



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2015

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Meeting Call to Order – John Crocco, Director of Education/CEO/Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco thanked Bishop Bergie, Honorary Chair of the Board, the Saint Paul Catholic High School Chamber Choir, Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, staff, partners, special guests, students, family and friends for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco informed the guests in attendance that at the Inaugural Meeting of the Board in 2010, the first action of the elected Board of Trustees was to approve a motion naming His Excellency - Bishop Gerard Bergie as the Honourary Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

On behalf of all in attendance, the Director expressed gratitude to Bishop Bergie for his valued partnership with Niagara Catholic, his continuous support and celebration of the importance and excellence of Niagara Catholic schools, the Board, Administrators and staff as Niagara Catholic models and shares the teachings of Jesus and the Church.

2. Opening Prayer and Comments - (Most Rev.) Gerard P. Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines Honorary Chair of the Board

Bishop Bergie opened the 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated prayer.

His Excellency then thanked Director Crocco for his kind words and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board. He expressed appreciation for the partnership between Niagara Catholic and the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Bishop Bergie described Niagara Catholic as being a beacon of light during dark times and expressed his gratitude to Niagara Catholic for overcoming the darkness with the message of Jesus Christ and moving forward for many years to come.

Director Crocco thanked Bishop Bergie for his inspiring message and for his continued support.

3. Roll Call

Director Crocco noted that Bishop Bergie, all Trustees, Student Trustees and staff were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O’Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Michaela Bodis	✓			
Aidan Harold	✓			

Special Guest:

Honorary Chair: (Most Rev.) **Gerard P. Bergie**, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 1, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

6. Saint Paul Catholic High School Chamber Choir

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Lou Stranges, Vice-Principal of Saint Paul Catholic High School, who introduced Louisa Ibbotson, Vocal Teacher/Director and Rebecca Goode, accompanist.

Chamber Choir from Saint Paul Catholic High School performed for the Board.

Director Crocco, on behalf of Trustees, Senior Staff and everyone present, congratulated and thanked the students of Saint Paul Catholic High School for sharing their special gift of song and music.

Niagara Falls Trustees Fera and Nieuwesteeg presented the students with Niagara Catholic “Excellence in the Arts” pins to wear proudly with their uniform.

7. Election Procedures

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in accordance with Section 7 Subsection 5 of the Board By-Laws and appointed Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor and Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, as scrutineers.

8. Election of Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2015 until the December 2016 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee O’Leary

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2015 until the December 2016 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, a tie was declared. A second vote was taken. Following the counting of the second set of ballots, Trustee MacNeil was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to Chairperson MacNeil.

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the ballots for the election of the Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be destroyed.

CARRIED

9. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2015 until the December 2016 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Chair MacNeil asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT Trustee Sicoli be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2015 until the December 2016 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Chair MacNeil asked Trustee Sicoli if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Sicoli accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the ballots for the election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be destroyed.

CARRIED

10. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair MacNeil thanked Bishop Bergie for his constant inspiration, support and friendship as Niagara Catholic's Honorary Chair of the Board. In his remarks Chair MacNeil reaffirmed his commitment to the excellence of Catholic Education in Niagara and Ontario and to serving Niagara Catholic and its students.

A copy of Chair MacNeil's remarks are attached to the Minutes for information and are posted on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.
(Appendix A)

11. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks

Trustee Burtnik thanked Trustees for their support. In her remarks Vice-Chairperson Burtnik pledged her commitment to working with Trustees and staff to provide the best education for all Niagara Catholic students.

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Burtnik's remarks are attached to the Minutes for information are posted on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.
(Appendix B)

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

Director Crocco presented the Report on Board Committees, in accordance with Board By-Law 17 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 15, 2015 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the formation of the following Liaison Committee for the year 2016:

- Staff Wellness Committee

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2016:

- Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

CARRIED

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the December 1, 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 1, 2015.**

Approved on **December 15, 2015.**

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIRPERSON FR. PAUL MACNEIL'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 1, 2015**

Bishop Bergie, vice chair Burtnik, fellow trustees, senior staff and honoured guests, it is a great honour for me to stand before you as chair of the board for this amazing institution of catholic education. First of all, I would like to thank the principals and guests who have taken time out of their busy schedules to be this us tonight. But before I say anything, let me say how genuinely proud I am of the improvements we have made in working together as a board. Thank you all for helping us make this happen and I continue to count on each of you to build on what we are creating together.

Bishop Bergie has said on many occasions that the real threat to catholic education is not only from outside but from within. As chair, I will continue to do whatever I can to bring us closer together as one family in Christ, so that we may each know him, love him and serve him. We must continue to work together, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in our decisions, to protect us from our own egos, including mine, and point us in the right direction. To the teachers who stand in front of our children and students and our staff who support them, thank you for what you do every day. Thank you for doing what may at times feel like a thankless task. It is not. You have our deepest gratitude as a board, and the gratitude of our whole community, as you care for our most precious and valuable resource, our students.

As we enter a new year, I will make a concerted effort to continue to understand and clarify our role as a governing body, so we can make the best and most effective contribution to the organization as a whole. To me, this means three things. First to provide direction to the organization, not as individuals pushing our own agendas but as a unified group, giving one voice to what is being expressed by the entire organization, leaving no voice unheard. Secondly, to provide the resources available to make our vision and direction a reality. To this end, I would like us as trustees to fully engage our budgeting and financial processes, not only in June, but every time we meet. Finally, as facilitator of many off our meetings, I want to provide a safe and positive environment where genuine and respectful dialogue can take place, starting with our executive, John, myself and my vice chair. On that note, I am so proud of how strong that particular relationship has become in the past year. John, thank you for your leadership as our executive director. You have our full and unwavering support as a board. I hope that our example of frank and loving dialogue can be passed on to those we serve.

Let me conclude then, with the prayer of St. Francis, a true master of living dialogue with the Almighty.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

God bless you, God bless Niagara Catholic.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNİK'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
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December 1, 2015**

I stand before you with an exceptionally hopeful heart that this Board can continue to move forward in solidarity with our single purpose of making Niagara Catholic even greater than it is at this moment in time. We have so much to celebrate in our rich history. There is no single event or individual who gets credit for where we are right now. We have a diverse, dedicated staff whose efforts to bring the light and the life of Christ into our classrooms, hallways, offices and communities need our appreciation and continued support. We have parishes, deacons, priests, sisters and parishioners who count on us to keep the gift of Catholic education fully alive. We have parents and guardians who for a multitude of very personal reasons choose Niagara Catholic to help raise their children to be all they can be in this world.

We must continue to build relationships with each other and with all those who have an interest in Catholic education. We are all aware of the constant whispers calling for the discontinued funding of our schools. We cannot dismiss them; we can however diminish their noise by loudly and proudly proclaiming our distinctiveness. If we can continue to do this without using words, by simply living out the gospel story of peace, love, acceptance and forgiveness we will have done what we could to keep our story alive. There will be many next chapters as long as together, we get this one right.

I look forward to working with Father Paul and all of you in the best interest of the children whose parents have chosen Niagara Catholic.

Wishing you all of God's blessings – healthy bodies, healthy minds and happy hearts.