



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the 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 Belcastro.

2. Roll Call

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	✓	

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Rob Ciarlo**, **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **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; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Board Services and Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary

Director of Education John Crocco welcomed Student Trustee Ashley McGuire, and announced that Ashley is also the Vice-President of the Lakeshore Catholic High School Student Council and the Co-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board Student Senate.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 14, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

A Disclosure of Interest was declared by Trustee Belcastro with Item F4 of the In Camera Agenda. This Trustee has family members who are teachers, or employees of the Board. He left the meeting during discussion of this item.

A Disclosure of Interest was declared by Trustee Fera with Items F4 and F5 of the In Camera Agenda. This Trustee has family members who are employees of the Board. He left the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 9, 2008

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 9, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. International Student Exchange

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, introduced the International Student Exchange 2008-2009 report, and asked Jayne Evans, FSL/ESL/Music Consultant to present this year's students from Switzerland, Spain and France, as well as their Niagara Catholic hosts. The exchange students are attending Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Lakeshore Catholic High School and Saint Michael Catholic High School.

2. Specialty High Skills Major Programs

Superintendent Iannantuono presented the report on the Speciality High Skills Major Programs, (SHSM), and introduced Christopher Bemke, a June 2008 graduate of Denis Morris Catholic High School. Christopher is the first student in Ontario to complete the five components of the SHSM - Horticulture and Landscaping.

Mr. Iannantuono also presented a letter addressed to Director of Education John Crocco from Nancy Leman, Education Officer, Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch of the with the Ministry of Education commending the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Ms. Leman praised Niagara Catholic for providing its students with "innovative, engaging and relevant opportunities that the Ministry is encouraging through the Student Success strategy broadly and via the SHSM program more specifically".

Pat Mete, Secondary Program Consultant, elaborated on the programs in the fields of Construction, Transportation Technology, Hospitality and Tourism and Landscape and Horticulture. Niagara Catholic has partnered with local businesses and agencies that in turn offer students the opportunity to gain practical experience in various career fields.

Trustees asked questions of staff and complimented them on the SHSM program and for being educational leaders in the province.

3. *Celebrating Niagara Catholic ECOSchools*

James Woods, Controller of Plant, and Mr. Iannantuono introduced the report on Celebrating Niagara Catholic ECOSchools. Mike Sheahan, Physical and Health Education Consultant, expanded on the program and stated that Niagara Catholic is the first Board in Ontario to implement the EcoSchools program system-wide and has achieved the highest percentage of certified schools of any school board in Ontario.

On Friday September 26, 2008 five students accompanied by a staff member from every Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary school along with Trustees and Senior Staff attended a day of celebration, awards, and sharing of eco-practices hosted by Lakeshore Catholic High School.

4. *Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA)
Ontario School Information System (OnSIS): Status Report*

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, introduced Robert DiPersio, Administrator of Special Projects, who presented the Managing Information for Student Achievement (MISA) Ontario School Information System (OnSIS): Status Report. Mr. Di Persio stated that MISA seeks to build capacity at both the Provincial and School Board levels through data management. He provided an overview of the OnSIS expectations and the compliance of the Board within the process.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

5. *Parent Involvement and Engagement: 2008-2009*

Superintendent Baldasaro presented the report on Parent Involvement and Engagement: 2008-2009. She summarized the initiatives for the current school year and presented information on the government grants available. She stressed that the Ministry of Education continues to support a Provincial Parent Board, the Parent Involvement Committee at the Board level and a Parent Engagement Office as critical vehicles to implement Ontario's Parent Involvement Policy.

6. *Compassionate Care Resource and Response Guide*

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, introduced the updated Compassionate Care Resource and Response Guide for use in the elementary and secondary schools of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, as a resource for Principals and their staffs, in the event bereavement occurs in their school community.

Clare Ventresca, Principal of Assumption Catholic Elementary School, elaborated on the Guide and presented a sample of particular sections of the revised document such as the actions to be taken at the school level when a tragic event occurs, the most compassionate and efficient way to help the students and the community, as well as a list of resources.

7. *Pupil Accommodation Review Update*

John Crocco, Director of Education, introduced the Pupil Accommodation Review Update Report and presented background information. He informed Trustees that the Board is now entering the second phase of the review process and that staff is presenting three recommendations for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at this meeting.

Mr. Iannantuono and Mr. Woods presented further information on the update which included the Board motions regarding the development of Accommodation Review Committees (ARC) for Niagara Falls Elementary Schools, St. Catharines Elementary Schools and St. Catharines Secondary Schools. These Committees and the process being followed are in compliance with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and the Niagara Catholic District School Board Guidelines.

The Director presented a draft schedule of dates for the Pupil Accommodation Review Process, including Special Board Meetings, and the submission of reports to the Board. He also presented a draft Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input as it relates to the Board By-Laws.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that the Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009 be approved.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that the Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input be approved.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that for the Pupil Accommodation Review Process for the 2008-2009 school year, in accordance with Board By-Law Section 17 - Rules of Order - Subsections 1 and 2; Board By-Law Section 13 - Delegations, be modified as outlined in the Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input.

CARRIED

8. Monthly Updates

8.1 Capital Projects Update

The Capital Projects Update will be presented at the October 28, 2008 Board Meeting.

8.2 Policy Development Update

The Policy Development Update was presented for information.

8.3 Student Trustees' Update

Christina Volpini, Student Trustee, gave a brief verbal update on the activities of the Student Senate.

8.4 Family of Schools Superintendents' Monthly Update

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

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Fera

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 9:05 p.m. and reconvened at 11:15 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 14, 2008.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

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 September 9, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

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 September 9, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendations as outlined in Item F4 of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section B: Student Trustees Excluded, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the amendments to the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Non-Unionized Administrative Support Staff, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5.1)

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the amendments to the Terms and Conditions of Employment for Supervisory Positions, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5.2)

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be extended past 11:00 p.m.

CARRIED

H. ADJOURNMENT

The Director of Education reminded Trustees to contact Sherry Morena for tickets to attend the following events:

- 50th Anniversary of the Diocese of St. Catharines - Sunday, November 9, 2008
- Jericho House Dinner - Saturday, November 15, 2008

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the October 14, 2008, Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on October 14, 2008.

Approved on the 11th day of November 2008.

John Dekker
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer