



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 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 Chairperson Burtnik.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Scalzi.

2. Roll Call

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	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; **Marcel Jacques**, Program Officer - Student Support Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary

3. *Approval of the Agenda*

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED

4. *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 December 2, 2008*

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. *St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Replacement Schools, Milestone One*

John Crocco, Director of Education, introduced the report on the St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Replacement Schools, Milestone One, which was approved by the Ministry of Education. The additional funding provides most of the projected funding required for two new replacement schools as opposed to the originally considered new school and a renovated school.

Director Crocco extended his appreciation to Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, and James Woods, Controller of Plant Services, for all of their focused efforts in discussions & additional reports to Ministry of Education staff.

Mr. Woods presented to the Trustees the St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Replacement Schools, Milestone One report and conceptual designs.

2. *"Renewed" Grades One, Two and Three Fully Alive Program*

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, introduced the "Renewed" Grades One, Two and Three Fully Alive Program, which is a Family Life Education Program approved by the Ontario Council of Catholic Bishops (OCCB). Terri Pauco, Religious Education Consultant, and Carol Minne, Primary Consultant, presented highlights of the "renewed" editions currently being implemented in Grades One, Two and Three.

3. *Planning Continuous Improvement and School Excellence*

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education introduced the report on Planning Continuous Improvement and School Excellence, which targets new strategies within the Board to increase the profile of schools and to celebrate the success of students and staff.

Christine Graham, Program Officer: Curriculum, highlighted the various system-wide initiatives, which form part of a cohesive, integrated plan focused on student achievement for all Niagara Catholic schools.

4. *Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2009*

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, presented the report on the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2009 and informed the Board that the Sisters of the Sacred Heart will be the recipient of the 2009 Award.

5. *Financial Reports*

5.1 *Monthly Banking Transactions*

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

5.2 *Statement of Revenue and Expenditures*

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

6. *Monthly Updates*

6.1 *Policy Development Update*

The Policy Development Update was presented for information.

6.2 *Student Trustees' Update*

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

6.3 *Family of Schools Superintendents' Monthly Update*

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

D. INFORMATION

1. *Trustee Information*

1.1 *Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - December 16, 2008*

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - December 16, 2008 issue, and informed Trustees that each of the issues has resulted in very positive feedback.

1.2 *BEC Annual Breakfast - February 6, 2009*

Director Crocco announced that the Business Education Council (BEC) Breakfast is being held on Friday February 6, 2009 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Events include Keynote Speaker, Deb Matthew, Minister of Child and Youth Services, and the Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Band.

Trustees were asked to contact Sherry Morena or Linda Marconi if they are interested in attending the event.

1.3 *Ontario School Board Governance for the 21st Century Consultation Paper*

Director Crocco presented the Ontario School Board Governance for the 21st Century Consultation Paper. He stated that Minister of Education Wynne has announced the creation of a Governance Review Committee which will make recommendations to the Minister on:

- Ways to modernize and clarify in the Education Act, the duties, powers and accountabilities of School Boards, Chairs, individual Trustees, and Directors of Education, while reinforcing the relationship between elected officials as a group and the Director of Education as sole employee accountable to the board;
- Effective practices in governance applicable to the education sector, including codes of conduct for Trustees, enforceable at the Provincial or Board level, and audit committees with external members;
- Appropriate long-term capacity building program for Trustees; and
- Appropriate content and format for Provincial interest regulations designed to ensure that a Board achieves student outcomes specified in the regulation.

The Committee has written a Consultation Paper to provide background information on these four areas and on the scope of the its mandate. The deadline for written submissions to the Consultation Paper is February 28, 2009.

Director Crocco, Chairperson Burtnik and two members of the Niagara Regional Catholic School Council/PIC will be meeting with the Governance Review Committee on February 20, 2009.

1.4 *Inclement Weather*

Director Crocco informed Trustees of the revised procedures and timelines in the Niagara Catholic District School Board Inclement Weather process, which begins with early morning discussions with the Director of Education from the District School Board of Niagara; the Niagara Student Transportation Services, who provides information from Regional contacts; and James Woods, Controller of Plant Services, regarding snow removal and building conditions(power outages, water main bursts, loss of heat).

The revised timeline allows confirmation of the cancellation of buses or the closing of schools by 5:30-6:00 a.m. to the Superintendents, Radio and Television Stations, as well as allowing sufficient time to post the information on the Board Website; e-Community; and change the voice message at the Catholic Education Centre.

A system is in place for contacting the Superintendents, Managers, and Principals to activate phone chains to notify staff of a closure.

Trustees will be contacted by the Director to keep them apprised of inclement weather results.

Director Crocco has drafted a letter to all parents/guardians outlining the Niagara Catholic District School Board decision making and communication process for inclement weather, and suggesting that they have a contingency plan for the supervision of their children when buses are cancelled, schools are closed and for mid-day school closures. A copy will be provided to all Trustees.

Trustees were informed that Senior Staff is tracking attendance on days where bussing is cancelled.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

The OCSTA memo "Impact on Trustee Candidates - Initial Proposed Accessible Information And Communications Standard" was distributed to Trustees.

Trustees were asked to review the Proposed Standard Outlines, which if implemented, would require municipal candidates to provide their election and candidate material in an accessible manner, upon request from a person with a disability.

OCSTA will be preparing a submission to the Government outlining their concerns. Trustees are invited to comment directly to the Accessibility Directorate of the Ministry of Community and Social Services with any concerns they may have prior to the February 6, 2009 deadline.

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Crole

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 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

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 A: Student Trustees Present held on December 2, 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 December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the January 13, 2009, Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on January 13, 2009.

Approved on the 10th day of February 2009.

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer