



The Niagara Catholic District School Board through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO

8:45 p.m. Timed In Camera Item

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee MacNeil -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 20, 2011 A5

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. OFSAA Medalists B1

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program C1
St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School, Port Colborne
2. Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education Program (NCICE) Dominica 2011 C2
3. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012 C3
and Consideration of Recommendations
 - 3.1 Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools Area,
and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
 - 3.1.1 Board Correspondence Received by January 20, 2012 C3.1.1
 - 3.1.2 Report from the Committee of the Whole Meeting & Recommendation(s) C3.1.2
 - 3.2 Consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Catholic Elementary Schools
 - 3.2.1 Community Information Meeting – January 23, 2012 C3.2.1
 - i) Agenda
 - ii) Minutes
 - iii) Board Correspondence from the Community Information Meeting
 - 3.2.2 Report from the Committee of the Whole Meeting & Recommendation(s) C3.2.2

3.3	Consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools	
3.3.1	Community Information Meeting – January 24, 2012	C3.3.1
	i) Agenda	
	ii) Minutes	
	iii) Board Correspondence from the Community Information Meeting	
3.3.2	Report from the Committee of the Whole Meeting & Recommendation(s)	C3.3.2
4.	Approved Minutes of the SEAC Meeting of December 7, 2011	C4
5.	Unapproved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson of January 9, 2012	C5
6.	Approved Minutes of the NCPIC Meeting of November 10, 2011	C6
7.	Mid-Year Progress Review of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2011-2012	C7
8.	Financial Report	
8.1	Monthly Banking Transactions for the Month of December 2011	C8.1
8.2	Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2011	C8.2

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1.	Correspondence	-
2.	Report on Trustee Conferences Attended	-
3.	General Discussion to Plan for Future Action	-
3.1	Special Board Meeting – February 14, 2012 – Report on Long Term Financing for Capital Projects	
4.	Trustee Information	-
4.1	Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – January 17, 2012	D4.1
4.2	Calendar of Events – February 2012	D4.2
4.3	BEC - 2012 Annual Partners Breakfast - February 10, 2012 - 7:30 - 10:00 a.m.	-
4.4	Director’s Annual Report 2011 – Finalized Version (under separate cover)	D4.4
4.5	Trustee and Senior Staff Faith Formation Retreat	-
5.	Open Question Period <i>(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night’s public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)</i>	-

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Burtnik.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Burkholder.

2. Roll Call

Chairperson Burtnik noted that Trustees Nieuwesteeg asked to be excused.

Moved by Trustee

Seconded by Trustee

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board excuse Trustee Nieuwesteeg from attending the Board Meeting of December 20, 2011.

CARRIED

Trustee	Present	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓		
Kathy Burtnik	✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		
Frank Fera	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓		
Ed Nieuwesteeg			✓
Ted O'Leary	✓		
Dino Sicoli	✓		
Student Trustees			
Ryan Creelman	✓		
Patrick Morris	✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Mario Ciccarelli**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Larry Reich**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/ Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of December 20, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

A Disclosure of Interest was declared by Trustee Burtnik with Item C9.1 of the Public Agenda. This item showed cheques issued to this trustee's family business. She refrained from voting on this item.

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meetings

5.1 November 22, 2011

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 22, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

5.2 December 6, 2011

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Niagara Catholic Good Samaritan Award

Director Crocco informed Trustees of the new system award for Niagara Catholic students and staff, the "Niagara Catholic Good Samaritan Award". He stated that the Good Samaritan Award is presented to a student or staff member in recognition of their unselfish and exemplary service to another human being in need, and outlined the criteria.

Nominations for the award will be accepted by the Director of Education throughout the year, and presented to the recipient(s) at a meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

1.1 Meredith Vanderlee – St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, St. Catharines

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Vicky Wegelin, Principal of St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, who presented information on Meredith Vanderlee, Grade 2 student at St. Ann School, who called 911 when her mother had a seizure and conveyed information about her mother's condition to the 911 dispatcher. Meredith learned what to do in an emergency last May, when she visited the Niagara Region Children's Safety Village with her classmates.

On behalf of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Chairperson Burtnik congratulated Meredith on her brave efforts, and along with Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau and Director Crocco presented her with the first ever Niagara Catholic Good Samaritan Award.

1.2 Father Fogarty Adult and Continuing Education Centre Emergency Response

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, presented information on the valiant efforts of the Father Fogarty Adult and Continuing Education staff when one of their instructors collapsed in class.

Father Fogarty Adult and Continuing Education Teachers Ada Storin, Barb Campbell and Cindy Gojmerac are being credited for their quick response to the collapse of Second Language instructor Mark Diacur. While they began first aid on Mr. Diacur, Ms. Gojmerac was in communication with Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and other staff members Carole Apking, Deb Groenveld, and Linda McQueen ensured that the school area was secure to provide quick access for EMS.

On behalf of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Chairperson Burtnik congratulated Ms. Storin and Ms. Campbell on their heroic efforts, and along with Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau and Director Crocco presented them with the Niagara Catholic Good Samaritan Awards.

2. Christmas Cards 2011

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education, presented the report on Christmas Cards 2011. He indicated that schools throughout Niagara Catholic were invited to submit artwork designed by their students in order to create the 2011 Niagara Catholic Christmas Cards.

Chairperson Burtnik and Director Crocco presented the following students with a boxed set of Christmas Cards and a plaqued picture of their artwork which was shared with the Niagara Catholic community for the Christmas Season of 2011: Dinushka Balasingam (Gr. 8, St. Philomena Catholic Elementary, Fort Erie); Cassandra Belme (Gr. 8, Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls); Alexa DiFelice (Gr. 8, Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary, Thorold); Chasnie DiPaola (Gr. 7, Notre Dame Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls); Natalie Firth (Gr. 8, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary, Niagara Falls); Dylan Kwacz (Gr. 11, Saint Michael Catholic High School, Niagara Falls); Cara Lozano (Gr. 8, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary, Grimsby); and Sara Williscraft (Gr. 8, St John Catholic Elementary, Beamsville).

3. Lakeshore Catholic High School Jazz Band & Choir

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Danny DiLorenzo, Principal of Lakeshore Catholic High School, who introduced the School Jazz Band & Choir.

The Lakeshore Catholic High School Jazz Band & Choir performed for the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik thanked the Jazz Band & Choir for their outstanding performance, and along with Lakeshore Trustee Sicoli, presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in the Arts" pins.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program – St. Peter Catholic Elementary School

Director Crocco provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program. Mario Ciccarelli, Superintendent of Education, introduced Margaret Marion, Principal of St. Peter Catholic Elementary School.

Principal Marion, with the assistance of students and staff showcased St. Peter Catholic Elementary School as part of the School Excellence Program.

Chairperson Burtnik thanked Principal Marion, the staff and students for their presentation and performance.

2. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2011 and Consideration of Recommendations

Moved by Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

The following recommendations were presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2011:

2.1 Student Fees Policy (201.9)

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Student Fees Policy (201.9), as presented.

CARRIED

**2.2 Policy Occupational Health & Safety Policy (201.6)
Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11)**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder
Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Occupational Health & Safety Policy (201.6) and the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11), as presented.

CARRIED

3. Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2011

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2011, as presented for information.

CARRIED

4. Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 8, 2011

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 8, 2011, as presented for information.

CARRIED

**5. Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting
Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells presented the Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meetings for Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson.

5.1 Approved Minutes of November 8, 2011 Meeting

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting - Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson of November 8, 2011.

CARRIED

5.2 Approved Minutes of November 23, 2011 Meeting

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting - Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson of November 23, 2011.

CARRIED

5.3 Unapproved Minutes of November 28, 2011 Meeting

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting - Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson of November 28, 2011.

CARRIED

6. Director's Annual Report 2011

Director Crocco presented the Information Report on the Director's Annual Report 2011 and a copy of the Annual Report For 2011. He informed Trustees that the report to the Board outlines the Education Act requirements of the Annual Report and that of the Minister of Education regarding annual reports from all School Boards in Ontario.

Director Crocco thanked the Superintendents for their submissions and Jennifer Brailey, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications, and the Print Shop for the layout and printing of the Director's Annual Report 2011.

7. Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2011-2012

Superintendent Iannantuono presented the report on the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2010-2011 along with background information on the Award. Trustees were informed that the recipients for the 2011-2012 Award are Father Denis Warburton and Reverend Monsignor Clement Schwalm.

The Niagara Catholic Award of Distinction 2011-2012 will be presented at the Bishop's Gala on January 27, 2012.

8. Revised Board Budget 2011-2012

Director Crocco presented the Revised Budget Estimates for the Year 2011-2012, and provided background information to the Budget and the deficit that will be incurred for 2010-2011.

Director Crocco stated that Senior Administrative Council has worked diligently to prepare a revised Budget for 2011-2012 which includes risk management strategies to ensure that it aligned with the Board Approved Strategic Directions and Priority indicators for this year.

Superintendent Reich highlighted key areas of the Revised Board Budget 201-2012, and answered Trustees questions.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the Revised Budget Estimates for the year 2011-2012, as presented.

CARRIED

9. Financial Reports

9.1 Monthly Banking Transactions

Chairperson Burtnik handed the meeting over to Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau as she declared a Conflict of Interest with this item.

Moved by Trustee Fera
Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Monthly Banking Transactions for the months of September, October & November 2011, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9.2 Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at November 30, 2011, as presented for information.

CARRIED

10. Trustee Honorarium for the Year from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2012

John Crocco, Director of Education, presented the report on Trustee Honorarium for the Year from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2012.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the year from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2012, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

\$16,900 for the Chairperson of the Board

\$13,842 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board

\$10,784 for the Trustees

CARRIED

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

1.1 Crawford Smith & Swallow – Examination of Financial Statements

1.2 Most Rev. Bishop Bergie – Thank You for Gift

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Nil Report

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco informed Trustees that Senior Staff will be presenting recommendations at the January 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting regarding motions in the follow-up report to the Board on the Pupil Accommodation Review recommendations of May 2009.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 6, 2011

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 6, 2011 issue for Trustees' information.

4.2 Calendar of Events – January 2012

Director Crocco presented the Calendar of Events – January 2012 for Trustees' information

4.3 Christmas Break – December 24, 2011 – January 8, 2012

Director Crocco informed Trustees that all schools along with the Catholic Education Centre will be closed from December 24, 2011 to January 8, 2012 inclusive.

4.4 Niagara Catholic Baby Celebration – January 18, 2012

Director Crocco informed Trustees of the Niagara Catholic Baby Celebration being held at the Catholic Education Centre on January 18, 2012. All Board employees who had a baby during 2011 and are on maternity leave have been invited to the Catholic Education Centre for a get together to reconnect with colleagues. All Trustees were invited to attend.

4.5 OCSTA Trustees' Professional Development Seminar – January 13-15, 2011

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the OCSTA Trustees' Professional Development Seminar, being held in Toronto on January 13-14, 2012.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Sherry Morena, Corporate Services & Communications Department.

4.6 Bishop's Gala - January 27, 2012 – Club Italia, Niagara Falls

Director Crocco presented information on the 9th Annual Bishop's Gala being held on January 27, 2012 at Club Italia in Niagara Falls.

Trustees were asked to contact Sherry Morena for tickets.

4.7 BEC - 2012 Annual Partners Breakfast - February 10, 2012 - 7:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Director Crocco presented information on the BEC - 2012 Annual Partners Breakfast – being held February 10, 2012 from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Linda Marconi no later than Friday, January 20th 2012.

4.8 System Letters

Director Crocco presented a Letter from Bishop Bergie, the Chair of the Board and the Director which will be sent home with all students this week, as well as a letter to all 3,000 staff.

5. Open Question Period

None Submitted

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

1. Submission of Motion to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA)

Trustee MacNeil presented the following Notice of Motion at the November 22, 2011 Board Meeting for presentation and discussion at the December 20, 2011 Board Meeting.

Chairperson Burtnik noted that the motion will be forwarded to OCSTA for presentation at the OCSTA AGM in April 2012.

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board request the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) to petition the Minister of Education to more adequately fund the reality of the true expenditures of Occasional / Supply Teachers which impacts the ability of school boards to direct greater portions of Ministry of Education funding directly to programs and services which impact student achievement.

CARRIED

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 9:50 p.m. and reconvened at 11:10 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of December 20, 2011.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of November 22, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of November 11, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

Moved by Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5)

The following motions were reported from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 6, 2011:

Moved by Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item 5.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F5.1)

Moved by Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item 5.2 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F5.2)

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board extend the Board Meeting by fifteen (15) minutes.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Fera
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F6 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F6)

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the December 20, 2011 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 20, 2011.**

Approved on the **31st** day of **January 2012.**

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: PRESENTATION/DELEGATION
OFSAA MEDALISTS**



PRESENTATION BACKGROUND

Board Meeting
January 31, 2012

OFSAA BRONZE MEDALISTS 2011

The St. Francis Senior Girls' Basketball team captured OFSAA Bronze at the AA Championships. Ken Griepsma, principal of St. Francis Catholic High School, will present the coaches and the student athletes this evening.

Niagara Catholic is extremely proud to announce the accomplishments of these student-athletes. Niagara Catholic also extends its sincere appreciation to school staff, coaches and parents for dedicating their time and efforts in motivating and guiding our students to achieve such a high level of performance.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
MEETING DATE**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PORT COLBORNE**



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING JANUARY 31, 2012

SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PORT COLBORNE

266 Rosemount Ave.
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 5R4
Ph: 905.835.1091
Fx: 905.835.9315
st.patrick.pc@ncdsb.com

Grades: JK - 8

Principal:
Susan Tromanhauser

Superintendent:
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

**Catholic School Council
Chair:**
Terri-Lee Parperides

Parish: St. Patrick



St. Patrick School opened in 1959 to serve the southwestern section of the city of Port Colborne. An addition was completed in 1998 to include two classrooms and a gymnasium. Our school has expanded to meet the needs of the community and now includes seven classrooms. St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School is a vibrant learning community, proud of its partnership with the home, parish and community.

Total enrolment as of September 2011: 164

*The staff of
St. Patrick Catholic School
will work in partnership
with the home and parish
to foster academic,
social and spiritual growth
according to the teachings
of Jesus Christ.*

- School Mission Statement

*"Sharing Our Gifts
and Talents"*

- School Motto

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: December 20, 2011

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: NIAGARA CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE
EDUCATION PROGRAM (NCICE) DOMINICA 2011**

The report on the Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education Program
(NCICE) Dominica 2011 is presented for information.

Prepared by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education
Presented by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2012



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING JANUARY 31, 2012

NIAGARA CATHOLIC INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (NCICE) DOMINICA 2011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following an invitation to all secondary school students in Niagara Catholic and an extensive application and selection process, on September 24th, 2011 ten (10) Niagara Catholic District School Board students and two (2) teachers embarked on the three month placement portion of the second Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education Program in Dominica.

Lead by teachers Jason Benoit (Lakeshore Catholic) and Amber Benoit (Saint Michael), the ten students who spent from September 24th to December 22nd, 2011 in Dominica were; Amanda Mills, Emma Hoad-Owen, Kayla Barrow, Matt Pattison, and Leah Taylor of Lakeshore Catholic High School; Kaleigh Flynn, Cassandra Rebrovich, Vanessa Zanchin, and Jessica Gorham of Saint Michael Catholic High School; Chris Belanger of Blessed Trinity Catholic.

As the coordinating school for the 2011 Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education Program, Lakeshore Catholic High School students and staff have raised money, through their pilgrimages, and have visited Dominica for thirteen years. Every February, teachers and students travel to the Caribbean island of Dominica, which is the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere next to Haiti to work with the community to improve their level of education and their standard of living.

The students and staff participating in this year's Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education Program lived for the three months in the convent of Portsmouth, Dominica which was graciously donated by Sister Alces Williams. In Dominica, students worked at four cooperative education placements. The first placement was at St John's Catholic Elementary School assisting classroom teachers in preparing, delivering, and assessing curriculum. The second placement was at the Northern District Home for the Aged "The Grange" which is the local seniors' home. Students assisted registered nurses Mariette and Lucille in the daily care of the residents. A third placement was at the Portsmouth Library. Students helped to organize and administer the day to day duties under the supervision of librarian, Monique Matthew. The students also organized and volunteered at a literacy club at the library. The fourth and final cooperative education placement was at the Centre where Adolescents Learn to Love and Serve. This is an alternative where students worked with Sister Betty Rae and Mrs. Douglas to teach life skills to the students of the centre.

In addition to our Niagara Catholic students earning four (4) cooperative education credits, all students were enrolled in three (3) academic credits as part of the seven (7) credit program. Mr. Benoit, Program Chair of Religious Education at Lakeshore Catholic delivered the curriculum for the Philosophy of Religion course (HZT 4U) and Mrs. Benoit a Science teacher at Saint Michael Catholic High School,

delivered the curriculum for Grades 11 and 12 Biology (SBI 3U/SBI 4U). Finally, Mr. and Mrs. Benoit, who were both collegiate athletes and are actively involved in their schools' co-curricular athletics program, jointly delivered the curriculum for the Grade 12 Physical Education course (PPL 4O).

Students and staff returned safely to Canada on Thursday, December 22, 2011 and have shared their exceptional experiential learning experience in Dominica with both their secondary school communities and the elementary schools within their respective Family of Schools.

A presentation by students and staff at the January Board Meeting will highlight the remarkable social justice experiences from the Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education (NCICE) Dominica 2011 program.

The report on the Niagara Catholic International Cooperative Education
Dominica 2011 Program is presented for information.

Prepared by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: January 31, 2012

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2012**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Minutes of January 17, 2012, as presented.

Recommendations presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012 are contained within the following reports:

- 3.1 Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools Area,
and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
 - 3.1.1 Board Correspondence Received by January 20, 2012
 - 3.1.2 Report from the Committee of the Whole Meeting & Recommendation(s)

- 3.2 Consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Catholic Elementary Schools
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NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau noted that Trustees MacNeil and Nieuwesteeg asked to be excused from the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Chairperson Burtnik joined the meeting electronically at 9:15 and participated in the In Camera Session.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Kathy Burtnik		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil				✓
Ed Nieuwesteeg				✓
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Student Trustees				
Ryan Creelman	✓			
Patrick Morris	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Mario Ciccarelli**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Larry Reich**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Khayyam Syne**, Administrator of Staff Development, Administrator of School Effectiveness; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2011

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Policy Committee Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee Report

Rhianon Burkholder, Chair of the Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee, gave a brief overview of the process followed by the Ad Hoc Committee and its report to the Committee of the Whole. James Woods, Controller of Plant, presented the specifics of the report highlighting the recommended changes to the boundaries.

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

1. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic students residing in the existing Port Robinson attendance area will be permitted to attend their current family of schools and will be granted Out of Boundary status.
2. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic Grade 8 students (attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School) and Denis Morris Catholic High School students residing in the Port Robinson area will be granted transportation until 2015-2016.
3. THAT as of January 9, 2012 transportation will be provided to current students residing in the Port Robinson area attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 until 2015-2016 at which time transportation will be discontinued.
4. THAT as of January 9, 2012 a boundary change will occur for Port Robinson with Allanport Road inclusive to Barron Road attending the Notre Dame College Family of Schools. The Boundary descriptions for Denis Morris, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy,

Notre Dame College School and St. Andrew Catholic schools will be amended with the revised Port Robinson boundary of;

South: Thorold Townline Road (centreline) to Barron Road (inclusive) crossing the Welland Canal to Turner Rd (and its projection) to the Welland Canal to a line halfway between Holland Rd and Barron Rd to the township lot lines between lots 63 and 64 and lots 86 and 87 and lots 109 and 110 and lots 132 and 133 to the Town Boundary (Lincoln and Pelham).

CARRIED

2. Working Together for Kids' Mental Health Project 2010-2011 and Beyond

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, introduced Ken Lococo, Behavioural Resource Teacher, who presented the report on Working Together for Kids' Mental Health Project 2010-2011 and Beyond, which was designed to address and build a child and youth mental health system that was coordinated, collaborative and integrated at all community and government levels.

3. Homework Help

Mario Ciccarelli, Superintendent of Education, introduced the report on Homework Help, and welcomed Mark DiTomasso, e-Learning Consultant, who presented detailed information on the student focused Homework Help on-line support for students in Grade 7 to Grade 10. A demonstration of the Homework Help was provided to students.

Trustees were also informed that Homework Help is beneficial for teachers and parents, as it allows teachers to find valuable math resources that can be used in the classroom for differentiated instruction and blended learning.

4. Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement: BIPSA 2011-2013

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the report on the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement: BIPSA 2011-2013, which aligns with Niagara Catholic's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, the annual System Priorities and the School Effectiveness Framework. Niagara Catholic's BIPSA establishes expectations, goals, strategies and partnerships to support the student achievement of all students from Early Learning Kindergarten Programs (ELKP) to graduation.

5. Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities

Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development, presented the report on the Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities for information.

John Cino, Student Success Teacher at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, presented the Career Cruising Project which encourages students in Grades 7 and 8 to create and use an Educational Portfolio which keeps track of their in accomplishments, goals and plans.

6. Consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools

Director Crocco presented a background overview of the Consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools, and the Consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools reports. He reminded Trustees that at the May 26, 2009 and November 8, 2011 Board Meetings of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board approved eleven (11) motions which provided specific system direction, decisions and timelines following a detailed open, transparent and accountable Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) and Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) process.

The Director informed Trustees that as part of our continuous dialogue with the Ministry of Education, new information has recently been received regarding potential funding available for the needed renovations to both St. James and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools should they be consolidated by the Board through a board motion. A Board motion and business case requesting Ministry funding must be received by the Ministry of Education by January 31, 2012.

Mr. Woods walked the Committee of the Whole through a PowerPoint which visually displayed the potential phased in approaches that Senior Staff is currently exploring for the consideration of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools at the St. James site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to St. James Catholic Elementary School.

CARRIED

7. Consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

CARRIED

8. Monthly Updates

8.1 Capital Projects Progress Report

James Woods, Controller of Plant, presented the Capital Projects Progress Report.

8.2 Student Trustees' Update

Ryan Creelman and Patrick Morris, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

8.3 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Ciccarelli

- The Fatima Falcons Lego/Robotics Team, from Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, St. Catharines, qualified for the Provincial Tournament by being the Second Grand Champion at the Niagara Regional Tournament on Saturday, December 17th, 2011. Our Lady of Fatima captured the Mechanical Design Award at the Provincial tournament.
- St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, Niagara-on-the-Lake, has excelled in their EQAO results and was highlighted by EQAO.

Superintendent Baldasaro

- St. Francis Catholic Secondary School Senior Girls' Basketball won Bronze in OFSSA.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 20, 2011

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 20, 2011 issue for Trustees' information.

1.2 Calendar of Events – January 2012

Director Crocco presented information on the Calendar of Events – January 2012.

1.3 Niagara Catholic Baby Celebration – January 18, 2012

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Niagara Catholic Baby Celebration being held at the Catholic Education Centre on January 18, 2012.

All Trustees were invited to attend.

1.4 Bishop's Gala - January 27, 2012 – Club Italia, Niagara Falls

Director Crocco presented information on the 9th Annual Bishop's Gala being held on January 27, 2012 at Club Italia in Niagara Falls.

Trustees were asked to contact Sherry Morena for tickets, as well as to be at Club Italia by 6:15 p.m. for photographs.

1.5 BEC - 2012 Annual Partners Breakfast - February 10, 2012 - 7:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Director Crocco presented information on the BEC - 2012 Annual Partners Breakfast – being held February 10, 2012 from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m., informing Trustees that the Board has booked a table.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Linda Marconi no later than Friday, January 20th, 2012.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco provided an overview of upcoming accommodation and attendance area actions for the consideration of the Board. He also informed Trustees of the Special Policy Committee Meeting on February 14, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Committee of the Whole moved into the In Camera Session of the Meeting at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

Chairperson Burtnik joined the meeting electronically at 9:15 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section A: Student Trustees Present held on December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section B: Student Trustees Excluded held on December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the January 17, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **January 17, 2012.**

Approved on the **14th** day of **February 2012.**

Maurice Charbonneau
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: NOTRE DAME COLLEGE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AREA, AND PORT ROBINSON
ATTENDANCE AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**BOARD CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
BY JANUARY 20, 2012**

**NOTRE DAME COLLEGE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AREA, AND PORT ROBINSON
ATTENDANCE AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE**

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 20, 2012

*From
Tina Hetherington*

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed boundary changes for the Port Robinson area. After reviewing the e-mail I just received regarding the proposed changes, I do have some concerns.

My daughter Arianna Hetherington, currently attends JK at St. Charles school. We purchased our home (1456 Allanport Rd, Port Robinson) 5 years ago. My husband and I are originally from Niagara Falls.

Obviously when buying a home one of the important considerations to make is schooling. Since my husband and I knew that we wanted to have a family, we looked into which school we were connected to.

Since we live on Allanport Rd. I was told that St. Charles was our home school. For the past few months, Arianna has happily attended St. Charles. In an effort to become part of the Thorold community (Port Robinson is part of the city of Thorold), we signed Arianna up for dance lessons in Thorold. There she is familiar with many of the children she goes to school with, from St. Charles.

Now I am reading that suddenly our street will be deemed out of bounds, and our home school will now be St. Andrews in Welland. Had I known that 5 years ago, when purchasing this home, I would have reconsidered. It does not seem fair that suddenly she is not being provided transportation to a school that should continue to be her home school, since we are a part of the Thorold community. We have NO ties to the city of Welland, and frankly, I do not want her attending a school in down town Welland, in a rough neighbourhood. We did not purchase this home with that intention. I would rather see her attend her home public school.

If transportation is to be continued until 2015-16 for Monsignor Clancy and Dennis Morris, why would it be discontinued for St. Charles as of 2012-13? It is currently all the same bus route! Transporting her to school everyday is not an option for us at this time.

In thinking ahead to the future, it makes most sense (in terms of distance) for those residing in Port Robinson to go to St. Michael's High School. With this in mind, would it not make sense to bus students to Loretto Elementary school?

Your consideration of these issues is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tina Hetherington



"The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ."

January 23, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At the January 9, 2012 meeting of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area, the Committee requested that a letter be mailed to the Port Robinson families informing them of the recommendations presented to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012.

This letter is to advise you that at the January 17, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting the following recommendations regarding the proposed boundary changes for the Port Robinson Area were approved by the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **THAT** as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic students residing in the existing Port Robinson attendance area will be permitted to attend their current family of schools and will be granted Out of Boundary status.
2. **THAT** as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic Grade 8 students (attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School) and Denis Morris Catholic High School students residing in the Port Robinson area will be granted transportation until 2015-2016.
3. **THAT** as of January 9, 2012 transportation will be provided to current students residing in the Port Robinson area attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School in Grades 5,6, 7, and 8 until 2015-2016 at which time transportation will be discontinued.
4. **THAT** as of January 9, 2012 a boundary change will occur for Port Robinson with Allanport Rd inclusive to Barron Rd. attending the Notre Dame College Family of Schools. The boundary descriptions for Denis Morris Catholic High School, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy, Notre Dame College School and St. Andrew Catholic Schools will be amended with the revised Port Robinson boundary of:

South: Thorold Townline Road (centreline) to Barron Road (inclusive) crossing the Welland Canal to Turner Rd (and its projection) to the Welland Canal to a line halfway between Holland Rd and Barron Rd to the township lot lines between lots 63 and 64 and lots 86 and 87 and lots 109 and 110 and lots 132 and 133 to the Town Boundary (Lincoln and Pelham).

Please note that your input is to be sent to John Crocco or Kathy Burtnik.

If you would like to provide further input before the recommendations are presented at the Board Meeting of January 31, 2012, please address your correspondence to John Crocco, Director of Education at john.crocco@ncdsb.com or Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board at kburtnik@cogeco.ca by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

Correspondence received by regular mail, e-mail or delivery by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 shall be presented at the Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

Thank you for your input and your continued support of Catholic Education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells
Superintendent of Education and Resource to the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee

c.c. Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee
Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson
John Crocco, Director of Education

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: NOTRE DAME COLLEGE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AREA, AND PORT ROBINSON
ATTENDANCE AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING & RECOMMENDATION(S)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve:

- 1. THAT** as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic students residing in the existing Port Robinson attendance area will be permitted to attend their current family of schools and will be granted Out of Boundary status.
- 2. THAT** as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic Grade 8 students (attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School) and Denis Morris Catholic High School students residing in the Port Robinson area will be granted transportation until 2015-2016.
- 3. THAT** as of January 9, 2012 transportation will be provided to current students residing in the Port Robinson area attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 until 2015-2016 at which time transportation will be discontinued.
- 4. THAT** as of January 9, 2012 a boundary change will occur for Port Robinson with Allanport Road inclusive to Barron Road attending the Notre Dame College Family of Schools. The Boundary descriptions for Denis Morris, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy, Notre Dame College School and St. Andrew Catholic schools will be amended with the revised Port Robinson boundary of;

South: Thorold Townline Road (centreline) to Barron Road (inclusive) crossing the Welland Canal to Turner Rd (and its projection) to the Welland Canal to a line halfway between Holland Rd and Barron Rd to the township lot lines between lots 63 and 64 and lots 86 and 87 and lots 109 and 110 and lots 132 and 133 to the Town Boundary (Lincoln and Pelham).

Prepared by: Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

Presented by: Rhianon Burkholder, Chair of Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: January 31, 2012



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING JANUARY 17, 2012

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AREA, AND PORT ROBINSON ATTENDANCE AREA AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In compliance with the Niagara Catholic District School Board Attendance Areas Policy 301.3, an Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee was formed in 2011 and 2012 to review attendance boundaries for the Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary School Areas, and for the Port Robinson Area.

As stated in the Report to the Committee of the Whole on November 9, 2010:

The attendance boundary for St. Andrew/ Notre Dame College in Welland includes Port Robinson, which lies between the Welland Canal and the attendance boundary for Monsignor Clancy / St. Charles/ Denis Morris located in Thorold/St. Catharines areas. Students from Port Robinson are attending Monsignor Clancy / St. Charles / Denis Morris as out-of-bounds students and have been provided with transportation due to the fact that a bus with surplus capacity has a route in the area. A review is required to determine whether boundary changes should be made to include Port Robinson in the Monsignor Clancy / St. Charles / Denis Morris attendance area, and if so, where the new boundaries should lie.

The following motion was approved at the December 7, 2010 Committee of the Whole Meeting:

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2011:

- *Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Areas and for the Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee*
- *Niagara Falls Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools/St. George and St. Joseph (Snyder) Catholic Elementary Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee*
- *St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee*

At the Board Meeting of February 22, 2011 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 14, 2011, Director of Education, John Crocco presented information about the Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committees stating that the Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee Meetings would begin in September 2011. The Attendance Area Review Committee for Notre Dame College and its associated elementary schools and Port Robinson was confirmed at the September 27, 2011 Board Meeting. A report would be presented no later than the January 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting in preparation for February 2012 student registration.

The Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson area is comprised of Rhianon Burkholder (Chair), Trustee Ted O'Leary, Trustee Fr. Paul MacNeil, John Crocco, Director of Education, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, Mario Ciccarelli, Superintendent of Education, James Woods, Controller of Plant Services, Kathy Levinski, Manager of Plant Services and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee was held on November 8, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre. A recommendation was made that the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee would conduct a community meeting on Monday, November 23, 2011, in order to receive input from the Port Robinson families. Invitations were sent to the Port Robinson families and the Port Robinson Community meeting was held on November 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Michael Catholic High School.

On November 28, 2011 an Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area was held at 5:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre to review the input from the Community Meeting. As a result of the community feedback, and information received from the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS), the Committee made the recommendation to provide another opportunity for input from the community of Port Robinson.

A letter with a survey was sent to all families requesting a response by 4:00 p.m. on January 9, 2012 (Appendix A). The information from the completed surveys was reviewed by the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee at the January 9, 2012 meeting. In addition, several meetings with the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) were held in December 2011 to gather further information about transportation routes and the costs of transportation which was presented at the January 9, 2012 meeting.

At the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area meeting of January 9, 2012 (Appendix B: Unapproved Minutes of the January 9, 2012 Meeting) the committee reviewed the Parent/Guardian Survey submissions, a report from the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS), and drafted recommendations to be presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012.

The following recommendations were approved by the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee at the January 9, 2012 meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic students residing in the existing Port Robinson attendance area will be permitted to attend their current family of schools and will be granted Out of Boundary status.
2. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic Grade 8 students (attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School) and Denis Morris Catholic High School students residing in the Port Robinson area will be granted transportation until 2015-2016.
3. THAT as of January 9, 2012 transportation will be provided to current students residing in the Port Robinson area attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 until 2015-2016 at which time transportation will be discontinued.
4. THAT as of January 9, 2012 a boundary change will occur for Port Robinson with Allanport Road inclusive to Barron Road attending the Notre Dame College Family of Schools. The Boundary descriptions for Denis Morris, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy, Notre Dame College School and St. Andrew Catholic schools will be amended with the revised Port Robinson boundary of:
South: Thorold Townline Road (centreline) to Barron Road (inclusive) crossing the Welland Canal to Turner Rd (and its projection) to the Welland Canal to a line halfway between Holland Rd and Barron Rd to the township lot lines between lots 63 and 64 and lots 86 and 87 and lots 109 and 110 and lots 132 and 133 to the Town Boundary (Lincoln and Pelham).

Prepared by: Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

Presented by: Rhianon Burkholder, Chair of Notre Dame College School and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

Date: January 17, 2012



APPENDIX A

"The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ."

November 30, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Further to the November 23, 2011 public consultation meeting of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee, this letter is an invitation for the parents/guardians of the Port Robinson Area to provide further input into the proposed boundary changes for the Port Robinson Area.

In order to receive further input from the Port Robinson community enclosed is a brief parent/guardian survey. Please take a moment to complete the survey and return it to the Niagara Catholic District School Board addressed to Mrs. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1 or e-mail to yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com no later than 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2012.

Information from the previous Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Port Robinson Area meetings has been posted on the Board Website: www.niagaracatholic.ca under the Attendance Area Review tab.

Input from the surveys will be considered by the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee on January 9, 2012 as the committee drafts their report and recommendation to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

Upcoming public meeting dates of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee:

Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.
Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Rd.
Welland, ON L3C 7C1
905.735.0240

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Rd.
Welland, ON L3C 7C1
905.735.0240

Thank you for your input and your continued support of Catholic Education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells
Superintendent of Education
Resource to the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee

c.c. Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee
Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson
John Crocco, Director of Education



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Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Port Robinson Area Parent/Guardian Survey

Optional Information:

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Student(s)

Student Name _____ Grade _____ School currently attending _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____ School currently attending _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____ School currently attending _____

Parents/Guardians Survey

1. When and if a decision is made such that your child is deemed out of boundary would you likely request to:

Please check one

a) remain at the current school your child is attending

b) attend the new school within your boundary

2. If you selected 1a) would providing Board transportation until your son/daughter graduated from their current school, assist you in making your decision?

Please check one

Yes

No

3. If you selected 1a) and you request out of boundary permission to remain at the current school your child is attending, are you able to provide transportation?

Please check one

Yes

No

4. Are there any special circumstances that require your son/daughter to attend their current school?

5. Please provide any other information you feel is pertinent for the Committee to consider prior to making a recommendation to the Committee of the Whole.

For further information regarding the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Port Robinson Area please visit our Board website: www.niagaracatholic.ca under the Attendance Area Review tab.

Please note: In order for input to be considered by the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Port Robinson Area, surveys must be received no later than 12:00 p.m. on January 9, 2012.

Please return to: Mrs. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Road, Welland, ON L3C 7C1

If you wish to e-mail your response, please e-mail yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com.

Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.



APPENDIX B

"The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ."

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

AD HOC ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING PORT ROBINSON AREA

January 9, 2012
5:30 P.M.

FATHER KENNETH BURNS BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE

Minutes of Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Trustee, Chairperson Rhianon Burkholder.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Trustee Fr. Paul MacNeil

2. Roll Call

Lori Powell, Executive Director Niagara Student Transportation Services was in attendance.

Committee Members		Present	Excused	Absent
Rhianon Burkholder	Trustee/Chair	✓		
Ted O'Leary	Trustee	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Trustee	✓		
John Crocco	Director of Education	✓		
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	Superintendent of Education	✓		
Mario Ciccarelli	Superintendent of Education	✓		
James Woods	Controller of Plant Services	✓		
Kathy Levinski	Manager of Plant Services	✓		
Yvonne Anderson	Recording Secretary	✓		

In addition parents/guardians were in attendance at the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Fr. Paul MacNeil

THAT the Agenda of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of January 9, 2012 be approved 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 the Minutes Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting Port Robinson Area of November 28, 2011.

Moved by Trustee Ted O'Leary

THAT the Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of November 28, 2011 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

B. DISCUSSION:

1. Review of Parent/Guardian Survey Submissions

- Five parent/guardian surveys were received by the 12:00 p.m. on January 9, 2012.

2. Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) Report

- Lori Powell, Executive Director of the Niagara Student Transportation Service prepared and presented a report on the proposed boundary changes and the impact on transportation services for the Port Robinson area.

3. Draft Report and Recommendations to the January 17, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting

The Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area will present the following recommendations to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012:

1. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic students residing in the existing Port Robinson attendance area will be permitted to attend their current family of schools and will be granted Out of Boundary status.
2. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic Grade 8 students (attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School) and Denis Morris Catholic High School students residing in the Port Robinson area will be granted transportation until 2015-2016.
3. THAT as of January 9, 2012 transportation will be provided to current students residing in the Port Robinson area attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 until 2015-2016 at which time transportation will be discontinued.
4. THAT as of January 9, 2012 a boundary change will occur for Port Robinson with Allanport Road inclusive to Barron Road attending the Notre Dame College Family of Schools. The Boundary descriptions for Denis Morris, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy, Notre Dame College School and St. Andrew Catholic schools will be amended with the revised Port Robinson boundary of:

South: Thorold Townline Road (centreline) to Barron Road (inclusive) crossing the Welland Canal to Turner Rd (and its projection) to the Welland Canal to a line halfway between Holland Rd and Barron Rd to the township lot lines between lots 63 and 64 and lots 86 and 87 and lots 109 and 110 and lots 132 and 133 to the Town Boundary (Lincoln and Pelham).

C. OTHER BUSINESS

The Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area requested that a letter be mailed to the Port Robinson families informing them of the recommendations presented to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012, with future meeting dates and the deadline allowing them to provide further input before the recommendation is presented at the Board Meeting of January 31, 2012.

Correspondence shall be addressed to Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson of the Board or Rhianon Burkholder, Trustee and Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012.

Correspondence received by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012 shall be presented at the Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

D. FUTURE MEETINGS

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Ted O'Leary

THAT the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of January 9, 2012 be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CONSOLIDATION OF ST. THOMAS MORE AND OUR LADY
OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING – JANUARY 23, 2012

- i) AGENDA**
 - ii) MINUTES**
 - iii) BOARD CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING**
-
-

AGENDA



The Niagara Catholic District School Board through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1. **Opening Prayer** - *Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education* -
2. **Introductions**- *Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education* -
3. **Overview** - *John Crocco, Director of Education* -
4. **Report Presentation** - *James Woods, Controller of Plant* 4
5. **Transition Plan for Consolidation of Schools** - *John Crocco, Director of Education* -
6. **Open Dialogue** -
7. **Adjournment** -

MINUTES

ST. THOMAS MORE – OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

- 22 people in attendance
19 parents, 2 principals, 1 reporter (Richard Hutton, Niagara This Week)
- 19:05 Mark Lefebvre began the evening with a prayer and introduced the Director, Chair of the Board, Trustee Fera and Controller of Plant
- 19:10 Director of Education, John Crocco, presented an overview of the current business case application being made to the Ministry of Education concerning the potential for consolidating St. Thomas More School with Our Lady of Mount Carmel School pending funding for construction and renovation at that site for Sept 2013. The Board is considering a motion for possible consolidation at its January 31, 2012 meeting.
- 19:22 James Woods provided an overview of the report for the potential consolidation of STM and OLMC schools. An initial concept for possible renovations to OLMC was presented to the assembly. A Kindergarten drop-off and a Kiss and Ride lot are planned for the renovated OLMC site. The potential Ministry funding allocation for this project is estimated to be approximately 1.7 million dollars.
- 19:36 John Crocco spoke to the assembly about a potential transition plan for STM and OLMC.
- 19:45 Director Crocco solicited feedback from the assembly
- Melissa Roma presented submissions on behalf of the STM and OLMC Catholic School Councils. A written report was provided as points of reference.
- The Chair of the Board requested and James Woods spoke to the cost of adding an addition to a building structure vs renovations. Adding an addition would be a costlier option.
- Melissa Roma suggested that students should not lose French and music classrooms, and second gymnasium. Mr. Crocco commented that some secondary schools do not have two gyms and dedicated French rooms are a luxury. The board will maximize any funding it may receive and look at all options within the funding.
- Trustee Fera asked Mr Woods to explain the current Ministry funding formula for any Early Learning classroom additions/improvements. Mrs. Racine asked if an addition could be completed without any additional classroom improvements. Mr. Crocco and Mr. Woods spoke about the Ministry parameters in securing funding from the Ministry and assured the assembly that the Board will work with the community in discussing options to maximize the facility.
- Mrs. Racine asked if funds from the sale of STM can be used to offset any additional costs for construction at OLMC. Mr. Crocco spoke to Ministry parameters for disposition of funds from the sale of surplus property. Chair Burtnik spoke to the Boards sensitivity for balancing the interests of all schools and all Board projects.
- Mrs. Byers inquired about the entrance of the proposed Kiss and Ride on Carlton Avenue and condition of sidewalks. The Director and Mr. Woods spoke about how the Board will consult with the City concerning any potential traffic issues.

- Mr. Crocco spoke to scenarios for the two schools should this potential Ministry funding not be realized. The current recommendations of the ARC and motions of the Board will be followed. Mr. Crocco spoke to population trends as the result of a question from the assembly.
- Debra MacDonald asked if there was potential for staff input into the design of the Early Learning classrooms. Mr. Crocco spoke in the affirmative.
- Mr. Crocco spoke to potential staffing implications in response to a query by Mrs. Roma about staffing a consolidated school.
- The Board will look at an entrance to the site from Dorchester Rd through the field.
- The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

**BOARD CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING**

**INPUT FROM THE OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
AND ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR STAFF
OF NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

On behalf of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thomas More Catholic School Councils, I am here to provide input to be brought back to the January 31, 2012, Board meeting.

We are grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve as Council members of these two outstanding schools. More importantly our children have been blessed with the outstanding academic excellence that has been provided by the administration and staff.

We are thankful to have had a very unique setting with the two sister schools but realize that the Board is moving towards consolidating the two schools. Therefore we wish to ensure that all opportunities that are currently available to our students will continue once the consolidation takes place.

After careful consideration and upon reviewing your proposed plan, we have the following comments to make.

It appears that you are proposing to take away one of the gyms at Our Lady of Mount Carmel by renovating it to move the CyberQuest room to this location, and then renovating the current Cyberquest room into classrooms.

Currently, this second gym is utilized by the students, and with the addition of approximately 170 more students, we feel it is essential to keep both gyms available to the students. In addition, we feel that CyberQuest should continue to be housed in its current location in the school, which is easily accessible at the front of the school by visiting students.

Instead, we are proposing that a separate wing be built onto the school which would contain classrooms to accommodate the Early Learning Program. In addition, as St. Thomas More currently has an extensive library and computer area, the separate wing should contain its own library to accommodate the primary children. Also we feel an extra washroom should be added to this wing which would be suitable for primary students. In order to preserve the St. Thomas More name, we feel that the wing should be named the St. Thomas More Early Learning Centre.

We understand that during the years between when our schools are consolidated and when the new school is built in Warren Woods, the students from Warren Woods will be attending Our Lady of Mount Carmel and there may be a possibility of having up to four portables during these years to accommodate these students. We feel that this can be avoided by adding the new wing.

Currently, there are no portables at either of our schools and as parents we will strongly resist the housing of students in portables. In addition, we are concerned that parents from Warren Woods may not send their students to Our Lady of Mount Carmel due to this possibility and may decide to have their children attend a school in the public board rather than come to our school. Also the proposed solution of using indoor classrooms in order to avoid portables is not suitable as there are no windows in the classrooms and these rooms are currently being used for other purposes.

The construction that is being proposed currently would create a large disruption and would have to be done during the summer months but we feel that the building of a primary wing could be started during the school year which would allow more time for the renovation to be ready for September.

In addition we want to ensure that our French rooms and Music room are not taken away from our students. Both schools have always had a separate French room which is very conducive to learning for the children. Our Music Room has been built with soundproof walls, amphitheatre seating as well as storage for all of the instruments.

Also the routine that the students develop in rotating to these classrooms is very beneficial for them for when they attend high school. These rooms do not have windows so accordingly they cannot be used as regular classrooms.

We are also concerned about the possible loss of our Learning Strategies room which currently serves to meet the needs of our exceptional students, as well as the book room which houses teacher resources that cannot be accommodated elsewhere. Again these rooms do not have windows and accordingly are not suitable for regular classrooms.

The plan indicates the addition of skylights to some of the interior rooms and we feel that all interior rooms would benefit from skylights.

The last comment we have is that you seriously consider the addition of an air conditioning system to the school for the comfort of our students.

This consolidation should serve to enhance the learning environment for our students and not to take away from what they currently have.

In conclusion, we need to remember that our goal is the best interests of our children, and our role as Catholic School Council is to ensure that this is never forgotten. We look forward to working with you to achieve this very important goal for our most precious gift - our students.

Thank you, on behalf of the Catholic School Councils of STM & OLOMC

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CONSOLIDATION OF ST. THOMAS MORE
AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING & RECOMMENDATION(S)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

Prepared by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Presented by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2012



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING JANUARY 17, 2012

CONSOLIDATION OF ST. THOMAS MORE AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the May 26, 2009 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board approved eleven (11) motions which provided specific system direction and decisions following open, transparent and accountable Pupil Accommodation Reviews in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

The Pupil Accommodation Process was in full compliance with the Ministry of Education *Pupil Accommodation Guidelines*, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board Policy 701.2 – *Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy*.

One of the eleven motions approved on May 26, 2009 is as follows:

“THAT, no sooner than September 2012 and subject to Ministry of Education funding and approval for a new school in the Warren Woods Estate and for an addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School, the closure of St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary School with the students relocated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.”

In the spring of 2011, as part of the continued exploration of pupil accommodation options, Senior Staff provided all Trustees with a Pupil Accommodation Review and Attendance Area Review binder which included the following information:

- Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines
- Niagara Catholic Policy 701.2 – Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input
- Pupil Accommodation Reviews for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary Report
- Student Enrolment, School Utilization, Operating Costs and Projected Enrolment
- Copies of Presentations made by the Public at the Special Board Meetings
- Copies of Correspondence received as of February 10th, 2009
- Copies of Correspondence received between February 10th, 2009 and March 6th 2009
- Copies of the Board Approved Minutes for the three Special Board Meetings
- Niagara Catholic District School Board Approved Motions – May 26th, 2009

Recently, Ministry of Education staff have stated that approval for capital funding for new schools in new developments such as Warren Estates will be given first priority. Ministry staff have also indicated a current opportunity to access Full Day Kindergarten funding for renovation and addition to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in order to consolidate the two schools for the commencement of the Early Learning Full Day Kindergarten Program in September 2013.

As indicated in the November 8, 2011 *Follow-up Report* to the May 26, 2009 Board Meeting (Appendix B), a business case submission from Senior Staff is required. However, Ministry staff have stated that they will only review the business case for funding consideration once the consolidation has been approved by the Board. Senior Staff fully intends to continue the open dialogue with the St. Thomas More Catholic community prior to presenting a Report to the Board on January 31, 2012 and throughout the business case submission process.

Senior Administrative Council recognizes that all options and recommendations affect the lives of our students and their families, as we continue to address the challenges associated with declining enrolment and neighbourhood population shifts.

Should the consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools occur, a seamless transition plan for the students of St. Thomas More Catholic will be implemented as they join a new school community in September 2013.

A conceptual floor plan of the addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is indicated in Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

Prepared by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Presented by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 17, 2012



**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2011**

**SENIOR STAFF FOLLOW-UP REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE MAY 2009 BOARD APPROVED MOTIONS OF THE
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW FOR NIAGARA FALLS
ELEMENTARY, ST. CATHARINES ELEMENTARY AND
ST. CATHARINES SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the May 26th, 2009 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board approved eleven (11) motions (Appendix A) which provided specific system direction and decisions following open, transparent and accountable Pupil Accommodation Reviews in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

The Pupil Accommodation Review process was in full compliance with the Ministry of Education *Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines*, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board Policy 701.2 – *Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy*.

In the spring of 2011, all Trustees were provided with a Pupil Accommodation Review and Attendance Area Review binder which included the following information;

- Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines
- Niagara Catholic Policy 701.2 – Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input
- Pupil Accommodation Reviews for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary Report
- Student Enrolment, School Utilization, Operating Costs and Projected Enrolment
- Copies of Presentations made by the Public at the Special Board Meetings
- Copies of Correspondence received as of February 10th, 2009
- Copies of Correspondence received between February 10th, 2009 and March 6th, 2009
- Copies of the Board Approved Minutes for the three Special Board Meetings
- Niagara Catholic District School Board Approved Motions – May 26th, 2009

Senior Administrative Council has categorized the Board approved motions of May 26th, 2009 as Action, Monitor, Establish or Report as noted below including a follow-up statement on the motion(s):

Action

1. THAT, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School be closed by September 2010 with St. Joseph students relocated through the Attendance Area process to St. Mary, St. Patrick and Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary Schools.

Follow-up – This motion was actioned with the official closure of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls on June 30th, 2010.

2. THAT, no sooner than September 2012 and subject to Ministry of Education funding and approval for a new school in the Warren Woods Estate and for an addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School, the closure of St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary School with the students relocated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

Follow-up – Senior Administrative Council has submitted a business case to the Ministry of Education for funding for an addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School. Ministry of Education funding is required in order to consolidate St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary School with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School, and is subject to development in Warren Woods warranting the construction of a new Catholic elementary school.

3. THAT, Senior Staff will continue to apply to the Ministry of Education for additional funding and to identify other sources of funding in order to provide facility plant upgrades to St. Francis Catholic Secondary School.

Follow-up – Senior Administrative Council continues to dialogue with Ministry of Education officials regarding funding sources for facility upgrades to St. Francis Catholic Secondary School.

4. THAT, Catholic Secondary Schools in St. Catharines will continue to have the opportunity to implement specialized programs providing sufficient student enrolment and Ministry of Education funding and approval.

Follow-up – Since 2009, Catholic Secondary Schools in St. Catharines have implemented Specialist High Skills Major programs in Hospitality, Arts and Culture, Transportation, Construction, Non-Profit, Information and Communication, Environment, Health and Wellness, Manufacturing and Business. Additionally, new programs in Animation, Music, Theatre Art, Dance, Hair and Make up, Manufacturing, and Nutrition have been introduced through centrally budgeted Program Start-Up Funding.

Monitor

5. THAT, over the next five years Senior Staff will monitor student population growth, projections, location and accommodation data in the southern portion of the City of Niagara Falls and if required, apply to the Ministry of Education for capital funding for a new elementary school in the Warren Woods Estate of Niagara Falls.

6. THAT, the Board maintains all three Catholic secondary schools in St. Catharines and monitors the accommodation and utilization of all three Catholic secondary school facilities over the next five years.

Follow-up – Senior Administrative Council continues to monitor all of the variables required within these two motions.

Establish

7. THAT, a Niagara Falls Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board be established in September 2009 to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in Niagara Falls. According to the Board's Attendance Area Policy 301.3, the mandate of the committee will be to recommend to the Board stability within all attendance areas while maximizing facility utilization of all elementary and secondary schools in Niagara Falls.
8. THAT, a St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board be established in September 2009 to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines. According to the Board's Attendance Area Policy 301.3, the mandate of the committee will be to recommend to the Board stability within all attendance areas while maximizing facility utilization of all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines.

Follow-up – At the Annual Organizational Meetings of the Board in December 2009 and 2010, the Niagara Catholic District School Board approved the establishment of the Niagara Falls and St. Catharines Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committees of the Board.

Report

9. THAT, not later than September 2012, a report be brought to the Board on the closure of St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School which would occur no sooner than September 2012. The report will include recommendations on student relocation through the Attendance Area process. The Board will pursue all avenues for a joint venture school with community partners and the Ministry of Education to provide confirmed funding and approval for a new downtown elementary school.
10. THAT, Senior Staff will continue to monitor the possibility of closing Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School and that Senior Staff will bring a report to the Board no later than September 2012.
11. THAT, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School not be consolidated at this time subject to the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review process and recommendations and that Senior Staff continues to monitor enrolment and report back to the Board no later than September 2012.

Follow-up – Senior Administrative Council continues to monitor enrolment in St. Catharines and submits to the Committee of the Whole of November 8th, 2011, for its consideration recommendations as they relate to the May 26th, 2009 Board motions.

With the closure of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls, Senior Administrative Council continues to action, monitor, establish or implement the remaining ten (10) Board approved motions. In doing so, Senior Staff continually focuses and considers the following key factors in the decision making process;

- the continued delivery of Catholic educational excellence aligned with the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, Annual System Priorities and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Board;
- the continuation of fiscal responsibility;
- the continued decline in enrolment which affects school boards throughout Ontario;
- the potential of a slight upward movement in the overall board enrolment over the next decade in some geographic areas within the Board;
- the multiple variables causing increased surplus space;
- the limited facility renewal and capital funds;
- the shifting demographics from neighbourhood schools;
- the increased potential of multiple combined grades; and
- the importance of addressing long term accommodation needs in all schools in Niagara Catholic.

Recommendations

Through a confluence of events including the uncertainty of the financial climate in Ontario, nationally and internationally which may have an impact on available capital funding for school boards, Senior Administrative Council is presenting the following recommendations to the Board in fulfillment of the May 2009 Board approved motions, whereby the Board directs Senior Administrative Council:

1. to continue to implement the May 2009 motions categorized under Action, Monitor and Establish;
2. to design and implement a plan to reduce surplus space usage in all facilities and report to the Board on the specific strategies utilized;
3. to design and implement a plan to reduce cost associated with surplus space in all facilities and report to the Board on the cost reductions;
4. to continue the review of all potential boundary adjustments to minimize specific enrolment pressures in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and present options and recommendations to the standing Ad Hoc Attendance Committees of the Board;
5. to continue to research all potential school organizational options for the consideration of the Board; and,
6. to defer the report timelines within the May 2009 Board motions categorized under Report until no later than December 2012 and that within the report to the Board submit recommendations on the implementation of the May 2009 Board motions as required.

Above all, Senior Administrative Council continues to recognize that all options and recommendations affect the lives of our students and their families, as we continue to address the challenges associated with declining enrolment and neighbourhood population shifts.

The Board and affected communities can be assured that Senior Administrative Council, together with Principals, Vice-Principals, school and Board level staff will continue to work in a collaborative, transparent and open process with all Catholic educational partners in fulfilling the results of the Pupil Accommodation Review process and the May 2009 Board Motions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that the Board directs Senior Administrative Council:

1. to continue to implement the May 2009 motions categorized under Action, Monitor and Establish;
2. to design and implement a plan to reduce surplus space usage in all facilities and report to the Board on the specific strategies utilized;
3. to design and implement a plan to reduce cost associated with surplus space in all facilities and report to the Board on the cost reductions;
4. to continue the review of all potential boundary adjustments to minimize specific enrolment pressures in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and present options and recommendations to the standing Ad Hoc Attendance Committees of the Board;
5. to continue to research all potential school organizational options for the consideration of the Board; and,
6. to defer the report timelines within the May 2009 Board motions categorized under Report until no later than December 2012 and that within the report to the Board submit recommendations on the implementation of the May 2009 Board motions as required.

PREPARED BY: Senior Administrative Council
PRESENTED BY: John Crocco, Director of Education
RECOMMENDED BY: John Crocco, Director of Education
DATE: November 8th, 2011

Attachment

Appendix A – Excerpt from the Approved Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board – Tuesday, May 26th, 2009

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN
AND ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING – JANUARY 24, 2012

- i) AGENDA**
 - ii) MINUTES**
 - iii) BOARD CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING**
-
-

AGENDA



The Niagara Catholic District School Board through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2012

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

MICHAEL J. BRENNAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1. Opening Prayer - *Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education* -
2. Introductions- *Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education* -
3. Overview - *John Crocco, Director of Education* -
4. Report Presentation - *James Woods, Controller of Plant* 4
5. Transition Plan for Consolidation of Schools - *John Crocco, Director of Education* -
6. Open Dialogue -
7. Adjournment -

MINUTES

MICHAEL J. BRENNAN/ST. JAMES COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2012

- 47 people in attendance (Approx. 20 are parents, 2 principals, remaining teachers)
- Yolanda Baldasaro began meeting at 7:05 p.m by leading a prayer. She introduced Kathy Burtnik, Chair of the Board, Trustees Charbonneau and Burkholder, John Crocco, Director, and James Woods, Controller of Plant
- Director of Education, John Crocco, presented an overview of the ARC and PAR process and of the current business case application being made to the Ministry of Education concerning the potential for consolidating Michael J. Brennan with St. James pending funding for construction and renovation at that site for Sept 2013. The Board is considering a motion for possible consolidation at its January 31, 2012 meeting. John explained that parents have the opportunity to send letters and information to John or Kathy before the Board meeting for trustees' consideration and advised of the process to make a delegation to the Board meeting.
- James Woods provided an overview of the report for the potential consolidation of MJB and SJ schools. An initial concept for possible renovations to SJ was presented to the assembly. An addition of three purpose built kindergarten classrooms and renovations to other classrooms as well as site improvements are shown on the conceptual drawing. The potential Ministry funding allocation for this project is estimated to be approximately 1.3 million dollars. James explained the surplus spaces currently in St. Ann and Assumption Schools and the possibility of expanding the boundaries to better utilize those schools.
- John Crocco spoke to the assembly about a potential transition plan for MJB and SJ.
- John solicited feedback from the assembly.
- Daniela Lafrail-MJB parent asked which boundaries are being considered – the boundary plan shown could mean all four schools would change, not just doing things with SJ.
- John explained that the first step is sending the business case to Ministry to consolidate MJB and SJ school buildings. Boundary considerations are not part of business case. Boundary consideration is a different process and a boundary review would be the next step after the funding is secured. John provided information regarding Ad Hoc committees for boundary changes in different parts of St. Catharines.
- Justine Carpenter-MJB parent – Changing the boundaries after the fact seems backwards, a lot of people would be ticked off if they are put together then moved around. What would happen if construction is not completed by September 2013? There is no mention of portables at the new SJ site.
- John advised that we still have MJB site to accommodate students if necessary. No portables are proposed. Potentially there could be portables down the road, depending on enrolment.
- Parent: MJB has small class sizes, what are the expected class sizes at SJ – we don't like the idea of our kids getting lost in the shuffle.

- John confirmed that the success of our students, in partnership with parents is based on the excellence in Catholic education delivered daily by our talented staff and lead by our exemplary Principals in schools throughout Niagara Catholic and specifically at MJB and SJ as represented by staff here tonight.
- Parent: Will the current teachers at MJB move to SJ?
- John: Staff and Human Resources will provide a process regarding movement to school sites and positions. There will be an open dialogue with staff to determine what the placements will be.
- Parent: What happens if the Board or Ministry do not approve recommendations for funding?
- John: We will go back and reconsider our options with senior staff. The Board could use other funds.
- Parent: What will happen to the other half of MJB?
- John: There is a provincial process in place, we may need the building until November before we vacate, and then offer to coterminous Board, they have 90 days to review.
- Kim, MJB parent: I have a child currently attending MJB and I have another child who would be starting JK in September. It is a critical year, what do you suggest?
- John: Enrol your child in the MJB school community so that classmates will transition together. When we closed St. Joseph School in Niagara Falls, we heard from concerned parents after the closure who told us that their children were not as anxious as they thought they would be. The transition plan is important.
- Parent: Will daycare be available?
- John: Daycare will continue as per our current process.
- Bianca, parent: How many classrooms are there currently at St. James? How will 150 MJB students fit into the new SJ site?
- James: There are 7 classrooms, 2 kindergarten rooms and 3 portables used as classrooms. The proposal is based on consolidation and consideration of boundary changes. There will have to be 13 classrooms and 3 kindergarten rooms for all the MJB students to fit at the St. James site.
- Bianca: Can this concept of proposing a different concept be brought forward to the Board – to accommodate all of the students from MJB into the SJ site?
- James: Yes.
- Kathy Burtnik: Trustees will be asking questions about the business case. We have not engaged in any discussion about the business case with staff. We want to know if the business case goes forward will it tie our hands? Your question will be asked, the Board will not make its decision based on silent assumptions. Right now, the only motion is consolidation of MJB and SJ. It makes sense from an enrolment point of view. We are not going to tie together; we have a real and transparent process. We have an open process for redesigning boundaries; it is a different conversation than what is being considered about a consolidation. Moe, myself and Rhianon are here and will bring your concerns forward.
- Justine, parent: Mr. Woods said that the proposal considers boundary changes. Mrs. Burtnik said that the boundary changes are a different process.

- John: This is one scenario that has been presented. One issue is MJB and SJ consolidation, boundary changes is a different process; this is one of the concepts.
- Parent: Do you need MJB to amalgamate with SJ to get the funding?
- John: Funding is available from Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten funding. The recommendation is for consolidation of schools. The proposal shown by Mr. Woods is a concept; we may need to ask for additional funding.
- Parent: Does the current design accommodate all of the students from MJB into SJ?
- James: We would need to add six additional classrooms.
- Parent: Will the Ministry be given the student enrolment numbers?
- John: This motion going forward does not have anything to do with changing boundaries it is for the consolidation of school buildings, that is a different process.
- Parent: How will the classes be amalgamated between both schools – are you going to mix up the MJB and SJ kids?
- John: We are very sensitive to the needs of the students and will blend as best we can. During the transition staff will talk and make the best decisions.
- Parent: Students who are currently out of bounds, will they be able to continue at SJ?
- John: If out of boundary has been granted, then students can continue to attend per our Board policy. If there is a reason for a change, parents are always notified by April the year before.
- Parent: If you do change boundaries, will students be able to finish off in the school they started in?
- John: Decisions will be determined as per attendance area review process; usually changes in boundaries come into effect the next school year.
- Tammy, SJ parent: My children go to St. James, what happens if the construction is not finished in September 2013?
- John: We will provide programs at either MJB or SJ and during the construction process we will be creative to accommodate student programming.
- Tammy: What is the anticipated start date for construction?
- James: We haven't planned that far yet, there is a process. We would probably begin during March break and finish by the middle of August.
- Danielle, parent: What would be the name of the school?
- John: Traditionally, we keep the name of the site that is being renovated, in this case SJ, but we would recognize MJB in some manner such as naming the library information centre after MJB. We ask for parental input from MJB about how to amalgamate into SJ
- Danielle: Is there a concern about losing students to the public school board?
- John: We hope that if a parent has a concern, that they will contact the school principal, family of schools superintendent, director or trustees.

- Jerry, parent: Your proposed plan being submitted for renovation will not hold all the kids, you guys are in it for the money, and are doing this all backwards. You should design a school to hold all of the MJB kids.
- John: This is a draft concept, we have a limited amount of funding and we must look at the entire Board. Our opportunity now is due to ELKP funding that is available. We went through the ARC process and the decision was made to continue to review, and there was always the potential to consolidate. The Ministry said that there was a window and we thought it would be prudent to apply. If they say no, the Board could decide to use other funds.
- Parent: The plan should have been proposed for a school to hold all of the students from MJB and SJ.
- John: We have neighbouring areas with surplus space; it would be irresponsible of us not to look at our fiscal responsibility. We can't say we are open, honest and engage parents if we don't go through this process.
- Danielle, parent: Can we get a copy of the slide show?
- John: The presentation will be posted as a PDF on the Board website tomorrow morning.
- Justine, parent: When the ARC review happened in 2009 were there plans developed for school buildings?
- John: No, there were no plans at the time. The mandate was to look at the accommodation of our students. Now the Board is looking at how we will implement.
- Parent: If you did not get information about being able to apply for money, would the consolidation be brought forward so quickly?
- John: Probably not.
- Parent: Can you apply for funding without the amalgamation of two schools?
- John: No, the Ministry knew about surplus spaces and the potential of consolidation. The motion has to be attached to the business case.

John concluded the meeting at 8:55 p.m. by thanking everyone for their input and advising that staff and trustees would remain to answer questions or send an email to John or Kathy. All comments will be shared with the rest of the Board. Communities will be notified of the Board decision and any Ministry approvals.

**BOARD CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING**

**CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
RECEIVED JANUARY 25, 2012**

*From
James Craig*

Hello Kathy and Moe,

I hope all is well! I am contacting you as the father of two children who attend Michael J. Brennan Elementary. My son Michael is nine and in grade 4, and my daughter Molly is seven and in grade 2. Both are proud members of the MJB community. Each has flourished at the school, and been given so many opportunities to grow there. My wife Krissy and I are thankful that MJB has been the foundation for our children.

While we are extremely disappointed that MJB is going to close, we understand the "business" of closing this school and moving them into St. James. For Michael he is leaving MJB a year earlier. He will finish grade 5 at MJB then be moving to St. James for grades 6, 7 and 8. Molly will be moving after her grade 3 year. Both children are prepared for this move, and infact in someways looking forward to the new friends, teachers and environment. They have always known they would move on to St. James for grade 7 and 8, so it is not a complete shock to them.

This brings me to my major concern. At the meeting last night at MJB, the discussion turned to boundaries. It was indicated that not all MJB students would be able to move to St. James and infact some would have to attend St. Ann's in Port Dalhousie. It seemed as if Lake Street would be the boundary and all the students who live in the subdivision behind the "Bugsy's" plaza would be moved to St. Ann's. I am concerned because that is where we live. We live about 1 block from MJB, and much closer to St. James then to St. Ann's. That combined with that fact that my children are ok with the move to St. James because they expected it eventually and because they will have their basis of friends at St. James makes me ask was the boundary discussion accurate? It is of real concern to my family and I am hoping you can ease our minds regarding it. If you have an opportunity to get back to me, I would appreciate it.

Thank You.

Jim Craig
Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School
PE Department

**CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN
AND ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
RECEIVED JANUARY 26, 2012**

**From
Sue Abernathy**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I understand dwindling school enrolment has forced the Board to make some difficult decisions in the past.

Last week a letter was sent home with my children from Yolanda Baldasaro stating the Committee of the Whole was recommending the Board approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan with St. James Catholic School. In the same correspondence, an invitation for a community information evening was extended.

Knowing MJB was to be continually monitored and watching our school's population slowly start to shrink, myself and many other parents knew consolidation with St. James was inevitable for our MJB community.

Like many other parents at MJB, prior commitments prevented me from attending the information evening – which proved to be quite informative indeed.

Tonight I viewed the presentation featured at the information evening presented by John Crocco on January 24th. I fully expected to see the plans to renovate and construct an addition to St. James Catholic Elementary School in order to accommodate the displaced students of Michael J. Brennan, but I did not expect to see this.

Maps of proposed boundary adjustments illustrating the west side of Lake St., directly opposite Michael J. Brennan, were to fall under St. Ann's jurisdiction. Students residing at 691 Lake St. would, under the proposed boundary adjustments, have to travel 3.8 km to another school, instead of the 18 seconds it would take for students to cross the street to MJB located at 690 Lake St.

Although in Yolanda's letter she states:

"As part of Niagara Catholic's continued open and transparent communication with our school communities, we are extending an invitation to all parents/guardians to attend a information meeting... regarding the recommended consolidation of the Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic School communities."

No mention of boundary adjustments on this correspondence. This by my definition is not transparent at all.

Also the document featured on the Board's website regarding the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools states on page 3:

"Should the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools occur, a seamless transition plan for the students of Michael J. Brennan Catholic will be implemented as they join a new school community in September 2013."

The proposed boundary adjustments outlined in the presentation would affect more than one third of the students currently attending MJB. I know it will not be "seamless" for the 50+ students who will not move to St. James with their classmates. There will also be approximately 15 students currently attending St. James who will no longer live within the proposed boundary adjustments and will be uprooted and expected to leave their school to attend Assumption.

As CSC chairperson of MJB, how am I to explain the information that was presented Tuesday evening to the parents of the children who will not be making this "seamless transition" to St. James when the letter/invitation sent home only stated in the recommendation the consolidation of the two schools?

I ask you to consider the recommendation made by the Committee of the Whole to approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools without the review of boundary adjustments for three years.

If we must all leave, let us leave together.

Sincerely,

Sue Abernethy,

Chairperson, MJB Catholic School Council

**CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
RECEIVED JANUARY 27, 2012**

*From
Anna Tripodi*

Dear Mr. Crocco,

I am respectfully writing this letter to you as both a parent & co-chair of St. James Catholic School. I have two children, ages 8 & 11, who currently attend St. James Catholic School. Our home was originally within the boundary to attend St. James, until our Aug. 2007 move. My eldest son was well rooted within the school and we were granted Board permission to remain at St. James, with the condition that I provide daily transportation to and from school. I am COMMITTED to the Catholic School System, with all that it embodies, and with everything that it has provided my boys and our family. We have grown extremely close to our school community, and as such, view the staff and educators at our school as members of our family!

On Friday Jan. 20th my boys returned from school very excited to share a letter that was sent home about the motion to, finally, consolidate St. James Catholic School with Michael J. Brennan Catholic School. As co-chair and Catholic School Council member for the past 6 years I am well aware of the building blocks that have been established to ease and foster a positive relationship for everyone, in order to transition the children into our school in Grade seven (i.e. Faith Formation, Grade 7 Detention, joint masses). As a parent, I was equally excited to see our school family grow even stronger as one united Catholic community.

On Jan. 24th I attended an information meeting held at Michael J Brennan to show my support for the upcoming amalgamation of our two school communities. I was SHOCKED to learn, as were many other parents, of the plans for consolidation between schools included a change of boundaries! How was this decision made with such lack of community participation & feedback?

I believe this will have a significantly negative impact on both of the schools we have worked so hard to move towards one community.

The meeting left me scared & very confused as to the future of my boys within the Catholic School System.

I ask that the Board reconsider the new boundaries, and work to devise a plan that will see the amalgamation through to fruition WITHOUT changes to boundaries, as was originally promised in the Boards original recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Tripodi
St. James Co-Chair

**CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
RECEIVED JANUARY 27, 2012**

<i>Sue Abernathy</i> <i>Michael J. Brennan Chair</i>	From <i>Anna Tripodi</i> <i>St. James Co-Chair</i>	<i>Sabina Nesbit</i> <i>St. James Co-Chair</i>
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Dear Ms. Kathy Burtnik and Mr. John Crocco,

As members of the Niagara Catholic family, we would like our letter to be presented and read to the Board of Trustees during the Board meeting on Tuesday January 31st, 2012. Please ensure that it is included in the public minutes.

We expect the motion to go forward as presented, to consolidate our two communities St. James Catholic Elementary School and Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School. We would like the board to put forth the business case WITHOUT any boundary change, as consolidation means everyone coming together under one roof. We are well aware that this will include a slightly larger addition to St. James than the concept presented to us. As a community we have come accustomed to a school site which includes portable classrooms. It is fair and reasonable that portables would be present at the St. James site. Clearly the current site size has more than enough space to house these changes.

The invitation to the Community Information meeting held at Michael J Brennan on Tuesday January 24th 2012 only spoke to the consolidation of one Community to another which we fully support. It did not address the impact that the business case will have families unaware of the potential shifts in boundaries. We were clearly informed of a consolidation of 2 schools. St. James and Michael J Brennan Communities are both willing and accepting of the consolidation. Our definition of a consolidation is the amalgamation of Michael J Brennan and St. James School communities as population presently exists. A consolidation will fully maintain existing boundaries exactly as they exist at present with no boundary reviews. Furthermore, we would expect that there will not be any boundary reviews for a minimum of 3 years after the consolidation and any future boundary review suggestions should follow the board policy.

Following the minutes from the ARC meetings, we know that the following schools were involved: St. Nicholas, St. Denis, Our Lady of Fatima, St. James and Michael J. Brennan. Assumption and St. Ann were not part of this review. Our understanding of this committee is that only schools involved can be a part of the consolidation, closure and related boundary changes. Our Catholic School Councils are under the understanding that the Attendance Area Review Committee has not had a meeting since 2009. The lack of involvement and communication with Michael J Brennan and St. James parents proves neglectful of following the Board policies.

The statement of Policy states: *The Board acknowledges that there may be changes to school attendance areas from time to time, to accommodate the changing demographics of the region and as schools open or close. Changes to school attendance areas will follow a **public consultation process**.*

Upon reviewing the motion to consolidate St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Mount Carmel schools in Niagara Falls, clearly shows their boundaries remain intact. We, as 2 schools representing one community expect the same.

In closing, we are asking that you respect the integrity of the original recommendation as written:

THAT the committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools at the St. James site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to St. James Catholic Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic School Councils,

<i>Sue Abernathy</i> <i>Michael J. Brennan Chair</i>	<i>Anna Tripodi</i> <i>St. James Co-Chair</i>	<i>Sabina Nesbit</i> <i>St. James Co-Chair</i>
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**CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
RECEIVED JANUARY 27, 2012**

From

John Freel & Danuela Freel

Dear Ms Kathy Burtnik and Mr John Crocco:

Thank you very much for the invitation to the Community Information Meeting on Tuesday January 24th at MJB.

My Husband John and I attended the meeting and are concerned with the potential boundarie changes.

We have 3 Boys at Michael J. Brennan. Connor in Grade 5, Nolan Grade 1 and Gavin in SK. We very much support the consolidation of the 2 communities since our oldest son will be attending St.James in Septmeber 2013 for Grade 7. The consolidation now allows our 2 Younger children to attend the same school. Our advantage is to have all 3 of our children at the same school.

Connor and his classmates have been talking alot recently about this new consolidation and have many questions. We have been comforting our Children by letting them know that they will be together with their classmates that they have been with since Junior Kindergarten.

The potential Boundary change has not been adressed nor has there been any public consultation regarding this review.

We fully support the Catholic School System, the funding of the Addition and renovation of St.James and the consolidation of our two communities.

John Freel & Danuela Freel

CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING RECEIVED JANUARY 27, 2012

*From
Justine Carpenter*

Dear Ms. Kathy Burtnik and Mr. John Crocco,

As a member of the Niagara Catholic family, I would like this letter to be presented to the Board of Trustees during the Board meeting on Tuesday January 31st, 2012. Please ensure that it is included in the public minutes.

As a parent of two students who attend Michael J. Brennan, we were invited to attend the Community Information meeting held at Michael J Brennan on Tuesday January 24th 2012. The information regarding this meeting sent home from the school indicated we would review information about the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James schools. Much to my surprise and the shock of other parents in attendance, we were informed that not only was the School Board planning on closing Michael J. Brennan, but they were going to be changing the school boundaries in order to accommodate this 'consolidation'. The original recommendation put forth to the Committee of the Whole on December 2, 2008 clearly states:

"that the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan with St. James Catholic Elementary School takes place not prior to September 2010, and not prior to an addition/renovation and the completion of facility renewal needs to St. James to accommodate the enrolment."

In this recommendation there clearly is no mention of boundary changes. The addition to St. James School is clearly marked to accommodate the entire enrollment from Michael J. Brennan. It does not take into account anything but the whole consolidation of Michael J Brennan into St. James. If you look up the definition of consolidation, you will find it reads:

"the act of combining things to form a new whole, consolidating two or more things; union in (or into) one body".

At the meeting held on Tuesday January 24, 2012, I raised the question – if the Ministry had not made the deadline for the funding for the FDK now, would the Board even be looking at this consolidation at this moment. And the answer was 'no'. Too often decisions are made on a rushed basis, only to find mistakes have been made after the fact. These are our children we are talking about, and mistakes cannot be made when it comes to their wellbeing. We have invested too much time into their education, and lives to have an outside party make a rushed and uninformed decision on their behalf.

We understand that the Board has to look at the financial restrictions of running schools that are under capacity. We understand that the consolidation between Michael J Brennan and St. James School was a serious recommendation. However, not once was it mentioned that the boundaries were going to be changed in order to facilitate this. My two children are deeply upset that their school will be closing. They enjoy the school immensely, enjoy being known by all the teachers and students who attend, but to tell them that their best friends from Junior Kindergarten will not be making the move to St. James with them is too much. My son was in tears at this thought. And it is my job and duty as his parent to stand up for him and make this right.

The Board is not being transparent in their actions when they presented this motion of the consolidation of the two schools. The timing is too fast and doesn't allow for all parties to be considered fairly and equally. It does not allow for the true meaning of the word consolidation to take place as it was originally recommended in 2008. We accept that the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James School will occur, but we will NOT accept any boundary changes in order to facilitate this consolidation.

Thank you for your time. I expect that every effort will be made in order to follow the original recommendation of consolidating Michael J. Brennan and St. James School, under one renovated and accommodating roof for all to be at the same school.

Justine Carpenter

Mother to Cole and Brooke, students of Michael J. Brennan

**CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING
RECEIVED JANUARY 27, 2012**

From

Bianca and Paul Perron

The Niagara Catholic School Board,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposal of consolidation or amalgamation of Michael J. Brennan school with St. James school. I am well aware of the predicament that the Niagara Catholic Board is in, of having so many very small schools in St. Catharines with such low enrolment. I am on board with the proposed consolidation of the two schools. I feel that the community of Michael J Brennan school and St. James schools can work together with the Niagara Catholic School board to come up with a plan that is a just fit for both the board and the communities. If we work as a team to bring together the Niagara Catholic board and the communities at stake I feel that we will find a fair answer to the problems brought to our attention.

As a parent of a Michael J Brennan student I feel that the Catholic schools offer a wonderful learning environment for my children and I support the Catholic Board in all endeavours to make a successful learning environment for the children involved. I understand from a business perspective that it would be ludicrous to allow a school to stay open when the enrolment numbers are so low. I agree that we need to make a change !! All that we as a community are asking is that we use a small amount of compassion in our decision making. We are taught as catholic parents to be compassionate in our everyday lives and I feel that as outstanding Catholic citizens we need to put this virtue into practice when making decisions about the future of our Catholic students and the communities to which they are involved.

Please see that it is our wish to work with the Catholic board as team players to follow through on the amalgamation/consolidation of Michael J Brennan to St. James school without affecting the boundaries of the students involved for at least three years.

As the bible teaches us it takes a village to raise a child and the Michael J Brennan and St. James families have been the two villages that have worked together to produce outstanding Catholic citizens for St. Catharines for many years. All that we are asking is that we keep these two villages/communities together to continue with the success they have produced already!!

I appreciate the time you have taken to read my letter!!

Sincerely and May God Bless

Bianca and Paul Perron
Concerned Michael J Brennan Parents

CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING RECEIVED JANUARY 27, 2012

*From
Wayne Wilton*

Dear Ms. Kathy Burtnik and Mr. John Crocco,

Thank you for your information that was provided on January 24, 2012, unfortunately I was unable to attend. Thanks to the parent council committee of Michael J Brennan and St. James we were able to meet and review the slides from this meeting and share in our thoughts regarding the upcoming proposed changes. It is clearly understood that the two named schools will be consolidating in near future. It is also understood that there is an opportunity to secure funding for a new addition that would be based on acquiring ministry funding for the ELK program. As a business person and a parent in the community I understand that change is necessary and support both the plan to acquire ministry funding and to consolidate our two schools (Michael J Brennan and St. James) that reside in the same demographic area. Unfortunately with inadequate demographic explanations and illogical reasoning it has come to my knowledge that school boundary changes were also suggested at this meeting. I as the other parent find this both offensive and unacceptable. I would like a to see a public review of the persons responsible for such suggestions and the LOGICAL basis in which these ideas were formed! I feel they have blatantly disregarded the communities involved and are overlooking the natural demographic boundaries involved. To be specific in my case my two boys currently attend Michael Brenan and would be required to attend St. Annes in port Dalhousie. Again I understand that over time that change is necessary as demographics change and opportunities for additional programs and funding become available. My boys have had a great experience with the school system and carry a kind regard to the staff that keep these building running. The issue I have with this scenario is that it seems that these suggested boundaries did not take into consideration bussing, walking and the children's desire to continue their education with their peer that they have spent their last several years with. If the boundary changes made sense I may not be so offended by the suggestions, unfortunately they do not and I have no interest in my children walking through port Dalhousie to return home. I do understand that children are resilient and would probably manage just fine after some time and make new friends. The way I see It is that the suggested demographic boundaries to not appear to fall within the same area? Do you follow? I have not met these trustee members or the director/ treasurer or the person responsible for the designs of these schools. But I would recommend as often done in contracting that these proposals be carried out by outside member's as from what I see is there is a poor track record for adapting to the demographics and building quality schools. When examining the proposed design of St. James I quickly noticed one set of washrooms for all students!! The addition also included a demolition of area that could probably be well used if a quality architect were to be consulted. I feel that often when a system or body employs an internal person responsible for the complete design you end up with classrooms without windows! And schools with one washroom. I hope that you will take my thoughts into consideration and understand that I am pleased with the education process but displeased with those who make such suggested changes with apparently no sensitivity to the communities parents and students.

In conclusion I fully support the additions to St.James school for the purpose of acquiring funding for the ELK program. I aslo support the consolidation of Michael J.Brenan and St.James schools. I believe with a WELL planned out design St.James (portables are acceptable and efficient ways of adapting) would be capable of blending the populations and acquiring the ELK program simultaneously. I request that once this change is made that no further BOUNDARY ideas be withheld for 3 years to allow the community to adapt. The suggested boundary changes are foolish and illogical and I strongly disagree. The designer of the schools thus far has proven himself inept and the job should be contracted out(These are our children not inmates puts some skylights in!!!). I'm sure your architect looks out the window as he

designs these schools and renovations. Further two sets of washrooms will be required if any payment has been made to the proposed design I say you are wasting our money GET another opinion! Please.

Please understand that you have offended the members of this school community. But if highly paid people are not doing their jobs and making rash decisions affecting many people without due consideration then change your people! We are merely looking to ensure a quality education in a quality environment and the oppourtunity for our children to complete their education together.

Thank you

Wayne Wilton

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CLOSURE OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN
CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, subject to Ministry of Education funding, the closure of Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School by September 2014;

THAT, subject to Ministry of Education funding, students attending Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools as of February 1st, 2012 be grandfathered, including siblings, until completion of Grade 8 at the St. James Catholic Elementary School site commencing September, 2014;

THAT, in compliance with Board Policy 301.1 Admission of Students, effective February 1st, 2012 out of boundary requests will not be granted for Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools based on current or revised attendance area boundaries;

THAT, the St. Catharines Attendance Area Review Ad Hoc Committee be directed to commence deliberation and public consultation on revised attendance area boundaries for defined areas of St. Catharines and provide a report and recommendations to the Board no later than June 2012;

THAT, revised attendance area boundaries for Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools, excluding students grandfathered as of February 1st, 2012, will be in effect for the September identified by the St. Catharines Attendance Area Review Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Board.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education
James Woods, Controller of Plant

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
James Woods, Controller of Plant

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: January 31, 2012



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING OF TUESDAY JANUARY 31, 2012

CLOSURE OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the January 17th, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting, a presentation was made to Trustees entitled Pupil Accommodation and Attendance Area Exploration Phases. The presentation provided a number of options under exploratory consideration by Senior Administrative Council to implement specific decisions as approved by Board motions on May 26th, 2009. The motions followed an open, transparent and accountable Pupil Accommodation Reviews in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines which were in full compliance with the Ministry of Education *Pupil Accommodation Guidelines*, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board Policy 701.2 – *Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy*.

One of the eleven motions approved on May 26th, 2009 was:

“THAT, Senior Staff will continue to monitor the possibility of closing Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School and that Senior Staff will bring a report to the Board no later than September 2012”

Following continuous deliberations within Senior Administrative Council, on November 8th, 2011 the Board approved the following motion:

“to defer the report timelines within the May 2009 Board motions categorized under ‘Report’ no later than December 2012 and that within the report to the Board submit recommendations on the implementation of the May 2009 Board motions as required.”

As reported to the Committee of the Whole on January 17th, 2012, in late December 2011 Ministry of Education staff indicated to Board staff that an opportunity was available for Niagara Catholic to apply for Full Day Kindergarten funding for renovations and an addition to St. James Catholic Elementary School commencing September 2013. Ministry staff indicated that the Board would be required to submit two requirements for funding consideration; (1) a Board motion to confirm the closure of Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School; and (2) a business case outlining the specifics of the funding requirements. For the consideration of funding, both the Board motion and the business case would be required to be submitted to the Ministry of Education by January 31st, 2012.

As a result of the funding information and the potential for Niagara Catholic to receive Ministry of Education funding for an addition and renovations to St. James Catholic Elementary School, on January 17th, 2012, the Committee of the Whole approved the following motion:

“THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools at the St. James site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for the renovation and addition to St. James Catholic School.”

Given that Senior Administrative Council and the Board recognizes that all options and recommendations affect the lives of our students and their families as it continues to address the challenges associated with declining enrolment and neighbourhood population shifts, it was decided to continue our open and transparent process and invite families of both Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary School communities to a Community Information Evening on January 24th, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to share the most recent information with the communities, illustrate a conceptual renovation and addition to St. James Catholic (Appendix A) and to engage those in attendance in an open dialogue prior to the Board considering the recommendation from the Committee of the Whole at the January 31st, 2012 Board Meeting.

As stated at the Community Information Meeting, to ensure that the Board was informed of the feedback from the January 24th, 2012 meeting, families were invited by the Director of Education to either delegate to the Board or forward correspondence to either the Chair of the Board or the Director of Education by noon on Friday, January 27th, 2012 to be included with the January 31st, 2012 Board Agenda. A copy of the agenda, minutes and correspondence received by noon on Friday, January 27th, 2012 were provided to the Board and are located in Section 3.3.1 of the January 31st, 2012 Board Agenda.

In consideration of the feedback received through the public consultation process at the Michael J. Brennan / St. James Catholic Elementary School Community Information Evening coupled with the opportunity for Niagara Catholic to apply for Ministry of Education funding for an addition and renovations to St. James Catholic Elementary School and in compliance with the key factors in the decision making process as shared with the communities (Appendix B), Senior Administrative Council is recommending to the Board the following;

- a) Subject to Ministry of Education funding, the closure of Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School by September 2014;
- b) Subject to Ministry of Education funding, students attending Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools as of February 1st, 2012 be grandfathered, including siblings, until completion of Grade 8 at the St. James Catholic Elementary School site commencing September, 2014;
- c) In compliance with Board Policy 301.1 Admission of Students, effective February 1st, 2012 out of boundary requests will not be granted for Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools based on current or revised attendance area boundaries;
- d) Direct the St. Catharines Attendance Area Review Ad Hoc Committee to commence deliberation and public consultation on revised attendance area boundaries for defined areas of St. Catharines and provide a report and recommendations to the Board no later than June 2012;
- e) Revised attendance area boundaries for Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools, excluding students grandfathered as of February 1st, 2012, will be in effect for the September identified by the St. Catharines Attendance Area Review Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Board.

Should the Board receive the required Ministry of Education funding and close Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School by September 2014, school and board staff will design a transition plan for the students and staff of Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT, subject to Ministry of Education funding, the closure of Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School by September 2014;

THAT, subject to Ministry of Education funding, students attending Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools as of February 1st, 2012 be grandfathered, including siblings, until completion of Grade 8 at the St. James Catholic Elementary School site commencing September, 2014;

THAT, in compliance with Board Policy 301.1 Admission of Students, effective February 1st, 2012 out of boundary requests will not be granted for Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools based on current or revised attendance area boundaries;

THAT, the St. Catharines Attendance Area Review Ad Hoc Committee be directed to commence deliberation and public consultation on revised attendance area boundaries for defined areas of St. Catharines and provide a report and recommendations to the Board no later than June 2012;

THAT, revised attendance area boundaries for Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools, excluding students grandfathered as of February 1st, 2012, will be in effect for the September identified by the St. Catharines Attendance Area Review Ad Hoc Committee and approved by the Board.

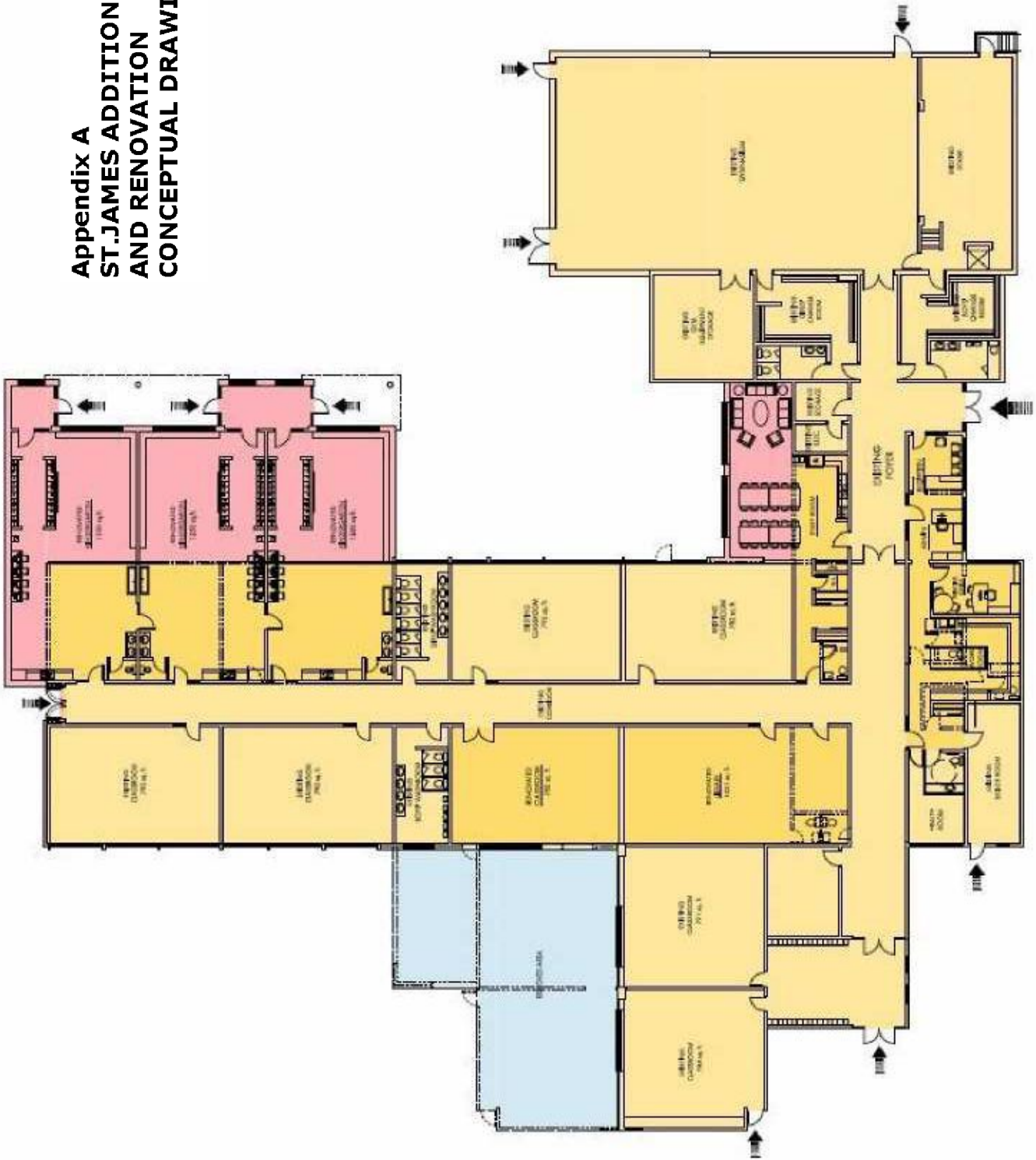
Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education
James Woods, Controller of Plant

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
James Woods, Controller of Plant

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: Tuesday January 31st, 2012

Appendix A
ST. JAMES ADDITION
AND RENOVATION
CONCEPTUAL DRAWING





NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

KEY FACTORS IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- the continued delivery of Catholic educational excellence aligned with the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, Annual System Priorities and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Board,
- the continuation of fiscal responsibility,
- the continued decline in enrolment,
- the potential of a slight upward movement in the overall board enrolment over the next decade in some geographic areas of the board,
- the multiple variables causing increased surplus space,
- the limited facility renewal and capital funds,
- the shifting demographics from neighbourhood schools,
- the increased potential of multiple combined grades, and
- the importance of addressing long term accommodation needs in all schools in Niagara Catholic.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN
AND ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING & RECOMMENDATION(S)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools at the St. James site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to St. James Catholic Elementary School.

Prepared by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Presented by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2012



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING JANUARY 17, 2012

CONSOLIDATION OF MICHAEL J. BRENNAN AND ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

At the May 26, 2009 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board approved eleven (11) motions which provided specific system direction and decisions following open, transparent and accountable Pupil Accommodation Reviews in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

The Pupil Accommodation Process was in full compliance with the Ministry of Education *Pupil Accommodation Guidelines*, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board Policy 701.2 – *Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy*.

One of the eleven motions approved on May 26, 2009 is as follows:

“THAT, Senior Staff will continue to monitor the possibility of closing Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School and that Senior Staff will bring a report to the Board no later than September 2012”

In the spring of 2011, as part of the continued exploration of pupil accommodation options, Senior Staff provided all Trustees with a Pupil Accommodation Review and Attendance Area Review binder which included the following information:

- Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines
- Niagara Catholic Policy 701.2 – Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input
- Pupil Accommodation Reviews for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary Report
- Student Enrolment, School Utilization, Operating Costs and Projected Enrolment
- Copies of Presentations made by the Public at the Special Board Meetings
- Copies of Correspondence received as of February 10th, 2009
- Copies of Correspondence received between February 10th, 2009 and March 6th 2009
- Copies of the Board Approved Minutes for the three Special Board Meetings
- Niagara Catholic District School Board Approved Motions – May 26th, 2009

On November 8, 2011 the Board approved: (Appendix B)

“to defer the report timelines within the May 2009 Board motions categorized under ‘Report’ no later than December 2012 and that within the report to the Board submit recommendations on the implementation of the May 2009 Board motions as required.”

The deferral was due to an uncertainty of funding availability for the necessary renovation and expansion to St. James Catholic Elementary School to incorporate the Michael J. Brennan students, and the need for the continued exploration of accommodation options by Senior Administrative Council.

Recently, Ministry of Education staff have indicated an opportunity to access Full Day Kindergarten funding for renovation and addition to St. James Catholic, in order to consolidate the two schools for the commencement of the Early Learning Full Day Kindergarten Program in September 2013.

A business case submission to the Ministry of Education from Senior Staff will be required. However, Ministry staff have stated that they will only review the business case for funding consideration once the consolidation has been approved by the Board. Senior Staff fully intends to continue the open dialogue with the Michael J. Brennan Catholic community prior to presenting a Report to the Board on January 31, 2012 and throughout the business case submission process.

Senior Administrative Council recognizes that all options and recommendations affect the lives of our students and their families, as we continue to address the challenges associated with declining enrolment and neighbourhood population shifts.

Should the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools occur, a seamless transition plan for the students of Michael J. Brennan Catholic will be implemented as they join a new school community in September 2013.

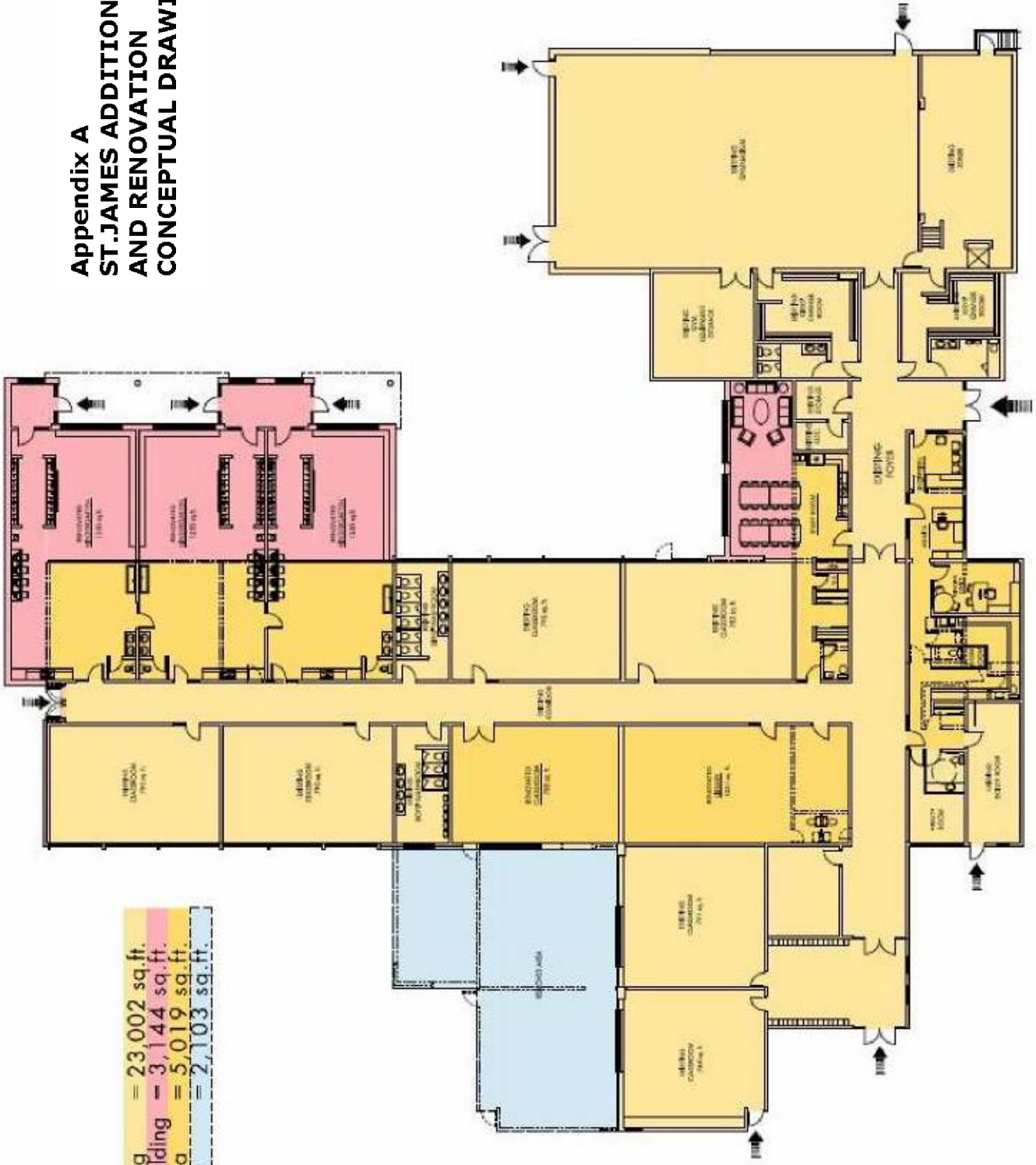
A conceptual floor plan of the addition and renovations to St. James Catholic is indicated in Appendix

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of Michael J. Brennan and St. James Catholic Elementary Schools at the St. James site for September 2013, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovation and addition to St. James Catholic Elementary School.

Prepared by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Presented by: James Woods, Controller of Plant
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 17, 2012

Appendix A ST.JAMES ADDITION AND RENOVATION CONCEPTUAL DRAWING





**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2011**

**SENIOR STAFF FOLLOW-UP REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE MAY 2009 BOARD APPROVED MOTIONS OF THE
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW FOR NIAGARA FALLS
ELEMENTARY, ST. CATHARINES ELEMENTARY AND
ST. CATHARINES SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the May 26th, 2009 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board approved eleven (11) motions (Appendix A) which provided specific system direction and decisions following open, transparent and accountable Pupil Accommodation Reviews in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines.

The Pupil Accommodation Review process was in full compliance with the Ministry of Education *Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines*, and the Niagara Catholic District School Board Policy 701.2 – *Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy*.

In the spring of 2011, all Trustees were provided with a Pupil Accommodation Review and Attendance Area Review binder which included the following information;

- Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines
- Niagara Catholic Policy 701.2 – Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009
- Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input
- Pupil Accommodation Reviews for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary Report
- Student Enrolment, School Utilization, Operating Costs and Projected Enrolment
- Copies of Presentations made by the Public at the Special Board Meetings
- Copies of Correspondence received as of February 10th, 2009
- Copies of Correspondence received between February 10th, 2009 and March 6th, 2009
- Copies of the Board Approved Minutes for the three Special Board Meetings
- Niagara Catholic District School Board Approved Motions – May 26th, 2009

Senior Administrative Council has categorized the Board approved motions of May 26th, 2009 as Action, Monitor, Establish or Report as noted below including a follow-up statement on the motion(s):

Action

1. **THAT**, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School be closed by September 2010 with St. Joseph students relocated through the Attendance Area process to St. Mary, St. Patrick and Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary Schools.

***Follow-up** – This motion was actioned with the official closure of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls on June 30th, 2010.*

2. **THAT**, no sooner than September 2012 and subject to Ministry of Education funding and approval for a new school in the Warren Woods Estate and for an addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School, the closure of St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary School with the students relocated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.

***Follow-up** – Senior Administrative Council has submitted a business case to the Ministry of Education for funding for an addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School. Ministry of Education funding is required in order to consolidate St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary School with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School, and is subject to development in Warren Woods warranting the construction of a new Catholic elementary school.*

3. **THAT**, Senior Staff will continue to apply to the Ministry of Education for additional funding and to identify other sources of funding in order to provide facility plant upgrades to St. Francis Catholic Secondary School.

***Follow-up** – Senior Administrative Council continues to dialogue with Ministry of Education officials regarding funding sources for facility upgrades to St. Francis Catholic Secondary School.*

4. **THAT**, Catholic Secondary Schools in St. Catharines will continue to have the opportunity to implement specialized programs providing sufficient student enrolment and Ministry of Education funding and approval.

***Follow-up** – Since 2009, Catholic Secondary Schools in St. Catharines have implemented Specialist High Skills Major programs in Hospitality, Arts and Culture, Transportation, Construction, Non- Profit, Information and Communication, Environment, Health and Wellness, Manufacturing and Business. Additionally, new programs in Animation, Music, Theatre Art, Dance, Hair and Make up, Manufacturing, and Nutrition have been introduced through centrally budgeted Program Start-Up Funding.*

Monitor

5. **THAT**, over the next five years Senior Staff will monitor student population growth, projections, location and accommodation data in the southern portion of the City of Niagara Falls and if required, apply to the Ministry of Education for capital funding for a new elementary school in the Warren Woods Estate of Niagara Falls.

6. THAT, the Board maintains all three Catholic secondary schools in St. Catharines and monitors the accommodation and utilization of all three Catholic secondary school facilities over the next five years.

Follow-up – Senior Administrative Council continues to monitor all of the variables required within these two motions.

Establish

7. THAT, a Niagara Falls Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board be established in September 2009 to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in Niagara Falls. According to the Board's Attendance Area Policy 301.3, the mandate of the committee will be to recommend to the Board stability within all attendance areas while maximizing facility utilization of all elementary and secondary schools in Niagara Falls.
8. THAT, a St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board be established in September 2009 to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines. According to the Board's Attendance Area Policy 301.3, the mandate of the committee will be to recommend to the Board stability within all attendance areas while maximizing facility utilization of all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines.

Follow-up – At the Annual Organizational Meetings of the Board in December 2009 and 2010, the Niagara Catholic District School Board approved the establishment of the Niagara Falls and St. Catharines Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committees of the Board.

Report

9. THAT, not later than September 2012, a report be brought to the Board on the closure of St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School which would occur no sooner than September 2012. The report will include recommendations on student relocation through the Attendance Area process. The Board will pursue all avenues for a joint venture school with community partners and the Ministry of Education to provide confirmed funding and approval for a new downtown elementary school.
10. THAT, Senior Staff will continue to monitor the possibility of closing Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School and that Senior Staff will bring a report to the Board no later than September 2012.
11. THAT, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School not be consolidated at this time subject to the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review process and recommendations and that Senior Staff continues to monitor enrolment and report back to the Board no later than September 2012.

Follow-up – Senior Administrative Council continues to monitor enrolment in St. Catharines and submits to the Committee of the Whole of November 8th, 2011, for its consideration recommendations as they relate to the May 26th, 2009 Board motions.

With the closure of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls, Senior Administrative Council continues to action, monitor, establish or implement the remaining ten (10) Board approved motions. In doing so, Senior Staff continually focuses and considers the following key factors in the decision making process;

- the continued delivery of Catholic educational excellence aligned with the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, Annual System Priorities and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Board;
- the continuation of fiscal responsibility;
- the continued decline in enrolment which affects school boards throughout Ontario;
- the potential of a slight upward movement in the overall board enrolment over the next decade in some geographic areas within the Board;
- the multiple variables causing increased surplus space;
- the limited facility renewal and capital funds;
- the shifting demographics from neighbourhood schools;
- the increased potential of multiple combined grades; and
- the importance of addressing long term accommodation needs in all schools in Niagara Catholic.

Recommendations

Through a confluence of events including the uncertainty of the financial climate in Ontario, nationally and internationally which may have an impact on available capital funding for school boards, Senior Administrative Council is presenting the following recommendations to the Board in fulfillment of the May 2009 Board approved motions, whereby the Board directs Senior Administrative Council:

1. to continue to implement the May 2009 motions categorized under Action, Monitor and Establish;
2. to design and implement a plan to reduce surplus space usage in all facilities and report to the Board on the specific strategies utilized;
3. to design and implement a plan to reduce cost associated with surplus space in all facilities and report to the Board on the cost reductions;
4. to continue the review of all potential boundary adjustments to minimize specific enrolment pressures in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and present options and recommendations to the standing Ad Hoc Attendance Committees of the Board;
5. to continue to research all potential school organizational options for the consideration of the Board; and,
6. to defer the report timelines within the May 2009 Board motions categorized under Report until no later than December 2012 and that within the report to the Board submit recommendations on the implementation of the May 2009 Board motions as required.

Above all, Senior Administrative Council continues to recognize that all options and recommendations affect the lives of our students and their families, as we continue to address the challenges associated with declining enrolment and neighbourhood population shifts.

The Board and affected communities can be assured that Senior Administrative Council, together with Principals, Vice-Principals, school and Board level staff will continue to work in a collaborative, transparent and open process with all Catholic educational partners in fulfilling the results of the Pupil Accommodation Review process and the May 2009 Board Motions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that the Board directs Senior Administrative Council:

1. to continue to implement the May 2009 motions categorized under Action, Monitor and Establish;
2. to design and implement a plan to reduce surplus space usage in all facilities and report to the Board on the specific strategies utilized;
3. to design and implement a plan to reduce cost associated with surplus space in all facilities and report to the Board on the cost reductions;
4. to continue the review of all potential boundary adjustments to minimize specific enrolment pressures in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and present options and recommendations to the standing Ad Hoc Attendance Committees of the Board;
5. to continue to research all potential school organizational options for the consideration of the Board; and,
6. to defer the report timelines within the May 2009 Board motions categorized under Report until no later than December 2012 and that within the report to the Board submit recommendations on the implementation of the May 2009 Board motions as required.

PREPARED BY: Senior Administrative Council
PRESENTED BY: John Crocco, Director of Education
RECOMMENDED BY: John Crocco, Director of Education
DATE: November 8th, 2011

Attachment

Appendix A – Excerpt from the Approved Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board – Tuesday, May 26th, 2009

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2011**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 7, 2011, as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Racine.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Chair Racine.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Kim Rosati	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children	✓		
Connie Parry	Association for Bright Children	✓		
Heather Schneider	Community Living-Welland/Pelham	✓		
Sarina Labonte	Community Living-Grimsby, Lincoln & West Lincoln	✓		
Rob Lavorato	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Mike Gowan	Autism Ontario		✓	
Jim Wells	John Howard Society of Niagara	✓		
Dianne Radunsky	Ontario Brain Injury Association	✓		
Sarah Farrell	Learning Disabilities Association – Niagara	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health	✓		
Trustees				
Father Paul MacNeil		✓		
Rhianon Burkholder		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education; Ted Farrell, Principal – Secondary;
Terry Antoniou, Principal – Elementary; Colleen Atkinson, Coordinator – Special
Education; Tina DiFrancesco, Recording Secretary

Chair Racine welcomed Terry Antoniou, new Elementary Principal Representative on the SEAC.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Rob Lavorato

Seconded by Jim Wells

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 7, 2011.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2011

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Connie Parry

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 5, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

There was no quorum at the November 2nd meeting.

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. VISIONING

1. Goals and Vision for 2011/2012

1.1 EA Survey

A discussion was held in regards to the EA survey. Chair Racine reviewed the survey questions and revisions were made based on the suggestions from SEAC members. Superintendent Baldasaro will present the information to Senior Administrative Council for approval.

1.2 Discussion and approval of Goals for 2011/2012

The Goals for 2011/2012 were presented to the members for approval. A decision was made to proceed with the proposed goals.

Moved by Bill Helmeczi

Seconded by Dianne Radunsky

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Goals for 2011/2012.

CARRIED

The Approved Goals for 2011/2012 will be included in the January agenda package.

1.3 Approval of Completed Goals for 2010/2011

The Completed Goals for 2010/2011 were presented to the members for approval.
A decision was made to approve the completed goals.

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by Rob Lavorato

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Completed Goals for 2010/2011.

CARRIED

The completed goals for 2010/2011 will be posted on the Board website.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2011

1. Learner Advocacy
2. Parent Outreach
3. Program and Service Recommendations
 - 3.1 Results from ERT Survey
4. Special Education Budget
5. Annual Review, Special Education Plan
6. Other Related Items
7. Policy Review

Staff presented the ERT survey results to the members for information, as well as an overview of the Professional Development for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

E. AGENCY REPORTS

1. VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children – Kim Rosati

- Our annual VOICE SEAC Workshop was held the first weekend in November. This year the workshop was attended by representatives from other organizations such as Easter Seals, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Learning Disabilities Association and Community Living. Also in attendance were School Trustees and Ministry of Education staff. The Ministry presented on Special Education funding (see attached presentation), SEAC Roles and Responsibilities, and MACSE Recommendations on Building Capacity of SEAC.

The information that was presented made us aware that the numbers being reported around children who are deaf or hard of hearing are inconsistent and unreliable. We know that 3 of every thousand births is a child with a hearing loss and that this number increases with age. The numbers reported in school Board reports typically only include those who are formally identified. Also, children with hearing loss can sometimes be reported under another exceptionality if they have multiple needs. This also raised questions as to the accuracy of the other exceptionalities and their numbers being reported.

I put forth a request of our Administration to obtain the total number of students in our Board, number of identified students with hearing loss in our Board and the number of “actual” (not identified) students who are deaf or hard of hearing in our Board. This information will be passed onto VOICE and will help support our advocacy for guidelines and funding to effectively meet the needs of students with hearing loss.

- Also attached is an update on the VOICE AVT (Auditory Verbal Therapy) Mentorship program from Anita Bernstein.
- Our new Parent Mentor Program is getting underway. The first training for mentors was conducted earlier this month. Parent Mentors in the communities will be able to interface with their SEAC representatives and the Provincial Infant Hearing program to provide seamless support to families.

2. Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Rob Lavorato

- The DSCP Christmas Party is being held on December 10th in Niagara Falls.

3. Community Living – Welland/Pelham – Heather Schneider

- Nil Report

4. Association for Bright Children – Connie Parry

- Information was presented from *ABC Press Release, ABC Ontario Survey Reveals Disparities in Gifted Programming Across School Boards in Ontario and the Parent Reaching Out grant.*

5. Community Living – Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln – Sarina Labonte

- CL – Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln is preparing for next year’s operations and thinking strategically given the current economic state of affairs. The agency recently completed a compliancy review related to the new regulations from the Social Inclusion Act.

6. *Autism Ontario – Mike Gowan*

- Nil Report

7. *The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine*

- Nil Report

8. *John Howard Society of Niagara – Jim Wells*

- All current programs are ongoing.

9. *Ontario Brain Injury Association – Dianne Radunsky*

- The Acquired Brain Injury Provincial Conference held from November 2nd – 4th had a good outcome.
- The Brain Basics course has just been completed.
- Level 1 training will be held in February 2012.

10. *Learning Disabilities Association (Niagara) – Sarah Farrell*

- We just wrapped up our Fall programming (Reading Rocks, Reading Rocks Junior, BEST, STEPS, PACE, Adult Support Group), which were all very successful! All of the children in the programs made significant literacy gains as well as improvements in their social skills.
- Winter 2012 programming details (days, times, locations) have been posted on our website. We will be accepting applications from December 19th – January 6, 2012. We are hoping to see an increase in enrolment in BEST, STEPS and PACE (parent support group).
- Reading Rocks Junior was offered successfully in Niagara Falls in the fall and we will be offering it again in the Winter. It will be offered specifically for the Victoria/Drummond neighbourhood (Niagara Prosperity Initiative).
- We are also currently on the look out for volunteers for the Winter, especially outside of St. Catharines. It would be a great opportunity for people wanting to gain more teaching experience or retired teachers looking to continue working with children and youth.
- LDANR's 2nd Annual Talent Show took place on Friday, December 2, 2011, which was very successful. The children showcased impressive talents and it was a great turn-out.
- LDANR's very own wristbands have just arrived! They come in a variety of colours with our slogan and logo (website on the inside). It has a generic slogan, to promote everyone's "right to learn, and the power to achieve".

11. *Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmecki*

- Nil Report

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Terry Antoniou – Principal, Elementary

Lisa Selman-Principal, Elementary
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

- Sacred Heart School lined Main Street on Tuesday, November 15th at 11:30a.m. to cheer for Mrs. Krowchuck, a parent who ran alongside her daughter, Tasia Krowchuk a Grade 6 student, who wheeled in Rick Hansen's Relay for Life and passed on the medal to a former Sacred Heart Student, Tori Plyley, who then ran in the relay and passed on the medal to a former Sacred Heart Student, Shelby Desson. Sacred Heart School made the Channel 11 news that evening!

Debbie Guthrie-Acting Principal, Elementary
ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC

Autism Awareness Day

- During the month of October here at St. Elizabeth School we were working hard to raise awareness about Autism and raise funds that would stay in our community. Smencils were sold in our school for two dollars each, with half of the cost being donated to Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter. Smencils are eco-friendly pencils that are made of recycled newspapers and they are scented to make them even more fun! As you sharpen the pencils you can see the layers of paper. Their motto is 'saving our trees, one pencil at a time.' Our most popular scent was Root beer and it quickly sold out in the first week. October 26th was our 'official' Autism Awareness Day, and to mark this special occasion, all students were invited to dress in purple and orange for the day. Each division was also treated to an educational visit from a volunteer at Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter. This lovely mom of two children with Autism helped our students learn more about Autism and answer any questions they may have had. There were some great discussions. We were able to donate \$300.00 to Autism Ontario, Niagara Chapter through the sales of our Smencils. This money will stay in our community to help support children in our area affected by Autism.

Emma Fera-Massi-Principal, Elementary
ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY (BEAMSVILLE)

- Paige, a St. John Catholic elementary student was thrilled to receive new equipment Tuesday, November 22, 2011 (picture). These items will facilitate the strengthening exercises prescribed by her physio-therapist.

Niagara Catholic District School Board Elementary Principals wish you and your families a
Blessed Christmas!

2. Ted Farrell – Principal, Secondary

BLESSED TRINITY

- Contact for IPRC meetings has been completed. Resource teachers had wonderful conversations with the parents of our Grade 10 and 11 students. It was an opportune time as midterms approached.
- Preparation for Grade 9 EQAO is underway. Accommodations are in place for students with Individual Education Plans and letters to parents will be mailed home in January.
- Preparation for the OSSLT is already underway. The Resource Department is working closely with the Success and English Departments to identify students who will require extra preparation and to ensure that suitable accommodations are in place.

- Two students from our Special Education Class participated very proudly as flag bearers in the Remembrance Day assembly.
- Alex Book, Warren MacDonald and Andrew McClory are on the Blessed Trinity Swim Team. At the meet in November, all three placed in their division.
- The special needs cheer squad, The ThunderCats has begun training for the National Cheer Competition which is held in May.
- Mass on December 21, 2011 will be said for the Repose of Nicole Gorham who passed away last December.
- Many events will take place as we prepare for the Christmas season:
- The creation of Gingerbread Houses which will be used as decorations for the Winter Formal at Club Roma. The houses will be auctioned off for charity.
- On December 14th the Grimsby Library will welcome students from the Special Education Class and their peer helpers to learn about and create a craft under the theme *Cultural Christmas*. This will be followed by an afternoon of bowling.
- We are looking forward to showing our Christmas spirit when we attend the Christmas Party at St. Francis on December 15th.
- On December 23rd, the class will venture to the Superstore to create a Holiday Christmas Cookie Assortment. The kids are looking forward to dazzling family and friends with their goodies during the holiday.
- Blessed Trinity's Special Education Department staff and students would like to wish all members of SEAC a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas! Looking forward to sharing new and exciting items in the New Year!

DENIS MORRIS

- In a few weeks our Special Education class will be hosting a Christmas Celebration Dinner. Students in the class will help prepare and enjoy a Christmas dinner together.

HOLY CROSS SECONDARY

- **Students integrated into the Workplace Art Class**
- In preparation for our Christmas Showcase and Sale on December 15th at 7:00p.m. we began our clay unit. Any profit generated by our ART4WORK class will be sent to our students at Holy Cross Thibreau, Haiti.

Students have produced:

- Ornaments
- Gift tags
- Cookie plates
- Sushi plates
- Tea light holders
- Brown sugar buddies (they keep the brown sugar soft)

Students also are working on all occasion cards using retro images from old clip art books. Finally as a school project our students worked with the Construction Tech class to produce 45 advent wreaths to be used in the classrooms this advent season.

The construction tech students built the wreaths according to our specifications.

We painted, adorned them with floral and ribbons, added the candles and delivered them to the classrooms.

- **Lunch Program**
The healthy lunch program has been a success! Students have enjoyed many different items so far and look forward to planning and preparing each week.
- **Special Events**
Most recently we attended the Saint Paul Karaoke Party. A big thank you to staff and students at Saint Paul High school for your warm hospitality! Staff and students were more than willing to assist with our students and make us feel welcome. Lunch was fantastic!

We are looking forward to seeing our friends again in December at the Christmas gathering at St. Francis.

- **Therapy Tails**

This year at Holy Cross we have been given the opportunity to participate in the Therapy Tails Niagara Program. Therapy Tails Niagara is a non-profit charity where volunteers with trained dogs go into the community teaching, listening, visiting, mentoring and becoming involved with numerous outreach programs to help make lives better. Dogs began coming into the classroom last week and the students responded very well. They enjoy sitting and visiting with the dogs. It has been a very calming experience for the students and we can't wait for our next visit.

LAKESHORE CATHOLIC

- We implemented a structured teaching 2-tiered visual schedule for 2 of our Grade 9 students this year of which has really worked wonders for them. This schedule breaks down from general to specific and allows students to transition from room to room, from support staff to support staff, activity to activity and has also proven to decrease behaviours.
- We are working hard at re-vamping our sensory room this year. Painting has occurred and items have been ordered.

NOTRE DAME

- The Special Education class enjoyed the Halloween Party at Denis Morris High school.
- Our Grade 12 Essential/College Religion class runs a mock wedding. A student who requires Special Education support was the bride last week. She looked beautiful and was very proud.
- Our Resource Department has been participating in Structured Teaching workshops with an emphasis on supporting students with ASD who are independent within the school i.e. will attain an OSSD but require support with organization and emotional regulation. An additional workshop focused on using personal technology i.e. cell phones, iPods to support students with ASD. We are very excited about the possibilities and have begun to implement strategies.

ST. FRANCIS

- We are busy planning for our Special Education Christmas Event here at St. Francis on December 15th; we look forward to seeing Special Education Class Students from all 8 high schools.
- Our Special Education Class students are going to a production of "Annie" at the Scotia Bank Centre in Niagara Falls on December 8th.
- We are meeting with all IEP students who have not been successful in at least one course as of "mid-term" to develop a plan of action to encourage their success in the course at the end of the semester.

SAINT MICHAEL

- We are finishing up finalizing accommodations for EQAO Math and Literacy Tests. Discussions have taken place between teachers, parents and students.
- We welcomed a new addition to our Special Education class this month, coming to us from the District School Board of Niagara.
- Our Special Education Class really enjoyed their recent excursion to Saint Paul High school for their Karaoke event. We are looking forward to visiting St. Francis on December 15th for their Christmas event.
- Last week, three of our Special Education class students, along with an Educational Assistant performed a special concert in the theatre. We had a student on drums, one on guitar and one on keyboard, accompanied by an Educational Assistant (vocals and guitar).
- Our Special Education class students will be visiting the Santa Shop at Father Hennepin Elementary School. This is a great event for our students as they shop for their parents for Christmas. The class will also go for hot chocolate and a Christmas treat on their way back to school. Our Special Education class students continue their weekly outings for bowling/swimming.

SAINT PAUL

- November 25th, marked the newly themed Niagara Catholic Special Education Dance Party hosted by Saint Paul Catholic High School. The event was an overwhelming success which was measured by the looks of joy, excitement and enthusiasm expressed by the students and staff attending the event. There were several encores and standing ovations applauding the extraordinary performances of the highly talented individual and group acts. Feedback from participating schools was very positive and the meal prepared by the culinary students supporting the day was superb. Special thanks are extended to all Saint Paul Staff and students who made this day such a wonderful experience. Also, we extend thanks to all the parents who visited to watch their child perform a solo act and left weeping with tears of joy. We look forward to next year's performance!

3. Yolanda Baldasaro – Superintendent of Education

- The 2nd Annual Spelling Bee was held on November 30th at Notre Dame High school
- The Official Blessing for the new addition at Our Lady of Victory Elementary school is being held on December 8th.
- The Bishops Gala will be held on the last Friday in January 2012.

4. Colleen Atkinson – Coordinator Special Education

- Information was presented on Community Living's *re:ACTION 4 Inclusion* Youth Leadership Conference for High School Students being held on March 2-4, 2012. Michael Jacques, a Notre Dame High school student sits on the Provincial Committee, representing Niagara Catholic District School Board at the Provincial level.

G. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Father Paul MacNeil – Trustee

- We have had three Board meetings since our last SEAC meeting; we had a Special Board meeting on November 15th for a report on the audited financial statements for the year 2010-2011, a regular Board meeting on November 22nd and the Organizational meeting on December 6th.
- Special Board meeting on November 15th: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services presented a report on the audited financial statements for the year 2010-2011. In this report he included the following: "during the 2010-2011 school year, the Board has faced numerous financial challenges, which have resulted in a deficit of \$4,959,446 for the year ending August 31st, 2011. The deficit was caused mainly by essential, uncontrollable or unforeseen changes in expenditures."
- At the regular Board meeting on November 22nd I am pleased to report the following: Minister of Education Laurel Broten visited Niagara Catholic on November 10th to present a Safe School Award to Saint Paul High school and St. Philomena.
- I am pleased to announce that Kathy Burtnik and Maurice Charbonneau were elected Chair and Vice-Chair for the year ending November 2012.

2. **Rhianon Burkholder – Trustee**

- St. Charles is very excited about several initiatives happening at the school to support students with special needs. Efforts have been dedicated to create an interactive sensory room that supports students at all levels. Interactive bubble tube, spacewalk, tactile walls, and interactive activities allow students to explore their environment and develop awareness. Staff are very dedicated to meeting and supporting students with special needs by not only working daily with students but also coordinating fundraisers to extend awareness to the community. In 2010, staff coordinated with the Toonies for Autism Campaign through Autism Ontario. St. Charles was recognized by Autism Ontario with a \$1000 Emmanuela Dimas Award for having raised the most awareness. These monies have been used to purchase specialized tools to benefit students with special needs. St. Charles staff are proud to introduce and extend the use of iPad technology to students. This technology will further promote independence, student communication, and academic growth. It is with such forward thinking and initiative that students will continue to grow in all areas at St. Charles.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Learner Advocacy**

2. **Parent Outreach**

2.1 SEAC Recommendation for Special Needs Advocate for Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC)

Chair Racine asked if any SEAC member would be interested in the position of Special Needs Representative for the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NPIC).

Election of Special Needs Representative

Moved by Kim Rosati

THAT Anna Racine be nominated for the position of Special Needs Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC).

Anna Racine accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Anna Racine was acclaimed as the Special Needs Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC).

3. **Program and Service Recommendations**

4. **Special Education Budget**

5. **Annual Review, Special Education Plan**

6. Other Related Items

6.1 Special Education Funding Discussion

Deferred to January meeting

6.2 Follow up to Letter to the Minister of Education regarding Special Education

Deferred to January meeting

6.3 Follow up Letter to Special Education Advisory Committee's regarding support letter to the Ministry

Deferred to January meeting

6.4 Sensory Rooms Discussion

Deferred to January meeting

7. Policy Review

7.1 Playground Equipment

7.3 Community Use of Schools

7.4 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

The policies were sent electronically to the members for review. Chair Racine suggested that any recommendations can be forwarded to her and she will respond on behalf of the SEAC. Individual responses are also welcome. The deadline to respond is January 13, 2012.

I. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Chair Racine reminded members to review the correspondence included in the November agenda package.

J. QUESTION PERIOD

K. NOTICES OF MOTION

L. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. **Election Proceedings – January 2012**

Chair Racine reminded the members of Election Proceedings at the January meeting.

2. **Mental Health Initiatives**
3. **Contact Niagara**
4. **Agency Presentations**

A possible VOICE presentation will be held in February 2012.

M. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Chair Racine thanked Trustee Burkholder and Trustee MacNeil for being a part of the SEAC this past year. Superintendent Baldasaro on behalf of Director Crocco, Senior Administrative staff and Special Education staff wished all a very Merry Christmas.

N. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sarina Labonte

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the December 7, 2011 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE AD HOC ATTENDANCE
AREA REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
NOTRE DAME COLLEGE AND ASSOCIATED ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS AREA, AND PORT ROBINSON
OF JANUARY 9, 2012**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Unapproved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting - Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Area, and Port Robinson of January 9, 2012 of January 9, 2012, as presented for information.



“The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.”

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**AD HOC ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
PORT ROBINSON AREA**

**January 9, 2012
5:30 P.M.**

**FATHER KENNETH BURNS BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE**

Minutes of Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of January 9, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Trustee, Chairperson Rhianon Burkholder.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Trustee Fr. Paul MacNeil

2. Roll Call

Lori Powell, Executive Director Niagara Student Transportation Services was in attendance.

Committee Members		Present	Excused	Absent
Rhianon Burkholder	Trustee/Chair	✓		
Ted O’Leary	Trustee	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Trustee	✓		
John Crocco	Director of Education	✓		
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	Superintendent of Education	✓		
Mario Ciccarelli	Superintendent of Education	✓		
James Woods	Controller of Plant Services	✓		
Kathy Levinski	Manager of Plant Services	✓		
Yvonne Anderson	Recording Secretary	✓		

In addition parents/guardians were in attendance at the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Fr. Paul MacNeil

THAT the Agenda of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of January 9, 2012 be approved 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 the Minutes Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting Port Robinson Area of November 28, 2011.

Moved by Trustee Ted O'Leary

THAT the Minutes of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of November 28, 2011 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

B. DISCUSSION:

1. Review of Parent/Guardian Survey Submissions

- Five parent/guardian surveys were received by the 12:00 p.m. on January 9, 2012.

2. Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) Report

- Lori Powell, Executive Director of the Niagara Student Transportation Service prepared and presented a report on the proposed boundary changes and the impact on transportation services for the Port Robinson area.

3. Draft Report and Recommendations to the January 17, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting

The Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area will present the following recommendations to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012:

1. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic students residing in the existing Port Robinson attendance area will be permitted to attend their current family of schools and will be granted Out of Boundary status.
2. THAT as of January 9, 2012 all current Niagara Catholic Grade 8 students (attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School) and Denis Morris Catholic High School students residing in the Port Robinson area will be granted transportation until 2015-2016.
3. THAT as of January 9, 2012 transportation will be provided to current students residing in the Port Robinson area attending Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School in Grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 until 2015-2016 at which time transportation will be discontinued.
4. THAT as of January 9, 2012 a boundary change will occur for Port Robinson with Allanport Road inclusive to Barron Road attending the Notre Dame College Family of Schools. The Boundary descriptions for Denis Morris, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy, Notre Dame College School and St. Andrew Catholic schools will be amended with the revised Port Robinson boundary of:

South: Thorold Townline Road (centreline) to Barron Road (inclusive) crossing the Welland Canal to Turner Rd (and its projection) to the Welland Canal to a line halfway between Holland Rd and Barron Rd to the township lot lines between lots 63 and 64 and lots 86 and 87 and lots 109 and 110 and lots 132 and 133 to the Town Boundary (Lincoln and Pelham).

C. OTHER BUSINESS

The Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area requested that a letter be mailed to the Port Robinson families informing them of the recommendations presented to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 17, 2012, with future meeting dates and the deadline allowing them to provide further input before the recommendation is presented at the Board Meeting of January 31, 2012.

Correspondence shall be addressed to Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson of the Board or Rhianon Burkholder, Trustee and Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for the Port Robinson Area by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012.

Correspondence received by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012 shall be presented at the Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 31, 2012.

D. FUTURE MEETINGS

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Ted O'Leary

THAT the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee Meeting for the Port Robinson Area of January 9, 2012 be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 10, 2011**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 10, 2011, as presented for information.



The Niagara Catholic District School Board through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

APPROVED MINUTES

Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, November 10, 2011

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



**Father Kenneth Burns Board Room
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO**

NOTE: LEE ANN FORSYTH-SELLS, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION WILL PRESIDE UNTIL THE ELECTON OF THE NCPIC CHAIRPERSON.

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells presented a PowerPoint presentation on the membership and fundamentals of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

- Opening prayer was led by Terri Pauco. Prayer intentions were made in memory of Lorraine Williams, Library Technician from Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School and for all the members of the NCPIC, and all staff and students of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

2. Roll Call: John Crocco, Director of Education was also present at the meeting.

Members	Present	Excused	Absent	Yr. (s) Term
Shawn O'Brien	✓			2
Anna Racine	✓			1
Mary Byers	✓			2
Teri Venzon			✓	1
Mary-Jo Au	✓			2
Shonna Daly		✓		1
Dr. Rafik Abdll-Malik		✓		1
Marion Battersby	✓			2
Sharon Goossen	✓			2
Heather Pyke	✓			2
Peter Batiste	✓			1
Annie Zdyb-Rinne	✓			2
Michelle Zappitelli		✓		2
Linda Marie O'Hagan	✓			1
Father Peter Rowe		✓		
Terri Pauco	✓			
Josie Caneloro	✓			
Theo Dagenais	✓			
Jeff Smith	✓			
Alexandra Sotola	✓			
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	✓			

Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau		✓		
Yvonne Anderson	✓			

3. Election of Chairperson

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells requested the nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Mary Byers nominated Mary-Jo Au

Self nomination: Heather Pyke

Self nomination: Marion Battersby

Mary-Jo Au accepted her nomination.

Prior to the election each nominee had the opportunity to address the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee members. An election was held and ballots were collected and counted by scrutineers, Jeff Smith and Theo Dagenais.

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells congratulated Mary-Jo Au on her election to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Mary-Jo Au assumed her role as Chairperson and continued with the meeting.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Peter Batiste

Seconded by: Mary Byers

THAT the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 10, 2011 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 8, 2011.

Moved by: Heather Pyke

Seconded by: Mary Byers

THAT the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 8, 2011 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

- A presentation was made by Anna Racine Chairperson and Kim Rosati Vice-Chairperson of Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

The SEAC is the Special Education Advisory Committee of the Board which is a major source of information, input and support for Special Education programs and services in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The roles and responsibilities of the SEAC as well as a list of members and affiliations are posted on the NCDSB website. A direct link to agency websites is also available on the NCDSB website.

The SEAC meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Catholic Education Centre and the approved agendas and minutes are posted on the Board website www.niagaracatholic.ca.

The SEAC is currently working on the Goals and Visions for 2011/2012 school year.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

1. Nomination, Selection Process and Elections NCPIC 2011-2012
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells reviewed the selection process and elections of the NCPIC 2011/2012.
2. NCPIC By-Laws Approval
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the NCPIC By-Laws would have to be revisited once the NCPIC Policy No. 800.7 changes have been approved by the Board.
3. Web Safety Ministry Training-Marion Battersby
 - As a representative from NCPIC, Marion Battersby attended a presentation by the Ministry of Education's regional office in London regarding the new curriculum for the junior grades (4-6) Internet Safety Awareness on Wednesday Oct. 12, 2011.
 - The presentation consisted of information from the OPP, a representative from OPHEA and ministry staff. The presenters stressed the necessity that students need to be aware of steps they can take to use the internet safely. The presentation from the OPP highlighted the need to educate students on the safe use of the internet at an early age, stressing that delaying the education until a later age was leaving children at risk. They also reviewed the potential problems children encounter on the internet, especially bullying, and the supports the police departments are willing to provide to schools and emphasized on the legislated duty for schools to act in cases of "internet bullying".
 - This material is to be implemented in the classroom this year, and materials containing lesson plans have been provided to all school boards.
 - Aside from the new material for specific instruction, most of the other recommendations are already implemented in Niagara Catholic's policies for Safe Schools and partnerships with community partners, i.e. the Niagara Regional Police Services.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee 2011-2012 Membership
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells welcomed and thanked the 2011-2012 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee members for their continued support and dedication to Catholic education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
2. Niagara Catholic District School Board System Priorities 2010-2011 Achievement Report
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the Niagara Catholic District School Board System Priorities 2010-2011 Achievement Report was attached to the NCPIC package. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated the Achievement Report was like a Report Card on Board and referred to the checkpoint columns on each page informing parents if the Achievement Report was completed or in progress. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells invited John Crocco, Director of Education to make comments on the report.
 - The Niagara Catholic District School Board's Board Improvement Committee is in the process of setting goals for the upcoming year.
3. OAPCE-Catholic School Council representation
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells presented a letter from the OAPCE requesting/promoting that all Catholic School Councils of the Niagara Catholic District School Board have an OAPCE representative on their committees.
 - It was suggested that OAPCE could contact Catholic School Councils directly.

4. Policy Vetting-Student Fees Policy-Due date: October 14, 2011
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the deadline for feedback on the Student Fees Policy was October 14, 2011.
5. Policy Vetting-Playground Equipment/Community Use of Facilities and NCPIC Policies:
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the Playground Equipment/Community Use of Facilities and the NCPIC Policies were presently being vetted and any feedback is to be sent to Jennifer Brailey at jennifer.brailey@ncdsb.com by January 13, 2012.
 - Peter Batiste had several questions with regards to repair and long-term liability. A motion was presented.

MOTION

THAT the NCPIC form a policy review sub-committee in order to provide feedback on Board policies being vetting. The policy sub-committee is as follows: Mary-Jo Au, Peter Batiste, Marion Battersby, Heather Pyke and Shawn O'Brien. Mary-Jo Au will send out an e-mail confirming a date and time for the sub-committee to meet at the Catholic Education Centre.

CARRIED

6. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Policy/Guidelines: Revision
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that revisions had been made to the Niagara Parent Involvement Committee with regards to the election and voting process and any feedback must be submitted to Jennifer Brailey at jennifer.brailey@ncdsb.com by January 13, 2012.
7. School Climate Surveys
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the School Climate Surveys are part of a comprehensive bullying prevention strategy to reduce incidents and fundamentally change attitudes toward the phenomenon of bullying. The Ministry of Education and Niagara Catholic District School Board is committed to building and sustaining a positive school climate for all students in order to support their education so that all students reach their full potential. The Niagara Catholic District School will be conducting the online School Climate Surveys starting November 14, 2011 until December 16, 2011. There are four different surveys available Grades 4-6, Grades 7-12, the Parent/Guardian Survey and a Staff Survey. All surveys will be conducted electronically, and they are anonymous and confidential.
8. NCPIC Catholic School Councils Annual Chairpersons and Members' Meeting Thursday, October 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School feedback from focus groups.
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that positive feedback was received from the NCPIC Catholic School Councils' Annual Chairpersons and Members' Meeting held on Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School.
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells shared an e-mail from a parent who attended this event and who wanted to share her comments and suggestions with the NCPIC.
9. Financial Report
 - Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells presented a financial report to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for review. There were no questions or concerns raised about the report.

E. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

- NIL Report

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Community Representative-Linda Marie O'Hagan

- The Catholic Women's League is the largest organization of Catholic woman in Canada in our 91st year with approx 98,000 women members from all 10 provinces. Ontario is the largest with 56,000.
- Presently Betty Colaneri, aunt of Fr. Rico Passero was elected Provincial President-Elect this past July at our Provincial Convention. Betty will be installed as the Ontario Provincial President and Bishop Bergie will be appointed as Provincial Spiritual Advisor in July 2013. In 2015 St. Catharines Diocesan CWL Council will be hosting the Provincial Convention.
- Fr. Rico Passero was a speaker at the Provincial Convention in July. During his time as seminarian he was one of the recipients of the Bishop Papin Memorial Fund. This fund is supported by councils throughout Ontario and offered to all our seminarians within the province.
- As Diocesan President 2009-2011 we took on a new initiative by having members from the Diocesan executive go into the high schools to speak about the CWL. We spoke to approximately 1500 students. The students were most surprised with our involvement with social issues and that we meet formally with both provincial and national levels of government twice yearly.
- At the Niagara Catholic District School Board's "Girls Night Out" event the Catholic Girls' League Diocesan CWL Council had a display promoting The League.

2. Special Needs Representative-TBA

- NIL Report

4. OAPCE-Mary-Jo Au

- The 73rd Conference and AGM will be held at All Saints Catholic Secondary School in Whitby on May 4 and 5, 2012. Theme is "Inclusion and Faith in Catholic Education".
- The Ministry of Education under Regulation 612 of the Education Act mandates that included in the composition of an Ontario Catholic School Council is an appointed OAPCE Liaison Representative.
- Ian McDermott, OAPCE Executive Director, requested that Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee include an OAPCE Director position in the NCPIC By-Laws.

A motion was made to continue the NCPIC meeting for another half hour.

MOTION

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting be continued for another half hour in order to complete the agenda.

Moved by: Shawn O'Brien

Seconded by: Marion Battersby

CARRIED

4. Bishop/Diocesan Representative-Fr. Peter Rowe

- NIL Report-regrets sent

5. Student Representative-Alexandra Sotola

- Student Senate is busy planning and promoting Christmas food drives as food banks are in desperate need of supplies.
- Student Senate is contributing to our ECO Friendly School initiatives by having paperless meetings. All members are asked to bring their laptops and tablets to the meetings.
- Student Senate will be in-charge of Break-Out Groups at the upcoming “Nurturing Distinctiveness of Catholic Education” Conference.
- In February the Student Senate will be touring the NPCC as part of the “Kids Helping Kids” campaign.

G. STAFF REPORTS:

1. Elementary Principal-Theo Dagenais

- In October elementary schools participated in both the Terry Fox Walkathon as well as the Holy Childhood Walk-a-thon fundraisers. In addition, many of the Niagara Catholic schools held special Thanksgiving functions and closed the month off with school wide Halloween activities.
- In November Progress Reports will be sent home. There will be various Remembrance Day celebrations with special activities and all schools will be promoting bullying awareness during Bullying-Prevention Week.
- Christmas will be an extremely busy time for all elementary Catholic schools as we prepare for the Advent Season with each school implementing their own unique fundraisers to benefit their communities as well as hosting various Christmas pageants and/or school Advent masses

2. Secondary Principal-Jeff Smith

- Congratulations were extended to all participants (students, staff, parents and community partners) for taking part in this year’s annual pilgrimage. A beautiful day was enjoyed by all and collectively we made a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the third world through our financial contribution and social justice awareness.
- The Minister of Education (Laurel Broten) visited Saint Paul Catholic High School on Thursday, November 10, 2011 to present Saint Paul Catholic High School and St. Philomena Catholic Elementary School with the Premier’s Safe School’s Award. Both schools accepted this award and represented the best practices that are taking place in Niagara Catholic. Pictures and further details regarding the visit can be viewed on the Board’s web-site.
- Remembrance Day activities are taking place across Niagara Catholic on Friday, November 11, 2011. Parents were encouraged to contact their local Catholic elementary and secondary schools to participate in the school celebrations.
- During the week of November 1st – secondary schools hosted a presentation by Eva Olsson (Holocaust Survivor). Mrs. Olsson was very well received by students, staff and parents. Eva was very engaging as her message was about love, even though she had every reason to base it on hatred.
- Parents were informed that anti-bullying week begins on Monday, November 14, 2011. All parents/guardians were encouraged to participate in the activities at each of the Catholic elementary and secondary schools.
- On Tuesday, November 2, 2011 all Grade nine students participated in Take Our Kids To Work Day.
- Grade 8 Transition visits are continuing across the secondary panel as we prepare our Grade 8 students for the transition into high school.

3. Teacher-Terri Pauco

- October 7, 2011 PA Day – A successful day was experienced by teachers, administrators and support staff. It began with mass celebrated by Bishop Bergie and then teachers participated in over 50 workshops each focusing on current initiatives and practices to further support Student Achievement. Professional Development now continues at the school level in what is known as job embedded training focusing on collaborative inquiry and Teaching Learning Critical Pathways to assist in professional dialogue and incorporating high yield teaching strategies to meet the needs of all students.
- November's Virtue is Fortitude and resources on the new mass text and the implementation of the Roman Missal have been sent to all schools to bring awareness to the upcoming implementation in all parishes beginning Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011, the first Sunday of Advent.
- Sacramental preparation for Confirmation is well underway throughout our Catholic elementary schools.
- Teachers have been busy writing Progress Reports.
- The Annual Niagara Catholic Pilgrimage is a wonderful testament to our staff and students' dedication to Social Justice. This year the pilgrimage participants raised \$176,000.
- Sincere appreciation is extended to all teachers who have been involved in recent extra curricular activities, especially cross-country and volleyball and eco-teams.

4. Support Staff-Josie Candeloro

- Support staff C.U.P.E. Local 1317 is in negotiations with the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- Support staff is looking forward to their up-coming Christmas Dinner.

H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Kathy Burtnik

- Bishop Bergie celebrated a powerful Mass with the 3000 Niagara Catholic District School Board Staff to start the October 7, 2011 P.A. Day.
- Flags at all the Niagara Catholic District School Boards schools were flown half mast in memory of Lorraine Williams, Librarian at Our Lady of Victory and will be half mast again on November 11, 2011 for Remembrance Day in honour of our Veterans.
- On December 8, 2011 Bishop Bergie will bless the new edition of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School in Fort Erie.

2. Maurice Charbonneau

- NIL Report-regrets sent

I. NEW BUSINESS

J. CORRESPONDENCE

K. QUESTION PERIOD

L. NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

M. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mary Byers

Seconded by: Shawn O'Brien

THAT the November 10, 2011 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: MID-YEAR PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE NIAGARA
CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2011-2012**

The report on the Mid-Year Progress Review of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2011-2012, is presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2012



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING JANUARY 31, 2012

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2011-2012

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the May 24th, 2011 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the following motion was approved;

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic Strategic Directions Priority Indicators 2011-2012, as presented. (Appendix A)

The Niagara Catholic Strategic Directions Priority Indicators 2011-2012 are designed to provide the annual focus for the system towards achieving the outcomes of the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Within the two (2) Strategic Directions and the seven (7) Enabling Strategies are the approved system priority indicators which provide the specific framework to measure the achievement of each direction and strategy within our multi-year strategic plan.

The Board approved Strategic Directions Priority Indicators 2011-2012 were posted on the Niagara Catholic website and copies were provided to Bishop Bergie, the Diocese of St. Catharines, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Council Chairs and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC). In addition, a poster size copy of the Niagara Catholic Strategic Direction Priority Indicators 2011-2012 were displayed in public locations in all schools, Board sites and the Catholic Education Centre for review by students, staff, parents and guests to Niagara Catholic.

As we reach the approximate mid-point of the 2011-2012 academic year, Senior Administrative Council conducted its annual mid-year review of the progress in achieving the indicators of success within each Strategic Direction and Enabling Strategy. The results of the mid-year review were collated and reviewed by Senior Administrative Council, administrators and Board staff as a measurement of our success to date in achieving each priority indicator by the conclusion of the academic year. Principals will conduct similar discussions with staff on the implementation of system priorities and the measurements of success following a presentation to Principals at the February Director's Meeting.

Attached to this report (Appendix B) is a copy of the redesigned Mid-Year Progress Review of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities for 2011-2012. Within each Strategic Direction and Enabling Strategy is the indicator of success and comments on the measurables to determine the achievement of either *Action Required, On Target or Completed.*

With the majority of indicators directly linked to final achievement results at the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year, members of Senior Administrative Council, administrators and Board staff will collate, analyze and review all data gathered for the 2011-2012 school year and present a final report to the Board and to all stakeholders at the September 2012 Board Meeting.

The annual final report will provide evidenced based information on the achievement of the Board's annual system priorities and the achievement of specific expectations within Niagara Catholic's multi-year strategic plan, Vision 2020.

The Mid-Year Progress Review of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2011-2012
is presented for information.

PREPARED BY: Senior Administrative Council
PRESENTED BY: John Crocco, Director of Education
APPROVED BY: John Crocco, Director of Education
DATE: January 31, 2012

Attached

Appendix A - Niagara Catholic Strategic Directions Priority Indicators 2011-2012
Appendix B - Mid-Year Progress Review of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2011-2012
(under separate cover)



NIAGARA CATHOLIC

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

PRIORITY INDICATORS 2011-2012

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education

- To enhance our distinctive Catholic educational system by designing and implementing a Niagara Catholic Faith Formation program, rooted in the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, and integrating into programs and services for students, parents and the community served by the Board by June 2012.
- To conduct a Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary Student Conference 2012 focused on the theme of "Nurturing the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education" by March 2012.

Advance Student Achievement for All

- To continue to support all students who are six years of age in the development of literacy and numeracy skills, particularly in learning to read, by June 2012.
- To expand and enhance e-Learning initiatives in Niagara Catholic by June 2012.
- To continue with system implementation of the Ministry of Education Policy "Growing Success" – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools" and the Niagara Catholic Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting K-12 Policy and Guidelines for all schools in the Board by June 2012.
- To continue to advance student achievement through Ministry of Education, Board and School initiatives on Provincial EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments, EQAO Secondary Mathematics Assessment, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) by June 2012.
- To align and design initiatives to achieve the target of 85% graduation rate of 2011-2012 Grade 12 students by June 2012.

ENABLING STRATEGIES

Provide Supports for Success

- To design a Niagara Catholic Mental Health Support Plan to address the need for increased supports for mental health by June 2012.
- Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning
- To design a comprehensive Niagara Catholic Teaching and Learning through Technology Blueprint by March 2012.
- To continue the implementation of the Niagara Catholic Data Warehouse with elementary and secondary staff by June 2012.
- To initiate the implementation of a hardware platform for all school-based computer technology by September 2012.
- Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs
- To continue to expand educational research in the Board to include Board research projects, the sharing of current research, and an extension of research partnerships with outside agencies by June 2012.

- To continue to build capacity with Trustees, the Diocese of St. Catharines, Parishes, administrators, staff and parents by providing information and opportunities for dialogue on Catholic education.
- To develop and implement programs through the engagement of community groups and the community use of schools program to address the needs of children and families including nutrition, physical activity and literacy by June 2012.

Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

- To develop a Niagara Catholic Hiring Policy and process for the selection of staff by March 2012.
- To develop a Niagara Catholic Leadership Succession Planning Policy and process for the selection to all positions of leadership within Niagara Catholic by March 2012.
- To design and implement an annual Niagara Catholic Human Resources Certificate Program for all administrators by October 2011 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

- To consolidate the implementation of the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway initiative in all elementary and secondary schools by June 2012.
- To expand the secondary Math TLCP process to all Academic and Applied Mathematics courses by June 2012.
- To expand the Collaborative Inquiry for Learning in Mathematics process in all elementary schools by June 2012.
- To implement a plan to identify and remove barriers to individuals with disabilities in Board facilities as identified in the 2011-2012 Niagara Catholic Accessibility Plan by August 31, 2012.

Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

- To ensure that all Catholic Education Centre departments develop annual Operational Plans and review cycles, which align with the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan by October 2011.
- To comply with Ministry of Education requirements for fiscal financial management with a balanced budget.
- To consolidate key risks and mitigate budget factors into a single risk plan by June 2012.
- To ensure that the Internal Audit Plans are presented to the Audit Committee as required throughout 2011-2012.
- To ensure that the External Audit Plans are presented to the Audit Committee as required throughout 2011-2012.
- In compliance with Ministry directives, to ensure that the Board Purchasing Policy is monitored for compliance by June 2012.
- To implement a plan to generate savings on electrical energy through the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic and St. Joseph Catholic Elementary Schools in Grimsby by September 2011.
- To develop, implement and monitor the day cleaning program in all school facilities by June 2012.
- To enhance the Niagara Catholic Green Niagara program to continue the reduction of total energy consumption within Niagara Catholic facilities over the average consumption in previous years.

Address Changing Demographics

- To develop a report on school capacities, enrolment, attendance area boundaries and accommodation utilization with recommendations to address the changing demographics in Niagara Catholic to meet the timelines of Board motions, by October 2011.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: FINANCIAL REPORTS
MONTHLY BANKING TRANSACTIONS
DECEMBER 2011**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the report on the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December 2011, as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2012



**REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

**MONTHLY BANKING TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2011**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with the Monthly Financial Reports Policy Statement, we are pleased to enclose the Monthly Banking Transactions for the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the month of December, 2011.

As required by the Policy, a monthly list of payments is available in the Holy Cross Community Room for the Trustees to review at their convenience.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December, 2011 as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2012

Appendix A

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT ON BANKING TRANSACTIONS SUMMARY OF BANK TRANSACTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF: DECEMBER, 2011	
DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	BANK ACCOUNT
CASH BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF MONTH	(A) 24,669,666
OPERATING CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH	
1. GENERAL LEGISLATIVE GRANTS	15,985,227
2. OTHER GRANTS (EPO, O.E.Y.C.)	949,850
3. INTEREST REVENUE	28,086
4. MUNICIPAL TAXES	11,335,308
5. TUITION FEES REVENUE - A.C.E. & OTHER	69,906
6. CHARITABLE DONATIONS	35,180
7. GOVERNMENT REBATES (GST 69% REBATE ON TAXABLE PURCHASES)	290,746
8. RECOVERY OF COSTS (LTD, WCB, BENEFITS, OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS)	147,832
9. OTHER CASH RECEIPTS	
- Reimbursements of Employee Benefits	1,969
- Green Shield Refund	0
- Other	0
10. PROCEEDS FROM DEBENTURE ISSUE (NET)	0
11. CAPITAL LOAN PRINCIPAL ADVANCES	0
TOTAL OPERATING CASH RECEIPTS AND LOAN ADVANCE	(B) 28,414,985
OPERATING CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH	
1. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (NET OF CANCELLED CHEQUES AND DEBT REPAYMENTS)	(20,378,207)
2. TEACHER PENSION DEDUCTIONS	(1,307,569)
3. O.M.E.R.S. PENSION DEDUCTIONS	(454,184)
4. CANADA SAVINGS BONDS DEDUCTIONS	(157,825)
5. TRANSFER TO 4 OVER 5 TRUST ACCOUNTS	(73,596)
6. OTHER DEBITS	(44,629)
7. TRANSFER TO SINKING FUNDS	0
8. INTEREST PAYMENTS ON CAPITAL DEBT	(115,938)
9. PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS ON CAPITAL DEBT	0
TOTAL OPERATING CASH DISBURSEMENTS	(C) (22,528,646)
CASH BALANCE AT END OF MONTH	(D) 30,563,904
A + B - C = D	

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT ON LOAN BALANCES SUMMARY OF LOAN BALANCES AS AT : DECEMBER, 2011 The Debentures & Capital Loans are made up as follows:				
Loan Description	Opening Balance	Loan Advances	Loan Repayments	Ending Balance
1. CFA - GPL1 Loan - 25 YR.	(12,303,972.35)			(12,303,972.35)
2. CFA - GPL2 Loan - 25 YR.	(9,527,451.58)			(9,527,451.58)
3. CFA - GPL3 Loan - 25 YR.	(4,429,563.12)			(4,429,563.12)
4. CFA - PTR - Completed 2010/11	(8,090,847.35)			(8,090,847.35)
5. CFA - 2001-A1 Debenture	(2,409,181.00)			(2,409,181.00)
6. Debenture (Niagara Region)	(1,521,000.00)			(1,521,000.00)
7. Debenture (Niagara Region)	(2,750,000.00)			(2,750,000.00)
8. Capital Projects - Completed 2001	(14,039,294.59)			(14,039,294.59)
9. Capital Projects - Completed 2002/03	(21,020,925.95)			(21,020,925.95)
10. Capital Projects - Completed 2004/05	(8,721,808.22)			(8,721,808.22)
11. Capital Projects - Completed 2005/06	(7,694,988.54)			(7,694,988.54)
Total Debentures & Capital Loans	(92,508,732.70)	0.00	0.00	(92,508,732.70)

PREPARED BY : William Tumath
 PRESENTED BY : Larry Reich

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: FINANCIAL REPORTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2011, as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: January 31, 2012



**REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011**

In accordance with the Monthly Financial Reports Policy Statement, we are pleased to enclose the summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenditures by Department as at December 31, 2011. (See Appendix A)

As required by the Policy, a copy of the Financial Statement is available in the Holy Cross Community Room for the Trustees to review at their convenience.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2011 as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 31, 2011

Appendix A

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
SUMMARY STATEMENT
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2011**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	THIS YEAR			CHANGES	LAST YEAR		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT		EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
REVENUE							
REVENUE	-98,521,999	-250,504,359	60.7%		-68,577,216	240,139,874	128.5%
TOTAL REVENUE	-98,521,999	-250,504,359	60.7%		-68,577,216	240,139,874	128.5%
EXPENDITURES							
BOARD ADMINISTRATION	2,870,313	3,010,826	84.2%		2,704,251	7,428,758	83.8%
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	40,723,863	122,343,045	66.7%		40,523,345	115,294,976	84.8%
SECONDARY SCHOOLS	22,842,245	68,803,010	66.8%		22,743,554	66,850,146	66.0%
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,993,357	6,131,132	87.7%		1,870,836	5,706,468	67.2%
PLANT OPERATIONS	5,147,222	17,697,907	71.4%		5,332,326	17,770,646	70.0%
PLANT MAINTENANCE	929,125	3,390,846	72.6%		944,997	3,275,833	71.2%
TRANSPORTATION	3,217,112	10,102,839	68.2%		3,007,743	10,371,090	71.0%
CAPITAL AND OTHER EXPENDITURES	2,546,422	13,724,754	81.4%		2,671,860	13,441,765	80.1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	80,260,164	250,504,359	68.0%		79,803,912	240,139,874	66.8%

PREPARED BY : William Tumath
Finance Department

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Page : /

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			CHANGES	LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT		EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
SALARY & BEN - TRUSTEES	128,518	215,744	40.4		140,014	213,359	34.4
SALARY & BEN - SENIOR STAFF	539,567	1,498,161	64.0		388,020	1,142,749	66.0
SALARY & BEN - MANAGERS	507,607	1,593,425	68.1		552,274	1,545,693	64.3
SALARY & BEN - TECHNICAL	129,507	321,068	59.7		109,636	372,143	70.5
SALARY & BEN - CLERICAL	792,990	2,358,107	66.4		707,470	2,277,578	68.9
TEMPORARY STAFF	28,918	64,321	55.0		47,299	64,236	26.4
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	34,938	60,000	41.8		28,106	60,000	56.5
SUPPLIES - ADMINISTRATION	134,219	472,500	71.6		211,673	465,500	54.5
SUPPLIES - HUMAN RESOURCES	6,871	20,000	65.6		6,173	30,000	79.4
SUPPLIES - COMPUTER SERVICE	37,900	62,500	39.4		44,549	62,500	28.7
SUPPLIES - PLANT OPERATIONS	102,429	380,000	73.1		100,046	405,000	75.3
SUPPLIES - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	11,598	50,000	76.8		13,336	75,000	82.2
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	41,200	155,000	73.4		2,238	10,000	77.6
FEES & CONTRACTS	368,086	715,000	48.5		346,037	665,000	48.0
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES	6,475	45,000	85.6		9,380	40,000	76.6
TOTAL - BOARD ADMINISTRATION	2,870,813	8,010,826	64.2	 	2,704,251	7,428,758	63.6

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
CLASSROOM TEACHERS	26,624,506	83,122,056	68.0	26,890,774	78,995,247	67.2
OCCASSIONAL TEACHERS	1,035,132	3,592,748	71.2	1,506,720	2,721,566	44.6
TEACHER ASSISTANTS	5,875,214	15,294,372	61.6	5,368,941	13,610,720	60.6
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	993,761	2,579,397	61.5	825,697	2,197,520	62.4
LIBRARY TECHNICIANS	730,401	2,055,961	64.5	723,166	1,918,532	62.3
PRINCIPALS & V.PS.	2,424,739	7,222,285	66.4	2,284,621	7,069,937	67.7
SCHOOL SECRETARIES	924,494	2,496,710	63.0	877,608	2,379,206	63.1
TEACHER CONSULTANTS	623,350	994,429	37.3	491,135	1,541,742	68.1
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	99,050	430,000	77.0	31,367	330,000	90.5
PROGRAM CLASSROOM RESOURCE	520,723	1,125,000	53.7	385,230	1,493,200	74.2
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	466,302	1,490,195	68.7	506,766	1,486,798	65.9
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	42,318	205,000	79.4	39,992	215,000	81.4
SCHOOL ADMIN. SUPPLIES	141,136	400,000	64.7	74,862	400,000	81.3
COMPUTERS - CLASSROOM	163,765	838,147	74.3	1,492,022	593,062	151.6
COMPUTERS - NON CLASSROOM	0	49,956	100.0	0	0	0.0
F & E - CLASSROOM	57,825	604,658	90.4	22,429	300,365	92.5
F & E - NON CLASSROOM	1,152	42,130	97.3	6,915	42,061	83.6
TOTAL - ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	40,723,868	122,343,045	66.7	40,528,345	115,294,976	64.9

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			CHANGES	LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT		EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
CLASSROOM TEACHERS	15,839,617	48,394,318	67.3		15,849,599	47,490,900	66.6
OCCASSIONAL TEACHERS	689,386	2,157,811	68.1		564,110	1,613,364	65.0
TEACHER ASSISTANTS	1,823,761	4,574,629	60.1		1,857,675	4,571,239	59.4
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	424,540	1,433,411	70.4		401,980	1,365,470	70.6
LIBRARY TECHNICIANS	155,490	404,382	61.6		152,828	386,749	60.5
PRINCIPALS & V.PS.	977,182	3,031,525	67.8		992,980	2,910,397	65.9
SCHOOL SECRETARIES	771,207	2,026,523	61.9		747,542	1,904,534	60.8
TEACHER CONSULTANTS	234,095	897,114	73.9		236,065	672,455	64.9
LIBRARY & GUIDANCE - TEACHING	733,280	1,912,692	61.7		828,592	1,831,679	54.8
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	35,939	120,000	70.1		25,785	120,000	78.5
PROGRAM CLASSROOM RESOURCE	647,007	1,686,000	61.6		464,796	1,826,693	74.6
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	388,556	1,501,632	74.1		484,164	1,480,936	67.3
PROGRAM SUPPLIES	11,527	71,000	83.8		9,989	85,000	88.3
SCHOOL ADMIN. SUPPLIES	51,561	205,000	74.9		45,439	210,000	78.4
COMPUTERS - CLASSROOM	60,351	288,060	82.5		65,296	200,000	67.4
COMPUTERS - NON CLASSROOM	0	25,000	100.0		13,828	26,687	48.2
F & E - CLASSROOM	6,746	17,788	137.9		2,886	60,000	95.2
F & E - NON CLASSROOM	0	20,701	100.0		0	22,043	100.0
FEES & CONTRACTS	2,000	72,000	97.2		0	72,000	100.0
TOTAL - SECONDARY SCHOOLS	22,842,245	68,803,010	66.8		22,743,554	66,850,146	66.0

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
CONTINUING EDUCATION

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE				LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT	CHANGES	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
TEACHER ASSISTANTS	15,955	30,800	48.2		16,343	40,405	54.6
PROFESSIONAL STAFF	36,580	105,440	65.3		35,022	63,832	58.2
PRINCIPALS & V.P.S.	183,277	490,884	62.7		137,064	387,847	65.6
SCHOOL SECRETARIES	118,584	399,032	70.3		127,443	354,489	64.1
TEMPORARY STAFF	11,635	38,157	69.5		9,034	50,186	82.0
GRANT OFFICERS	19,998	70,540	71.7		68-	0	0.0
A.E. TEACHERS / INSTRUCTORS	1,311,839	4,055,207	67.7		1,250,443	3,746,794	66.6
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	8,391	14,750	43.1		5,043	23,200	78.3
PROGRAM CLASSROOM RESOURCE	130,584	386,680	66.2		130,952	366,808	64.3
CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	143,878	532,642	73.0		149,325	617,397	75.8
COMPUTERS - CLASSROOM	2,585	4,000	35.4		6,411	20,000	67.9
F & E - CLASSROOM	51	0	0.0		0	0	0.0
FEES & CONTRACTS	0	2,000	100.0		1,824	5,700	68.0
TOTAL - CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,983,357	6,131,132	67.7	 	1,870,836	5,706,458	67.2

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
PLANT OPERATIONS

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			CHANGES	LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT		EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
SALARY & BEN - MANAGERS	267,945	983,674	69.7		171,014	606,165	71.8
SALARY & BEN - CARETAKERS	1,758,606	5,466,685	67.8		1,724,741	4,647,377	64.4
SALARY & BEN - CLEANERS	1,310,050	4,268,355	69.3		1,479,556	5,090,599	70.9
SALARY & BEN - CLERICAL	38,018	200,193	81.0		53,766	187,507	71.3
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	4,156	10,000	58.4		908	10,000	90.9
SUPPLIES - UTILITIES	743,173	4,600,000	83.8		840,850	4,350,000	80.7
SUPPLIES - PLANT OPERATIONS	200,401	712,500	71.9		211,292	697,500	69.7
SUPPLIES - GROUNDS	72,523	770,000	90.6		87,078	845,000	89.7
F & E - PLANT OPERATIONS	193,243	526,500	63.3		210,044	576,500	63.6
FEES & CONTRACTS	559,207	560,000	0.1		553,077	560,000	1.2
TOTAL - PLANT OPERATIONS	5,147,222	17,997,907	71.4		5,332,326	17,770,648	70.0

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
PLANT MAINTENANCE

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT CHANGES	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
SALARY & BEN - MANAGERS	169,099	505,303	66.5	192,145	573,283	66.5
SALARY & BEN - TECHNICAL	322,531	1,064,020	69.7	330,522	865,843	61.8
SALARY & BEN - CLERICAL	34,655	78,172	55.7	33,431	77,239	56.7
TEMPORARY STAFF	7,500	5,351	40.2	8,363	21,468	61.0
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	588	7,500	92.2	717	7,500	90.4
SUPPLIES - PLANT OPERATIONS	78,695	400,000	80.3	71,381	350,000	79.6
SUPPLIES - GROUNDS	31,096	180,000	82.7	34,311	200,000	82.8
SUPPLIES - PLANT MAINTENANCE	37,401	159,000	76.5	43,592	169,000	74.2
SUPPLIES - BUILDING MAINTENANCE	214,324	880,000	75.6	206,372	905,000	77.2
F & E - PLANT MAINTENANCE	5,974	36,500	83.6	0	31,500	100.0
FEES & CONTRACTS	27,262	75,000	63.7	24,163	75,000	67.8
TOTAL - PLANT MAINTENANCE	929,125	3,390,846	72.6 	944,997	3,275,833	71.2

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			CHANGES	LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT		EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
SALARY & BEN - MANAGERS	27,258	117,590	76.8		26,117	111,069	76.5
SALARY & BEN - TECHNICAL	23,037	176,514	87.0		22,138	162,103	86.3
SALARY & BEN - CLERICAL	0	23,508	100.0		0	47,204	100.0
SUPPLIES - ADMINISTRATION	83	74,278	99.9		63	69,823	99.9
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	0	12,675	100.0		0	0	0.0
FEES & CONTRACTS	3,166,734	9,698,274	67.4		2,959,425	9,980,891	70.4
TOTAL - TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT	3,217,112	10,102,839	68.2		3,007,743	10,371,090	71.0

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011
CAPITAL AND OTHER EXPENDITURES

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			CHANGES	LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT		EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
GOOD PLACES TO LEARN	837,513	1,688,284	50.4		1,001,723	1,294,867	22.6
FACILITY RENEWAL PROJECTS	0	733,751	100.0		211,022	841,417	74.9
DEBT CHARGES BEFORE MAY, 1998	195,081	376,880	48.2		399,036	405,406	1.6
DEBT CHARGES AFTER MAY, 1998	0	117,487	100.0		0	117,487	100.0
NEW PUPIL PLACES	1,513,828	2,465,060	38.6		1,060,079	3,435,058	69.1
AMORTIZATION & NET LOSS DISPOSALS	0	8,343,292	100.0		0	7,347,510	100.0
TOTAL - CAPITAL AND OTHER EXPENDITUR	2,546,422	13,724,754	81.5		2,671,860	13,441,765	80.1

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
UPDATED UNAUDITED EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - CLOSED
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED: DECEMBER 31, 2011

ACCOUNT	THIS YEAR TO DATE			LAST YEAR TO DATE		
	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT CHANGES	EXPENDED	BUDGET	% LEFT
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	80,260,164	250,504,369	68.0	79,803,912	240,139,674	66.8

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – JANUARY 17, 2012**



Spotlight

on

NIAGARA CATHOLIC

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

www.niagaracatholic.ca

January 17, 2012



Niagara Catholic Celebrates Class of 2029 at Second Annual Baby Celebration



Niagara Catholic Vice Chair, Maurice Charbonneau, and Director of Education, John Crocco, didn't speak for long during the Second Annual Baby Celebration at the Catholic Education Centre on January 18th, but when they did, they got the attention of even the youngest guests. The Father Kenneth Burns Board Room was filled with the joyful sounds of babies playing during the event, which celebrated babies born to Niagara Catholic staff in 2011. The guests of honour ranged in age from one-year-old Joshua Gualtieri, born last January 5th, to 19-day-old Rocky Sacco, who was born on December 30th. Donna Dalglish, Co-ordinator of the Ontario Early Years Centre at Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls, and Early Childhood Educator Theresa Sottile led activities for the event and provided books for the babies and information for parents. The packages also included special Niagara Catholic bibs and wooden crosses, which were hand-made by a member of the community and donated anonymously to Niagara Catholic last year. Notre Dame College School teacher Monique Mastroianni, student teacher Julie Kileen, and students from Notre Dame's parenting class were also on hand to help with the babies and to lead crafts for the older siblings, who also attended.

Working Together for Kids' Mental Health

Due to the success of Niagara Catholic's *Working Together for Kids' Mental Health* Project, the scope of the project will expand into its second year.

Working Together for Kids' Mental Health ran from September 2010 to June 2011 in five Niagara Catholic schools. It was designed to address and build a child and youth mental health system that was coordinated, collaborated and integrated at all community and government levels. The program has been extended through the Special Education Services to all Niagara Catholic schools.

Students aged four to 17 who met criteria through the school based team process as having possible mental health or behavioural concerns were the participants in this study.

The report is part of the January 17th agenda found at niagaracatholic.ca.

Niagara Catholic To Host Public Information Sessions on Consolidation of Schools

As part of Niagara Catholic's commitment to open and transparent communication with our school communities, the Board will host two community information sessions regarding the recommended consolidation of St. Thomas More and Our

Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary Schools in Niagara Falls, and St. James and Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary Schools in St. Catharines.

The Niagara Falls information session will take place on January 23rd at St.

Thomas More school.

The St. Catharines information session will take place at Michael J. Brennan school the following evening. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m. All parents have been invited to their respective session.

Copies of the letters are posted on the main page of the Board website. The report recommending the consolidation, is available in the January 17th Committee of the Whole agenda, which is also available at niagaracatholic.ca.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School Hosts Book Launch



Niagara Catholic Director of Education, John Crocco, left, joined author Sigmund Brouwer at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls for the launch of Brouwer's latest book, "Falls Honour" on January 11th. The special edition of the novel, which is set in Niagara Falls, celebrates the 2011 Canadian Sports Hall of Fame inductees. Mr. Brouwer is a regular visitor to Niagara Catholic schools through his "Rock and Roll Literacy" Program, which is aimed at increasing literacy rates among boys. Joining Mr. Crocco and Mr. Brouwer in this photo are Our Lady of Mount Carmel Principal Elizabeth Davey, Superintendent of Education Mark Lefebvre and Sheila Lohnes, Niagara Catholic's Supervisor of Library Information Centres.

New Homework Help Program for Students

Niagara Catholic has a new program to assist students in Grades 7 to 10 in need of help with math.

Homework Help is an e-Learning Ontario provincial initiative, operated by the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) in conjunction with e-Learning Ontario. It replaces Niagara Catholic's Mentor Connector project, which completed at the end of June 2011.

Homework Help incorporates many of the ideas and initiatives of Mentor Connector, which pioneered online homework help in Ontario.

Students in need of help with their math homework can log onto Homework Help for free, online tutoring from Ontario-certified teachers Sundays through Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. A number of other features are available online 24/7.

Homework Help is available at <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>. The report is available at niagaracatholic.ca.

Niagara Catholic 2011-2013 Improvement Plans for Student Achievement Presented to Board

The Niagara Catholic District School Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement: BIPSA 2011-2013 provides direction for the School Improvement Planning Process for Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools with School Improvement Plan (SIP) teams.

The Board Improvement Plan aligns with the Vision 2020, System Priorities and the School Effectiveness Framework to establish expectations, goals, strategies and partnerships to support

the achievement of all students from the Early Learning Kindergarten Program (ELKP) to graduation.

The Board Improvement Plan incorporates the following information to support school improvement in all schools:

- Niagara Catholic Mission Statement;
- Foreword on Catholic Schools and Faith, and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE's) and the
- Strategic Directions and Priority Indicators from Vision

2020: Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education and Advance Student Achievement.

The four pillars of Catholic Faith, Community, Culture and Caring, Literacy, Numeracy and Pathways were revised as a result of the "Needs Assessment." This assessment is based on historical and broad analysis of data from school assessments, report cards, student success indicators and EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments,

Grade 9 Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

The Board Improvement Plan focuses on Nurturing the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education through Faith Formation programs with staff and students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Read the report at niagaracatholic.ca.

January 27th
is
Family Literacy Day

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2012**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2012**

February 2012

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT




SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	March 1		

1 SEAC Meeting
FDELK - Open Houses

8 -Sec Open Houses - HC
-Celebrating Int Artists Opening Gala, CEC

15 - Official Blessing St. Mark
- National Flag of Canada Day 

1 SEAC Meeting
FDELK - Open Houses

14 CW Meeting 

16 Secondary Open Houses - SM

23 Secondary Open Houses - BT
Student Symposium

20 Family Day
World Day of Social Justice

28 Policy Meeting
Board Meeting

29 Niagara Catholic Celebrates Dance Festival

29 Niagara Catholic Celebrates Dance Festival

March 1

March 1

Speak Out School/Site Competitions Feb 28 - March 1

Speak Out School/Site Competitions Feb 28 - March 1



Niagara Catholic
District School Board
Events posted at
niagaracatholic.ca