



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the 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 6:05 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education, John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

2. Opening Prayer & Blessing

The Director welcomed Bishop James Wingle, Honorary Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School board. Bishop Wingle led the meeting in a prayer and blessing of the Board.

3. Saint Paul Catholic High School Liturgical Dancers & Choir

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Michael Lostracco, Principal of Saint Paul Catholic High School. Mr. Lostracco introduced teachers Jennifer Guglielmi, Antoinette Lambert, and Anthony Corrizato, and thanked them for their dedication to the Saint Paul Liturgical Dancers and Choir. Accompanied by the Choir, the Liturgical Dancers performed for the Board.

Niagara Falls Trustees Fera and Nieuwesteeg presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in the Arts" pins and Director Crocco thanked them for their beautiful and heartwarming performance.

4. Roll Call

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Rob Ciarlo**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, Superintendents of Education; **Larry Reich**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Khayyam Syne**, Administrator of Staff Development; **Christine Graham**, Program Officer - Curriculum; **Marcel Jacques**, Program Officer - Student Support Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary

Special Guest: **Bishop James Wingle**, Bishop of St. Catharines Diocese; **Bill Amadio**, Board Solicitor

Trustee	Present	Excused
John Belcastro	✓	
Kathy Burtnik	✓	
Maurice Charbonneau	✓	
Gary Crole	✓	
John Dekker	✓	
Frank Fera	✓	
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓	
Tony Scalzi	✓	
Student Trustees		
Ashley McGuire		✓
Christina Volpini	✓	

5. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 2, 2008 as presented.

CARRIED

6. Disclosure of Interest

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

7. Election Procedures

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointed Board Solicitor Bill Amadio and Superintendent Larry Reich as scrutineers.

8. Election of Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the period December 2, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

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.

Moved by Trustee Dekker

THAT Ed Nieuwesteeg be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the period December 2, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

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

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

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

Following the voting and counting of the ballots Director Crocco announced that Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the period of December 2, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the meeting to Chairperson Burtnik.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Crole

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

CARRIED

9. *Election of Vice-Chairperson*

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

THAT Trustee Fera be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the period December 2, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

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

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT Trustee Dekker be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the period December 2, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

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

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Dekker

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

Following the voting and counting of the ballots, Trustee Fera was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the period of December 2, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Crole

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 is attached to the minutes for information.
(Appendix A)

11. *Vice-Chairperson's Remarks*

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Fera's remarks is attached to the minutes for information.
(Appendix B)

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

The Director of Education spoke briefly of the process for appointing Trustees to the Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees, and any Ad Hoc Committee which may be required. He informed Trustees that there are currently no Ad Hoc Committees which require renewal.

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 Director's Office by December 5, 2008.

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the December 2, 2008 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on December 2, 2008.

Approved on the 16th day of December 2008.

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

APPENDIX A

CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNIK'S REMARKS

Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 2, 2008

Tonight I sit humbly before you. I am humbled and grateful (and a wee bit surprised) by the support of my colleagues. I am humbled by the presence of the guests who are here to support and recognize the efforts of the people at this table. We are all here for one purpose; to serve the students who choose to be educated in knowledge and Spirit by the remarkable staff of Niagara Catholic. Not one of us is more significant than the other. All of us are required to work together in our various roles to ensure that our mission statement is not merely a plaque on the wall, but a journey toward excellence.

Catholic education is a gift which we must ensure is "re-giftable" to the grandchildren of our current students. Never before have I been more hopeful and confident that this Niagara Catholic Board and its senior administration will be doing its part locally to walk the talk of our uniqueness, to show our community that our existence is more than a right, it is a responsibility that we accept, embrace and cherish.

We have gained much from the leadership of Ed and John, and I am personally grateful for their energy and enthusiasm as they led this board. Ed and John, I look forward to our continued relationship marked by absolute respect and support for each other. Frank, although we may have differences of opinion, it is my hope that our motivation is the same. I look forward to working with you as we begin this new journey.

I sit here humbly and happily with a commitment to serve this Board with grace, with dignity, with humour and with respect for all. More, I sit here and look forward to walking with all of you on our journey to inspiring our students and our staff to be all that God has asked them to be. We are simply the hands, the feet and the voice of Christ, may all whom we come into contact with see in us His face as well. We are blessed! Thank you God, and thank you all!

APPENDIX B

VICE-CHAIRPERSON FRANK FERA'S REMARKS

Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 2, 2008

Your Excellency Bishop Wingle, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing my gratitude to my colleagues for their vote of confidence in electing me as Vice-Chairperson of the Board. With great pride, I have faithfully served this Board as a Teacher, as an elementary school Principal, and as a Trustee.

I have witnessed the growth of our system from its early stages in Niagara Falls, to the growing and successful Board that we have today.

In the past number of years, a teacher friendly government, with education as a priority, has made it possible for us to erect new schools, add classrooms and new facilities to existing schools, implement smaller class sizes, develop programs and strategies to make our schools safer and enhance our literacy and numeracy objectives. But there is more to be done, an ongoing challenge is to ensure that our teachers have the necessary educational tools to empower our students to do their best to succeed and make a positive difference in our world.

In this period of educational peace and tranquility, it is an appropriate time to focus on the reason for our existence as a Catholic System. A system that is different for our counterparts. A system that thrives on a curriculum that provides academic excellence, and Christian principles as articulated in our Gospel values. And we are most fortunate in this endeavour to have Bishop Wingle as our Spiritual Shepherd to guide and to assist our Board in fulfilling our Religious objectives.

Furthermore, we are indebted to our Principals and Vice-Principals, the individuals in the front lines who promote this gift of Catholic Education to their respective communities. Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to choose capable and faith committed leaders who can foster the Catholic Dimension of Education in their schools, work closely with their Parish Pastor, and consequently influence the teachers, students and parents in strengthening the triad.

This can be reinforced by providing ongoing professional development in religious education and faith formation activities for our Principals and Teachers, so that they can respond to the faith issues in our society as they arise.

The Trustees around the table and Senior Staff should also be engaged in spiritual growth and development to set an example for the entire system. It ties in well with our responsibilities as Trustees: to be advocates, guardians and stewards of Catholic Education.