



# MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

## TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

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

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Marino.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Benoit's absence approved due to sanction, and Student Trustees Johnstone and Geremia are excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit				✓
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Charlotte Johnstone				✓
Emilio Geremia				✓

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education; **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Kimberly Kinney**, **Gino Pizzoferrato**, **Pat Rocca**, **Domenic Massi**, **Joseph Zaroda**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Julia Tiessen**, Executive Officer of Human Resources; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2024, as presented.

**CARRIED**

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 5, 2024**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 5, 2024, as presented.

**CARRIED**

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee**

Presented for information.

6.2 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.3 **Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

6.4 **In Camera Item G1**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

**CARRIED**

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

## **C. GOVERNANCE POLICIES**

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

#### **1.1. Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10)**

Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10), following the vetting process.

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10), as presented.

**APPROVED**

#### **1.2. Advocacy Policy (100.9)**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Advocacy Policy (100.9), following the vetting process.

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Advocacy Policy (100.9), as presented.

**APPROVED**

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

#### **2.1. Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10)**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

## **2.2. Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7)**

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education, presented the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- Paragraph 3 – remove last line
- Add “*The names of the individuals or groups nominated for this award will be brought to the Board for information at an in-camera Board meeting. The names of the recipients of this award will also be brought for information at an in-camera Board meeting.*”

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

## **2.3. Attendance Area Policy (301.3)**

Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services, presented the Attendance Area Policy (301.3).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- Paragraph 3 – add “*region*”

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Attendance Area Policy (301.3), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

## **2.4. Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4)**

Superintendent Rocca presented the Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

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

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

## **D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Enrolment and Retention Report**

Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education provided background information on Enrolment and Retention, and introduced Andrew Boon, Principal of Notre Dame College School and Adel Filice, Principal of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

Superintendent Zaroda answered questions of Trustees.

Mr. Boon and Ms. Filice presented the Enrolment and Retention report for Trustee information.

Mr. Boon and Ms. Filice answered questions of Trustees.

### **2. Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025**

Director Cipriano presented the Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025.

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025, as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Monthly Updates**

#### **3.1 Student Trustees' Update**

Deferred to May Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### **3.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

##### **Director Cipriano**

- Annually, the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association organizes a fundraiser titled Toonies for Tuition, aimed at supporting provinces without publicly funded Catholic education. Niagara Catholic high schools, along with an elementary school, have collectively raised over \$6,500 to contribute to this noble cause.

## **E. INFORMATION**

### **1. Trustee Information**

#### **1.1 Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony – May 8, 2024**

Director Cipriano extended an invitation to the Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony taking place on May 8, 2024.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

## **F. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- 1.1 Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, noted that the NCPIC Parent Night will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and asked that Trustees confirm their attendance.

## **G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**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 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:06 p.m. and reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

## **H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2024.

**CARRIED**

## **SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on March 5, 2024, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item G1)**

The Trustees were presented with an update on Capital Priorities.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the April 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **April 9, 2024.**

Approved on **May 14, 2025.**

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Rhianon Burkholder  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer