
Chief Executive Officer Vetrone answered questions of the Trustees. This report was presented for information.

4. ***Monthly Updates***

4.1 ***Student Trustees' Update***

Mason Pasma and Alan Sony, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

Student Senate hosted a successful Elementary Symposium, bringing together student leaders from elementary schools across Niagara Catholic to strengthen their leadership skills and promote positive change. Guest speaker Mr. Nick Ali, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation shared a faith-based message encouraging students to lead with purpose, strong values, and compassion for others. Students identified "stars," representing goals they hope to achieve in their schools, and "clouds," representing potential barriers to achieving those goals. Working with Student Senators, participants developed action plans outlining their goals, challenges, key supports, and the steps needed to create meaningful change in their schools. These plans will be returned to each school, with Student Senate providing continued support throughout the year to help students work toward their goals.

Student Senate also discussed an upcoming cake tin fundraiser, including opportunities to support students in need and local food banks. Senators also began planning for the upcoming Global Leadership Summit and expressed enthusiasm about connecting with other student leaders and further developing their leadership skills.

4.2 ***Board Highlights***

The Board Highlights report was presented for information.

D. GOVERNANCE POLICIES

1. ***Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board***

1.1. ***Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2)***

Chief Human Resources and Communications Officer Tiessen, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2) following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommend the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2), as presented.

APPROVED

1.2. ***Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4)***

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4) following the vetting process.
Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommend the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4), as presented.

APPROVED

2. ***Governance Policies Prior to Vetting***

2.1. ***Accessibility Standards Policy (800.8)***

Superintendent Gino Pizzoferrato, presented the Accessibility Standards Policy (800.8).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Accessibility Standards Policy (800.8), be vetted from November 11, 2026 to December 16, 2026 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in January 2027, for consideration to the Board in January 2027.

2.2. ***Disconnect From Work Policy (203.5)***

Chief Human Resources and Communications Officer Tiessen, presented the Disconnect From Work Policy (203.5)

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Disconnect From Work Policy (203.5), be vetted from November 11, 2026 to December 16, 2026 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in January 2027, for consideration to the Board in January 2027.

2.3. ***Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.6)***

Chief Human Resources and Communications Officer Tiessen, presented the Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.6)

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.6), be vetted from November 11, 2026 to December 16, 2026 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in January 2027, for consideration to the Board in January 2027.

2.4. ***Board By-Laws Policy (100.1)***

Chief Executive Officer Vetrone, presented the Board By-Laws Policy (100.1).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Board By-Laws Policy (100.1), be vetted from November 11, 2026 to November 18, 2026 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in November 2026, for consideration to the Board in November 2026.

2.5. ***Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13)***

Chief Executive Officer Vetrone presented the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13)

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13), be vetted from November 11, 2026 to December 16, 2026 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in January 2027, for consideration to the Board in January 2027.

3. ***Governance Policy Review Schedule***

Chief Executive Office Vetrone presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

E. INFORMATION

1. ***Trustee Information***

1.1 ***Faith Formation and Luncheon – December 3, 2026***

Chief Executive Office Vetrone presented the Faith Formation and Luncheon on December 3, 2026 at Club Roma at 11:00 a.m.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Lisa Conidi.

1.2 ***Elementary and Secondary Christmas Events 2026***

Chief Executive Office Vetrone presented the 2026 Elementary and Secondary Christmas School Events.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Lisa Conidi.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. ***General Discussion to Plan for Future Action***

Nil to report

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Addressed within consent agenda section.

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Marino
THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on October 13, 2026, as presented.
CARRIED (Item G1)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Marino
THAT the November 10, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **November 10, 2026.**

Approved on **December 8, 2026**.

_____	_____
Rhianon Burkholder	Giancarlo Vetrone
Vice-Chair of the Board	Chief Executive Officer/
	Secretary -Treasurer

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: **RETIREMENT AND SERVICE RECOGNITON CELEBRATION POLICY (201.2)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Retirement and Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2) as presented.

Prepared by:	Chief Human Resources and Communication Officer, Julia Tiessen
Presented by:	Chief Human Resources and Communication Officer, Julia Tiessen
Recommended by:	Committee of the Whole
Date:	November 24, 2026

Niagara Catholic District School Board

RETIREMENT AND SERVICE RECOGNITION CELEBRATION POLICY

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

200 – Human Resources **Policy No 201.2**

Adopted Date: March 24, 1998	Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: September 8, 2026

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board values and appreciates dedicated service by Niagara Catholic employees and members of the clergy serving elementary and secondary and continuing education schools of the Board.

The Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration will recognize and honour Niagara Catholic retirees, employees with 25 years of service, and in partnership with the Diocese of St. Catharines, clergy within the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines and within the jurisdiction of the Niagara Catholic District School Board celebrating 25th, 40th, or 50th anniversaries.

ELIGIBILITY

Retirees: Niagara Catholic employees who are permanent and have notified Human Resources Services of their retirement from the Niagara Catholic District School Board as of August 31st of the current school year.

25 Years of Service: Niagara Catholic employees who have accumulated twenty-five (25) consecutive years of service in Catholic education as of the current calendar year. Eligible service includes all paid positions held within Catholic education.

