

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, CREDIT PROGRAM
AND EXCHANGES APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2025-2026**

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Credit Program and Exchanges Approval Committee 2025-2026 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: February 10, 2026



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 10, 2026

EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, CREDIT PROGRAM AND EXCHANGES APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2025-2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Credit Program and Exchanges Approval Committee continues to review proposals for 2025-2026 extended overnight field trips, credit programs and exchanges as submitted to date. The composition of the approval Committee is as follows:

1 Supervisory Officer	- Joseph Zaroda
1 Secondary School Vice-Principal	- Monique Mastroianni
1 Secondary School Principal	- Krista Moscato
1 Elementary School Principal	- Lisa Incaviglia
1 Administrator of International Education	- Fred Wilson

As defined in the Niagara Catholic Educational Field Trips – Overnight, Extended Overnight, Credit Program and Exchanges Administrative Operational Procedures 400.2, an Extended Overnight Field Trip is:

- A field trip that requires four or more nights' lodgings, or requires airfare.
- Any extended overnight educational field trip is restricted to students of grades 9-12.
- An extended overnight educational field trip which involves more than one school will follow the same procedures and will require the approval of the principal/administrator and the Family of Schools' Superintendent of Education of all participating schools at the time of submission for approval.
- Extended overnight educational field trip can only take place during Christmas or March break, with a maximum of two additional instructional days, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Education.
- All extended overnight educational field trips held internationally will only be permitted at each school every two years.

Attached to this information report is an Executive Summary of a 2025-2026 Extended Overnight Field Trip as submitted on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. (Appendix A)

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Credit Program and Exchanges Approval Committee 2025-2026 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: February 10, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix A

Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee Approval – 2025-2026

SCHOOL	TYPE	APPROVAL REQUIRED	DESTINATION	CURRICULUM UNIT/THEME	EDUCATION VALUE	FAITH COMPONENT	DATE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS, STAFF & CHAPERONES ON TRIP	DURATION	COST (APPROX)	TRANSPORTATION
Saint Paul CHS	Extended Overnight Field Trip	Superintendent Extended Overnight Field Trip Committee and SAC	Italy	Non-Credit	<p>This trip invites students to embark on an inspiring journey through Italy's rich history and vibrant culture.</p> <p>This trip is available to students currently in grades 9 to 12, appealing to those taking Religion, Music, Drama, Arts and Culture SHSM History, Languages and Hospitality and Tourism SHSM.</p>	Students will attend mass.	Friday, March 12 to Saturday, March 20, 2027	35-40 students; 4-5 staff members	9 days (0 school days)	<p>\$4974.00 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 overnight hotel stays • Round trip airfare • Breakfast and dinner daily • Full time tour director • Guided tours • Select attractions • Insurance • Coach bus to and from airport <p>Additional costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunches • Souvenirs • tips <p>Cancellation policy clearly communicated.</p>	Airline will be confirmed upon approval.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development

Presented by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: February 10, 2026



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 10 2026

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In alignment with Niagara Catholic's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the Department of Staff Development, as an integral aspect of its mandate, acts as the point of co-ordination among various departments. Thus ensuring that all professional development opportunities for staff, both teaching and non-teaching, occur in a seamless fashion to minimize disruptions to the myriad services provided within our Niagara Catholic community. The following is a listing of activities occurring during the period February 10, 2026 through March 10, 2026.

ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY - PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY – FEBRUARY 13, 2026

ELEMENTARY AGENDA

8:30-9:00 Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer

9:00-10:15 Safe Schools & Anaphylaxis Training

Professional Activities:

-Review of policy and supports for safe schools regarding duty to report children in need of protection to a children's aid society, sex trafficking, Police/School Board Protocol and the Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy.

-Culturally responsive trauma-informed principles to create a comprehensive approach to engaging and interacting with students.

-Information about child sexual abuse prevention and reporting, including available counselling and resources for children who are sexually abused, for all teachers and other staff in schools as outlined in section 170.0.1 of the *Education Act*.

-Understanding educator and staff obligations and requirements related to child sexual abuse prevention and reporting, including information on available counselling and resources for children who are sexually abused.

- Understanding the basics of anaphylaxis, ways to reduce risks in a school setting, and the recommended emergency treatment.

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Safe Schools & Anaphylaxis Training - Continued

11:30-12:15 Lunch

12:30-2:30 **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Professional Activities:

- Discussing AI's potential as a teaching and learning tool; how using and understanding AI is important in preparing students for success post-graduation; and how using AI should be done within the policies related to cyber safety, cyber security, responsible use of technology, and protecting student privacy.
- Learning activities to become familiar with the board's approved AI tools and how to effectively and safely use those tools with students (e.g., how to use AI to draft and edit work as part of the writing process, to strengthen skills such as critical thinking, or as a research tool, with academic integrity).

12:30 – 1:45 **Navigating the Future: Niagara Catholic AI Guidelines (Virtual Session)**

- **The Vision:** Human-centric AI rooted in Catholic Social Teachings.
- **AI Types, Board-Approved Applications:** Reactive, Predictive, and Generative AI; AI Analogy. Overview of Copilot, Gemini, and NotebookLM.
- **Ethical Considerations and Privacy:** Accuracy Risks, Bias Replication; demonstration of errors.
- **Privacy Protection:** Duty of Care and Prohibited Input.
- **Mosaic Effect:** Do's and Don'ts of using LLMs.
- **Assessment:** Transitioning to "Process over Product" and Triangulation of Data (Observations/Conversations).
- **The EVERY Framework:** Evaluating and Verifying AI outputs before use.
- Staff Huddle sessions throughout to foster discussion and collaboration.

1:45 – 2:30 **Google Webinar: Gemini & NotebookLM in the Classroom (Virtual Session)**

- **Gemini for Educators:** High-impact prompting for lesson planning, differentiated choice boards, and administrative efficiency.
- **NotebookLM:** Exploring the "Deep Dive" tool for managing board documents and personalizing teacher research.
- **Hands-on Sandbox:** Choice-based exploration of Google-approved tools for specific divisions.

2:30 – 2:50 **Consolidation (led by Principal & Vice-Principal)**

2:50 **Adjournment**

SECONDARY AGENDA

8:00-8:30 **Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer**

8:30-9:45 **Safe Schools & Anaphylaxis Training**

Professional Activities:

-Review of policy and supports for safe schools regarding duty to report children in need of protection to a children's aid society, sex trafficking, Police/School Board Protocol and the Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy.

-Culturally responsive trauma-informed principles to create a comprehensive approach to engaging and interacting with students.

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section 170.0.1 of the *Education Act*.

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9:45-10:00 Break

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Professional Activities:

-Discussing AI's potential as a teaching and learning tool; how using and understanding AI is important in preparing students for success post-graduation; and how using AI should be done within the and policies related to cyber safety, cyber security, responsible use of technology, and protecting student privacy.

-Learning activities to become familiar with the board's approved AI tools and how to effectively and safely use those tools with students (e.g., how to use AI to draft and edit work as part of the writing process, to strengthen skills such as critical thinking, or as a research tool, with academic integrity).

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- **The Vision:** Human-centric AI rooted in Catholic Social Teachings.
- **AI Types, Board-Approved Applications:** Reactive, Predictive, and Generative AI; AI Analogy. Overview of Copilot, Gemini, and NotebookLM.
- **Ethical Considerations and Privacy:** Accuracy Risks, Bias Replication; demonstration of errors.
- **Privacy Protection:** Duty of Care and Prohibited Input.
- **Mosaic Effect:** Do's and Don'ts of using LLMs.
- **Assessment:** Transitioning to "Process over Product" and Triangulation of Data (Observations/Conversations).
- **The EVERY Framework:** Evaluating and Verifying AI outputs before use.
- Staff Huddle sessions throughout to foster discussion and collaboration.

1:45 – 2:30 Google Webinar: Gemini & NotebookLM in the Classroom (Virtual Session)

- **Gemini for Educators:** High-impact prompting for lesson planning, differentiated choice boards, and administrative efficiency.
- **NotebookLM:** Exploring the "Deep Dive" tool for managing board documents and personalizing teacher research.
- **Hands-on Sandbox:** Choice-based exploration of Google-approved tools for specific divisions.

2:30 Adjournment

The Staff Development Professional Development Opportunities report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development

Presented by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: February 10, 2026

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR
CALENDARS: 2026-2027**

RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Elementary and Secondary School
Year Calendars for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.**

Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education
Presented by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education
Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: February 10, 2026



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 10, 2026

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS: 2026-2027

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 2026-2027 school year calendars, there are 195 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. Within this total, elementary and secondary schools must have a minimum of 194 school days, of which seven (7) 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.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The 2026-2027 School Year Calendar Committee met to discuss and review the draft calendar and the consultation process.

Members of the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar Committee are:

Domenic Massi	Superintendent (Chair)
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	Superintendent
Gino Pizzoferrato	Superintendent
Antonio Cardamone	Elementary Principal
Lou Stranges	Secondary Principal
Anthony Corapi	Coordinator of Staff Development
Anthony Stranges	C.U.P.E. President
Jennifer McArthur	Niagara Elementary Unit OECTA
Joseph Sorrenti	Niagara Elementary Unit OECTA
Brian O'Rourke	Niagara Secondary Unit OECTA
Laura Thomas	Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
Monique Somma	S.E.A.C.

The consultation process provided the elementary and secondary draft calendars to all elementary and secondary Principals, Vice-Principals, Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs, the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC), the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), OECTA Elementary and Secondary Presidents, CUPE President and staff for feedback by February 2, 2026.

Simultaneously, there has been on-going consultation with the co-terminus Board to achieve a similar school year calendar, where possible.

SUMMARY OF THE ATTACHED CALENDARS

Highlights of the Proposed School Year Calendars for 2026-2027.

Professional Activity Days

In accordance with the Education Act, Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, the following seven (7) days have been identified as Professional Activity Days.

Elementary:

Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Thursday, September 3, 2026
Monday, October 26, 2026
Friday, November 27, 2026
Friday, January 15, 2027
Friday, April 30, 2027
Friday, June 4, 2027

Secondary:

Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Thursday, September 3, 2026
Monday, October 26, 2026
Friday, November 27, 2026
Friday, January 29, 2027
Friday, April 30, 2027
Friday, June 30, 2027

Secondary Examination Days

Semester 1 – Friday, January 22, 2027 to Thursday, January 28, 2027
Semester 2 – Wednesday, June 23, 2027 to Tuesday, June 29, 2027

Board and Civic Holidays

Civic Holiday	Monday, August 3, 2026
Labour Day	Monday, September 7, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12, 2026
Christmas Break	Monday, December 21, 2026 – Friday, January 1, 2027
Family Day	Monday, February 15, 2027
March Break	Monday, March 15 to Friday, March 19, 2027
Good Friday	Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Monday	Monday, March 29, 2027
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24, 2027
Canada Day	Thursday, July 1, 2027

To comply with the timelines outlined in *Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar*, school boards are required to submit Board approved school year calendars to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2026 and Board approved **regular** school year calendars to the Ministry of Education by May 1, 2026.

Based on feedback from the consultation process, discussions with the School Year Calendar Committee, Senior Administrative Council and the coterminous board, the 2026-2027 Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars will be submitted immediately following the Board Meeting of February 24, 2026 for approval.

Appendix A: *Proposed Elementary School Year Calendars for 2026-2027*

Appendix B: *Proposed Secondary School Year Calendars for 2026-2027*

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented.

Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: February 10, 2026

School Year Calendar 2026 - 2027

 Legend ► **H** - Statutory Holiday

E - Scheduled Examination Day

P - Professional Activity Day

B - Board Designated Holiday

 Half Day

ELEMENTARY DRAFT

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2026				3 H	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
September 2026	17	2			1 P	2 P	3 B	4 H	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
October 2026	20	1				1 P	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30	
November 2026	20	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 P	30				
December 2026	14				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 B	22 B	23 B	24 B	25 B	28	29	30	31	
January 2027	19	1					1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15 P	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	
February 2027	19			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
March 2027	16			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 B	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	22	23	24	25	26 H	29	30	31		
April 2027	21	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30 P
May 2027	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31				
June 2027	21	1				1	2	3	4 P	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	
July 2027							1 H	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
TOTAL	187	7	N/A	Note: The 2026-2027 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																								

School Year Calendar 2026 - 2027

 Legend ► **H** - Statutory Holiday

E - Scheduled Examination Day

P - Professional Activity Day

B - Board Designated Holiday

 Half Day

SECONDARY DRAFT CALENDAR

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2026				3 H	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
September 2026	17	2			1	2	P	P	B	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	
October 2026	20	1				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	P	27	28	29	30	
November 2026	20	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	P	30				
December 2026	14				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
January 2027	14	1	5					1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22 E	25 E	26 E	27 E	29 P	
February 2027	19			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
March 2027	16			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 B	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	22	23	24	25	26 H	29 H	30	31		
April 2027	21	1				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30	
May 2027	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31				
June 2027	16	1	5		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23 E	24 E	25 E	28 E	29 P			
July 2027						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	
TOTAL	177	7	10	Note: The 2026-2027 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																								