



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 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 – Camillo Cipriano, 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 Camillo Cipriano, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Cipriano welcomed guests and thanked Bishop Bergie, Honorary Chair of the Board for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board for 2021.

2. Land Acknowledgement – Steffen Zylstra, Student Trustee

Student Trustee Steffen Zylstra opened the 2021 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a Land Acknowledgement.

3. Opening Prayer – (Most Rev.) Gerard P. Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines, Honorary Chair of the Board

Director Cipriano informed the guests in attendance that at the Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2014, 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.

Director Cipriano expressed gratitude to Bishop Bergie for his spiritual leadership, his support of Catholic education and his partnership with Niagara Catholic.

His Excellency then thanked Director Cipriano for his kind words and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Bishop Bergie led the 2021 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated Advent reflection and prayer.

On behalf of the Board and the students of Niagara Catholic, Director Cipriano presented Bishop Bergie with a box of Christmas cards designed from artwork submitted by students of Niagara Catholic.

4. **Roll Call**

Director Cipriano noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Daniel Moody	✓			
Leanne Prince	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
Student Trustees				
Sydney Yott		✓		
Steffen Zylstra	✓			

Special Guest:

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

The following staff were in attendance:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education; **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Kimberly Kinney**, **Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

5. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 7, 2021, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **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.

7. **Election Procedures**

Director Cipriano reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair in accordance with Section 8 Subsection 4 of the Board By-Laws, asked if there were any questions of the procedures before proceeding and appointed Harry Korosis, Board Solicitor and Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, as scrutineers if required.

8. **Election of Chair**

Director Cipriano called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT Trustee Huibers be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2021 until the 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Cipriano asked Trustee Huibers if he wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Huibers accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Turner

THAT Trustee Sicoli be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2021 until the 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Cipriano asked Trustee Sicoli if he wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Sicoli accepted the nomination.

Following three calls for nominations there were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Moody

THAT the nominations for the position of Chair 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 and was also declared a tie. In compliance with Board By-Laws, the two nominees drew straws for the position of Chair. Straws were drawn alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Huibers was elected by straw ballot to the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2021 until the 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Prince

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

CARRIED

Director Cipriano turned over the Chairship of the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to Chair Huibers.

9. **Election of Vice-Chair**

Chair Huibers called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Prince

THAT Trustee Burkholder be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2021 until the 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

CARRIED

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

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT Trustee Moody be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2021 until the 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

CARRIED

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

Following three calls for nominations there were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair 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 and was also declared a tie. In compliance with Board By-Laws, the two nominees drew straws for the position of Vice-Chair. Straws were drawn alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Moody was elected by straw ballot to the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2021 until the 2022 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Turner

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

CARRIED

10. **Chair's Remarks**

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

11. Vice-Chair's Remarks

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

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

Director Cipriano presented the Report on Board Committees, in accordance with Board By-Law 19 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until November 30, 2022.

Director Cipriano stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 21, 2021 Board Meeting.

In compliance with Board By-laws, the Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair will appoint trustees to the various committees of the Board. A report on the recommended names will be presented at the January 11, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting for a recommendation to the January Board meeting for approval of Board Committees for 2022.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2022:

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

CARRIED

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the December 7, 2021 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 7, 2021.**

Approved on **December 21, 2021.**

Larry Huibers
Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIR HUIBERS' REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 7, 2021**

Your Excellency, Fellow Trustees, Students and Families of Niagara Catholic, Staff and Supporters of Catholic Education

In this season of Advent as we look forward to celebrating the blessed arrival of Jesus, we have reason to look forward with great optimism of what can be.

What can be is a great educational and spiritual experience for all the students and their families.

What can be is a recognition of the strength the community can bring to make Catholic education a positive experience.

What can be is the foundation for all students to achieve their highest potential.

What can be is the reward staff realize in following their vocation to making a difference, in whatever role they play within the Niagara Catholic environment.

Through reflection and purpose, we, the Trustees, have a great duty to advance the vision as developed in the new Multi Year Strategic Plan. This plan was imagined by the whole of the Niagara Catholic community. The Plan is based on a common goal of making Catholic Education in Niagara something to celebrate. There are challenges and we must be mindful of them and how those challenges impact on people's lives. We must respect differences and embrace those differences because that strengthens the foundation of Niagara Catholic.

I ask that the Trustees find ways to find common good and put differences aside so we can serve those we have an obligation and duty to support.

I ask that all our partners commit to supporting excellence in the system.

I ask that families continue to support our educational system.

Together we can make 2021/2022 a better year towards realizing the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Thank you

APPENDIX B

VICE-CHAIR MOODY'S REMARKS

Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 7, 2021

I would like to thank everybody here today, Bishop, all the fellow Trustees, educators and so on.

It's been a heck of an experience over the last year. As Chair Huibers said, it's a learning experience, one that we grow. I thank everybody and most of all I thank God. The Bishop once said, when we had a meeting, when do we think about God. That's a good question. I think about God when I get up, and when I go to bed. I came up with the initials GC – Grateful Catholic. I'm a very grateful catholic, and for that, it guides me in the job I do today.

With that, I would like to thank everybody and I hope we can have a very good smooth year and I hope we are able to help our students and our staff along this difficult time with COVID and so on.

Once again thank you.