



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Dekker.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Burtnik.

1. Roll Call

Trustee	Present	Excused
John Belcastro	✓	
Kathy Burtnik	✓	
Maurice Charbonneau	✓	
Gary Crole	✓	
John Dekker	✓	
Frank Fera	✓	
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓	
Tony Scalzi	✓	
Student Trustees		
Juliana Ciccarelli	✓	
Megan Grocholsky	✓	

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Rob Ciarlo**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, Superintendents of Education; **Larry Reich**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Khayyam Syne**, Administrator of Staff Development; **Mark Lefebvre**, Administrator of School Effectiveness; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Board Services and Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Disclosure of Interest

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

5. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2009

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. EcoSchools Awards Presentation

James Woods, Controller of Plant presented information on the Niagara Catholic EcoSchools. Fifty-four schools were credited for reaching Ontario EcoSchool certification during the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Woods informed Trustees that the Niagara Catholic District School Board has set the record for the highest percentage of certified schools in the Province of Ontario.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Policy Committee

1.1 Unapproved Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting – November 24, 2009

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of November 24, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of Policies

1.2.1 Accessibility Customer Service Policy

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the Accessibility Customer Service Policy and explained the rationale and explanations for the suggested amendments.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Accessibility Customer Service Policy, as presented.

CARRIED

1.2.2 Safe Physical Intervention with Students Policy

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the Accessibility Customer Service Policy and explained the rationale and explanations for the suggested amendments.

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Safe Physical Intervention with Students Policy, as presented.

CARRIED

1.3 Policy Development Update

Director Crocco presented the Policy Development Update.

2. St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee Report

St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson Burtnik presented the St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee Report. Trustees were informed that through consultation with Senior Staff, elementary and secondary school Principals, two Ad Hoc Meetings and two school cluster meetings, a number of options were considered regarding possible boundary revisions and school closures.

Chairperson Burtnik stated that after careful review of all the current and projected data, public input and feedback, as well as the recent Ministry of Education announcement regarding the Early Learning Program, the St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee is recommending that the boundaries remain status quo and that no schools be slated for closure at this time.

Trustees discussed the recommendations. As a result of the discussions, Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson Burtnik asked that it be noted in the minutes that she takes exception to the insinuation that the Committee and resource staff did not perform their duties adequately.

Director Crocco spoke to the process followed by staff and both Ad Hoc Committees and expressed confidence that the Committees made the best decisions based on current and changing information.

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the following recommendations:

1. **THAT**, no changes are made to the St. Catharines elementary and secondary school boundaries at this time.
2. **THAT**, the St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board continue to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines, in compliance with the May 26th, 2009, Board approved, Pupil Accommodation Review motions.
3. **THAT**, new requests for attendance area exceptions will be reviewed in accordance with Board Policy/Guidelines 301.1, Admission of Students. Attendance area exceptions will not be granted to students who wish to attend Mother Teresa and Canadian Martyrs except for the purpose of keeping siblings together within the same school.

4. **THAT**, Senior Staff will review Board Policy/Guidelines 301.1, Admission of Students, within the current Policy and Administrative Guideline Review Process.

CARRIED

3. **Student Achievement Department K – 12
Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture Launch**

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Marco Magazzeni, Consultant K-12 Technology/Specialist High Skills Major, and David Pihach, Administrator of Student Success, who presented the report on Student Achievement Department K–12 - Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture Launch. Trustees were informed that the Niagara Catholic District School Board launched its fifth innovative Specialist High Skills Major Program at the Shaw Festival November 3, 2009, and that the Niagara Catholic Specialist High Skills Major in Arts and Culture will begin on February 1, 2010. The program is based out of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in St. Catharines, and is available to all Niagara Catholic secondary school students.

Chairperson Burtnik spoke of the many opportunities this program has opened up for students within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

4. **Lead Boards For Equity and Inclusive Education Implementation Networks**

Superintendent Baldasaro presented the report on Lead Boards for Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) Implementation Networks, and stated that the role of the Networks over the next few years will be to co-ordinate activities related to equity and inclusive education, including parent engagement, and to assist in the effective implementation of the Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy.

For the London Region network of boards, the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will act as Co-Lead Boards for this initiative.

5. **Learning for All K-12**

Superintendent Baldasaro presented the report on Learning for All K-12 which builds on the guiding principles outlined in Education for All: The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy and Numeracy Instruction for Students with Special Education Needs, Kindergarten to Grade 6.

Marcel Jacques, Administrator Special Education, provided additional information on the program.

6. **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development, presented the report on the Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities for information.

7. **H1N1 Pandemic – Niagara Catholic Preparation and Management**

Director Crocco presented the monthly Board report on the H1N1 Pandemic – Niagara Catholic Preparation and Management.

8. Monthly Updates

8.1 Capital Projects Progress Report

James Woods, Controller of Plant, presented the Capital Projects Progress Report.

8.2 Student Trustees' Update

Juliana Ciccarelli Megan Grocholsky, Student Trustee, gave a brief verbal update on the activities of the Student Senate.

8.3 Family of Schools Superintendents' Monthly Update

The Family of Schools Superintendents gave brief verbal reports highlighting the activities in their schools.

Superintendent Ciarlo

- Mike Accursi, teacher to Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School will carry the Olympic Torch and light the cauldron on December 20, 2009, in St. Catharines.
- Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School student Cathy Kiley has been selected to be an Olympic Torch Bearer on December 21, 2009, in Fonthill.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells

- Grade 6, 7 and 8 students from St. Patrick Catholic School in Port Colborne traveled to ROM for a tour of the museum followed by a specific hour long lesson regarding the Dead Sea Scrolls. This limited exhibition was a once in a lifetime opportunity to view one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century.
- Lakeshore Catholic High School's Junior and Senior Football Team's successful season was highlighted.
- St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School are the Niagara Catholic District School Board's Volleyball Champions.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – November 24, 2009

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – November 24, 2009, issue for Trustees' information.

1.2 Calendar of Events – December 2009

Director Crocco presented information on the Calendar of Events – December 2009.

1.3 Vision 2020 Discovery Session - Trustees – December 8, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.

Director Crocco informed Trustees of the Vision 2020 Discovery Session being held on December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

1.4 Director's Meeting & Faith Formation – December 10, 2009 – 10:30 a.m. – Club Roma

Director Crocco invited Trustees to attend the Director's Meeting & Faith Formation on December 10, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. being held at Club Roma.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

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 Meeting at 8:44 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2009.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section A: Student Trustees Present held on November 10, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section B: Student Trustees Excluded held on November 10, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the December 1, 2009, Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 1, 2009.**

Approved on the **15th** day of **December 2009.**

John Dekker
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer