



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. *Meeting Call to Order – John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer*

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco thanked the Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, staff, special guests, students, family and friends for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

2. *Opening Prayer*

The Director welcomed Debra McCaffery, Board Chaplaincy Leader, who opened the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a prayer.

3. *Roll Call*

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

Trustee	Present	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓		
Kathy Burtnik	✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		
Frank Fera	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓		
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓		
Ted O’Leary	✓		
Dino Sicoli	✓		
Student Trustees			
Ryan Creelman	✓		
Patrick Morris	✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Mario Ciccarelli**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Larry Reich**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/ Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 6, 2011, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **Disclosure of Interest**

Trustee Burtnik informed the Board of Trustees that she had inadvertently not disclosed Conflict of Interests since October 2007, and it has recently come to her attention that since October 2007 thirteen (13) individual cheques have been issued to her family business totalling \$7,597.31. Trustee Burtnik rectified the omission and declared a Conflict on Interest with agendas dating back to October 2007.

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

6. **Denis Morris Catholic High School Choir Performance**

Mario Ciccarelli, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Tony Bozza, Principal of Denis Morris Catholic High School, who introduced the Denis Morris Choir who performed for the Board.

Director Crocco, on behalf of Trustees, Senior Staff and everyone present, thanked the students of Denis Morris Catholic High School for sharing their special gift of song and music.

St. Catharines Trustees Burtnik and Charbonneau; Thorold/Merritton Trustee Burkholder; and Student Trustees Creelman and Morris, presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in the Arts" pins.

7. **Election Procedures**

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointed Yolanda Baldasaro and Frank Iannantuono, Superintendents of Education, as scrutineers.

8. **Election of Chairperson**

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2011 until the 2012 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2011 until the 2012 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by MacNeil

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

CARRIED

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to Chairperson Burtnik.

9. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT Trustee Charbonneau be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2011 until the 2012 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik asked Trustee Charbonneau if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Charbonneau accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2011 until the 2012 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Charbonneau was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Burkholder
Seconded by Sicoli

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

CARRIED

10. Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Chairperson Burtnik's remarks are attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.
(Appendix A)

11. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau's remarks are attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.
(Appendix B)

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

Director Crocco presented the report on Board Committees, and stated that the report is in compliance with Board Bylaw 16.5B which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco stated that membership to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board, and asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 20, 2011 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committee for the year 2012:

- Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Areas, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Niagara Falls Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools/St. George and St. Joseph (Snyder) Catholic Elementary Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

CARRIED

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the December 6, 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 6, 2011.**

Approved on the **20th** day of **December 2011.**

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNİK'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 6, 2011**

I am once again both honoured and humbled to have the opportunity to serve as the Chair of this board.

Thank you to my fellow trustees for the faith and trust you have shown by your support. I believe we have done much as a collective to be able to have difference of opinions, different approaches, yet the very same commitment to the Vision, Mission and goals of the system. Our perspectives are varied, our purpose is not.

The fact that we have such a remarkable relationship with Bishop Bergie and most of our parish priests and communities is something to celebrate. Bishop Bergie, we thank for his continuous support and understanding of the roles each of us play in doing our best to bring the life of Christ into the hearts and heads of our school communities. We still have much to do, and with his guidance, it will be done.

The fact that we have a dynamic senior administrative team whose diligence, passion and commitment keep us informed and help us as a Board of trustees to focus on the bigger picture through policy, direction setting and fulfilling the mission through our own actions is something to celebrate. As a Board, we will continue to challenge and hold accountable those responsible for the day to day functioning of our system – we will constantly strive to reach higher levels of success in this regard.

The fact that throughout Niagara Catholic we have 3,000 men and women whose daily lives can't help but touch the lives of our 24,000 students and their families is perhaps our greatest point to celebrate. All staff; principals, support staff, managers, vice-principals, administrators and teachers give their time, talents and passion to help our kids and their families be who God calls them to be. Each person – whether student, staff, parent, priest, parishioner in Niagara Catholic has a life story. Our stories are filled with personal trials and tribulations. No two people are at the same place on their faith journey. All of us are called - not to criticize or judge; we are called to understand, to nudge without pushing, to listen without necessarily speaking, to guide and to nurture without instilling fear. We are simply called to provide a place of love and acceptance where all are not only welcome and feel safe, they are safe, they are recognized fully as children of God.

Tonight, I humbly and happily offer my energy, passion, experience and willingness to grow in my own Faith journey as a member of the Niagara Catholic Family. I look forward with renewed commitment to telling our stories of success in Catholic education in Niagara and across the province throughout the coming year.

May God continue to bless each of us and all whom we encounter with healthy bodies and happy hearts as we peacefully and joyfully do at each moment what at that moment ought to be done.

Thank you and as the Denis Morris Choir said...Alleluia!!!

APPENDIX B

VICE-CHAIRPERSON MAURICE CHARBONNEAU'S REMARKS

Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 6, 2011

Mr. Crocco, Superintendents, Managers, Board staff, student trustees and my fellow trustees, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve the Board as Vice-Chair. I am proud of the immense co-operation and great work accomplished by this Board over the past year.

We must continue to be student centred and work together in meeting the needs of each child.

We are currently examining ways to more efficiently run our schools. We are also examining our budget so that we can continue to operate a balanced budget. This is an on-going challenge which I know our senior staff and our trustees will achieve. We will continue to provide quality programs and services that will assist in increasing student achievement from JK to Grade 12.

The Board is committed to increasing the faith formation and religious education programs offered through Niagara Catholic. We have hired several staff to develop and deliver a variety of Faith Formation programs that will continue to assist our staff and students on their faith journeys.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board has distinguished itself in many ways over the past few years. This is due in large part to the effort of our Board staff, our school administrators and our teachers. I am grateful for all the hard work that has been demonstrated in our schools.

I will continue to work hard in support of all of you and I am determined to do whatever I can to assist in achieving all of the goals set out in our Vision 2020 document.

Thank you and may God Bless all of you on your faith and educational journey, as we walk together to serve the needs of our students.

Thank you.