



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 11, 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 Crole.

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

3. *Approval of the Agenda*

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 11, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

4. *Disclosure of Interest*

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

5. *Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 14, 2008*

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

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

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. *Aboriginal Education 2008-2009*

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, introduced the report on Aboriginal Education for the School Year 2008-2009, and indicated that the Ministry of Education has asked School Boards to develop policies on Voluntary and Confidential Aboriginal Self-Identification.

Superintendent Baldasaro presented two documents released by the Ministry of Education, which encourages School Boards to create an Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) with the key purpose of forging a relationship between the School Board and with local Aboriginal Community Organizations.

Robert DiPersio, Administrator of Special Projects and Yolanda Fera, Aboriginal Lead, presented further information on the report which supports the process the Niagara Catholic District School Board is initiating, and provided information on upcoming meetings with the Ministry of Education and AEAC.

2. *Catholic School Councils Annual Report 2007-2008*

Superintendent Baldasaro presented the Catholic School Councils Annual Report 2007-2008, for information.

3. *Father Patrick Fogarty Award Recipients 2008*

John Crocco, Director of Education, presented the report on the Father Patrick Fogarty Award Recipients 2008. One student from each of Ontario's Catholic High Schools is nominated by their school to receive the Catholic Student Award sponsored by the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario.

The Director informed Trustees that in keeping with past practice, the Board covered the expense of the parents to attend the Awards Dinner with their child.

4. *Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee - 2008-2009*

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, presented the report from the Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee - 2008-2009, for information.

5. *Niagara Catholic Mentor Connector*

Superintendent Iannantuono introduced Pat Mete, Secondary Consultant, and informed Trustees that Mr. Mete was a key contributor in the preparation and development of the Niagara Catholic Mentor Connector Program which offers on-line academic support to Grade 9 and Grade 10 students in various secondary school subjects.

Mr. Mete stated that the Niagara Catholic Mentor Connector Program is the first of its kind in North America and partners with Brock University in Canada and Niagara University in the United States. The Program currently consists of 70 teacher candidate mentors.

Professor Sheeran of Niagara University spoke of the exciting and extraordinary opportunity the Niagara Catholic Mentor Connector Program offers to students in need of additional assistance.

Mr. Mete called upon a few of the teacher candidate mentors and student participants to share their on-line experiences with the Mentor Connector Program. Both groups indicated that the experience has been extremely helpful, successful and rewarding.

Trustees discussed the innovative program and asked questions of the teacher candidate mentors, students and staff.

Glen Sharp, Manager of Computer Services, demonstrated the Niagara Catholic Mentor Connector Program.

6. *Pilgrimage Sunday - October 28, 2008*

Superintendent Iannantuono, presented the report on Pilgrimage Sunday - October 28, 2008. Approximately 4,100 Niagara Catholic District School Board students, staff, Trustees, Senior Administration, Catholic School Council members, alumni, parents and community members walked 10-20 kilometres routes to demonstrate solidarity and a commitment to the poor of the world.

Terri Pauco, Religious Education Consultant, presented further details on the Pilgrimage in which over \$200,000 was raised in support of various projects including the construction of schools, medical clinics, and orphanages in developing countries.

Ms. Pauco introduced the various staff members who were essential in the organization of the 33rd Annual Pilgrimage, as well as, students representatives from each of the eight Catholic secondary schools who presented a brief reflection on this year's Pilgrimage.

Vice-Chairperson Dekker, on behalf of Board, thanked all students and staff for their dedication and acts of selflessness in supporting this worthy mission.

7. *Financial Reports*

7.1 *Monthly Banking Transactions*

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

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

CARRIED

7.2 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 October 31, 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9. Monthly Updates

9.1 Policy Development Update

The Policy Development Update was presented for information.

9.2 Student Trustees' Update

Ashley McGuire, Student Trustee, gave a brief verbal update on the activities of the Student Senate.

9.3 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 - October 28, 2008

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - October 28, 2008, issue for trustees' information.

1.2 Director's Update

E-Community

The Director of Education gave an update on e-Community and commented that this is an excellent venue for sharing and communicating good news to staff, clergy, partners and stakeholders.

He also stated that all families within the Niagara Catholic District School Board will receive a copy of the E-community flyer with their child's report cards encouraging them to join the e-Community.

Pupil Accommodation Process

Trustees were informed that Senior Staff is continuing to research and review options regarding the Pupil Accommodation Process and that a report will be presented to the Board in December 2008.

Niagara Catholic - Celebrating Our Schools

The Director gave information on a new initiative "Niagara Catholic - Celebrating Our Schools" which is venue for sharing excellence in our schools. Schools will be invited to showcase their accomplishments and achievements through a display board in the lobby of the Catholic Education Centre

Diocese 50th Anniversary

Director Crocco spoke briefly about the success of the Diocese 50th Anniversary Mass and Dinner which took place on November 9, 2008. Members of Senior Staff, Trustees and Student Trustee Christina Volpini attended the event.

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 9:05 p.m. and reconvened at 10:25 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 11, 2008.

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 October 14, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

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 B: Student Trustees Excluded held on October 14, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendations as outlined in Item F7.1 of the In Camera Agenda, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F7.1)

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F7.2 of the In Camera Agenda, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F7.2)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the November 11, 2008, Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on November 11, 2008.

Approved on the 2nd day of December 2008.

John Dekker
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer