



*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*

## **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016  
9:30 P.M.**

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



### **A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee MacNeil -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -

### **B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. Revised Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars: 2015-2016 B1

### **C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

### **D. ADJOURNMENT**

#### ***BOARD BY-LAWS EXCERPT***

##### ***Special Meetings of the Board***

Special meetings of the Board shall be held by order of the Board, on the written request of three (3) trustees, to the Chairperson or the Director, on the call of the Chairperson, or at the request of the Director of Education. The trustees shall be given a twenty four (24) hour notice for special meetings except in emergency situations. Such meetings shall be called for specific reasons. Such subjects shall be stated in the notice calling the meeting. Notwithstanding any other provisions to the Board's By-Laws, no other business shall be considered at a special meeting other than the subjects stated in the notice.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2016**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: REVISED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL  
YEAR CALENDARS: 2015-2016**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the revised Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars in selecting April 15, 2016 for the 2015-2016 school year as per Regulation 304 as amended by Regulation 364/15, as presented.

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Prepared by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 12, 2016



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REPORT TO THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING JANUARY 12, 2016

### REVISED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS: 2015-2016

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The *Education Act, Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days* outlines the requirements and timelines for preparing and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education for approval.

For the 2015-2016 school year calendars, there are 194 possible school days between September 8, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Within this total, elementary and secondary schools must have a minimum of 194 school days of which six (6) days must be designated as professional activity days. Secondary schools may have a maximum of ten (10) instructional days set as examination days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days.

On December 18, 2015 a Ministry Memorandum was issued to Directors of Education addressing the topic of an additional Professional Activity Day for the 2015-2016 School Year Calendar. The memorandum addressed the following items:

- i. At the commencement of the 2015-2016 school year, Regulation 304 required that school boards designate two (2) PA Days per school year and permitted school boards to designate up to four (4) additional PA Days per school year. On April 14, 2015, the Board approved the following Professional Activity Days for the 2015-2016 school year.

#### *Elementary Professional Activity Days:*

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday, September 3, 2015:</b> | Student Achievement/Student Success: Developing and Implementing Board and School Improvement Plans. |
| <b>Friday, October 9, 2015:</b>     | Implementing strategies to improve and/or to close the gaps in student achievement in numeracy.      |
| <b>Friday, November 13, 2015:</b>   | Faith Day.   |
| <b>Friday, January 15, 2016:</b>    | Report Card Writing Day: Performance Assessments for, as and of Learning.                            |
| <b>Friday, June 10, 2016:</b>       | Report Card Writing Day: Performance assessments for, as and of learning.                            |
| <b>Thursday, June 30, 2016:</b>     | Student Achievement/Student Success: Performance Assessments for, as and of Learning.                |

***Secondary Professional Activity Days:***

**Thursday, September 3, 2015:** Student Achievement/Student Success: Developing and Implementing Board and School Improvement Plans.

**Friday, October 9, 2015:** Implementing strategies to improve and/or to close the gaps in student achievement in numeracy.

**Friday, November 13, 2015:** Faith Day.

**Friday, February 5, 2016:** Student Achievement/Student Success: Performance Assessments and Evaluations for, as, and of Learning.

**Wednesday, June 29, 2016:** Student Achievement/Student Success: Performance Assessments and Evaluations for, as, and of Learning.

**Thursday, June 30, 2016:** Student Achievement/Student Success: Performance Assessments and Evaluations for, as, and of Learning.

- ii. A key term of the settlements that were negotiated recently with the four (4) teachers' federations is the provision of an additional PA Day each school year.
- iii. Regulation 304 has now been amended to implement this commitment as set out in Regulation 364/15 and came into force on November 30, 2015.
- iv. Regulation 304 now requires school boards to designate three (3) PA Days and the authority for boards to designate up to four (4) additional PA Days remains unchanged, thus increasing the total maximum number of possible PA Days per school year from six (6) to seven (7).
- v. As a result the total number of instructional days per school year is reduced by one.
- vi. The topics for the additional PA Day are as follows:
  - a. All teachers: half day PA Day - Occupational Health and Safety Training.
  - b. FDK teachers/ECE teams: half day PA Day - Inquiry-based learning and pedagogical assessment documentation strategies for FDK teachers/ECE teams.
  - c. Grades 1-12 teachers: half day PA Day - Topics to be decided by board / federation PD Committees and be aligned with Ministry priorities such as Mathematics, inquiry based/experiential learning and/or assessment documentation and/or equity.
- vii. The requirement for an additional PA Day is effective immediately and as such applies to the current school year.
- viii. The amendment to Regulation 304 requires boards to make transitional mid-year changes to 2015-2016 school year calendars and to notify the Ministry and parents of these calendar revisions.
- ix. Ministry approval of the board's calendar revisions is not required.
- x. Boards are urged to schedule the additional PA Day on or before April 15, 2016.
- xi. Teachers are required to participate in this PA Day.

Boards are required to notify the Ministry of the revised 2015-2016 school year calendars no later than January 16, 2016. Parents, students and the school community are to be made aware of the board's updated 2015-2016 school year calendars immediately following submission of the calendar revisions to the Ministry.

In consultation with our coterminous school board (District School Board of Niagara), a potential agreement has been reached that the 2015-2016 Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars will be amended with an additional PA Day scheduled for April 15, 2016.

***Additional Elementary Professional Activity Day:***

**Friday, April 15, 2016:** Health and Safety Training  
FDK teachers/ECE Teams: Inquiry-based Learning  
Grades 1-8 teachers: Topics in alignment with Ministry Priorities with a focus on assessment.

***Additional Secondary Professional Activity Day:***

**Friday, April 15, 2016:** Health and Safety Training  
FDK teachers/ECE Teams: Inquiry-based Learning  
Grades 9-12 teachers: Topics in alignment with Ministry Priorities with a focus on assessment.

Following approval of the Board, the Ministry will be informed of this additional Professional Activity Day by January 16, 2016, as will the parents, students and school communities of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the revised Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars in selecting April 15, 2016 for the 2015-2016 school year as per Regulation 304 as amended by Regulation 364/15, as presented.

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