Clergy: Members of the clergy who have served within the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines and within the jurisdiction of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and have been identified through the Office of the Bishop and/or local Religious Orders as celebrating their 25th, 40th or 50th anniversary as of the current calendar year.

The Chief Executive Officer will issue *Administrative Operational Procedures* in support of this policy.

Adopted Date:	**March 24, 1998**
Revision History:	**March 26, 2002** **June 15, 2010** **June 16, 2015** **October 27, 2020** **December 20, 2022** ***September 8, 2026 *(Administrative Update)***

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITON POLICY (800.4)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4) as presented.

Prepared by: Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

Presented by: Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: November 24, 2026

Niagara Catholic District School Board

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION POLICY

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

800 – Schools and Community Councils **Policy No. 800.4**

Adopted Date: April 24, 2007 Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: December 20, 2022

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values, of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board recognizes that volunteers make a positive, meaningful and significant contribution to Niagara Catholic schools and the Board.

Volunteers in Niagara Catholic schools support a strong Catholic identity and community that nurtures the distinctiveness of Catholic education, and advances student achievement and well-being. Volunteers undertake, without remuneration, activities that support Catholic school communities, committees and organizations.

Elementary and secondary administrators will host a Volunteer Recognition Celebration, during Catholic Education Week or National Volunteer Appreciation Week to recognize volunteers in their school communities, in consultation with their Catholic School Councils.

***Reference*:**

- ***Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures/Documents***
  - ***Niagara Catholic Volunteers (800.9) AOP***

Adopted Date:	**April 24, 2007**
Revision History:	**April 28, 2015** **October 27, 2020** **December 20, 2022**

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: **MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2026-2027**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027

Prepared by:	Kim Kinney – Chief Education Officer, Board Math Lead
Presented by:	Kim Kinney – Chief Education Officer, Board Math Lead
Recommended by:	Committee of the Whole
Date:	November 24, 2026

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOVEMBER 10, 2026

MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2026-2027

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ministry of Education launched Ontario's Math Achievement Action Plan during the 2023-2024 school year to support student achievement and results in math across the province. The ministry brought together experts in mathematics education to better understand next steps for math improvement in Ontario. Through this work, the ministry developed *Taking Action in Mathematics*, an iterative framework to capture areas of focus and guide improvement actions.

Math Achievement Action Plan

All school boards are required to have dedicated Board Math Leads. Board Math Leads, working at the Supervisory Officer level, are expected to plan, implement, monitor, and report progress towards math achievement and improvement targets as well as lead board-wide actions to meet these targets.

School boards have also been funded for dedicated School Math Facilitators to work in Grades 3,6, and 9 classrooms in identified Priority Schools. The role of School Math Facilitators is to work in Priority Schools to support mathematics academic achievement efforts in alignment with the school and board improvement goals and actions, provide in-class facilitation to strengthen math knowledge and pedagogy, collaborate with educators, and share resources and effective practices.

The Ministry identified priority elementary and secondary schools based on an analysis of 2021-2022 EQAO mathematics achievement data. The priority schools across the province included over 1250 schools that achieved at the lowest 20% of schools in the 21-22 EQAO assessment. Based upon this data, Niagara Catholic currently had 10 priority schools at the primary level and 10 schools at the junior level. Of these schools, three schools were identified at both the primary and junior level. Currently, there are no secondary schools identified as priority schools.

Informed by the ministry's *Taking Action in Mathematics* framework, the Board Math Lead, along with the Math Facilitators developed a board Math Achievement Action Plan, which included three sections:

- All schools report to provide board-wide improvement efforts and results in mathematics
- Priority Schools report to provide intensive improvement efforts
- Priority Schools Provincial KPI (Key Performance Indicators) report to provide intentional monitoring of student achievement KPI's common to all priority schools across the province.

The Math Achievement Action Plan outlines the board's concrete, visible, and measurable strategies as well as key performance indicators at the board, school, and classroom level under the four areas of focus:

1. Curriculum Fidelity
2. Math Content Knowledge for Teaching

3. Knowing Your Student
4. Measurable Results: Improvements in Math Achievement

The Math Achievement Action Plan is to be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer and trustees of the board and will be submitted to the ministry under the following timelines:

November 20, 2026 (Initial): Initial strategies and KPI's
March 25, 2027 (Progress): Incorporate data from Term 1/Semester 1
July 23, 2027 (Final): Incorporate data from Term 2/Semester 2

The Board Math Lead will continue to provide updates on progress of the Math Achievement Action Plan to the ministry Math Action Team through regular meetings. The Board Math Lead will also communicate updates and progress to the Board.

Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027

Goals: All schools will see an increase in student achievement as measured through Classroom assessment data, Report Card data and EQAO data.

There will be an increase in the percentage of students whose individual attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90 percent.

There will be an increase in the percentage of Grade 3,6, and 9 students who report positive results regarding math attitudes and confidence.

Implementation of the Math Achievement Action Plan

The Program and Innovation team continues to work with all schools throughout the Board ensuring continued opportunities for all classroom teachers to receive professional learning opportunities rooted in the three priority areas identified by the Ministry. Educators in Kindergarten to Grade 12 may request coaching support from members of the board math team for lesson modelling, co-planning, and co-teaching.

