

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the** Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 9, 2025, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 9, 2025:

**7.1.1 Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15), as presented.



# MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 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 Bruzzese.

### 2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

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>				
Taylor Sexton	✓			
Mason Pasma	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

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

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 9, 2025, 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 June 10, 2025**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 10, 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

**6.1 2025-2026 Parents Reaching Out (PRO)Grants**

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 Items G1**

Moved by Trustee Benoit

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

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Director of Education and Senior Staff Introduction to the 2025-2026 School Year**

Director Cipriano introduced and welcomed incoming Student Trustee Mason Pasma.

Director Cipriano and Senior Staff presented the [Introduction to the 2025-2026 School Year report](#) for Trustee information.

Director Cipriano and members of Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees.

**2. Summer School/Continuing Education**

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the Continuing Education and Summer School programs and introduced Marla Rapattoni, Principal of Continuing Education and Tara Vinc, Principal of Summer Learning Sites.

Ms. Rapattoni and Ms. Vinc presented the Continuing Education/Summer School report for Trustee information.

Ms. Rapattoni and Ms. Vinc answered questions of Trustees.

**3. St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Project ID: 50-068**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services provided an update on the St. Luke Catholic Elementary School Project.

**4. Principal and Vice Principal Selection Process**

Director Cipriano outlined the Principal and Vice Principal Selection Process and invited feedback from Trustees.

Director Cipriano answered questions of Trustees.

**5. Monthly Updates**

**5.1 Student Trustees' Update**

Taylor Sexton and Mason Pasma, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

**5.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

**Director Cipriano**

- In response to the devastating wildfires in northern Manitoba, a displaced Indigenous community was to be temporarily relocated to Niagara Falls, prompting an extraordinary act of collaboration and compassion. With just a week before school began, teams from our board and DSBN came together to prepare a learning space in Grimsby by providing desks, chairs, physical education equipment, and transportation. Although the families were thankfully able to return home before these resources were needed, this effort stands as a powerful example of our faith in action and our shared commitment to student well-being. Working alongside DSBN reminded us that we're all united in the mission to support children and create opportunities for learning.

A video of the first day of school was presented.

## **D. GOVERNANCE POLICIES**

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

#### **1.1. Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15)**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the P following the vetting process.

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Benoit

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15), as presented.

**APPROVED**

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

#### **2.1. Board By-Laws Policy (100.1)**

Director Cipriano, presented the Board By-Laws Policy (100.1).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Board By-Laws Policy (100.1), be vetted from September 10, 2025 to October 29, 2025 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in November, for consideration to the Board in November.

#### **2.2. Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8)**

Director Cipriano, presented the Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8), be vetted from September 10, 2025 to October 29, 2025 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in November, for consideration to the Board in November.

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

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

## **E. INFORMATION**

### **1. Trustee Information**

#### **1.1 2025 OCSTA Fall Regional Meeting – September 24, 2025**

Trustee Di Lorenzo reminded Trustees of the 2025 OCSTA Fall Regional Meeting on September 24, 2025

#### **1.2 OCSTA Membership Fees and Face Levy and Interim Invoice for Core Education Funding for Central Bargaining**

Director Cipriano highlighted the OCSTA Membership Fees and Face Levy and Interim Invoice for Core Education Funding for Central Bargaining.

## **F. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- 1.1 Director Cipriano informed the Board that a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, October 26th at Notre Dame College School.

## **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 8:42 p.m. and reconvened at 8:47 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 September 9, 2025.

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Trustee Benoit

**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 June 10, 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item G1)**

Discussion on staffing took place.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the September 9, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.  
**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on  
**September 9, 2025.**

Approved on **October 14, 2025.**

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Rhianon Burkholder  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: NAMING OF A BOARD FACILITY, DESIGNATE AREA OR  
CHAPEL POLICY (100.15)**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15), as presented.

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

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

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: September 23, 2025





Niagara Catholic District School Board

## ***NAMING/RENAMING OF A BOARD FACILITY, DESIGNATED AREA OR CHAPEL***

### **STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY**

100 – Board

Policy No 100.15

Adopted Date: June 21, 2016

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: January 25, 2022

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the naming or renaming of a Board facility, designated area, or chapel in whole, or in part, will honour a name or title officially recognized by the Catholic Church, will be endorsed by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines, and will be approved by the Board of Trustees in a motion at a Board meeting.

The Board values community input for the naming/renaming of a Board facility, designated area, or chapel in whole, or in part. The Board acknowledges that the naming/renaming of a Board facility, designated area, or chapel provides an exemplar for Niagara Catholic students, and must meet the criteria and process within the Administrative Operational Procedures.

Affirming the universal call to holiness, when an individual for whom a current facility, designated area or chapel has been named, is canonized by the Catholic Church, or a title or name has been changed by the Catholic Church, the Board, in consultation with the community, will rename the facility, designated area or chapel, and will support the community through the transition.

The Director of Education will issue [\*Administrative Operational Procedures\*](#) for the implementation of this Policy.

#### References

- [\*Education Act\*](#)
- [\*Code of Canon Law\*](#)

Adopted Date:	June 21, 2016
Revision History:	March 24, 2020 January 25, 2022

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF JUNE 4, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 4, 2025, as presented for information.



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**June 4, 2025**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., at Bethesda, 3280 Schmon Pkwy, Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6

Chair Monique Somma called the meeting to order at 6: 34 p.m.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Somma led the Land Acknowledgment

2. **Opening Prayer**

Chair Somma led the opening prayer

3. **Roll Call**

Members	Affiliations	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Jessica Thomas	Autism Ontario Niagara Region				X
Alyson Wilson	Bethesda Services	X			
Monique Somma (CHAIR)	Community Living (Pelham/Welland)	X			
Christine Bowers	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)				X
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara		X		
Madeline Cipriano	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara				X
Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras	Mainstream			X	
Chris Tawil	Niagara Children's Centre	X			
Michelle Toy	Pathstone	X			
<b>Community Representative</b>					
Krystine Donato		X			
<b>Indigenous Representative</b>					
Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg			X		
<b>Secondary Student Senate Representative</b>					
Kate Bishop			X		
<b>Trustees</b>					
Trustee, Rhianon Burkholder				X	
Trustee, Jim Marino		X			

The following staff were in attendance:

**Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendent of Education, **Jenna Young**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets received: Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras, Rhianon Burkholder, Adele Filice, Susy Walsh

Guests/Staff Resources in attendance: Brooke Loughhead, Jim DiGioia, Grace Brochu, Ashley Prohaszka, Kelly Keighan, Giancarlo Vetrone

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Alyson Wilson

Seconded by: Chris Tawil

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 4, 2025 as presented.

**CARRIED**

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations of conflict of interest were declared with any item on the agenda.

6. **Approval of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2025**

Moved by: Andrea Pede

Seconded by: Krystine Donato

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 7, 2025 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. ***Hannah Graham – Student at Saint Michael Catholic Secondary School***

Hannah Graham presented:

A slideshow on Autism Awareness, consisting of information on:

- What Autism is
- Symptoms of Autism
- How Autism affects people
- Early-on signs of Autism
- Stimming
- Causes of Autism
- Myths associated with Autism
- Fun facts
- Hannah's personal experience with Autism
- Autism Help and resources

## **2. Giancarlo Vetrone – Superintendent of Business and Financial Services**

Giancarlo Vetrone presented:

A slideshow on 2024-2025 grants for student needs, consisting of:

- 2025-2026 Projected Increase in Student Transportation Fund
- 2025-2026 Highlight Changes
- Core Education Funding & Capital Funding Investments
- Labour-Related Changes
- School Board Administration Expense Limit and Accountability Measures
- Special Education Funding & Per Pupil Allocation
- Differential Needs Allocation & Measures of Variability
- Complex Supports Allocation
- Specialized Equipment Allocation
- Special Education Funding and Expenditures
- 2025-2026 Responsive Education Programs Allocations
- Mental Health Supports
- Operations Funding
- School Renewal Funding
- Temporary Accommodations Allocation
- Funding Details for SCI, SRA, CPC and TAA

## **C. CHAIR'S REPORT-*Chair Somma***

Chair Somma presented:

1. Thank you Alyson and Bethesda for hosting the SEAC meeting
2. Co-chair for September 2025 – a needed position
3. Goals – Will call for a working group over the next couple of months to review the recommendations from the Google Goals form. Looking for a mix of staff and community representatives to support the prep work to guide goals work for 2025-2026

Next steps- new/continued goals for 2025/26 school year:



Please update your organization information for newsletters. If your organization is not listed, please add your information:



## **D. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **1. Autism Ontario Niagara Region- *Jessica Thomas***

No report.

## **2. Bethesda Services-Alyson Wilson**

Alyson Wilson reported:

Bethesda offers a variety of different **Foundational Family Services and Supports** that are available to families registered with the Ontario Autism Program or Children's Behaviour Services. Our latest Service Guide can be found on our website - <https://bethesdaservices.com/en/youth/home>. All of the services are free and immediately available to families! Services include:

- Caregiver and Youth Workshops
- Social Recreational Groups
- Clinical Group Services
- Family Activities and Community Events
- Family and Sibling Support Groups
- Brief Consultation Services (SLP, OT, ABA and Mental Health Services)

Bethesda's Summer Service Guide includes over 80 summer camps and fun family activities! For more information about the services offered at Bethesda, please contact our Service Coordinators at (905) 684-6918, ext. 170 or [serviceinfo@bethesdaservices.com](mailto:serviceinfo@bethesdaservices.com).

### **Transition to Adulthood Workshop Series (see attached flyer for registration information)**

A four-part, weekly workshop series designed to support parents, caregivers, and youth as they prepare for life beyond childhood! Each workshop will provide practical tools, expert guidance, and insights into the services and supports available during this important transition. Our goal is to help families plan with confidence. Take the next step toward a successful transition to adulthood!

#### **Part 1: Navigating the Transition to Adulthood Tuesday, June 17, 2025 | 6:00-8:30-pm**

Learn about the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) process of transitioning to adulthood in the community and at Bethesda. This foundational session sets the tone for the remaining workshops!

#### **Part 2: Community Supports & Goal Setting Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | 6:00-8:30-pm**

Do you know for which services your youth is eligible? Find out in this session! We will provide you with the resources you will need to begin customizing your plan and setting goals for your youths future, with the help of Developmental Services Ontario (DSO).

#### **Part 3: Engaging Youth in the Transition Process Wednesday, July 2, 2025 | 6:00-8:30-pm**

Hear from young adults about their real-life transition experiences. Learn tips on goal setting, advocacy, and self-determination. Youth are encouraged to attend this session with their parent/caregiver.

#### **Part 4: Introduction to Adult Services at Bethesda Tuesday, July 8, 2025 | 6:00-8:30-pm**

Discover Bethesda's adult services, including Passport funding, day/respite programs, healthcare changes, and guardianship/consent. Learn how to access services as your youth approaches adulthood.

Bethesda will be joining the team at Niagara Catholic to help facilitate two full day Transition to Grade 1 Summer camps in July.

### **3. Community Living (Pelham/Welland) - Chair Somma**

Chair Somma reported:

- The Community Living library program was granted funding which will allow the program to continue into the summer with plans to extend and grow.
- Planning for the summer camp programs continues with goals of collaborating with the city to ensure students have authentic, inclusive experiences.

### **4. Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) - Christine Bowers**

No report.

### **5. Down Syndrome Niagara-Andrea Pede**

Andrea Pede reported:

#### **Did You Know?**

>>> Jake Burger of the Texas Rangers changed his jersey number to 21 to honour his daughter Penelope, who has Down syndrome. He aims to raise awareness and support families through a new foundation.

>>> The Global Down Syndrome Foundation and the Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network have signed a multi-year agreement to enhance research and support for families. Their upcoming GLOBAL Roundtable will feature experts discussing topics like pediatric immune system dysregulation and neurodevelopmental conditions.

>>> Actor Race Eberhardt becomes the first person with Down Syndrome to lead an action movie in "Strait Undercover," which has been set for a summer 2025 release.

#### **Thank You**

On behalf of Down Syndrome Niagara, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for including our organization in your commitment to Special Education. We greatly appreciate your recognition of the work that we do and the information that we must share with our community. Advocacy helps to create more inclusive, informed, and supportive learning environments, and we are grateful to be acknowledged as part of that important work through this partnership. When your child has a disability, you often worry about whether others will see their potential, whether their needs will be understood, and whether their voice will be represented. The commitment to inclusion and collaboration doesn't just impact policy; it impacts real families, every single day.

#### **UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS**

Ö **Safari Niagara** – Sunday, July 6th, 2025

Ö **Annual Summer Picnic** – tentatively planned for Sunday, August 17th, 2025

Ö **Annual Friendship Walk** – Sunday, September 21st, 2025; DSN will be sending a letter to the high school to inform students, as we're seeking volunteers for the event. *Further details about specific tasks will be provided.*

#### **Additional Guides and Resources:**

Education Resources, 21 Welcomes: A Guide for New Parents

**6. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara-Madeline Cipriano**

No report.

**7. Mainstream-Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras**

No report.

**8. Niagara Children's Centre- Chris Tawil**

Chris Tawil reported:

Niagara Children's Centre had a tremendous "Help Kids Shine" campaign. The community raised, through the incredible leadership from our Development Team and Campaign Cabinet volunteers, an amazing \$462, 641. This was both a public awareness and a fundraising campaign and it was a success on both fronts.

Niagara Children's Centre has many events scheduled in the month of June and into the summer.

This is a link to the events in the month of June

[https://mailchi.mp/niagarachildrenscentre/dec2021\\_caregiver\\_connections-6254663?e=788beec52e](https://mailchi.mp/niagarachildrenscentre/dec2021_caregiver_connections-6254663?e=788beec52e)

OT, SLP and PT services at school are evaluating their processes in an attempt to decrease our waitlists. Some students will be seen in the summer for assessment or a short block of service. Stay tuned for new criteria for SLP.

Also referrals will soon be accepted only online, more details to follow.

The OT's and PT's are attempting to cover all of the schools next year and there shouldn't be any schools on hold.

**9. Pathstone Mental Health – Michelle Toy**

No report.

**E. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Krystine Donato**

No report.



**F. INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg**

Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg reported:

- June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada and is a time to celebrate the history and heritage of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, which is reflected throughout Niagara Catholic.

**G. SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Kate Bishop**

Kate Bishop reported:

- Recently student senators organized and hosted the annual symposium for all of the student councils and elementary student senators of the board. The theme was “Limitless” and featured keynote speaker Jeff A.D. Martin. Also at the symposium was the vote for next year’s elementary and secondary co-chairs, which is now official.
- End of year carnivals and pep rallies took place in May at different schools, such as Colour Wars, Patriot Palooza and the Stampede.
- The final Senate meeting is next week, with elections taking place for new representatives of different roles within the Senate.
- Most secondary schools will be hosting a Grade 9 orientation come August, where new students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the high school in hopes the first few weeks of school will feel less overwhelming.

**H. STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Elementary Principal - Susy Walsh**

No report.

**2. Secondary Principal - Adele Filice**

No report.

### **3. Student Support – Jim Di Gioia**

Jim Di Gioia reported:

#### **Student Support Symposium, May 28, 2025**

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, Student Support Services hosted a full-day Student Support Symposium at the White Oaks Spa and Conference Resort for Elementary and Secondary Educational Resource Teachers (ERTs) and Secondary Special Education Program Chairs. The event focused on the theme of *Supporting Student Transitions*, highlighting the critical role schools and community partners play in guiding students and their families through key moments of change and development. The goal of the symposium was to deepen participants' understanding of effective transition planning and to foster meaningful collaboration between educators and local agencies.

A total of 120 Niagara Catholic staff members attended the event, along with 25 representatives from 10 different community agencies. During the day, staff took part in small group sessions led by these agencies. In these sessions, presenters shared useful information, tips, and tools to help students move through different stages in their education.

The event also included a networking lunch with an Educational Marketplace. At the Marketplace, the agencies set up tables and displays to share resources and answer questions. This gave staff a chance to speak with the agencies one-on-one, learn more about their services, and make connections for future support. The day ended with a keynote presentation by Susan Stewart. Her talk, called *Using the Golden Rule of Comedy to See the Lighter Side of Life*, gave everyone a chance to laugh and reflect. Her message was about staying positive and using humor to handle challenges in both work and life.

Staff left the symposium with a renewed appreciation for the importance of transitions in a student's educational journey. They gained a deeper understanding of their role in supporting these changes and were reminded that transition planning is not just the responsibility of one educator or program, but a shared effort. Student Support continues to champion this collaborative approach, ensuring that each student is supported in reaching their full potential—in mind, body, and spirit—through every stage of their educational pathway. The Symposium served as a meaningful and energizing event that reinforced Niagara Catholic's commitment to inclusive, student-centered education and strong community partnerships.

### **4. Superintendent Pizzoferrato**

Superintendent Pizzoferrato reported:

- One space remains open on the SEAC for a community partner
- Come September a term of commitment form needs to go to the Board to identify who the SEAC members are for the next four years
- A summary of the principal and ERT meetings regarding EA allocations for the upcoming school year.
- A chart of all received MACSE survey comments and suggestions

**I. TRUSTEE REPORTS - Trustee Burkholder/Trustee Marino**

Trustee Marino reported:

I along with Danny Di Lorenzo Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board had the privilege of attending the 1st Annual Special Olympics at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Elementary School last week, and it was a very heartwarming experience to see joy and excitement wafting through the air of the school grounds and gymnasium as the young participants were cheered on by proud parents, guardians, fellow students and other onlookers.

Principal Jay Lennox , Vice Principal Tara Vinc and all those taking a leadership role in organizing the event along with all of the volunteers should certainly be commended for their efforts in arranging a fun-filled program of activities and doing something extra special for the students requiring extra care for their needs. I am told that they have always been included in the school's annual Track and Field meets, but in a very limited capacity, and so Jay, Tara and staff really wanted to expand for other competitive opportunities. 25 student athletes were involved in the event, and they came from 9 Catholic elementary schools across Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The students participated in both team and individual events such as volleyball, boccia, long jump, shot put, discuss, and 50-meter dash.

Students had the opportunity to decorate personalized frames with photos to ensure they would have a memento from their experience from a wonderful fun-filled day, and to provide parents who were not able to attend, a chance to see how their child spent their day. All participant athletes also received a t-shirt and back pack filled with items that celebrated the day.

**J. NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

**K. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

No report.

**L. NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at The Catholic Education Centre.

**M. CLOSING PRAYER:** Chair Somma led the closing prayer.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Alyson Wilson

Seconded by: Krystine Donato

**THAT** the June 4, 2025 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF  
MAY 1, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of May 1, 2025 as presented for information.



# MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 1, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Superintendent of Education, Forsyth-Sells shared that in the absence of Chair Thomas, and as the Director's Designate, that she would be presiding over the meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## A. ROUTINE MATTERS

### 1. Opening Prayer

Principal Timmins led the Land Acknowledgement and the Opening Prayer.

### 2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Brenda Annen			√	
Julie Bateman		√		
Rose Heron	√			
Kate Hingston		√		
Sara Ivicic	√			
Jacqueline Kelly				√
Caroline Polgrabia		√		
Laura Thomas			√	
Carrie Vernelli		√		
<b>Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)</b>				
Jennifer Pilzecker		√		
<b>Bishop/Diocesan Representative</b>				
Fr. Paul MacNeil		√		
<b>Community Representatives</b>				
Josie Rocca-St. Vincent de Paul			√	
Alexandra Gonzalez				√
<b>Secondary Student Senate Representative</b>				
Ella Colaneri				√
<b>Trustees</b>				
Trustee, Larry Huibers	√			
Trustee, Joe Bruzzese		√		

The following staff were in attendance:

**Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, Superintendent of Education, **Maria Solomon**, Elementary Principal, **Kevin Timmins**, Secondary Principal and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets received: Brenda Annen, Laura Thomas and Josie Rocca.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Rose Heron

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 1, 2025 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations of conflict of interest were declared with any item on the agenda.

**5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2025**

Moved by: Sara Ivicic

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 6, 2025 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATION**

1. Overview of the Niagara Catholic Student Achievement Plan-Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared that the presentation for the overview of the Niagara Catholic Student Achievement Plan has been postponed. There will be a survey for parents to provide feedback on the Student Achievement Plan before the end of this school year.

**C. POLICIES FOR VETTING**

1. [Employee Workplace Harassment Policy \(201.7\)](#)
2. [Employee Workplace Violence Policy \(201.11\)](#)
3. [Occupational Health and Safety Policy \(201.6\)](#)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that all NCPIC members received an email on April 10, regarding the policies currently being vetted.

- Feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC is to be sent to Yvonne Anderson no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.
- Feedback being submitted as an individual to be sent directly to Anna Pisano no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

**D. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

1. Catholic Education Week/Mental Health and Well-Being Week: May 4-9, 2025  
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that Catholic Education Week begins on Sunday, May 4. Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools will be celebrating and participating in Catholic Education Week (CEW) with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope. This is an opportunity to highlight the connection between our Catholic faith and mental health and wellness.

2. Parent Engagement with Dr. Jean Clinton-May 5, 2025

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells thanked, Principal Timmins for hosting the parent engagement event with Dr. Jean Clinton on Monday, May 5, 2025 at Denis Morris Catholic High School from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., 228 parents registered for the event. Niagara Region Public Health, CASON and members of the Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Team will be on site to share information on community supports for parents and students. Resources from School Mental Health-Ontario will also be available for parents.

3. Catholic School Council Funding Applications

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that 16 elementary schools and four secondary schools have been approved for additional funding to promote parent engagement events at their schools.

4. NCPIC Membership and Meeting Dates 2025-2026

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that nomination forms for the 2025-2026 NCPIC Membership are being accepted until 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025. NCPIC parent members coming to the end of their term were encouraged to complete and submit a nomination form for the 2025-2026 school year.

NCPIC Meeting Dates for the 2025-2026 school year are as follows:

September 4, 2025

November 6, 2025

January 8, 2026

March 12, 2026 (The Niagara Foundation Gala will take place on the Thursday, March 5, 2026)

May 7, 2026

5. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC.

**E. ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION (OAPCE) REPORT**

Ontario Association for Parent in Catholic Education (OAPCE) 86<sup>th</sup> Conference “Coming Together as the Power of One”.

Jennifer Pilzecker, Niagara Catholic OPACE Regional Director reported that the conference is coming together quite well. OAPCE is grateful for all of the assistance that Niagara Catholic has provided including the communication that went out over *schoolmessenger* last Thursday, inviting all parents in our region to attend the conference on May 24, 2025 at Saint Michael Catholic High School, Niagara Falls. OAPCE is hoping that parent members of the NCPIC and various staff members will be in attendance as it is going to be a great day.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the NCPIC and Niagara Catholic are pleased to be hosting the 86<sup>th</sup> OAPCE Provincial Conference in Niagara Falls, at Saint Michael Catholic High School and that information about registration is also posted on the Board website.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells also shared that as an advocate and past OAPCE Director, Trustee Bruzzese will be acknowledged at the conference as a recipient of the OAPCE Legacy Leadership Award. This award is given to an individual that actively leads initiatives to support the mission and vision of OAPCE with integrity and has acted in the best interests of the association to engage, advocate and enhance Catholic education in Ontario.

Trustee Bruzzese reported that OAPCE is a wonderful organization and the only one recognized under the Education Act. He encouraged all parents and staff to attend the conference as it will be a



great experience. Funds are available to every Catholic School Council from the Ministry for parent registration. OAPCE has planned a great day with keynote speakers, a luncheon and a Mass presided by Fr. Paul MacNeil. It is a great day to interact with parents right across Ontario.

**D. SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-*Ella Colaneri***

- Nil Report

**E. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-*Fr. Paul MacNeil***

Trustee Huibers on behalf of Fr. Paul reported that:

- We continue to mourn the loss of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. He passed away on Easter Monday at the age of 88 at his residence, Casa Santa Marta. His funeral was held on Saturday April 26th and he was laid to rest at the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major (Santa Maria Maggiore, in Italian), breaking with papal tradition. We are now in a period of nine days of mourning called Novendiales. Each day a different cardinal will lead a public funeral rite, which all of the cardinals meet in congregations each day of the week. Starting on May 7, the 135 voting age cardinals (under 80) will then meet in a conclave to elect the next pope.
- Around the Diocese, on Saturday May 31, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., the Catholic Women's League is hosting a speaker series around the theme "Where will my sister lay her head." The keynote speaker is Marni Katzman, lived expert, peer support worker, and advocate on the topics of homelessness, access to health care, and gender-based violence. Other speakers include Fr. Gerard Power, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Niagara Falls and Jane LaVacca, Executive Director of Westview Centre for Women.
- Our Catholic Churches are looking forward to supporting and participating in all the wonderful activities of Catholic Education week.

Major upcoming feasts:

May 17: Ascension of the Lord

May 24: Pentecost Sunday - end of Easter Season

May 31: Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

June 7: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus - Corpus Christi

June 12: Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

**F. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- *Josie Rocca***

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells on behalf of Josie Rocca, of the St. Vincent de Paul Society reported:

- At the April Principals' meeting Josie Rocca presented the North of 60 Project to Niagara Catholic District principals and was proud to report that 22 schools participated last year, four secondary and 18 elementary schools. Principals were invited to participate again this year in the collection of non-perishable food items that would fill a 20 foot sea container to be sent to Naujaat in early September 2025.
- St. Vincent de Paul extended a sincere thank you to the staff and students who participated and went above and beyond collecting items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters.
- Last year schools collected items throughout the month of June as June is designated as National Indigenous History Month. A number of Niagara Catholic schools have reached out and will be holding food drives throughout Catholic Education week coming up next week.

## G. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) REPORT

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a report on behalf of SEAC

- Student Support and the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR) have collaborated to offer an In-Person Learning Transition Program for grades seven and eight. The SOAR Secondary program will support students focusing on preparation and transition to secondary education. The program begins the week of Monday, April 28, and will run for six sessions, ending the week of Monday, June 2.

As well Niagara Catholic and LDANR are collaborating to offer a one-day workshop titled TIPS for Post-Secondary to support Grade 11 and 12 students with preparation for a transition to post-secondary education. This workshop will take place on Wednesday, May 14, at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- **Notre Dame Under the Big Top Extravaganza: A Celebration of Abilities**  
Step right up to the "Under the Big Top" extravaganza on June 6, at Notre Dame College School, where students of all abilities from secondary special education classes across the Board take center stage! This vibrant celebration invites participants to revel in carnival-themed games, delicious food, sensory-friendly activities, and a variety of engaging stations. Students will also enjoy captivating performances and much more, all within a safe, inclusive, and festive environment.
- **Annual Special Education Plan review**  
In adhering to the Education Act's requirement for school boards to undertake an annual review of their Special Education Plan, we are distributing a *Special Education Fact Sheet* which includes links to Niagara Catholic's current Special Education Plan along with Ministry resources for review. As well, a detailed executive summary of this year's changes is being distributed to all SEAC members for review. Jim Di Gioia will address any questions about the changes at the May meeting, at which point SEAC will be asked to vote on the two motions required for the annual review.

## H. STAFF REPORTS

Elementary Principal, Maria Solomon reported:

### Catholic Education Week: May 5–9

Catholic Education Week takes place from May 5 to 9, with the theme "We Are Pilgrims of Hope." The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) has outlined a variety of activities on their website to mark the occasion and our Board has also provided resources to support Catholic Education Week. We are proud to share that St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls won first place among all participating elementary schools across Ontario, and Notre Dame College School earned second place among secondary schools. Throughout the week, parents and community members are encouraged to visit and experience the many wonderful things happening in Catholic education across the Board.

### Special Events:

- Tuesday, May 6: Catch the Spirit Award for students, Inspirational Awards recognizing outstanding staff within Niagara Catholic and Distinguished Alumni Awards.
- May 7: Student Leadership Symposium for our newly elected and selected Elementary and Secondary Student Senate representatives and Student Trustees.

- Thursday, May 15: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Celebrating Kinder Art at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary for Niagara Catholic
- May 20-May 24: Ongoing Welcome to Kindergarten events across the Board. Each school will choose a date and host a school information night.
- May 24: The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Conference will be held at Saint Michael High School from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### Athletics & Activities:

Flag football wraps up in May as we move into track and field season, beginning at individual schools, then advancing to Family of Schools events, and finally Board-wide competitions.

#### Highlights from April:

Students participated in Masses, Stations of the Cross, and religious plays.

The Board provided a free educational trip to the Stevensville Conservation Authority for all Grade 2 and Grade 5 students.

#### Looking Ahead to June:

We will observe National Indigenous History Month

June 6 is a Professional Activity Day

June 27 Last Day of School

Schools will host year-end field trips and Graduation ceremonies for Grade 8 and Grade 12 students.

Secondary Principal, Kevin Timmins reported:

- secondary students will be making announcements in our local parishes on Sunday, May 4, to kick off Catholic Education Week
- during Catholic Education Week:
  - school Masses will take place throughout the system
  - Carlos Acutis is one of the focuses for Catholic Education Week. Carlos was a young person of faith and will be canonized this year. Carlos is great role model for our students.
  - students will be participating in social justice activities such as starve-a-thon, food drives, to support Wells of Hope, the North of 60 project and Haiti
- the mental health and well-being of students continues to be a main focus throughout the school year
- co-curricular activities continue (rowing, baseball, lacrosse, softball, badminton, squash, track and field)
- student council elections for 2025-2026 have taken place with the outgoing council mentoring the incoming council
- Mid-term report cards have been issued and are available in the Parent Portal
- feeder school transition events will take place i.e., Science Olympics for Grade 5 students, these events allow secondary schools to connect with elementary students
- May 5, is Red Dress Day which is a National Day of Remembrance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
- students will be preparing for final evaluations
- graduation ceremonies will be taking place in June at all secondary schools
- as the school year comes to end, we are also preparing for the new school year

**I. TRUSTEE REPORT-*Joe Bruzzese and Larry Huibers***

Trustee Huibers shared that:

- The Niagara Catholic Excellence Awards Celebration will take place on Tuesday, May 2, 2025 at the Central Community Church.
- The Ministry of Education will be providing Governance Training for all school Board Trustees to ensure that school boards are representing the best interest of the students.
- Chair Di Lorenzo has been elected as the OCSTA regional representative.
- Director Cipriano and Trustees, Di Lorenzo and Burkholder are attending the OCSTA Conference, May 1-2, 2025.
- OCSTA has hired a new Executive Director, Pat Daly. Pat Daly is the current Chairperson of the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board and will be stepping down to assume his new position on June 23, 2025.
- Niagara Catholic Trustees will be attending the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Conference in Halifax in June.

**J. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Trustee Huibers requested that Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provide clarification of the cyclical process for policies being vetted at the NCPIC Meeting of September 4, 2025.

**K. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

**L. CLOSING PRAYER:** Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the closing prayer.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Sara Ivicic

**THAT** the May 1, 2025 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of March 19, 2025, as presented for information.



# MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING PUBLIC SESSION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025

Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (public session) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 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 10:02 a.m. by Chair Mario Falvo.

## A. ROUTINE MATTERS

### 1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Director Cipriano.

### 2. Roll Call

<u>Trustee Committee Members</u>	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Trustee Natalia Benoit			✓	
Trustee Joe Bruzzese		✓		
Trustee Larry Huibers	✓			
<u>External Committee Members</u>	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Mario Falvo		✓		
Charles Skelton		✓		

Resources to the Audit Committee were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education  
**Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
**Andrea Eltherington**, Regional Internal Audit Manager

Staff in attendance:

**Grant Frost**, Chief Information Officer

**William Mancini**, IT Engineer

**John Forte**, Privacy and Risk-Advisor

**Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

**3. Approval of the Public Agenda of March 19, 2025**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Agenda of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**4.1 Declaration of Conflict of Interest re: Agenda (verbal)**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session)**

**5.1 Wednesday, November 20, 2024**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of November 20, 2024.

**CARRIED**

**B. REPORTS**

**1. Regional Internal Audit Status Report**

Andrea Eltherington presented the Regional Internal Audit Status Report to the committee members.

**1.3 RIAT-Charter**

Andrea Eltherington presented the RIAT-Charter to the committee members for approval.

Moved by Trustee Huibers

Seconded by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board Audit Committee approve and sign the RIAT-Charter as presented.

**CARRIED**

**C. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee move into the In Camera Session

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic Audit Committee moved into the In Camera Session of the Committee Meeting at 10:16 a.m. and reconvened at 10:22 a.m.

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

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese  
Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Agenda of the Audit Committee Meeting (In-Camera Session) of March 19, 2025.

**CARRIED**

Andrea Eltherington presented the Regional Internal Audit Status Report for information.

Andrea Eltherington presented the Open Findings Update Report to the Committee Members.

### **D. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Andrea Eltherington presented the Open vs Closed Session of Audit Committee Meetings to the committee members.

Ms. Eltherington answered questions of Committee members.

2. Giancarlo Vetrone discussed the recruitment for the Non-Board Member Positions of the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee.

Superintendent Vetrone & Ms. Eltherington answered questions of Committee members.

### **E. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Next Audit Committee Meeting is Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

### **F. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese  
Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the March 19, 2025 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.