



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc 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.

Director Crocco thanked the Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, Staff and guests for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

2. *Opening Prayer*

The Director welcomed Bishop James Wingle, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines and Honorary Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and expressed gratitude to the Bishop for participating in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board. Bishop Wingle led the meeting in a prayer and blessing of the Board.

Bishop Wingle offered brief words of reflection in the great mission of Catholic education and stated that he is very proud of the Trustees who carry a higher trust to keep the health and solidity of the Catholic education.

3. *Notre Dame College School Liturgical Dancers & Jazz Band*

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Ralph DeFazio, Principal of Notre Dame College School, Jeff Smith and John Belcastro Jr., Vice-Principals. Mr. DeFazio introduced teachers Frazer Hebert and Angela Eckhardt and thanked them for their dedication to the Notre Dame College School Liturgical Dancers and Jazz Band. Accompanied by the Jazz Band, the Liturgical Dancers performed for the Board.

Director Crocco, on behalf of Bishop Wingle, Trustees, Senior Staff and everyone present, thanked the student of Notre Dame College School for sharing their special gift of song and dance. He mentioned that the presentation was extra special as Student Trustee Megan Grocholsky of Notre Dame College School is part of team of Liturgical Dancers and performed for the Board with her school.

Welland Trustee Belcastro and Fonthill Trustee Crole presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in the Arts" pins.

4. 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; **Khayyam Syne**, Administrator of Staff Development; **Mark Lefebvre**, Administrator of School Effectiveness; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Board Services and Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary

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

5. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 1, 2009, 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 Controller of Plant James Woods 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 to hold office from December 1, 2009 until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

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

Trustee Burtnik was acclaimed as the Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2009 until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board to Chairperson Burtnik.

9. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT Trustee Dekker be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from December 1, 2009 until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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 Charbonneau

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

Trustee Dekker was acclaimed as the Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from December 1, 2009 until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

10. Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Chairperson Burtnik's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.
(Appendix A)

11. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Dekker's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.
(Appendix B)

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

Director Crocco presented the report on Board Committees, and stated that the report is in compliance with Board Bylaw 16.5B which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik 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 the December 15, 2009 Board Meeting.

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Crole

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the December 1, 2009 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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

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

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNIK'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 1, 2009**

It seems like just yesterday I stood before you with great humility and some surprise. The humility remains and the surprise is replaced by deep appreciation of my colleagues who have shown trust, faith and support in the manner with which I have carried out the responsibilities of being the Chair of Niagara Catholic over the past year.

My role is one which is no more; or less significant than any role any one of us plays in this remarkable journey of educating in the Catholic Faith. Our job is not defined by a punch clock. Our time on task is a 24 hour, 7 day a week vocation. The children in our schools are if not in our heads every minute, they are in our hearts. What we do to ensure they have the necessary skills to leave our schools filled with faith in, and knowledge of the Catholic story defines us as extraordinary people doing - what for us are ordinary things.

I am absolutely confident that together we will continue to build positive relationships with our priests, our students, our parents, our colleagues and our community at large to ensure we have a publicly funded catholic education system in Niagara that is respected, understood and appreciated. We will embrace and accept the challenges that come with the gift that has been in place since the first days of this country. Together we will walk the talk of our uniqueness. Together we will set a new vision for Niagara Catholic. To all of you gathered here tonight and to the community that constitutes the family of Niagara Catholic, I pledge my commitment to serve you with grace, with dignity, with joy, with humour and with continued humility knowing that none of us can do alone what each of us can do together. We are the hands, the feet and the voice of Christ, let us be His face, so that all who know us, will know Him.

We are blessed. Thanks be to God.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON JOHN DEKKER REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
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December 1, 2009**

Your Excellency Bishop Wingle, Madame Chair, fellow Trustees, Mr. Crocco and Senior Staff, friends of Catholic education:

It is indeed a privilege to serve once again as Vice-Chairperson of the Board. I'd like to thank my fellow Trustees for their support and faith in my capacity to fill this position.

In this season of Advent, as we await the day of our Lord's birth, let us remember why it is we are here. Put simply, in the words of my old friend Father Kenneth Burns, we're here for the students. Every effort we make begins and ends with our students in mind. Certainly we as a team, have to deal with the problems and management issues that come our way; but as Fr. Burns has told us many a time, as long as we remember that everything we do is for the betterment of our students, we'll be okay.

Times are ever-changing. The instant communication and information era that awaited us ten years ago is now upon us. Technology brings reward but also more challenges. In the current world of "I want" it becomes more difficult to keep Christ in Christmas.

But as I look out on the dedicated Senior Staff, Principals, Vice-Principals, our enthusiastic teaching and support staff, our enthusiastic teaching and support staff, I remember what Fr. Burns told us, and you know, I think we are gong to be more than okay.