All Kindergarten to Grade 8 educators continue to receive job-embedded literacy and numeracy professional learning during Chaplaincy visits aligned with Ministry priority actions. Kindergarten to Grade 2/3 educators receive focused mathematics learning, while Grades 3 to 8 educators receive literacy focused support.

Grade 3 and 6 staff from priority schools continue to receive enhanced support and professional learning from Board Math Facilitators, including the Math Consultant and Math Coaches.

Professional learning connected to Ministry of Education priority actions is embedded within elementary and secondary PA Days and offered through invitational workshops throughout the year.

Educators continue to be supports in the implementation of the board-created Math Learning Pathway/Scope and Sequence, which highlights connections to the Ministry priority actions and identifies resources that support effective instruction and assessment.

Principal Leadership

Targeted work continues to be a focus at the Principal level with all school Principals working directly with the Board Math Lead and the Principal of Program and Innovation working collaboratively to increase capacity in instructional leadership within the schools. Principal Learning Teams meet regularly throughout the school year for learning and joint work connected to student achievement within their

schools. Principals are supported to understand their school level data and use that their data to work with educators to support and monitor student achievement.

All schools continue to create, implement, monitor, and report to their individual School Math Achievement Action Plan within the Niagara Catholic Student Achievement Plan tool.

System Leadership

To support coherence between the mathematics learning happening in all schools, Superintendents with responsibility for schools will regularly meet with principals and visit schools to discuss the learning happening at all schools. The nature and intention of these visits is to ensure consistency of understanding and implementation of board strategies for both literacy and numeracy instruction and learning, support all principals in their role as instructional leaders, and monitor the instructional programming in all schools. This approach supports the through-line from system to schools to the student desk.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2026-2027.

Prepared by: Kim Kinney, Chief Education Officer, Board Math Lead

Presented by: Kim Kinney, Chief Education Officer, Board Math Lead

Recommended by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/ Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 10, 2026

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TOPIC: **APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 7, 2026 as presented for information.

We are a Christ-centered Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

AGENDA

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approved

WEDNESDAY, October 7, 2026
6:30 P.M.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, FATHER BURNS BOARD ROOM
427 RICE ROAD, WELLAND, ONTARIO L3C 7C1

Join Meeting Here

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgment – Susy Walsh
2. Opening Prayer -Monique Somma
3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Jessica Thomas	Autism Ontario Niagara Region				X
Alyson Wilson/Melissa Sullivan	Bethesda Services	X			
Monique Somma (CHAIR)	Community Living (Pelham/Welland)	X			
Sara Wencel & DJ Holmes	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)	X			
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara				X
Aishah Sonekan	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara				X
Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras	Mainstream				X
Chris Tawil	Niagara Children's Centre				X
Andria Willick	Community Living Fort Erie	X			
Michelle Toy	Pathstone				X
Patty Ferrie	Inclusion West Niagara	X			
Community Representative					
Krystine Donato					X
Indigenous Representative					
Roxanne Reese		X			
Secondary Student Senate Representative					
Adelaide Dy		X			
Trustees					
Trustee, Natalia Benoit			X		
Trustee, Jim Marino		X			

Also in attendance, Gino Pizzoferrato, John Markovich, Ann Marie Criddle, Grace Brochu, Katherine Grzybala

4. Approval of the Agenda
   Trustee Marino seconder DJ Holmes
5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
   None
6. Approval of Minutes of the SEAC Meeting of September 9, 2026
   Adelaide Dy seconder Melissa Sullivan

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Auditor General's Report – Gino Pizzoferrato and John Markovich

The committee received a presentation summarizing the Auditor General of Ontario's audit of special education programs and services. The audit examined whether the Ministry of Education and selected school boards are effectively identifying, supporting, and monitoring students with special education needs, and whether programs and services comply with provincial requirements and student learning needs.

Key findings highlighted increasing demand for special education services, with student needs growing faster than overall enrolment. In 2023-24, school boards collectively spent approximately **$398 million more** on special education supports than the funding provided by the Ministry.

The presentation noted concerns regarding inconsistent student identification and assessment processes, including lengthy wait times for psycho-educational and speech-language assessments. In some cases, families with financial resources were able to access private assessments more quickly than families relying on publicly funded services.
The audit also identified opportunities to improve the quality of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), noting that many goals lacked measurable outcomes and that documentation of parent consultation was often incomplete.
Staffing challenges were highlighted, including shortages of educational assistants and difficulties filling staff absences, which reduced available supports for students. Teachers also reported limited access to specialized training and professional learning opportunities related to special education.

Additional concerns were raised regarding the disproportionate representation of students with special education needs in suspension data and the use of undocumented exclusions when schools were unable to adequately meet student needs.
The presentation outlined implications for school leaders, including the need to strengthen evidence-based identification and placement practices, improve the quality and measurability of IEP goals, enhance family engagement, increase staff training in inclusive practices, monitor exclusions and suspensions, and advocate for sustainable funding and staffing models.

The Auditor General concluded that special education programs and services do not consistently meet the needs of students with special education needs and identified the need for stronger oversight, improved staffing supports, better documentation practices, and more equitable access to services across Ontario.

Student Support Services delivered professional development sessions during the September 3 PA Day for elementary and secondary staff, focusing on improving the quality of Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The sessions emphasized creating more precise, strength-based, and personalized student goals, with dedicated time provided for staff to work on student profiles and IEPs.

Administration noted that ongoing efforts are focused on achieving greater consistency in special education practices across all schools through continued support for Educational Resource Teachers (ERTs) and administrators.

The discussion highlighted the Auditor General's findings regarding increasing special education needs and staffing pressures. Administration acknowledged challenges related to Educational Assistant (EA) staffing and reported that 12 additional EAs were recently deployed to schools, while recruitment efforts continue to strengthen the supply pool and support student needs.

Administration reaffirmed its commitment to continuous improvement, consistent practices, and equitable supports for students with special education needs.

2. **School Volunteers and Committee Members – John Markovich**
   Niagara Catholic Policy and AOP has been updated April 2026. The Minister of Education is requesting that school boards collect police record checks from all volunteers.
   LINK: https://niagara.onlinepolicecheck.ca/

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

Please remember to submit your renewals to Melissa. If you have any ideas for locations for offsite meetings and guest speakers please let Gino or Monique know.

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Aishah
No repot

Niagara Children's Centre - Chris

- We have a couple of events that we would like to highlight
    - On Saturday Oct 5th we hosted our 12th annual Superhero Run fundraising Event at Heartland Forest
        - It was a very fun event and well-attended raising $159,000 for the centre
    - On Saturday Oct 24th we are hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event, which is an inclusive, barrier free Halloween trick or treating experience for children with physical, communicative or developmental needs.
- Next month the school-based OTs and PTs are meeting with the Student Support Coordinators to connect about equipment to support children in the schools and processes

Pathstone Mental Health – Michelle

No report

Down Syndrome Niagara – Andrea

No Report

Bethesda Service – Melissa/Alyson

Celebrated 25 years last week! Thank you to Julia Nemcko for attending the celebration and participating and sharing her experiences with Bethesda. During the celebration a mural was created and photos will be shared. Partnering with the school board for a program with high school students. As well, there will be a 6 module program for caregivers being offered.

Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Jessica

No report

Mainstream – Erica

No report

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – DJ/Sara

Fall programs are underway. After school activities available 5 days a week for children 4-12 and 4 nights a week for teens and young adults. Broken ground on outdoor playground, looking forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony in the spring, they will continue fundrarisng to purchase special equipement for the playground

Community Living (Fort Erie) – Natalie

Received another grant to continue transition employment program. Supports 23 participants working to find job placements and volunteer experience.

Community Living (Welland/Pelham)

The link was shared on the September minutes to complete the survey that was created based off the results form the Auditor General's Report.

Inclusion West Niagara – Patty

Opening a new home in Welland, that will bring 6 displaced children back to the Niagara region. Currently building staff team and hope to open in January.

E. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No report

F. INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Last week was Truth and Reconciliation – each school wore orange shirts and did a school Unity Walk. Opportunity Knocks is coming up and students learn about teachings, drumming and dancing. Niagara Catholic Student Voice meeting is happening with Niagara Catholic Indigenous students so they can share what they want to learn about. November 4th Brock and Niagara College Career Fair and students can attend

G. SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Upcoming events are: Retreat and Lead Out Loud elementary conference, Symposium in the spring and Time to Shine Dance for Special Education Students in Niagara

H. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal-John Markovich

Lakeshore Catholic – Two Special Education students are attending the CICE Program, both are really enjoying what they are experiencing. A student that did their co-op placement last year is now working for Super Marios Pizza in Port Colborne. Students participated in "Badges on the Border". The Chaplain, Ms. Rocca has asked the Special Education students to read the prayer over the PA system at the end of each day. On October 30th Lakeshore will be hosting the Annual Halloween event.

Notre Dame College – Special Olympics Soccer trip on October 7th where a number of Special Education students will be attending. 10 students have signed up to join the sim team and a number of students are involved in choir, Cosmo Club and another student is on the girls; basketball team.

Denis Morris – Special Class Placement students continue to thrive as they build confidence, independence, and meaningful connections within school community. Through horticulture, co-op and hairstyling they are developing a love for learning and gaining hands-on experience. Each morning the students contribute to our Breakfast Club and throughout the day they take attendance for our peer tutors each period, this is helping them develop valuable social skills and friendships through their interactions with the peer tutors.

Saint Francis – A student from our Special Education Class is going to a Destreamed Science class where they have friends from their elementary school. The student is supported by another 12B student that was a former peer tutor and volunteering their time to take the student to class and support with "homework" At the local No Frill 3 students from the Special Education Class work in Co-Op placements. They enjoy a community walk to the store, where they learn about safety and navigating directions. After they finish work they shop for items for Breakfast club. Special Education Class Teacher has developed a weekly newsletter to share with parents. In each issue the teacher highlights a Special education Staff Member and shares an in-depth profile. There is good news items, photos and videos of the students and the parents love seeing the busy classroom action.

Blessed Trinity – A Special Education student is the manager of the Varsity Baseball Team. Students are getting involved in physed and weight room and participating as alter serves in school mass. 2 previous students have enrolled in the CICE program at Niagara College and students ding their co-op at Peach King Arena.

Saint Paul- Special Education Class students participated in the Special Olympics New York Badges on the Boarder Law Enforcement Torch Run" event on September 15th. 2 students are going to co-op at Mary Ward Elementary school and Sobeys. Another student will be participating in the HSSIDIP, Students are successfully running the "Coffee Cart"

Elementary Principal – Susy Walsh

Positive feedback on the professional development and resources developed in response to the Auditor General's report. She noted that the learning has helped principals and staff shift their thinking toward a more strengths-based approach to student support and IEP development.

Schools have started using the resources and having meaningful conversations, with staff expressing excitement about bringing students' strengths more clearly to the forefront of IEPs.

Susy also emphasized that supporting student success is a shared responsibility. The Auditor General's report highlights the importance of collaboration among schools, parents, and community agencies. Continued progress will depend on all partners working together with a shared, student-centered focus

Student Support Department – Ann Marie

1. **Learning Disabilities Awareness month**

Student Support is recognizing Learning Disabilities Awareness for the month of October. A memo has been shared with the system highlighting important information and resources that can be found on the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO)and LD@school websites, as well as our local chapter of LDANR.

2. **IEPs**

Following the professional learning provided in September, Teachers and Educational Resource Teachers (ERTs) have continued their work on the development and refinement of Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Staff are building on their learning around identifying student strengths, needs, and learning goals while continuing to use the RISE platform, which continues to evolve to support the IEP development process. This ongoing work reflects Niagara Catholic's commitment to developing meaningful, strengths-based IEPs that support personalized learning and inclusive practices for students.

3. **Gifted**

Our first elementary gifted education module of the year: Exploring Biodiversity at Balls Falls was held on Friday, October 2nd. Students explored biodiversity through an inquiry-based investigation of the interconnected ecosystems found at Balls Falls Conservation Area. Through their examination of water, forests, and meadows, students investigated the relationships between living organisms and their environments while considering how changes within one part of an ecosystem can influence the larger system.

4. **KeyMath**

Elementary ERTs recently participated in KeyMath assessment and resource training, which will enhance instructional decision-making and collaborative problem-solving in schools, helping to ensure that interventions are timely, targeted, and responsive to student needs.

5. **ABASE Program**

The program is well underway, and we look forward to welcoming additional students in the coming weeks.

6. **Secondary Special Education Class event**

On Friday, October 30th, the Special Education class at Lakeshore Catholic High School is excited to host the other secondary Special Education classes across Niagara Catholic for a fun-filled Halloween Party! Students are encouraged to dress in their favourite costumes, take fun photos with friends and staff, enjoy a delicious lunch, and watch a spooky Halloween short film. The celebration will continue with a lively dance, along with a creative Halloween-themed arts-and-crafts activity. This event promises to be a fantastic day of friendship, fun, and festive Halloween spirit!

7. **SNAP**

This fall, Niagara Catholic schools will once again have an opportunity to participate in SNAP (Supporting Neurodiversity through Adaptive Programming), offered in person through Brock University's Faculty of Applied Health Sciences. SNAP provides unique and inclusive movement experiences through educational gymnastics, dance and movement education, games, and activities of daily living. Programming can be adapted to meet the individual needs and abilities of each participant. Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools will be invited to participate in the offered program sessions, taking place on select dates from late October through early December. We are grateful to the Brock SNAP staff for continuing to provide this valuable and inclusive opportunity for our students.

Superintendent of Education – Gino

Happy to announce that this years' Time to Shine event will be taking place at Club Roma in the Pavilion on May 14.

Niagara Catholic Accessibility Standards Policy and AOP is up for review and we ask that you each take a copy and review it and share your comments and updates with us as we work on updating the AOP.

Membership for SEAC can be submitted to Melissa and elections will be in December.

I. TRUSTEE REPORTS

No report

J. NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC)

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is an advisory committee to support, encourage**,** and enhance parent engagement at the board and school levels to build strong Catholic identity and community.

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee held its inaugural meeting for the 2026-2027 school year at the Catholic Education Centre on September 10.

The meeting included the annual commissioning of committee members, where members declared their commitment to promoting the mission of Catholic education, and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Fr. Paul MacNeil presided over the commissioning of members.

Board Chaplaincy Leader Krista Olivieri introduced Niagara Catholic's three-year theological theme, ***Constellations of Hope.*** The sub-theme for 2026-2027 is ***Look Upward.***

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee invites all Niagara Catholic parents/guardians to become involved in their Catholic School Councils at their home school.

NCPIC Members for this 2026-2027 school year:

Parent Members
Samantha Bazely
Anita Magha
Franca Milana (Co-Chair)
Tanya Webber
Brenda Annen (Co-Chair)

Bishop/Diocesan Representative
Fr. Paul MacNeil

Secondary Student Senate Representative
Ella deSouza

Board Members
Trustee, Joe Bruzzese
Trustee, Larry Huibers

Staff
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education/ Chief Executive Officer's Designate
Maria Solomon, Elementary Principal
Chris McLean, Secondary Principal
Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary

The meetings of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee are livestreamed and open to the public for those who wish to attend in-person.

Unless otherwise noted, NCPIC meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre and begin at 6:30 p.m.

Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting dates for 2026-2027 are:

- November 5, 2026
- January 7, 2027
- March 11, 2027
- May 6, 2027

K. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

L. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

M. NEXT MEETING

November 4, 2026 at Catholic Education Centre

N. CLOSING PRAYER – Monique Somma

O. ADJOURNMENT

DJ Holmes and seconder Andria Willick

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: **MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of September 10, 2026 as presented for information.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed new and returning members to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and stated that the meetings of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee are livestreamed, recorded and posted on the Board website for information. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells advised the committee that she would be presiding over the meeting until the election of the Chair and/or two Co-Chairs of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for a term of two years.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that as a result of the recent Governance Changes in Ontario School Boards, Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026 (Bill 101), the role of the Director of Education has been split into two positions:

1. Chief Executive Officer (CEO), responsible for financial and operational oversight, requiring business qualifications.
2. Chief Education Officer (CEdO), focused on student achievement and pedagogy. The CEdO must be a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or equivalent.

Niagara Catholic is pleased to announce that Giancarlo Vetrone was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Kim Kinney was appointed as the Chief Education Office of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. ***Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer***

Fr. Paul MacNeil led the Land Acknowledgement, and the opening prayer with special intentions for Maria Solomon and the passing of her father-in-law.

2. ***Roll Call****: Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board was in attendance.*

Parent Members	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Brenda Annen	√			
Samantha Bazely	√			
Anita Magha	√			
Michael McKnight			√	
Franca Milana	√			
Michelle van der Zalm	√			
Tanya Webber	√			
Bishop/Diocesan Representative				
Fr. Paul MacNeil	√			
Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)				
Jennifer Pilzecker	√			
Secondary Student Senate Representative				

Ella deSouza		√		
Trustees				
Joe Bruzzese	√			
Larry Huibers				√

The following staff were in attendance:
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, **Chris McLean,** Secondary Principal, and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets Received: Maria Solomon and Michael McKnight

3. ***Commissioning of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee***

Fr. Paul MacNeil presided over the commissioning ceremony of the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as they publicly proclaimed their commitment to promote the mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

4. ***Approval of the Agenda***

Moved by: Franca Milana

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 10, 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

5. ***Declaration of Conflict of Interest***

No declarations of conflict of interest were declared with any item on the agenda.

6. ***NCPIC Membership 2026-2027 and Terms of Office***

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, reviewed the parent/guardian membership, and the terms of office for parent members were determined by consensus.

Parent Members	One Year Term	Two Year Term
Brenda Annen		√
Samantha Bazely		√
Anita Magha		√
Michael McKnight	√	
Franca Milana		√
Michelle van der Zalm		√
Tanya Webber		√

7. ***Election the NCPIC Chair and/or Co-Chairs***

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chair and/or two Co-Chairs in accordance with the *Education Act* and By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked the parent members if they wished to elect a Chair or two Co-Chairs to chair the meetings of the NCPIC for a term of two years. By consensus, the parent members chose to elect two Co-Chairs, for a term of two years. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells

appointed Trustee Bruzzese and Secondary Principal McLean, as scrutineers if required, and asked if there were any questions about the procedures before proceeding. No questions were forthcoming.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for nominations for the position of Co-Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office for a two-year term.

Brenda Annen, Samantha Bazely and Franca Milana self-nominated for the position of Co-Chair.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were forthcoming.

An election took place by secret ballot. The scrutineers counted the ballots, and Trustee Bruzzese announced that Brenda Annen and Franca Milana were elected as the two Co-Chairs for the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells turned the Chairship over to Co-Chair Annen.

8. ***Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2026***

Moved by: Michelle van der Zalm

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 6, 2026 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION

Krista Olivieri, Board Chaplaincy Leader provided a presentation on the purpose and meaning of the Niagara Catholic Theological Theme 2026-2029 "Constellations of Hope", inspired by Pope Leo's 2025 Apostolic Letter "Drawing New Maps of Hope" and building on the 2026 Theological Theme "Called By Name".

The themes for each year are as follows:

- 2026-2027: "Looking Upward"
- 2027-2028: "Looking Inward"
- 2028-2029: "Looking Outward"

A parent resource on the Niagara Catholic Theological Theme 2026-2027 was provided to all members.

C. POLICY

Co-Chair Annen reported that the following policies are currently out for vetting.

1. Retirement and Service Recognition Policy (201.2)
2. Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4)

Feedback that is being submitted on behalf of the NCPIC is to be sent to Yvonne Anderson, no later than 12:00 p.m. on October 19, 2026.

Feedback that is being submitted as an individual is to be sent directly to Anna Lisa Conidi, no later than 12:00 p.m. on October 20, 2026.

D. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

1. Niagara Catholic School Year Calendar 2026-2027
   Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Niagara Catholic School Year Calendar 2026-2027 has been provided in the package for information.

2. Niagara Catholic Student and Family Support Office
   Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that in keeping with requirements outlined in PPM 170, *School Board Communication with Parents* Bill 33, *Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025,* and the Niagara Catholic *Communications Protocol,* the Niagara Catholic District School Board has established a Student and Family Support Office (SFSO).

   The "Student and Family Support Office" will serve as an additional resource for families to obtain responses on community concerns, as well as issues that require additional support after the initial engagement with their child's teacher and/or school principal.

   The Student and Family Support Office will:
   - acknowledge an inquiry within 2 business days
   - aim to provide an answer within 5 business days

3. Ministry of Education Funding 2026-2027
   Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Ministry of Education has provided funds to Parent Involvement Committees to support parent engagement. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee received $8,935.00 and each elementary and secondary school received $500.00 for the 2026-2027 school year.

   In addition, the Ministry of Education has also provided funds to school boards through the Core Education Funding and Niagara Catholic has received $30,000. Catholic School Councils may apply for additional funds up to $1000 to support parent engagement activities.

4. NCPIC Meeting Dates 2026-2027
   Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared the 2026-2027 NCPIC meeting dates:
   September 10, 2026
   November 5, 2026
   January 7, 2027
   March 11, 2027 (The Niagara Foundation Gala will take place on the Thursday, March 4, 2027)
   May 6, 2027

5. NCPIC By-Laws Review
   Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that all NCPIC members were provided with the NCPIC By-Laws for review. The By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee are in accordance with the *Education Act,* Regulations (Ontario Regulations 330/10 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees), the Niagara Catholic District School Board, and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Governance Policy (800.7) and Administrative Operational Procedures. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked if there were any questions about the By-Laws. No questions were forthcoming.

7. NCPIC Financial Report
   Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC for the 2026-2027 school year.

E. SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Ella DeSouza reported that the Secondary Student Senate will be meeting next week and further information will be provided at the next meeting of the NCPIC.

F. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-*Fr. Paul MacNeil*

Fr. Paul reported that:

1. The Joint Pastoral Document
   Fr. Paul reported that the collaborative document, *Pastoral Care of Our Catholic Schools: Guidelines for the Relationship Between Parish and School*, was finalized over the summer and has been officially signed by Bishop Gerard Bergie, CEO Giancarlo Vetrone and CEdO Kim Kinney. The document affirms parents as the primary educators of their children and provides an operational framework for sacramental preparations, school liturgies, chaplaincy, and school-parish visits across Niagara Catholic.

2. Diocesan Gala and Bishop's Appeal
   The Annual Diocesan Dinner Gala in support of the Bishop's Appeal will take place on Friday, November 27, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre. Promotional material has been shared with the NCPIC and parent communities are invited to attend and support diocesan ministries. Tickets are $250.00 with a $75.00 tax receipt.

G. ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION (OAPCE)

Niagara Catholic Regional OAPCE Director, Jennifer Pilzecker encouraged parents to visit the OAPCE website oapce.org for a variety of resources to support parents and their children's faith journey, newsletters and upcoming events.

The OAPCE 87th Conference was held on April 18, 2026 at St. Francis Xavier in Mississauga. Niagara Catholic hosted the OAPCE 86th Conference last year at Saint Michael Catholic High School. OAPCE is busy planning the 88th Conference. Further details to follow.

H. SEAC REPORT

Nil Report

I. STAFF REPORT-*Chris McLean*

Secondary Principal, McLean provided secondary school updates for information.

- Grade 9 orientation was organized by all secondary schools the week before the first day of school. This was a great opportunity for grade 9's to get comfortable in the building, receive their timetable and locker assignments, and meet the teachers.
- Grade level assemblies were held the first week to set expectations for the school year and review material in the student handbook.
- Emergency response drills are held within the first few weeks to ensure staff and students are familiar with the emergency procedures.
- Emails have been sent to the parent/guardian community for updated medical plan of care forms to be completed.
- The year starts off quickly with Fall sports. The following sports are running this Fall.
  - Baseball
  - Girls' Basketball
  - Cross Country
  - Girls Flag Football
  - Football

  - Golf
  - Tennis
  - Boys' Volleyball
- Opening school masses have been scheduled in early September to facilitate the faith journey we are traveling along for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Grade 9 Curriculum Night is an opportunity for parents to connect with the school, meet administration/teachers, visit classrooms and learn the about the curriculum.

J. TRUSTEE REPORT

Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board reported that:

- As a result of Bill 101, Niagara Catholic appointed Giancarlo Vetrone as the Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent Kim Kinney as the Chief Education Officer. It was a structural change and our previous Director of Education, Camillo Cipriano is now the CEO at the Toronto District School Board.
- Bill 101 has also affected the role of the Trustees. Further details will be provided at a future NCPIC meeting.
- Elections will be held on October 26, 2026. All Catholic parents are encouraged to vote as the parents of our non-Catholic students are not eligible to vote for a Catholic Trustee.

K. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- No new business, or agenda items were forthcoming.

L. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

M. CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Paul MacNeil led the closing prayer.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Michelle van der Zalm

THAT the September 10, 2026 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: **2025-2026 PROCUREMENT AWARDS OF CONTRACT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS GREATER THAN $1,000,000**

The 2025-2026 Procurement Awards of Contract and Capital Projects Greater than $1,000,000 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Mark Ferri, Administrator of Purchasing Services

Presented by: Rosa Rocca, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2026

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT TO THE BOARD
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

2025-2026 PROCUREMENT AWARDS OF CONTRACT AND CAPITAL PROJECTS GREATER THAN $1,000,000

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with Policy No. 600.1 Purchasing/Supply Chain Management an annual report is provided for information to the Board of Trustees of awards of contract and capital projects greater than $1,000,000.

APPENDIX A – 2025-2026 Awards of Contract and Capital Projects Greater Than $1,000,000

The 2025-2026 Procurement Awards of Contract and Capital Projects Greater than $1,000,000 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Mark Ferri, Administrator of Purchasing Services

Presented by: Rosa Rocca, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer

Date: November 24, 2026

APPENDIX A – Awards of Contract and Capital Projects Greater Than $1,000,000
for the period September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026

Vendor Name	Description	$ Amount (plus HST)
Bromac Construction Inc.	St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Construction	$17,056,210.00
Duomax Developments Ltd.	New Kalar Road Niagara Falls Catholic Elementary School Construction	$13,805,110.00
GRRC Roofing	Metal Roof Upgrade – Notre Dame College School	$2,760,010.00
Niagara Regional Broadband Network Ltd.	Telecommunications Platform Replacement	$2,537,002.44
Scott Construction Niagara Inc	Accessibility and HVAC Upgrades – St Patrick CES (Niagara Falls)	$1,999,010.00
Serianni Construction Ltd.	Alterations at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary CES	$1,578,810.00
STF Construction Ltd.	Exterior Wall Cladding Upgrades – Mary Ward CES	$1,353,609.00
Stolk Construction Limited	Gymnasium HVAC and Finishes Upgrade – St. Therese CES Port Colborne	$1,203,010.00
Stolk Construction Limited	Gymnasium HVAC Upgrades and Stage Lift Installation - St Gabriel Lalemant CES	$1,065,010.00

TO: **NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: **TRUSTEE HONORARIUM FOR THE 2026-2027 YEAR**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the period from November 15, 2026 to November 14, 2027, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

$10,000 for the Chairperson of the Board
$9,500 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
$9,000 for the Other Trustees of the Board

Prepared by:	Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer
Presented by:	Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer
Recommended by:	Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer
Date:	November 24, 2026

NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT TO THE BOARD
NOVEMBER 24, 2026

TRUSTEE HONORARIUM FOR THE 2026-2027 YEAR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Education Act provides the legislative authority for Ontario district school boards to pay honoraria to elected members of the Board. In 2026, the province amended the legislative framework governing trustee honoraria through Bill 101, *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026*. Bill 101 received Royal Assent and was enacted as Statutes of Ontario, 2026. Among its amendments to the Education Act, Bill 101 revised the regulation-making authority respecting honoraria for members of district school boards.

Following these legislative amendments, the province filed Ontario Regulation 320/26, Honoraria for Board Members on September 28, 2026. The new regulation replaces the previous honorarium framework established under Ontario Regulation 357/06 and establishes a new prescribed framework applicable to terms of office beginning on or after November 15, 2026. Ontario Regulation 320/26 significantly changes the manner in which trustee honoraria are determined.

For a term of office beginning November 15, 2026 or later, the annual honorarium payable to a trustee, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, is the lesser of:

1. $9,000; or
2. the total of the base amount plus enrolment amount determined by the Board for trustees for the 2025-2026 year under the former Ontario Regulation 357/06 and the Board's honorarium policy, as they read on September 21, 2026.

The regulation then provides the following additional annual amounts for Board leadership positions:

Position	Honorarium under O. Reg. 320/26
Trustee	Lesser of $9,000 or the Board's applicable 2025-2026 base + enrolment amount
Chair of the Board	Trustee amount + $1,000
Vice-Chair of the Board	Trustee amount + $500

Appendix A Honorarium Calculation

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the period from November 15, 2026 to November 14, 2027, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

$10,000 for the Chairperson of the Board
$9,500 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
$9,000 for the Other Trustees of the Board

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Recommended by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2026

HONORARIUM CALCULATION

For a member of the board, including the chair and vice-chair, an amount that is the lesser of,

i. $9,000, and

ii. the total of the base amount and the enrolment amount determined by the board for its members for the 2025-2026 year of the term of office under Ontario Regulation 357/06 (Honoraria for Board Members) made under the Act and the board's policy, as they read on September 21, 2026.

2. For the chair of the board, an additional amount of $1,000.
3. For the vice-chair of the board, an additional amount of $500.

Ontario school board trustee honorariums, the **base amount is $5,900 per year per trustee** under Ontario Regulation 357/06 (Honoraria for Board Members).

	Trustee	Vice Chair	Chair
Maximum Base Amount	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900
Maximum Enrolment Amount	$5,058	$5,058	$5,058
Maximum Base Amount Chair/Vice Chair		$2,500	$5,000
Amount for Members	**$10,958**	**$13,458**	**$15,958**
Maximum Amount	**$9,000**	**$9,500**	**$10,000**

Calculations

	Enrolment Amount	
a	Enrolment ADE 2025-2026	23,123
b	Enrolment Factor	1.75
c (a x b)	Enrolment Amount	40,465
d	Number of Members	8
c / d	**Maximum Enrolment Amount**	**$5,058**