



*The Niagara Catholic District School Board through
the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership,
nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all
to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.*

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

*FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO*



A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee Sicoli -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting
 - 5.1 June 20, 2017 A5.1
 - 5.2 September 19, 2017 A5.2
6. Consent Agenda Items
 - 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2017 and Consideration of Recommendations; A6.1
 - 6.1.1 Naming Request – St. Martin of Tours Chapel at the New St. Martin Catholic Elementary School A6.1.1
 - 6.2 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of June 7, 2017 A6.2
 - 6.3 Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of May 11, 2017 A6.3
 - 6.4 Appointment of Community Representatives to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee 2017-2018 A6.4
 - 6.5 System Priorities 2016-2017 Achievement Report A6.5
 - 6.6 In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2, F4.1, F4.2, F5, and F7

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program C1
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby
2. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) 2016-2017 Results for Ontario C2
Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics and Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division and Junior Division
3. Financial Report 2016-2017 Update -

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Correspondence | - |
| 1.1 June 19, 2017 Letter from Niagara Children's Centre | D1.1 |
| 1.2 June 30, 2017 E-mail from Tim Benner | D1.2 |
| 1.3 July 25, 2017 Letter from Ontario EcoSchools | D1.3 |
| 2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended | - |
| 3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action | - |
| 4. Trustee Information | |
| 4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – September 12, 2017 | D4.1 |
| 4.2 Calendar of Events – October 2017 | D4.2 |
| 4.3 OCSTA Information – September 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2017 | D4.3 |
| 4.4 Marian Event – September 30, 2017 | D4.4 |
| 5. Open Question Period | |
| <i>(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night's public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)</i> | |

E. NOTICES OF MOTION**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA****G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION****H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS****I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE****J. ADJOURNMENT**

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
JUNE 20, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair MacNeil.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee O'Leary.

2. Roll Call

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau		✓		
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Kira Petriello				✓
Nico Tripodi				✓

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting

5.1 May 23, 2017

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 23, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

5.2 May 29, 2017

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 29, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

5.3 June 13, 2017

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

Trustee Sicoli requested Item 6.1.4 be held. This item was moved to Committee and Staff Reports Section C7 of the agenda.

6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 13, 2017 and Consideration of Recommendations

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of June 13, 2017, as presented.

6.1.1 Educational Field Trip Policy (400.2)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Educational Field Trip Policy (400.2), as presented.

6.1.2 Privacy Policy (NEW)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Privacy Policy (NEW), as presented.

6.1.3 Larkin Estate Admission Awards 2017-2018

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the payment of \$3,150.00 for Larkin Estate Admission Awards per eligible student, as presented.

6.1.4 Annual Board Budget 2017-2018

Moved to Section C7

6.1.5 Tender Approval for Notre Dame College School – New Weight Room, Renovated Change Rooms and Storage Areas

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Award of Construction Tender for Notre Dame College School – new Weight Room, renovated Change Rooms and storage areas to Stolk Construction Ltd., as presented.

6.2 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 18, 2016

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 18, 2016, as presented for information.

6.3 Approved Minutes of the Staff Wellness Committee Meeting of March 30, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Staff Wellness Committee Meeting of March 30, 2017, as presented for information.

6.4 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of May 3, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 3, 2017, as presented for information.

6.5 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F2.1, F4.1, F4.2, F5, F5.1, F6.1, F6.2, F6.3, F6.4, F7 and F8

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board adopt the consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Kids Helping Kids – Celebrating 19 Years of Contributions

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education gave a brief presentation on Niagara Catholic's participation in Kids Helping Kids.

Superintendent Baldasaro introduced Marla Smith, Director of Development at Niagara Children's Centre. Ms. Smith thanked students, staff and the parent community for their contributions collected throughout Niagara Catholic.

Ms. Smith introduced special guest Jeff Collee and his daughter Danika, an ELKP Student at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Snyder. Mr. Collee expressed his appreciation to the Niagara Catholic District School Board for their continued support.

Chair MacNeil and Director Crocco presented a cheque for \$36,803.09 to Marla Smith and Jeff and Danka Collee for the Niagara Children's Centre.

2. Provincial Medalists

Superintendent Baldasaro provided a brief presentation on Provincial competitions during the school season and introduced several coaches, principals and teachers who presented background information on the students who were recognized.

Students were congratulated for their success, and Chair MacNeil and Director Crocco presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in Athletics" pins.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program – Assumption Catholic Elementary School

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program and introduced Ailish Newhouse, Sophie Gandola, Dustin Schuhmann and Adam Sauriol, students of Assumption Catholic Elementary School.

The students showcased Assumption Catholic Elementary School as part of the School Excellence Program.

Chair MacNeil and Trustee Burtnik thanked Ailish, Sophie, Dustin and Adam for their presentation.

2. Final Staff Report for the Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

Superintendent Farrell presented the Final Staff Report for the Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School Modified Pupil Accommodation Review.

Trustees Charbonneau and Vernal thanked Superintendent Farrell and staff for the excellent report and the thorough and transparent process.

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the consolidation of Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School, subject to funding approval by the Ministry of Education for renovations and/or an addition to Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School.

CARRIED

3. Capital Priorities Submission 2017

Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services presented the Capital Priorities Submission 2017.

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Capital Priorities submission 2017 for renovation and/or addition to Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School to facilitate the consolidation of Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School.

CARRIED

4. Niagara Catholic EcoSchools Certification 2016-2017

Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services presented the Niagara Catholic EcoSchools Certification 2016-2017 for information. Controller Whitwell recognized Elizabeth Davies and staff for the prestigious recognition of being recognized as the only Board in the Province of Ontario to achieve 100% Eco Schools Certified for eight consecutive school years.

5. Financial Reports as at May 31, 2017

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Financial Report as at May 31, 2017 for information.

Superintendent Vetrone and Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

6. Executive Council Power – July & August 2017

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board empower Executive Council to approve any actions, of an emergency nature only, as recommended by the Director of Education, only if a quorum cannot be achieved after a Special Meeting of the Board is called as per Board By-Laws, during the months of July and August 2017.

CARRIED

7. Consent Agenda Item A6.1.4

Superintendent Vetrone, Superintendent Iannantuono and Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Fera
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the 2017-2018 Annual Budget, as presented.

CARRIED

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

1.1 June 6, 2017 Letter from CCSTA

Chair MacNeil highlighted information contained in the June 6, 2017 letter from CCSTA.

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Trustee Vernal congratulated the Steering Committee of the CCSTA AGM and noted that the workshops were well attended and informative.

Chair MacNeil stated Bishop Henry's message was impactful.

Trustee Nieuwesteeg noted that the participation of the Niagara Catholic students was outstanding.

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco noted a number of items Senior Administrative Council and staff will be working on between the June 2017 Board meeting now and the first Board meeting in September;

- Approval of the Board Budget for 2017-2018 begin to action a number of items to meet the System Priorities 2017-2018,
- System Priority 2016-2017 Final Achievement Report,
- Various Policies for revision,
- Preparation of information for the St. Augustine, St. Mary and St. Andrew Catholic Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee,
- School level and system level staffing.

Chair MacNeil presented a draft letter of appreciation to all staff for the 2016 graduation rates. Trustees supported the June 20, 2017 letter which Director Crocco would send out on behalf of the Board of Trustee.

As a follow-up to the June Committee of the Whole meeting, Trustees informed Chair MacNeil of their interest in serving on the Ad Hoc Committee for the System Scan. All Trustees indicated their interest in serving on the committee. Chair MacNeil indicated that a meeting date for the Ad Hoc Committee would be communicated.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – June 13, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the June 13, 2017 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic.

4.2 Catholic Education Centre Summer Hours

Director Crocco highlighted the Catholic Education Centre summer hours for Trustees information.

Director Crocco noted that as part of the Board's summer enrolment and point of contact strategy, that from June 30 to August 28, 2017 all school marquee signs across the system will have "Join our Family – Register for September 5, 2017 – Call 905 735 0240" and calls will be routed to the appropriate staff to assist families.

4.3 Calendar of Events – September 2017

Director Crocco reviewed the Calendar of Events – September 2017 for Trustees information and reminded Trustees that the first Committee of the Whole meeting on September 12, 2017 will be held at the Niagara Catholic Launch Centre located at the back of the Seaway Mall in Welland.

5. Open Question Period

None Submitted

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:21 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2017.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Fera
Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of May 23, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Fera
Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

The following motions were reported from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Included of June 13, 2017:

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the motion from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting – SECTION A: Student Trustees Included of F2.1

CARRIED (Item F2.1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of May 23, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4.1)

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4.2)

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5)

The following motions were reported from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of June 13, 2017:

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the motion from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting – SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of F5.1

CARRIED (Item F5.1)

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board

CARRIED (Item F5.2)

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F6 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F6)

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the June 20, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **June 20, 2017**.

Approved on **September 26, 2017**.

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 19, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on September 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair MacNeil.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer were led by Trustee Fera.

2. Roll Call

Chair MacNeil noted that all Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau		✓		
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg		✓		
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, Superintendents of Education; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Special Board Meeting of September 19, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

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

B. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting at 4:11 p.m. and reconvened at 5:28 p.m.

C. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting of September 19, 2017.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item B2 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item B2)

D. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the September 19, 2017 Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **September 19, 2017**.

Approved on the **September 26, 2017**.

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2017, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2017:

6.1.1 *Naming Request – St. Martin of Tours Chapel at the New St. Martin Catholic Elementary School*

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – St. Martin of Tours Chapel at the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at the Niagara Launch Centre, Lancaster Drive, Seaway Mall, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Burtnik.

A. **ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. **Opening Prayer**

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Burtnik

2. **Roll Call**

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau		✓		
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli				✓
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Nico Tripodi	✓			
Hannah Tumnillo	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 13, 2017**

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Naming of St. Martin Catholic Elementary School Chapel**

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – St. Martin of Tours Chapel at the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, as presented.

6.2 **Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services – Special Education Plan**

Presented for information.

6.3 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.4 **Capital Projects Update**

Presented for information.

6.5 **In Camera Items F1 and F4**

Chair MacNeil requested Item 6.4 be held. This item was moved to Committee and Staff Reports Section C5 of the agenda.

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Director of Education and Senior Staff Introduction to the 2017-2018 School Year

John Crocco, Director of Education and Senior Administrative Council welcomed the Board to the Launch Centre, to the new school year and presented a visual report which provided information and update on the beginning of the new school year, summer activities, System Priorities, enrolment, staffing, program, special education, technology, research, safe schools, business and facility services.

Chair MacNeil and Vice-Chair Burtnik expressed the Boards appreciation to staff for a smooth start to the new school year and for all the hard work and dedication of staff during the summer.

Director Crocco and Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees

2. Summer Camp 2017

Director Crocco introduced Jennifer Pirosko, Coordinator of Student Success.

Ms. Pirosko along with students and staff presented the Summer Camp 2017 program.

Vice-Chair Burtnik along with Student Trustee Tripodi expressed gratitude to the staff for their leadership and dedication.

3. Niagara Launch Centre

Director Crocco introduced Marco Magazzeni, Administrator of Alternative Programs and Community Partnerships and Ivan Galante, K to 12 Consultant: Business/Technological Education/Specialist High Skills Major.

Mr. Magazzeni and Ms. Galante, presented the Niagara Launch Centre report.

Mr. Magazzeni introduced community partners of the Niagara Launch Centre Mario DeDivitiis, Chief Executive Officer at Niagara Workforce Planning Board (NWPB), Kevin Hesch, National Sales Manager at In-House Solutions, Steve Hatt, The Ontario Technical Training Manager at Bell Canada and Nick Ciccone, Training Director at Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local 837 who were all highly complementary of the Launch Centre direction and support for students.

Mr. Ciccone presented the Niagara Launch Centre with a \$10,000.00 cheque on behalf of LIUNA Local 837 in support of the centre.

Mr. Magazzeni and Ms. Galante escorted Trustees and Senior Staff on a guided tour of the facilities.

Vice-Chair Burtnik expressed gratitude to the staff for their passion and for lighting the spark and igniting passion in the students that will benefit from the Launch Centre.

4. Monthly Updates

4.1 Student Trustees' Update

Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal and visual update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

4.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Captured in C1 Report.

5. Consent Agenda Item A6.4

5.1 Capital Projects Update

Chair MacNeil acknowledged and thanked Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services and the Facilities Services staff for the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – June 20, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – June 20, 2017 issue for Trustees information.

1.2 Calendar of Events – September 2017

Director Crocco presented the September 2017 Calendar of Events for Trustees information.

1.3 OCSTA Information – June, July & August 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the OCSTA Information from June, July and August 2017

1.4 OCSTA Memorandum – Bill 68 Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act – Implementation Issues

Director Crocco highlighted the OCSTA Memorandum regarding Bill 68 Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act – Implementation Issues.

1.5 OCSTA Memorandum – The New Ontario Municipal Election Cycle – May 1, 2018 – October 22, 2018

Director Crocco highlighted the OCSTA Memorandum regarding the New Ontario Municipal Election Cycle – May 1, 2018 – October 22, 2018.

1.6 Letter to Students and Parents – September 2017

Director Crocco presented a hard copy of the letter that was sent to all students and families for September 2017.

1.7 Letter to Staff – September 2017

Director Crocco presented a hard copy of the letter that was sent to all staff for September 2017.

1.8 OCSTA 2017 Fall Regional Meeting – September 19, 2017

Director John Crocco highlighted the OCSTA 2017 fall regional meeting dates for Trustee information and registration.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

1.9 Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Golf Tournament – September 20, 2017

Director Crocco presented the Agenda and Registration form for the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Golf Tournament – September 20, 2017.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

1.10 Niagara Wine Festival Grande Parade – September 23, 2017

Director Crocco informed the Board that Niagara Catholic will once again participate in the Niagara Wine Festival Grande Parade on September 23, 2017.

All Trustees were invited to walk in the annual parade with the Board and asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

- 1.1** Director Crocco informed the Board that the annual System Priorities Final Achievement Report for the 2016-2017 school year will be presented at the September 26, 2017 Board Meeting and that staff was actively engaged in implementing the System Priorities for 2017-2018.

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Vernal

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 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:33 p.m. and reconvened at 10:51 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2017.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section A: Student Trustees Included) held on June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on June 13, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT the September 12, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **September 12, 2017.**

Approved on **October 10, 2017.**

Kathy Burtnik
Vice-Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: NAMING REQUEST – ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHAPEL AT
THE NEW ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – St. Martin of Tours Chapel at the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary school, as presented.

Prepared by: Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: September 26, 2017



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

NAMING REQUEST – ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHAPEL AT THE NEW ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Niagara Catholic District School Board received over \$12.6 million in funding from the provincial government to replace the aging St. Martin Catholic Elementary School in Smithville. On Wednesday, December 9, 2015, Niagara Catholic broke ground on the site for a new St. Martin Catholic at 18 Streamside Drive, in Smithville.

On September 5, 2017, the first day of the 2017-2018 school year, arrangements were made for the St. Martin Catholic School community to participate in a memorable ceremony that honoured both the past and present St. Martin Catholic Elementary School. The school community assembled to say “good-bye” at the original school site that had provided over 50 years of Catholic educational excellence in Smithville, and then boarded school buses to move together, a kilometre down the road, to celebrate the new school opening. Over 400 students, along with staff, parents, Chair McNeil, Vice-Chair Burtnik, Director Crocco, Superintendent Baldasaro, Controller Whitwell and Mayor Joyner entered the new school building which includes a beautifully appointed school chapel at the entrance of the school.

In accordance with Board Policy 100.15, Naming of a Board Facility, Designated Area or Chapel,

All Chapels in the Niagara Catholic District School Board will be named after the Blessed Trinity, or a name for Christ, or a mystery of his life already accepted in the liturgy, or the name of the Holy Spirit, or a name for the Blessed Virgin Mary, or a name of a holy angel, or the name of a Saint, or the name of a blessed provided the Bishop has given permission.

1. All requests will be presented to the Family of Schools’ Superintendent of Education for consideration.
2. If supported by the Family of Schools’ Superintendent of Education, a recommendation will be made to the Director of Education for consideration.
3. The Director of Education will consult with the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines for endorsement.
4. If supported by the Director of Education and endorsed by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines, the Director will present the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration.
5. The Board of Trustees will approve the naming or renaming of a Chapel within a Board facility.
6. The name of the Chapel within a Board facility will be displayed with an appropriate interior sign or lettering.

Recommendation

A recommendation has been made by the Family of Schools' Superintendent of Education, and Principal of St. Martin Catholic Elementary School to the Director of Education - to name the chapel at St. Martin Catholic Elementary School - after St. Martin of Tours. The Director of Education has consulted with the Bishop Bergie of the Diocese of St. Catharines and received Bishop Bergie's endorsement of the recommended name for the chapel.

Born in Sabaria, modern day Hungary, in 316, Martin was raised in Italy by non-Christian parents. The son of a military veteran, by law he was forced into service with Roman army at the age of fifteen. During a military mission in France on a cold winter day, Martin encountered a shivering beggar. Having no money to offer, Martin removed his cloak, tore it and wrapped half around the man and half around himself. Later that night he had a vision of Christ wearing his cloak and saying, "Martin, a mere catechumen has clothed me." The next day he resolved to be baptized and after completing his catechumen studies was baptized at the age of eighteen. After being discharged from military duties, Martin began his ministry of preaching and later was made Bishop of Tours, a position he faithfully carried out until his death in 397.

We are requesting the chapel at the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School be named after St. Martin of Tours. His full title, St. Martin of Tours, is an acknowledgment of the service and leadership he provided to the people of Tours over the course of his twenty-five year ministry as their bishop. While his encounter with the beggar in France is often the most recognized image of St. Martin, it was his time in Tours that set him apart as a true shepherd and faithful servant of God. He is credited with numerous healings and miracles and his preaching drew large crowds from cities and villages far beyond Tours. Christian peacemaking was a theme throughout his episcopal ministry as the Bishop of Tours even going so far as to oppose violence against heretics. Firmly rooted in his faith, and devoted to a life of service to Christ, St. Martin of Tours is a great model and witness to the faith we share and the life of service Christ calls us to.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – St. Martin of Tours Chapel at the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary school, as presented.

Prepared by: Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 12, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF
JUNE 7, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2017 as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Racine.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Chair Racine.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Rob Lavorato	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Sarah Farrell	Learning Disabilities Association – Niagara	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health	✓		
Andrew Howcroft	Community Living Welland Pelham		✓	
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children’s Centre	✓		
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet		✓	
Trustees				
Pat Vernal		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau			✓	
Student Senate Representative				
Sarah Milinkovich		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education; **Danny Giancola**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Denice Robertson**, Principal, Secondary; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Bill Helmeczi
Seconded by Rob Lavorato

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2017.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

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

5. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 3, 2017

Moved by Dorothy Harvey
Seconded by Sarah Farrell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 3, 2017 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Education Accessibility Standard Engagement Survey Submission

Superintendent Baldasaro provided background information about the Education Accessibility Standard Engagement survey. The government is committed to developing an accessibility standard for education, under the AODA. To support this goal the government is working to establish an Education Standard Development Committee in the fall of 2017 and prior to the establishment of this committee wants to hear from the education sector. The SEAC members collectively completed the survey as a group.

C. VISIONING

1. Goals and Vision for 2016-2017

1.1 Goals for the 2016-2017 School Year

Chair Racine addressed the recent reduction of Communicative Disorders Assistants in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Superintendent Baldasaro provided background information and informed the SEAC members that the Niagara Catholic Speech and Language Pathologists will continue to support students in their program, realigning with a new model of service delivery.

Vice-Chair reminded the SEAC members to think about ideas for goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 3, 2017

1. **Learner Advocacy**
2. **Parent Outreach**
3. **Program and Service Recommendations**
4. **Special Education Budget**
5. **Annual Review, Special Education Plan**
 - 5.1 Update
Deferred to September meeting
6. **Other Related Items**
7. **Policy Review**
 - 7.1 ***Student Fees Policy (301.11)***
Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3)
Education-Based Research Policy (800.5)

*Feedback is to be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by **September 16, 2017**.*

E. SEAC REPORT

1. **Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda**
 - The following information will be sent to Principals to include in their Catholic School Council agenda: 1) The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) participated in the Niagara Catholic Festival of Families event that was held on Thursday, May 25 at Saint Michael High School; 2) The 2017-2018 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Ministry video was presented to the SEAC members at the May meeting; 3) SEAC participated in the Education Accessibility Standard Engagement Survey.
2. **Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters**
 - The SEAC insert for school newsletters is the same as noted above for the Catholic School Council agenda.

F. AGENCY REPORTS

1. **Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Rob Lavorato**

- Nil Report

2. **The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine**

- Nil Report

3. **Learning Disabilities Association (Niagara) – Sarah Farrell**

- Our summer SLAM program is filling up – most weeks in St. Catharines have filled up and there are limited spots remaining in Niagara Falls and Welland.
- Fall program dates have been finalized. All literacy and social skills programs will begin the week of October 2 until December 5 (8 weeks). Applications will be accepted starting Monday, August 14th starting at 6:00a.m. – there are limited spots!
- Due to circumstances beyond our control, our upcoming Golf Tournament Fundraiser has been cancelled. We will be looking into other fundraising opportunities and will be sure to provide any details on upcoming fundraisers.

4. **Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi**

- The Pathstone Mental Health Open House is being held on Friday, June 16 from 2:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. at their new location, 1338 Fourth Avenue in St. Catharines.

5. **Community Living Welland Pelham – Andrew Howcroft**

- Nil Report

6. **Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy**

- The adult social group on June 8th will be bowling following dinner at Boston Pizza in Niagara Falls. This is the year end social and will start up again in September.
- Our Annual General Meeting was May 13th, it was a great turn out, existing Board of Directors have been appointed once again.
- Ride & Stride for Autism – June 17th would love for people to register and join us. The information is on our website. Jordan has asked if there is any way to get this information out to the schools for their support.
- Thank you for a warm welcome, I am still learning and look forward to the next school term.

7. Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey

- Nil Report

8. Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet – Rita Smith

- Nil Report

G. STAFF REPORTS

1. Lisa Selman – Principal, Elementary
Report Submitted

Happening in Elementary Schools

- EQAO Grade 3 & Grade 6 finished. All test items picked up June 5.
- Report Cards & Alternative Reports in progress. P.A. Day - June 9.
- In progress - School Based Team Meetings, Case Conferences, Transition Meetings
- FM Systems - Collected for summer maintenance.
- Resources, sensory items, structured teaching items etc. used to support students with needs, being collected, organized moved to next year's classrooms.
- Technology collected and stored for the summer.
- Library - All books collected the week of June 5.
- Wrapping up Breakfast Club, milk program, hot lunch programs.
- Roots of Empathy Celebration.
- Year End Class Trips.
- Co-Curricular Activities - Track & Field and baseball, Talent Show, Play day, Yearbook.
- Catholic School Councils - Year End Uniform Swap, Fun Fair, BBQs.
- Welcome to Kindergarten Presentations for new families 2017/18.
- First Riders Program - New Kindergarten students 2017/18 go on a bus ride and learn the safety rules.
- Grade 8 Graduations.
- Year-end Masses.
- School Organization, Staffing and student class placements in progress.
- Looking ahead - September Welcome Letters to all students - helpful tips for next school year along with suggested supplies.
- Summer Learning Camps, YMCA Camps, Jericho House Leadership Camps - opportunities for subsidies to support some of our students.
- Lockers and desks soon to be cleaned and organized for next school year.

2. Denice Robertson – Principal, Secondary

Happening in Secondary Schools

- On May 31st, we had our "Toonies for Torches" day. Saint Francis raised \$850.00, Blessed Trinity \$225.00, Holy Cross raised over \$536.00 for Special Olympics. All of which will go to the Special Olympics organization.
- We are in the midst of all of our transition meetings with our family of schools, and are planning ahead for the new students coming to us in September.

Blessed Trinity

- Our soccer team qualified at the Special Olympics Ontario regionals and have now advanced to the Provincial Championships at Brock University on June 12, 13. The provincials will feature 12 teams from across the province, Canada and the United States and involve nearly 900 athletes. We are looking forward to competing at this level!
- We had a few amazing acts of kindness happen this week, however they were anything but random. Three BT students who play lunchtime basketball with one of our students, pooled their money and bought him a beautiful pair of LeBron James basketball shoes. They recognized a need and our student's passion for the game and decided to act with compassion and selflessness – truly inspiration.
- In addition, two of our students are graduating this year. A BT student who spends much of his free time helping out and participating in the various field trip events that we often go on, decided to ask both of these girls to prom. It's amazing to see a young man so passionate about inclusion!
- Our Educational Resource Teacher is taking a group of students to Niagara College on June 8th as part of the Community Connected Experiential Learning initiative.

Saint Francis

- Special Education Classroom students will be playing on a "unified" team (in conjunction with students from Holy Cross) in the Special Olympics Basketball Championships at Brock University on June 12th and 13th.
- One of the students from our Special Education Classroom will be leaving our school after 7 years with us! He will be missed! Will be hosting a small graduation celebration in June in our Special Education Classroom!

Denis Morris

- The Special Education Class soccer team is geared up to attend the Special Olympics at Brock University June 12th and 13th. In addition to the soccer games they will play, the athletes will participate in a number of exciting events including, opening exercises, team meals, and an athlete dance. Mr. DiLorenzo is planning to fill two fan buses to send to the games to support the team.
- Best Buddies update:
- Twelve DM students attended the Toronto FC on May 26th, compliments of team captain Michael Bradley.
- Whooping it Up Free Throw Competition was a great success. Our chapter raised about \$300 from the BBQ and free throws. The money was used to take 50 students to a private viewing of Guardians of the Galaxy 2 at Landmark Cinemas. A bus of Notre Dame students joined us at the movie.
- NCDSB Project is sending 12 Special Education students from Denis Morris to visit Niagara College on June 8 to familiarize themselves with the CICE program, as well as other college services.

Holy Cross

- The Holy Cross Special Education Class are having a ball using the cameras that were purchased using Best Buy's Tech Grant. We enjoyed a walk outdoors and took various pictures in nature as chosen by the students. The students proceeded to download their photos and pick one to be printed for Mother's Day. These pictures were framed and titled as gifts for their moms.
- Our Special Education class hosted their pen pals from St. Thomas Aquinas today. We gathered in the Chapel and listened to Mendel and then had lunch together. Lunch was

pasta and sauce made by one of our own students followed by ice cream cones. Our students enjoyed finally meeting their pals they have been sharing with the entire semester.

Saint Michael

- Five students from the Special Education class are going to the Special Olympics Provincials in the sport of Bocce. This event will be held at Brock University next week.
- Our Special Education class also has two students participating again for OFSAA track and field. We are very proud of their performances.

Notre Dame College

- On Friday June 2, 2017 Notre Dame hosted the Bi-Annual Raptors Basketball Event. Teams represented the Special Education Area from each of our 8 high schools in a morning of friendly competition. A pizza lunch and dance followed. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.
- On Monday May 30, 2017 our students joined up with students from Denis Morris to enjoy a private movie viewing at the Landmark Theatre at the Pen Centre. It was another wonderful day enjoyed by students and peer tutors.
- Two of our students participated in qualifying and SOSSA meets for running track events on May 18, 2017. Both students gave their best effort. One of our students went on to win at OFSSA this past week.
- Students also participated in the trip to the Ontario Gallery of Art. We had a fantastic tour of the Georgia O'Keefe exhibit, as well as participated in printmaking and sculpture workshops. This was an amazing educational experience, developing art skills and having exposure to beautiful pieces of art.

3. Yolanda Baldasaro – Superintendent of Education

- Elementary and Secondary graduations are happening during the last week of June 2017.
- This year Niagara Catholic raised over \$30,000.00 for the *Kids Helping Kids* campaign in support of the Niagara Children's Centre.
- June 12, 13 - Special Olympics School Championships are being held at Brock University, Gatorade Garden City Complex and Niagara Track and Field Club.

4. Danny Giancola – Coordinator Special Education

- Nil Report

H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Pat Vernal – Trustee

- Nil Report

2. Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee

- Nil Report

I. STUDENT REPORT

1. Sarah Milinkovich– Student Senate Representative

- Nil Report

J. NCPIC REPORT

- Nil Report

K. ALLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Learner Advocacy

2. Parent Outreach

3. Program and Service Recommendation

4. Special Education Budget

5. Annual Review, Special Education Plan

6. Other Related Items

6.1 Election Proceedings – SEAC Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC)

Deferred to September meeting

7. Policy Review

M. CORRESPONDENCE

N. QUESTION PERIOD

O. NOTICES OF MOTION

P. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Q. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Vice-Chair Lavorato announced that Pina Palombo will be the alternate SEAC representative for Down Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara.
2. Superintendent Baldasaro on behalf of Director Crocco and Senior Administrative staff thanked the SEAC members for their contributions this year.

R. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 7:00p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

S. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Karen Murphy
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the June 7, 2017 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.
CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE OF MAY 11, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2017 as presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

MAY 11, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Daly.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

2. Roll Call

Guest: John Crocco, Director of Education joined the NCPIC meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Parent Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Chris Kouroushis	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Kym Raso	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet			√
Shonna Daly	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Rebecca Monte	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Alexandria Attree	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake			√
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake			√
Mary Mannella-Byers	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√	
Marion Battersby	St. Catharines	√		
Lisa Finley	St. Catharines		√	
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√		
Julie Wiley-Pol	St. Catharines			Letter of Resignation Received March 20, 2017
Anne Watt	Welland	√		
Carrie Vernelli	Welland		√	
Community Representatives				
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace		√	
Shelley Gilbert	Society of Saint Vincent de Paul	√		
Other Representatives				
Anna Racine	SEAC Representative	√		
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	Arrived at 8:00 p.m.		
Hannah Tummillio	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		

Trustees				
Kathy Burtnik	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Dino Sicoli	Trustee		√	

The following staff was in attendance:

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets sent: Theo Dagenais, Lisa Finley, Glenn Gifford, Josephine Muraca-Lettieri, Josie Rocca
Dino Sicoli, Leone Strilec and Carrie Vernelli

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Marion Battersby

Seconded by: Kim Hedden

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the
Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2017 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declaration of conflict of interest was declared with any item on the agenda.

5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2016

Moved by: Chris Kouroushis

Seconded by: Mary Mannella-Byers

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the
Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 17, 2016 as
presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

London Regional PIC Symposium

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that Carrie Vernelli, Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, Daniella Stukel, Notre Dame College and Shelly McClemon, St. Augustine Catholic Elementary School represented the Niagara Catholic District School Board at the London Regional PIC Symposium on Saturday, April 1, 2017 in London Ontario. Carrie Vernelli will be invited to make a brief report at the next NCPIC meeting.

C. 2017-2018 NCPIC GOALS

- Continue to communicate with Catholic School Councils.
- Continue to issue a NCPIC Newsletter.
- Invite Family of Schools Catholic School Councils to attend a NCPIC meeting.
- Create a NCPIC brochure to include with the registration packages.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FAITH FORMATION

Nil Report

2. POLICY- Shonna Daly

The following Policies and Administrative Procedures are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Procedures Review process.

- Complaint Resolution Policy No. 800.3
- Education-Based Research Policy No. 800.5
- Student Fees Policy No. 301.11

Feedback is to be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by September 16, 2017.

3. PRO GRANT-Shonna Daly

Chair Daly reported that the applications for the 2017-2018 Parents Reaching Out Grants are now being accepted. Applications must be completed and submitted online no later than Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a 2017-2018 PRO Grant proposal to host a Well-Being Interactive Speaking Presentation with Dr. Greg Wells for all parents/guardians and school communities. The theme would be focused on faith and the changes individuals can make to be healthy and to function at full potential.

MOTION

Moved by: Rebecca Monte

Seconded by: Anne Watt

THAT Superintendent Forsyth-Sells would further investigate the proposal and that Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee would apply for a 2017-2018 Parents Reaching Out Grant.

CARRIED

E. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

1. Partners in Catholic Education Dinner

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells extended an invitation to NCPIC members to attend the Partners in Catholic Education Dinner on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at the Americana Event Centre in Niagara Falls beginning at 5:30 p.m. Interested members are to contact Yvonne Anderson no later than Monday, May 15, 2017.

2. Letter of Resignation

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared that on Monday, March 20, 2017, Julie Wiley-Pol submitted a letter of resignation as parent member of the NCPIC due to family commitments. A letter of appreciation on behalf of the NCPIC members was sent to Julie Wiley-Pol.

3. 2017-2018 NCPIC Membership

NCPIC community representatives and parent/guardian members coming to the end of their term are welcome and encouraged to complete and submit a nomination form for the 2017-2018 NCPIC membership. Nomination forms will be sent to all elementary and secondary schools and will be posted on the Board website later this month.

4. 2017-2018 NCPIC Meeting Dates

To be consistent on a regular basis, it is suggested that the bi-monthly meetings of the NCPIC fall on the first Thursday of the month as required. The meeting dates were approved by consensus.

The proposed NCPIC Meeting dates for 2017-2018 the dates are as follows:

- September 7, 2017
- November 2, 2017
- January 11, 2018
- March 1, 2018
- May 3, 2018

5. OAPCE Update

1. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a letter that was received from OAPCE introducing the newly elected Executive of the Association:

- President, Maurizio Ruberto (York Region)
- Vice-President, Annalisa Crudo-Perri (Toronto Region)
- Treasurer, Karen Magdangal (Dufferin-Peel)
- Executive Secretary, Chuck Farmer (Dufferin-Peel)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that OAPCE is currently working on updating their Strategic Plan to support the mandate of promoting and protecting publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario.

2. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that OAPCE was contacted to clarify the possibility of two (2) Regional Directors. A response was received from OAPCE stating the OAPCE Board of Directors discussed this item at the December OAPCE meeting and decided that Co-Directors are not permitted, according to the present OAPCE By-Laws.

As a result, it was determined that Chair Daly will act as the interim Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director until the November 2017 elections.

6. NCPIC Financial Report

A financial statement was provided for information. Funds will once again be allocated to the Partners in Catholic Education Dinner held on May 18, 2017.

F. COMMUNITY REPORTS

Development and Peace

- Solidarity Sunday was celebrated across the Diocese on Sunday, April 2, 2017.
- Linda Marie O'Hagan, the previous Development and Peace NCPIC Community Representative was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Mayor of St. Catharines.
- The Diocesan Council will be sending delegates to the Development and Peace Ontario Regional Assembly in Sudbury from May 26 – 28, 2017.
- As Development and Peace continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the full Solidarity Quilt will be revealed at the Youth Forum in Ottawa on Saturday, June 10, 2017. A letter of congratulations will be sent to Linda Marie O'Hagan on behalf of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul-*Shelley Gilbert*

- In April, 120 members from across Ontario attended the Spring meeting and Mass was celebrated by Bishop Bergie.
- On May 26, 2017 St. Vincent de Paul with host the second annual trivia night. The proceeds will support the camp program.
- St. Vincent de Paul is moving forward with "The North of 60 Project". Niagara Catholic secondary schools and Adult Continuing Education site have been invited to participate. Terri Pauco, Niagara Catholic Religious and Family Life Consultant has also invited Principals, Faith Ambassadors, and the Chaplaincy Leader of the Saint Paul Family of Schools to support this worthy project.
- St. Vincent de Paul will have a booth set-up for the Festival of Families on May 25, 2017 at Saint Michael Catholic High School.

G. SEAC REPORT-*Anna Racine*

- SEAC is currently reviewing the Special Education Plan.
- Andrew Howcroft, Community Living, Welland Pelham represented SEAC at the Ministry of Education's Provincial Framework for Alternative Programs and Courses K-12 held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.
- SEAC submitted a measurable action verb for the Design of System Priorities 2017-2018.

H. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-*Fr. Peter Rowe*

- On Saturday, May 13, 2017 Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary.
- Congratulation to Deacon Steven Bruzzese who will be ordained on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Cathedral of St. Catharines.

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT- *Hannah Tummillo*

At the past three Senate meetings, members have been working diligently in constructing this year's student senate scholarship. A variety of different questions have been created where Grade 12 Catholic students can reveal their leadership qualities, academic goals, and personality traits that fit the set criteria. An application form is now available for graduating students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The Senate was also provided with an update from the Chaplaincy Leader Ms. Woods, about the Board's upcoming "Festival of Families" on May 25, 2017 at Saint Michael Catholic High School. The Senate looks forward to this event as well as future events such as our May Symposium, which involves every students council in the Board coming together to learn about student senate.

J. STAFF REPORTS

Holy Cross

- The Holy Cross Special Education class recently hosted the Beach Volleyball event for all of the secondary school Special Education Classes in NCDSB.
- The Holy Cross choir performed for the Prime Minister at the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence evening on May 3, 2017.

Blessed Trinity

- Both Junior and Senior School Reach Teams won the NCAA Regional Championships. The Senior Reach team will participate in Provincials at the University of Toronto from Saturday, May 13 to Monday, May 15, 2017.
- Malcomb Van Den Hurk participated in the Skills Canada qualifying Construction Competition held on Saturday, April 1st at Niagara College. He won a bronze medal and will move on to Provincials.
- On Sunday, April 30, 2017 time trials for the Philadelphia Stotesbury Cup entries took place. Three athletes qualified and will be travelling to compete in this prestigious US National Regatta at the end of May. Representing BT Thunder in the Men's Doubles are Andrew Allan and Abram Van Engelen; also Lauren Kelly will be making her debut representing Women's Singles.

Notre Dame College School

- On Sunday, April 9, 2017 students and staff travelled to Vimy Ridge for the 100th Anniversary Ceremony as part of the Niagara Catholic group of staff and students. Students attended this monumental moment in history and commented on the nature of the ceremony; in particular, the boots of the fallen soldiers, the performances by the musical guests, and the speech given by Prime Minister Trudeau.
- On Monday, April 10, 2017 students travelled to Normandy and experienced a very moving visit to Juno Beach. Many students were moved to tears by the emotional exhibits, video presentation and by simply walking on such sacred ground. Students visited Canada House and stopped at a nearby Canadian War Cemetery.

Lakeshore Catholic High School

- Music students travelled to New Orleans and had an incredible time. Matt Mulholland was able to play drums with one of New Orleans finest house bands for over a half an hour.
- This Saturday LCHS hosts its last concert of the year on May 13th with Blake and Brian Nutter performing on Saturday. Brian Nutter is Keith Urban's guitar player. Tickets are available at the door for only \$20. Spencer Burton will be opening up for Blake and Brian.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS-*Vice-Chair Kathy Burtnik*

- Vice-Chair Burtnik congratulated the NCPIC members on the successful outcome of the “Festival of Families” PRO Grant initiative in partnership with the Alliance Committee.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik thanked all members of the NCPIC for their continued support of the Board and, of all parents/guardians and students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

L. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

M. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 7, 2017.

N. CLOSING PRAYER: Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Peter Rowe.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Kim Hedden

Seconded by: Shelley Gilbert

THAT the May 11, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE(S)
TO THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT
COMMITTEE 2017-2018**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of the following community members to serve as Community Representatives on the NCPIC for the 2017-2018 term:

Leone Strilec-St. Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace (Appendix A)
Shelley Gilbert-St. Vincent de Paul Society (Appendix B)

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: September 26, 2017



**REPORT TO THE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO THE NIAGARA
CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
2017-2018**

The composition of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee membership includes Community Representatives.

In the Education Act O.Reg. 330/10 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees Part III, Composition of Committees, Transition S. 32 (3) subsection 4 states that in regards to community representatives that the Board shall appoint the following people to the committee:

“The number of community representatives, up to three (3), the board determines appropriate.”

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy No. 800.7 states that the composition of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee shall include the following:

- The number of Community Representatives as specified in the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee By-Laws state that the membership will include:

- Up to three (3) community representatives will be appointed to the committee who are voting members.

The following letters of reference have been received for the position of Community Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Leone Strilec-St. Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace-Appendix A

Shelley Gilbert-St. Vincent de Paul Society-Appendix B

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of the following community members to serve as Community Representatives on the NCPIC for the 2017-2018 term:

Leone Strilec-St. Catharines Diocesan Council For Development and Peace (Appendix A)
Shelley Gilbert –St. Vincent de Paul Society (Appendix B)

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017



**Application for Community Representative
Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee 2017-2018**



Date: May 30, 2017

Name: Leone Strilec

Address: 4-6753 O'Neil St., Niagara Falls, ON, L2J 1N3

Phone No.: 905 325 8824

Agency/Organization: Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Caritas Canada

Brief Biography: Retired Teacher, 20 years at Saint Michael Catholic High School.

Previously a teacher rep on the Regional Council.

Currently Co-chair of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace.

Please send to: Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Road
Welland, ON
L3C 7C1
Attention: Yvonne Anderson
or e-mail yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com

Complete applications packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. EST.
on
Friday, September 22, 2017.

June 4, 2017
5701 MacPherson Cres
Niagara Falls, ON
L2J 1Z9

Attention: Yvonne Anderson
Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Road
Welland, ON L3C 7C1

Leone Strilec represented the St Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace as a community representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee last year. On behalf of Development and Peace, I would once again like to recommend her for the committee. I am confident that you have found her to be a valuable asset on the committee, and Development and Peace values the input into the NCPIC. Leone continues to be active with the diocesan council of Development and Peace as our education co-ordinator, working closely with the high school chaplains and students on our annual education campaign, and as co-chair with me of the diocesan council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Fohr".

Frank Fohr, Co-chair
St Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace

*Received June 9, 2017
at 10:05 a.m.*



Application for Community Representative
Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee 2017-2018



Date: August 28, 2017
Name: Shelley Gilbert
Address: 208 Rykert St.
Phone No.: 905-329-8568
Agency/Organization: Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Brief Biography:

I am an active member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the last 25 years. I have been president for the St. Catharines area for 8 years and president for Central Council for the last 2 years for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I am an active member at St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

I have been on the St. Anthony School Council as a community rep for the last 4 years. Beside being part of St. Vincent de Paul and School council I am also sit on the Shelley Gautier Foundation (it promotes getting people with disabilities active again) as part of their fund raising committee.

Please send to: Catholic Education Centre
427 Rice Road
Welland, ON
L3C 7C1
Attention: Yvonne Anderson
or e-mail yvonne.anderson@ncdsb.com

Complete applications packages must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. EST. on Friday, September 22, 2017.**

August 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern

Shelley Gilbert, a close friend and fellow Vincentian has told me of her desire to once again be a Community Representative for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with the Niagara Parent Involvement Committee. Within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Shelley has held many positions and presently is the Central Council President responsible for ensuring that all Vincentians live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. Shelley is always willing to pitch in and offer assistance whenever and wherever needed and she does so with great joy and a desire to see change. Recently, under the direction and supervision of Shelley, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for the diocese of St. Catharines successfully collected and filled a sea container with clothing, hygiene and laundry products as well as non-perishable food items to be shipped to Naujaat, Nunavut. It is my belief that Shelley will be a valuable asset to the committee and will represent the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as a true Vincentian living the Gospel message. Should you wish to speak with me further please feel free to contact me at 905-684-4784 or 289-241-2004.

Sincerely,

Louise Librock

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2016-2017
ACHIEVEMENT REPORT**

A hard copy of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2016-2017 Achievement Report will be provided as part of this report.

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2016-2017 Achievement Report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2016-2017 ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the April 26, 2016 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the following motion was approved;

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2016-2017, as amended. (Appendix A)

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2016-2017 were designed to provide the annual focus for the system towards achieving the outcomes of the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Within the two (2) Strategic Directions and the seven (7) Enabling Strategies are the approved system priorities which provide the specific framework to measure the achievement of each direction and strategy within a specific school year.

The Board approved System Priorities 2016-2017 were posted on the Niagara Catholic website and copies were provided to all Principals, Vice-Principals, staff, Bishop Bergie, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Council Chairs and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC). In addition, a poster size copy of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2016-2017 were placed in public locations in all schools, Board sites and the Catholic Education Centre for review by students, staff, parents and guests to Niagara Catholic.

With the conclusion of the 2016-2017 academic year, members of Senior Administrative Council and Board staff collated, analyzed and reviewed all measurements and data gathered for the 2016-2017 school year and completed its review of the progress in achieving the System Priorities within each Strategic Direction and Enabling Strategy of the Board 's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.

Attached to this report (Appendix A) is an electronic copy of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2016-2017 Achievement Report. A hard copy of the report will be provided at the meeting. Within each Strategic Direction and Enabling Strategy is the indicator of success and comments on the measurables to determine the achievement of either "*Completed*" or "*In Progress 2017-2018*". A copy of this final report will be provided to all Principals, Vice-Principals, Bishop Bergie, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Council Chairs, Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) and posted on our Board website.

Senior Administrative Council is proud of the overall achievement of the 2016-2017 System Priorities as approved by the Board. Senior Staff complements Niagara Catholic students and staff for the high level of achievement and continued improvement throughout the 2016-2017 school year.

As we begin a new school year, the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, the Board approved Strategic Directions System Priorities and Annual Budget for 2017-2018 along with the Board and School Improvement Plans are aligned to continue our focus on achieving the Vision Statements and Strategic Directions of the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.

Senior Administrative Council will provide a mid-year review of the achievement of the System Priorities for the 2017-2018 academic year at the January 2018 Board Meeting and a final report for the 2017-2018 academic year at the September 2018 Board Meeting.

Attached

Appendix A Niagara Catholic Strategic Directions System Priorities 2016-2017 Achievement Report

The Niagara Catholic Strategic Direction System Priorities 2016-2017 Achievement Report
is presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: September 27, 2016



Niagara Catholic System Priorities Achievement Report 2016-2017

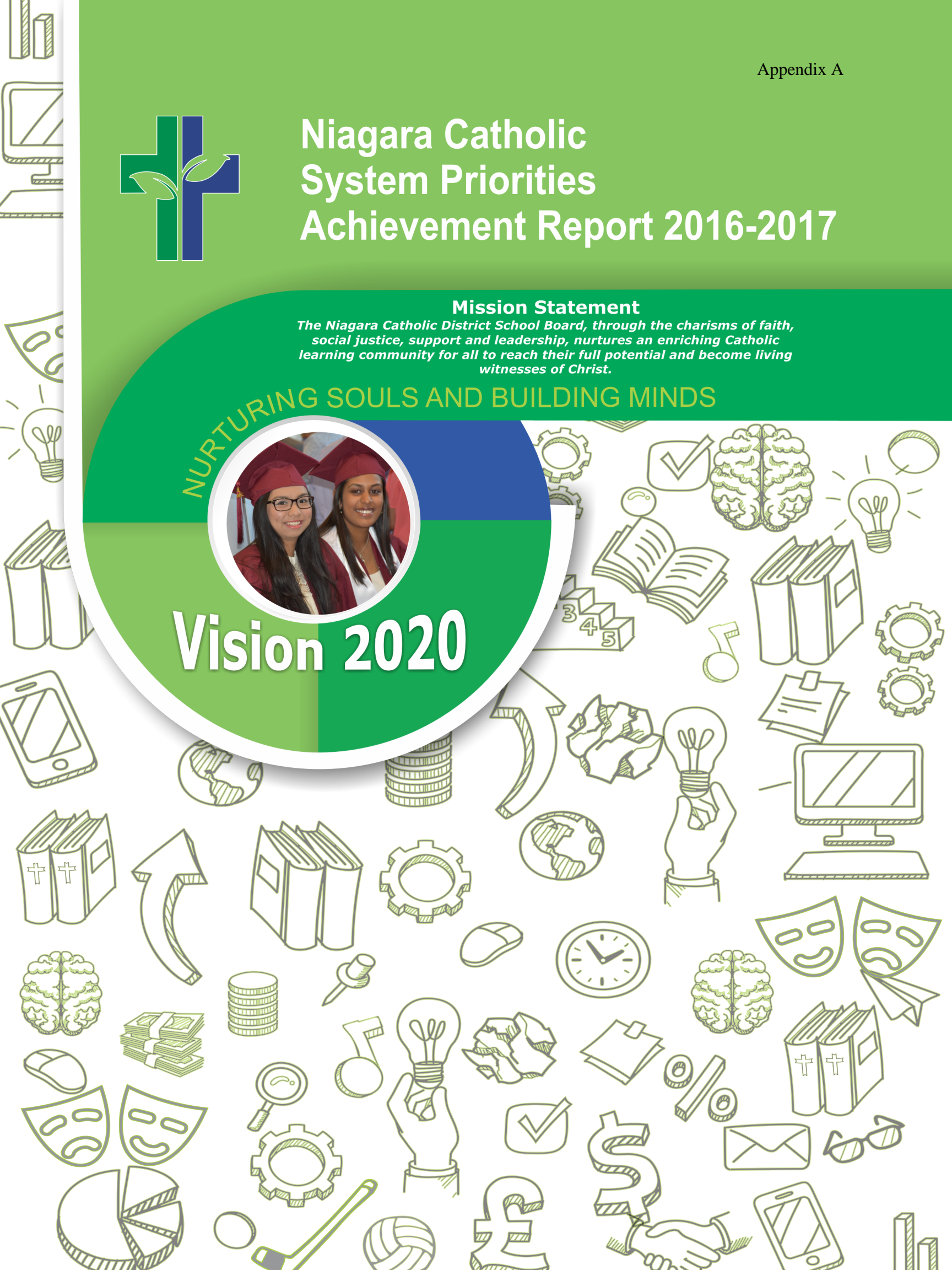
Mission Statement

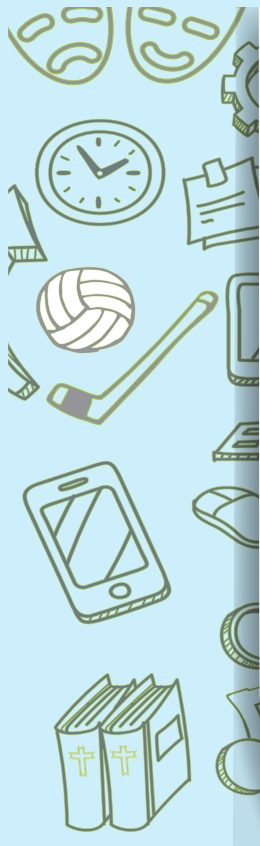
The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

NURTURING SOULS AND BUILDING MINDS



Vision 2020





NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2016-2017

Mission Statement

The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

NURTURING SOULS AND BUILDING MINDS



Vision 2020

MINISTRY GOALS

- Achieving Excellence
- Ensuring Equity
- Promoting Well-Being
- Enhancing Public Confidence



BOARD STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education
- Advance Student Achievement for All



Provide Supports for Success

- Evangelize our schools as we continue to deliver Catholic programs, supports and services to build strong Catholic identity and community, to advance student achievement and to promote positive well-being and relationships
- Improve student achievement in mathematics and create pathways for success for all students
- Develop and implement a plan to imbed global competencies and experiential learning in elementary and secondary programs
- Expand social justice opportunities, global citizenship and international education experiences

ENABLING STRATEGIES



Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

- Design and deliver a comprehensive multi-year Professional Development plan
- Promote effective communication, process and leadership in decision making to nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic education and advance student achievement for all
- Develop a differentiated coaching and mentoring model for aspiring leaders

Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning

- Implement the 2016-2017 phase of the Technology Blueprint 2016-2020
- Relocate the network infrastructure of Educational Technology Services

Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

- Continue to design evidence informed decision making with key performance indicators to align with board and school improvement plans, system priorities and annual budgets

Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs

- Enrich the engagement of student voice and leadership
- Enhance the relationship and capacity between schools, parishes and homes in Niagara Catholic and the Diocese of St. Catharines
- Expand, develop and implement community hub programs, services and facilities partnerships within school communities



Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

- Maintain financial stability through a balanced budget for 2016-2017
- Select and implement a functional and user friendly Accounting Software Platform

Address Changing Demographics

- Implement the 2016-2018 phase of the Long Term Board Accommodations Plan

System Priorities Achievement Report 2016-2017

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Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources	10
Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management	11
Address Changing Demographics	11





Mission Statement

*The Niagara Catholic District School Board,
through the charisms of faith,
social justice, support and leadership,
nurtures an enriching Catholic
learning community for all
to reach their full potential
and become living witnesses of Christ.*



System Priorities Achievement Report 2016-2017

1. Enabling Strategy - Provide Supports for Success



1.1 Evangelize our schools as we continue to deliver Catholic programs, supports and services to build strong Catholic identity and community, to advance student achievement and to promote positive well-being and relationships

- Established a Grade 4 Faith Festival pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria for all Grade 4 classes throughout the fall of 2016 to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy.
- Held Vocation Fairs, in partnership with the Diocese of St. Catharines Vocations Office, in each secondary school to foster a deeper understanding of vocation.
- Secondary students and staff participated in the Special Olympics Ontario School Championships and Qualifiers program, and the School Championships held June 14-16, 2017 in the Niagara Region.
- Provided the *Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BIPSAW)* and the template for *School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-Being (SIPSAW)* to all schools.
- Provided results from the Student Voice Surveys - Grade 8 Transition and Grade 12 Graduation surveys, to elementary and secondary schools for school improvement planning.
- Provided EQAO results of the 2015-2016 Primary and Junior Assessments, Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test to the Board and schools, in support of school improvement planning for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Continued to implement evidence-based programs by Child and Youth Workers - *Roots of Empathy*, *Zones of Regulation*, *Girls' Talk*, *Boys' Lounge* and *No Longer the Norm* in elementary and secondary schools.
- Continued to provide mental health interventions and counselling supports to schools - the Board's Mental Health Team, *Community Threat Protocol* implementation, and Mental Health and Addictions Nurses (MHANs).
- Developed a *Protocol for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention* that includes Pathways to Service.
- Delivered training for Principals, Vice-Principals, Board Administrators and staff with the Niagara Regional Police Service, on the revised *Police Protocol between the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Niagara Catholic District School Board*.
- Provided Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) for staff.
- Provided professional development for Child and Youth Workers on restorative practices and circles, health and safety, special education and experiential mindfulness and practice.
- Provided training for Child and Youth Workers on EverFi's Ignition online e-modules for implementation in elementary schools to support digital literacy, responsibility, citizenship and discipleship.
- Provided learning resources materials and information for *Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week* in November 2016.
- Continued to support research projects as approved by the Board's Research Ethics Review Committee for educational research to enhance student learning, achievement and well-being.





1.2 Improve student achievement in mathematics and create pathways for success for all students

- The November 18, 2016 Professional Activity Day theme of *Knowing the Learner* focused on modules in the area of IEP development, learning disabilities and technology to align with the implementation of the *Renewed Mathematics Strategy*.
- Provided Maplewood *connectEd* training for Kindergarten teachers and Early Childhood Educators to implement the *Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observations* template and the *Kindergarten Communication of Learning* template.
- Continued the implementation of the *Secondary Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Department Guide* in all secondary schools.
- Continuing to build capacity in content knowledge for teaching mathematics through self-directed learning opportunities, Primary/Junior Mathematics Part 1 Additional Qualification course, in-class coaching support and co-teaching, resource sharing and school-based mathematics learning sessions.
- Continuing to provide direct coaching support for schools identified as requiring intensive and increased support in the *Renewed Mathematics Strategy*.
- Continuing to support secondary mathematics departments in using data to assess student learning, and to support teachers of Grade 9 Applied Mathematics to develop a comprehensive program, including adjusting instructional and assessment practices, to communicate and assess students with learning disabilities.
- Learning sessions were provided for Grade 9 Applied Mathematics, GLE/GLS teachers and Program Chairs of Mathematics and Special Education, focused on knowing the learner, evidence-informed decision making, and professional learning for the use of diagnostic assessments and digital tools in gathering assessment data, such as Chromebooks, ABA strategies and Executive Function.

- Continue to provide in-class coaching support and learning sessions with mathematics departments.
- Completed a book study - *Grading from the Inside Out* (Tom Schimmer) - with Elementary and Secondary Principals and Program Chairs of Mathematics.



1.3 Develop and implement a plan to embed global competencies and experiential learning in elementary and secondary programs

- Defined Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program to teachers, students and parents through individual classroom visits in secondary schools and at Chair, ERT and Principals' meetings.
- Opened the new *Niagara Launch Centre - Powered by Niagara Catholic District School Board*, and continue to promote and utilize it as a school, community and industry hub for innovative, creative and authentic experiential learning experiences.
- Continuing to promote experiential learning ideology and opportunities to teachers, students and parents in support of the *Highly Skilled Workforce Recommendations/Community Connected Experiential Learning* document.
- Continuing to promote *Creating Pathways to Success* as a necessary avenue for career and life planning - for K-12.
- Continuing to nurture partnerships with post-secondary institutions (Niagara College, Brock University) to offer rich, engaging workshops and activities (both on and off campus) to K-12 students in various subject areas.
- Continuing to address local economic needs through industry partners such as the Niagara Industrial Association and Niagara Workforce Planning Board, and adapt programs to meet demand for the changing workforce.
- Continuing to offer and encourage students to take advantage of rich cooperative education experiences through single-credit, double-credit, full-day, SHSM, after-school, and summer co-op programs.



1.4 Expand social justice opportunities, global citizenship and international education experiences

- Continuing to enhance the Annual Pilgrimage to raise awareness, educate and raise money to support various projects and social justice organizations in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Domenica, Peru, Rwanda, and Haiti.
- Students and staff participated in mission trips to communities in countries supported by the Annual Pilgrimage in 2016-2017: Holy Cross travelled to Guatemala; Blessed Trinity travelled to the Dominican Republic; and Lakeshore Catholic travelled to Dominica.
- More than 350 students and staff from all eight Catholic secondary schools travelled to Italy, France and England to participate in the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 2017.
- Holy Cross students in the International Languages course travelled to Italy in March 2017.
- The fourth annual *Secondary School Culture of Life Conference*, featuring keynote speaker, Fr. Tom Lynch from *Priests for Life*, took place at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre on November 23, 2016.
- Created and trained a community of educators, chaplaincy leaders and faith ambassadors to use technology such as Chromebooks and Google, and facilitated opportunities to connect their students to the world, forming digital discipleship.



2. Enabling Strategy - Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning



2.1 Implement the 2016-2017 phase of the Technology Blueprint 2016-2020

➤ Network Infrastructure

- A new VPN (Virtual Private Networking) appliance, which provides secure access to Niagara Catholic content for all staff, has improved capabilities which will further improve Niagara Catholic's Information and Data Security.
- Additional modern wireless technology is being acquired to continue to improve wireless internet access across the system. ETS continues to roll out this newer, more reliable technology. Approximately half of the Board has been upgraded, with the remaining upgrades dependent upon the availability of budget.

➤ Data Centre

- Niagara Catholic is continuing to both invest and play a pivotal role in the Niagara Community Cloud project, which provides the lowest-cost cloud solution. The cloud was designed and built by Niagara Catholic's Cloud Architect, and a pilot is currently underway with all Niagara public sector partners.

➤ Instructional Technologies

- Principals now have discretion and control in using endpoint funding to best meet the needs of their respective schools.
- Robotics pilots are underway, which provide enhanced opportunities for elementary students to both gain and increase competency in coding and robotic engineering.
- Niagara Catholic continues to leverage services from Gartner to maximize resources and gain access to more valid technology research and technology implementation acceleration tools.

➤ Business Continuity

- With support from Gartner, ETS has implemented a Disaster Recovery Management program to ensure a consistent architecture for disaster recovery across all core platforms, such as the network, internet, wireless, school and business platforms.



- Central Services
 - Investments in telecommunications and dependent wiring infrastructure are being made to improve operations and reduce costs. These changes will save up to \$5,000 per month, each month, going forward.
- Information & Data Security
 - A consolidated *Education Technology Services Policy and Procedures* document was developed as part of our Technology Blueprint plans for the year, which meets recent internal audit guidelines.
 - An *Incident Management Plan* for information and data security events is in development. This will guide Niagara Catholic's response to related incidents quickly and efficiently, protecting the information and data assets of the Board and school communities.
 - A *Security Risk Management Plan* will be developed using industry standard tools to mitigate risks with our available resources and capacity.



- The planning phase of relocation project is completed, and deliverables to fulfill Niagara Catholic's obligations to the Ministry for our Shared Services Grant will be finalized by the end of September. This project has moved to the preparation phase, where application performance baselines will be developed to validate the success of the project. Workflow is being documented to create the necessary checklist for use during the final (execution) phase of the project.
- The ETS organization has finished the relocation to the St. Thomas Centre. Building upgrades and enhancements are ongoing while staff are working from their new location. All upgrades and enhancements to the site should be completed by the winter.



3. Enabling Strategy - Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs



3.1 Enrich the engagement of student voice and leadership

- Met with elementary and secondary students senators regularly to engage in dialogue regarding school-related activities and initiatives and set goals for the upcoming year.
- Hosted the *28-8: The Power of Leadership Student Conference* for student councils and student leaders from each secondary school and elementary senators.
- Invited opportunities for student engagement and leadership through Board-wide participation in community events such as the Niagara Wine Festival Grande Parade and WE Day, and Board events such as Heritage Fair, Speak Out, Student Leadership Symposium and our Grad Celebration.
- Student trustees and senators used input gathered from the *FNMI Truth and Reconciliation Conference* and *28-8: The Power of Leadership Conference*, to create a document of recommendations for future student leadership conferences.
- Niagara Catholic increased student participation in the annual *Culture of Life Conference*, to encourage a strong Catholic voice on life issues.



3.2 Enhance the relationship and capacity between schools, parishes and homes in Niagara Catholic and the Diocese of St. Catharines

- Implemented Tiers Two and Three of the Catholic Education Congress, engaging students, parents, the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, Catholic School Councils, Trustees, staff, priests, parishioners, Catholic educational partners and community members.
- Increased Principal and pastor dialogue at the Advent Director's Meeting and Faith Formation Luncheon, in support of Tier Two of the Catholic Education Congress.
- Supported local triad committees in developing and sustaining local initiatives and/or events to strengthen the triad relationship.
- Approximately 800 people attended the *Festival of Families* at Saint Michael Catholic High School on May 25.
- Trustees, staff and parents participated in the annual Faith Formation program, based on our theological theme of *One Family in Christ: Love Him*.





3.3 Expand, develop and implement community hub programs, services and facilities partnerships within school communities

- The Ministry of Education has approved grant submissions to fund after-school skills development programs for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). These programs began in 2016-2017 and will run through the 2017-2018 school year.
- Niagara Catholic and Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) completed the leasehold agreement at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School. This agreement and renovations optimized empty space on the second floor.
- Staff developed additional after-school and weekend programming, as well as Summer Camp 2017, across the system. Two-hundred and seventy-five students participated in the summer camp, offered in elementary, secondary schools, and at the Board's St. Kateri Tekakwitha Centre from July 10 to August 11, 2017.
- Niagara Catholic continued to work closely with the Region of Niagara, through Community and Social Services, as well as the YMCA of Niagara, to maximize program delivery efficiency for students and families.
- Niagara Catholic continued to develop partnerships with the Niagara Regional Native Centre, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre and Niagara

Region Metis Council to expand current secondary educational opportunities, child care services and elementary programming.

- Niagara Catholic has formed a relationship with Strive Niagara to support our Young Parent Program, and will continue to monitor the current program to look for expansion needs.
- Niagara Catholic continues to work with the John Howard Society to share facilities and resources and provide job development and career awareness opportunities.
- Niagara Catholic works with RAFT Niagara to provide support services, programs, resources for students, with the goal of reintegration into school wherever possible.
- Niagara Catholic is developing a Health and Wellness partnership in three elementary schools with *No Limit Performance* as a pilot program. This program will be monitored for potential expansion into an after-school and/or summer program.
- Niagara Catholic continued to work closely with Brock University and Niagara College for transitioning activities for students, for shared usage of facilities and potential staffing opportunities.



4. Enabling Strategy - Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership



4.1 Design and deliver a comprehensive *Multi-year Professional Development Plan*

- A PD Committee will update this plan regularly.
- The timeframe for the *Multi-year Professional Development Plan* is 2016 to 2018.
- The highlights of the Plan for teachers for 2016 - 2018 are Literacy and Numeracy (*Renewed Mathematics Strategy*).
- The highlights for Administrators focus on the Predictive Index, HR Certification, Wellness, Leading in a Unionized Environment and Resiliency.
- Special Education highlights included training in Behavioural Management Systems (BMS) and Safe Management Group (SMG) for select employee groups.
- Year One of the Leadership Identification Program (LIP) 2016 – 2018 is completed. Year Two will begin in October 2017.
- Four sessions of the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) are completed. The four sessions are Introduction to NTIP, Equity, Google Training, Assessment and Evaluation.
- The PD plan is organized and aligned to the yearly BIPSAW.
- The Joint PD Committee is a conduit to Staff Development and link to Senior Administration. The team met quarterly to discuss PA Days and other relevant PD needs with partners including OECTA, CUPE, Principals and Vice-Principals, Non-Union staff and Senior Administrative Council.
- THRIVE Platform is in development, and will replace PD Place by January 2018 and will assist in the organization of all PD at Niagara Catholic.



4.2 Promote effective communication, process and leadership in decision making to nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic education and advance student achievement for all

- Discussions occurred with Superintendent of Human Resources Services, Family of Schools Superintendents and Principals on a variety of operational items.
- To date, individual, large group and specialized group consultations and discussion have occurred. Topics of discussion included:
 - Attendance Support Program and requirements of Principals and Administrators with staff that report to them;
 - School-based staffing requirements;
 - Collective Agreements;
 - Terms and Conditions; and
 - Personal Wellness



4.3 Develop a differentiated coaching and mentoring model for aspiring leaders

- The assessment provided a descriptor of the leader's strongest behaviours, management style and strategies and influencing style to maximize the effectiveness, productivity and job satisfaction of the leader.
- The Predictive Index Survey provided valuable information to support mentee self-reflection, and for an effective mentor-mentee relationship.
- Individualized and differentiated self-assessments and coaching guides were completed by Senior Administration, Principals, Vice-Principals, Administrators and members of the Leadership Identification Program, and the Human Resources Services Department.
- Senior Administrative Council members analyzed their individual results and its results as a senior team.

5. Enabling Strategy - Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources



5.1 Continue to design evidence informed decision making with key performance indicators to align with board and school improvement plans, system priorities and annual budgets

- Database mining is occurring for several Niagara Catholic applications to create a Niagara Catholic Database Hub in Microsoft SQL Server 2016. We are establishing a relationship database management system.
- Exploring an application to connect our Niagara Catholic Database Hub and provide timely data to all Management and Board Of Trustees. (Microsoft Power BI).
- Completed the database for the Board's Smartfind application.

- A multi-year project, in partnership with Education Technology Services, has been launched, introducing a web application platform powered by Microsoft SharePoint to continue to improve workflow and automate the approval process. We will continue to explore all operational workflow procedures, and accelerate productivity by transforming all processes such as notifications and approvals with web-based solutions.



6. Enabling Strategy - Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management



6.1 Maintain financial stability through a balanced budget for 2016-2017

- With the revision of the Board's *Attendance Support Program Policy* and the implementation of the *Provincial Earned Leave Plan*, sick occurrences increased approximately 13% since last school year.
- Local negotiations, grievances and arbitrations continue to strain our ability to manage our balanced budget for 2016-2017.



6.2 Select and implement a functional and user-friendly Accounting Software Platform

- Microsoft NAV - Altus Dynamics application was selected as our vendor of choice.
- The implementation process is underway with current staff and no additional resources.
- Application was live as of August 2017.



7. Enabling Strategy - Address Changing Demographics



7.1 Implement the 2016-2018 phase of the Long-Term Board Accommodations Plan

- The Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic High School Families of Schools Attendance Area Review Committee completed its review and submitted a recommendation to the January 17th, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting, in compliance with the timelines established by the Board for this Board Ad Hoc Committee.
- The Modified Pupil Accommodation Review process was completed for Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School. The Board

approved the Staff Recommendation that the two school communities be combined at the Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School site, following appropriate renovations and/or addition. The Capital Priorities Business Case for funding approval by the Ministry of Education was submitted on September 8th, 2017.





MISSION STATEMENT

The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

A Niagara Catholic



graduate is...

A DISCERNING BELIEVER

formed in the Catholic Faith community who celebrates the signs and sacred mystery of God's presence through word, sacrament, prayer, forgiveness, reflection and moral living.

AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

who speaks, writes, and listens honestly and sensitively, responding critically in light of gospel values.

A REFLECTIVE, CREATIVE and HOLISTIC THINKER

who solves problems and makes responsible decisions with an informed moral conscience for the common good.

A SELF-DIRECTED, RESPONSIBLE, LIFELONG LEARNER

who develops and demonstrates their God-given potential.

A COLLABORATIVE CONTRIBUTOR

who finds meaning, dignity and vocation in work which respects the rights of all and contributes to the common good.

A CARING FAMILY MEMBER

who attends to family, school, parish, and the wider community.

A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

who gives witness to Catholic social teaching by promoting peace, justice and the sacredness of human life.



Nurturing Souls



niagaracatholic.ca



Building Minds



Partners in the vocation of Catholic education





**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
OUR LADY OF FATIMA GRIMSBY CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The School Excellence Program report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017



**SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
OUR LADY OF FATIMA GRIMSBY CATHOLIC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Contact Info

69 Olive St.
Grimsby, Ontario
L3M 2C3
P. 905.945.5500
F. 905.945.0864

[Contact](#)

Grades

ELKP – 8

Enrolment

534 as September 2016

Principal

Brian Palujanskas

Vice-Principal

Janice Barretto-Mendonca

Superintendent

Yolanda Baldasaro

Catholic School Council

Co-Chair: Brittany Alfieri
Co-Chair: Crissy Schneider

Parish

St. Joseph



Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School is one of two Catholic elementary schools located in Grimsby. The school was originally opened in 1968. In 2010, the students and staff of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School celebrated the grand opening of a new, expanded school to meet their growing needs.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School is a part of the [Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School](#) Family of Schools.

School Mission Statement

Our Lady of Fatima is as dynamic a faith community, dedicated to spiritual development, as it is a committed community of life long learners working together to meet diverse needs.

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
(EQAO) RESULTS FOR THE 2016-2017 ASSESSMENTS OF
READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS PRIMARY
DIVISION AND JUNIOR DIVISION, THE GRADE 9
ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND THE ONTARIO
SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)**

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results for the 2016-2017 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Primary Division and Junior Division, the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Christine Battagli, Consultant-Research, Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (EQAO) RESULTS FOR THE 2016-2017 ASSESSMENTS OF READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS PRIMARY DIVISION AND JUNIOR DIVISION, THE GRADE 9 ASSESSMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This Board report details the 2016-2017 EQAO Board results for the Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for the Primary and Junior Divisions, the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) in Niagara Catholic schools. The results indicate that Niagara Catholic students continue to demonstrate success in literacy and numeracy.

Senior Administrative Council, along with Principals, Vice-Principals, teaching and support staff continue to collect, review and analyze student achievement data, including EQAO results, in order to inform Board and School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-Being. Niagara Catholic administrators and staff continue to implement instructional, assessment and evaluation strategies, as well as interventions to support the learning needs of all students, and to close the achievement gaps in literacy and numeracy. The increased focus on teaching and learning in Mathematics, through the Ministry of Education's *Renewed Mathematics Strategy*, will continue in 2017-2018 to support student achievement in Mathematics.

This Board report includes Appendices of the EQAO results for the 2016-2017:

- Primary Division and Junior Division Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics (Appendix A)
- Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics (Appendix B)
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) (Appendix C)
- Tracking Student Achievement in Relation to the Provincial Standard Primary (Grade 3) to Junior Division (Grade 6), 2013-2014 to 2016-2017 (Appendix D)
- Tracking Student Achievement in Relation to the Provincial Standard Junior Division (Grade 6) in 2013-2014 to Grade 9 in 2016-2017, Mathematics (Appendix E)
- Tracking Student Achievement in Relation to the Provincial Standard Junior Division (Grade 6) in 2012-2013 to OSSLT (Fully Participating) in 2016-2017 (Appendix F).

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results for the 2016-2017 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Primary Division and Junior Division, the Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Christine Battagli, Consultant-Research, Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: September 26, 2017

EQAO 2016-2017

Primary Division (Grades 1 to 3) *Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics*

Results for All Students - % of Students at Level 3 or Above

2016-2017	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	78	82	65
Province	74	73	62

2015-2016	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	79	80	68
Province	72	74	63

Five Year Trend - % increase/decrease

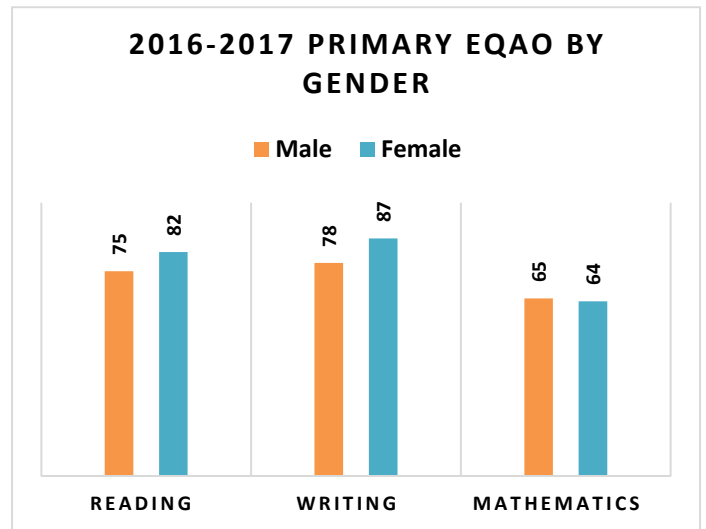
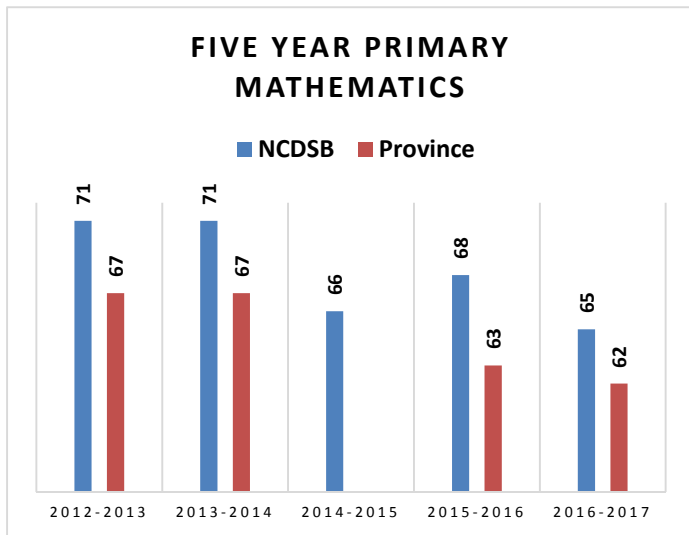
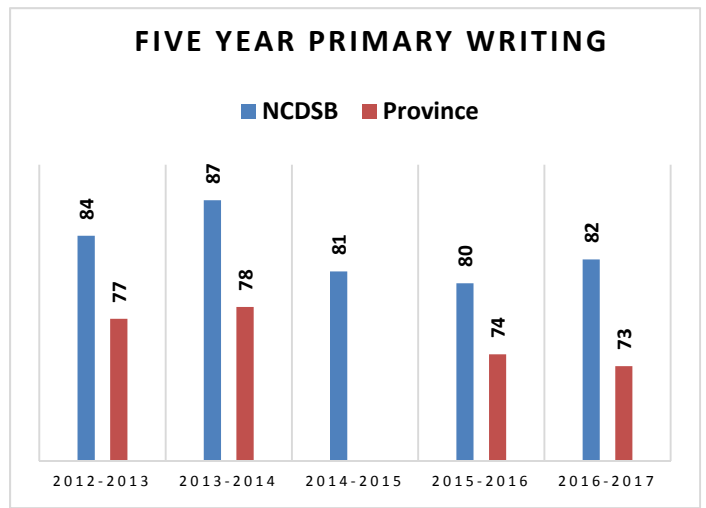
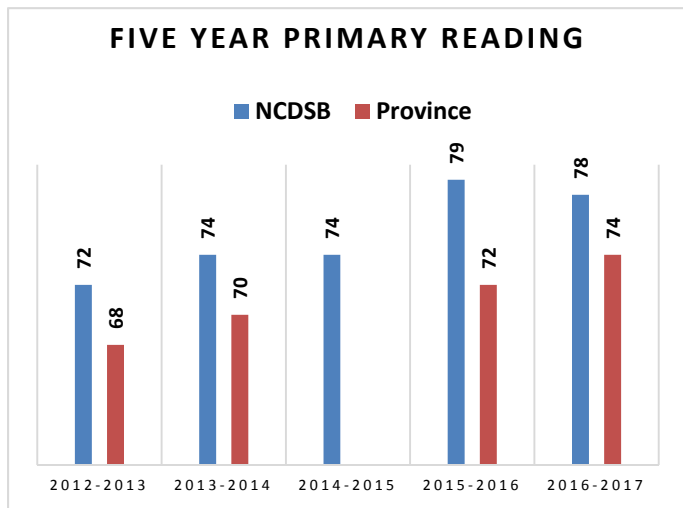
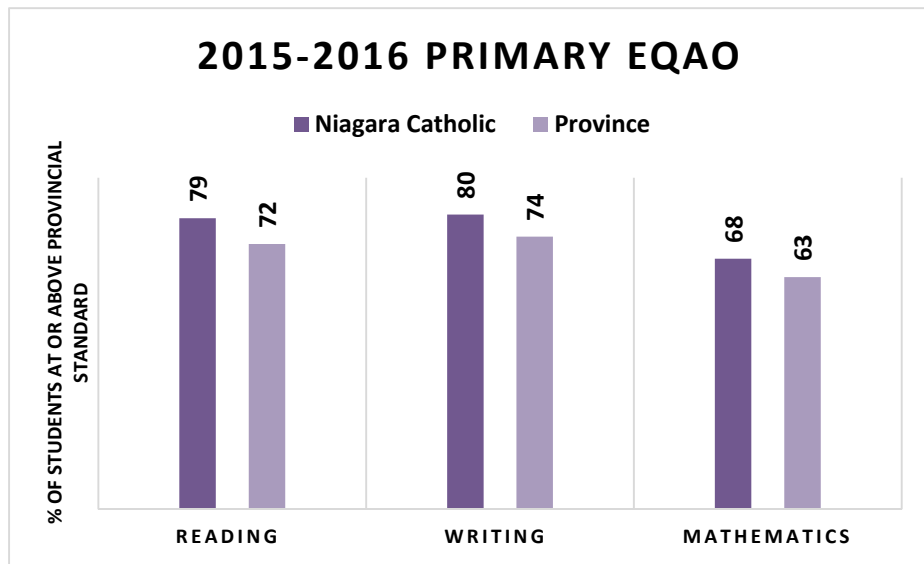
Five Year Trend	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	+6	-2	-6

Results Based on Gender

2016-2017	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male NCDSB	75	78	65
Female NCDSB	82	87	64

Exemption Rates

2016-2017	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	1	1	1
Province	3	2	2



Junior Division (Grades 4 to 6)
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Students - % of Students at Level 3 or Above

2016-2017	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	83	81	51
Province	81	79	50

2015-2016	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	84	86	56
Province	81	80	50

Five Year Trend - % increase/decrease

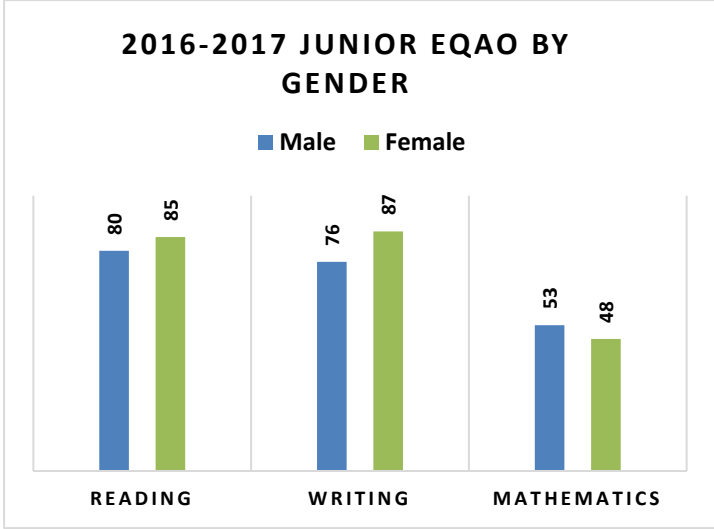
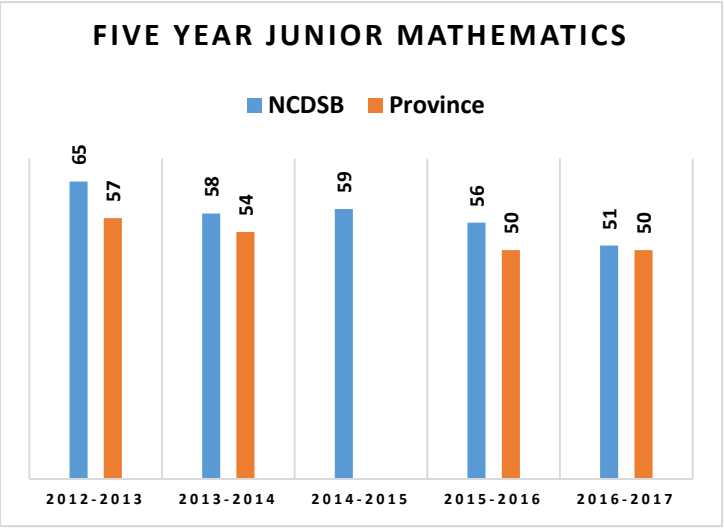
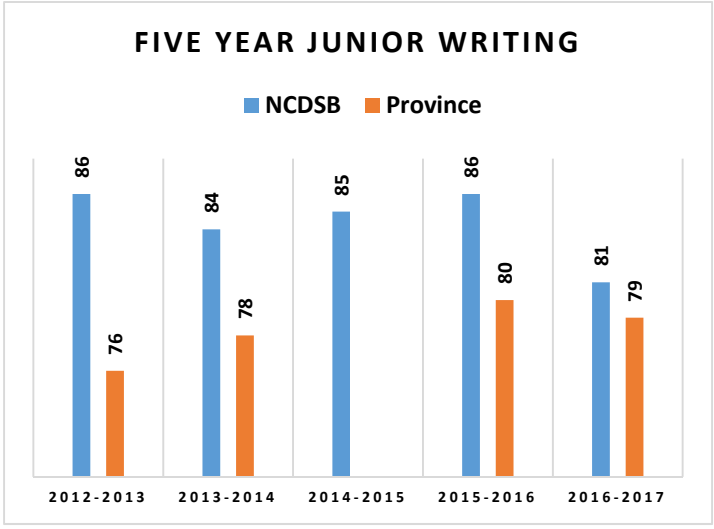
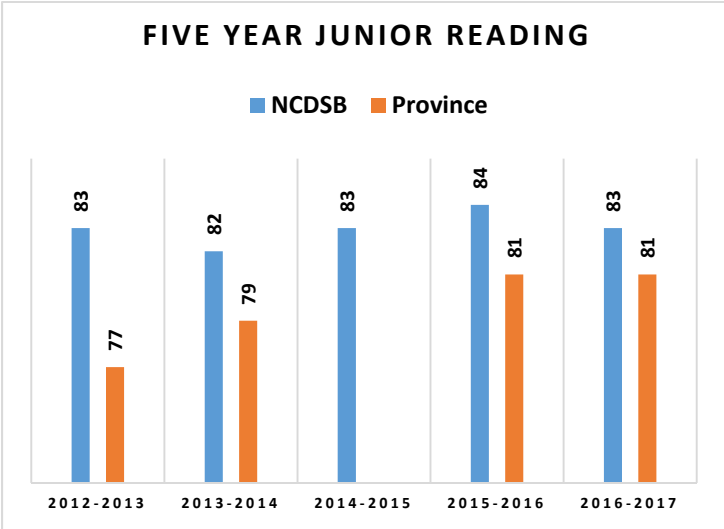
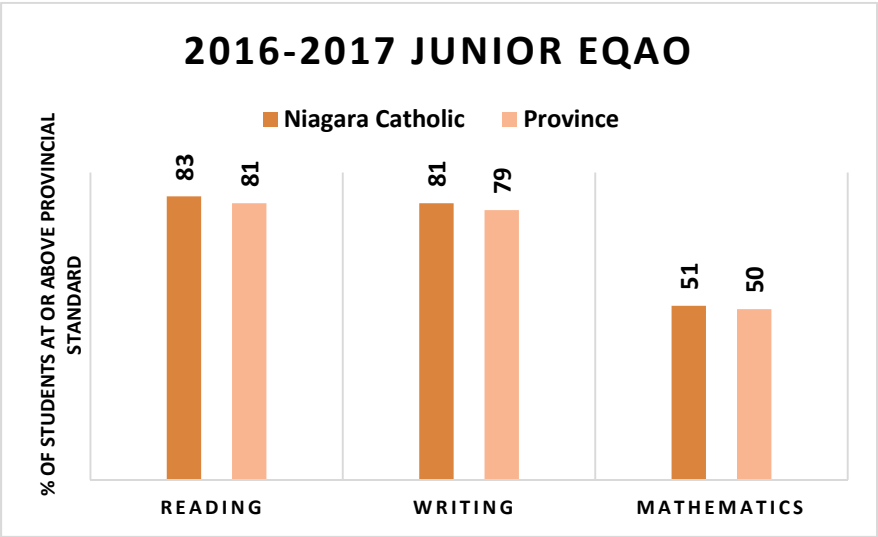
Five Year Trend	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	0	-5	-14

Results Based on Gender

2016-2017	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male NCDSB	80	76	53
Female NCDSB	85	87	48

Exemption Rates

2016-2017	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	1	1	1
Province	2	2	2



Primary Division (Grades 1 to 3)
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Grade 3 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)			Writing (%)			Mathematics (%)		
	2017	2016	Diff	2017	2016	Diff	2017	2016	Diff
Year	78	79	-1	82	80	+2	65	68	-3
Province	74	72	+2	73	74	-1	62	63	-1
% Difference with Province	+4	+7		+9	+6		+3	+5	

Five Year Trend for All Grade 3 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)					Writing (%)					Mathematics (%)				
	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Years: 2013-2017															
NCDSB	72	74	74	79	78	84	87	81	80	82	71	71	66	68	65
Province	68	70	EC	72	74	77	78	EC	74	73	67	67	EC	63	62
% Difference w/Province	+4	+4	N/A	+7	+4	+7	+9	N/A	+6	+9	+4	+4	N/A	+5	+3

Gender Results for All Grade 3 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male	75	78	65
Female	82	87	64
% Difference	7	9	1

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

Junior Division (Grades 4 to 6)
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Grade 6 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)			Writing (%)			Mathematics (%)		
	2017	2016	Diff	2017	2016	Diff	2017	2016	Diff
Year	83	84	-1	81	86	-5	51	56	-5
Province	81	81	0	79	80	-1	50	50	0
% Difference with Province	+2	+3		+2	+6		+1	+6	

Five Year Trend for All Grade 6 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)					Writing (%)					Mathematics (%)				
	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Years: 2013-2017															
NCDSB	83	82	83	84	83	86	84	85	86	81	65	58	59	56	51
Province	77	79	EC	81	81	76	78	EC	80	79	57	54	EC	50	50
% Difference w/Province	+6	+3	N/A	+3	+2	+10	+6	N/A	+6	+2	+8	+4	N/A	+6	+1

Gender Results for All Grade 6 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male	80	76	53
Female	85	87	48
% Difference	5	11	5

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics

Percentage (%) of All Students At or Above the Provincial Standard (Levels 3 and 4)

2016 - 2017	Academic Mathematics	Applied Mathematics
Niagara Catholic	83	45
Province	83	44

2015 - 2016	Academic Mathematics	Applied Mathematics
Niagara Catholic	83	47
Province	83	45

Five Year Trend - % increase/decrease

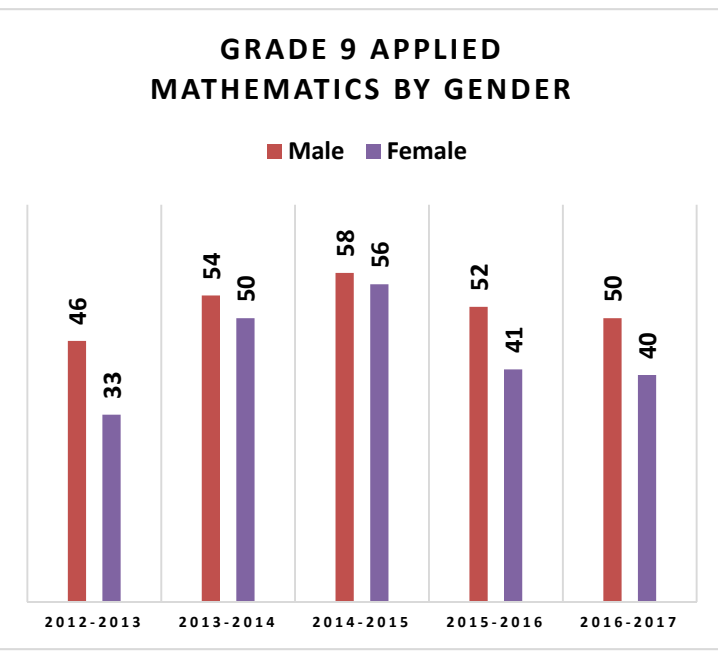
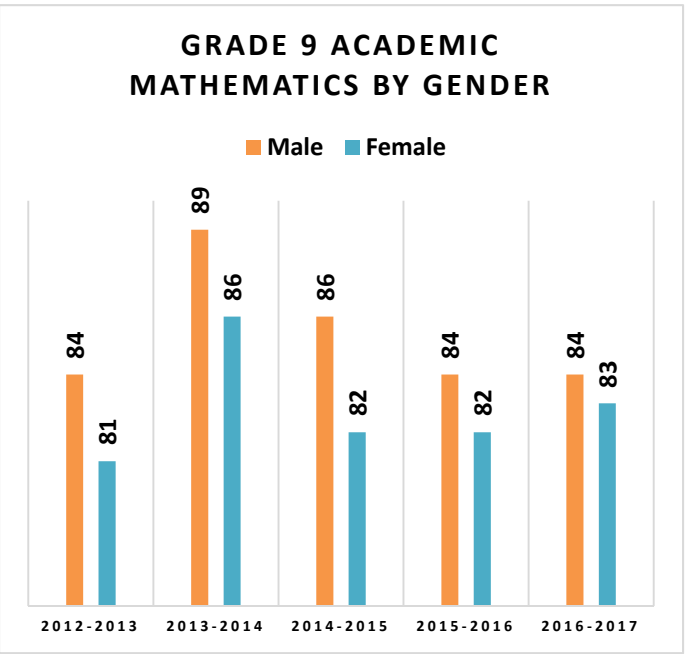
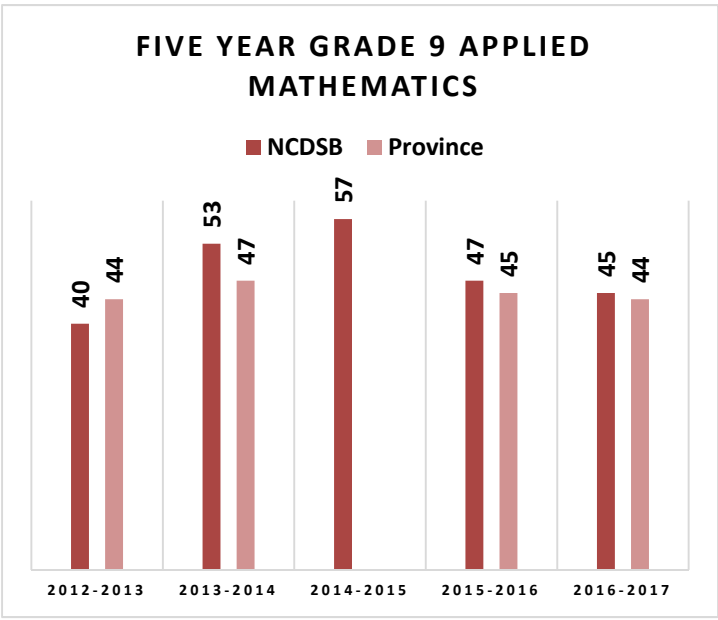
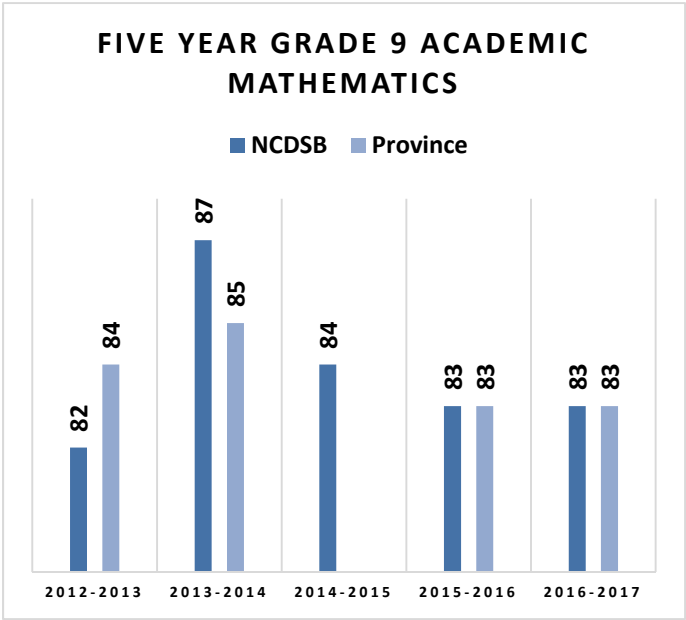
Five Year Trend	Academic Mathematics	Applied Mathematics
Niagara Catholic	+1	+5

Results Based on Gender

2016 - 2017	Academic Mathematics	Applied Mathematics
Male NCDSB	84%	50%
Female NCDSB	83%	40%

Exemption Rates

No Data (Exemptions/Absences)	Academic Mathematics	Applied Mathematics
NCDSB	1%	1%



Results for All Grade 9 Students at Level 3 or Above

Year	Academic Mathematics (%)			Applied Mathematics (%)		
	2017	2016	Difference	2017	2016	Difference
NCDSB	83	83	0	45	47	-2
Province	83	83	0	44	45	-1
% Difference with Province	0	0		+1	+2	

Five Year Trend for All Grade 9 Students at Level 3 or Above

Years: 2013 to 2017	Academic Mathematics (%)					Applied Mathematics (%)				
	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
NCDSB	82	87	84	83	83	40	53	57	47	45
Province	84	85	EC	83	83	44	47	EC	45	44
% Difference with Province	-2	+2	N/A	0	0	-4	+6	N/A	+2	+1

Gender Results for Grade 9 Students at Level 3 or Above

Niagara Catholic Students	Academic Mathematics (%)	Applied Mathematics (%)
Male	84	50
Female	83	40
% Difference	1	10

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Participation Rate and Achievement Results First-Time Eligible (FTE) Students

2016 – 2017	Percentage of Eligible Students Who Participated Fully	Percentage of Fully Participating Students Who Were Successful
NCDSB	91	84
Province	93	81
% Difference: NCDSB and Province	-2	+3

Results Based on Gender

2016 - 2017	NCDSB: Successful (%)	Province: Successful (%)
Male	81	76
Female	87	85

Absent and Deferred

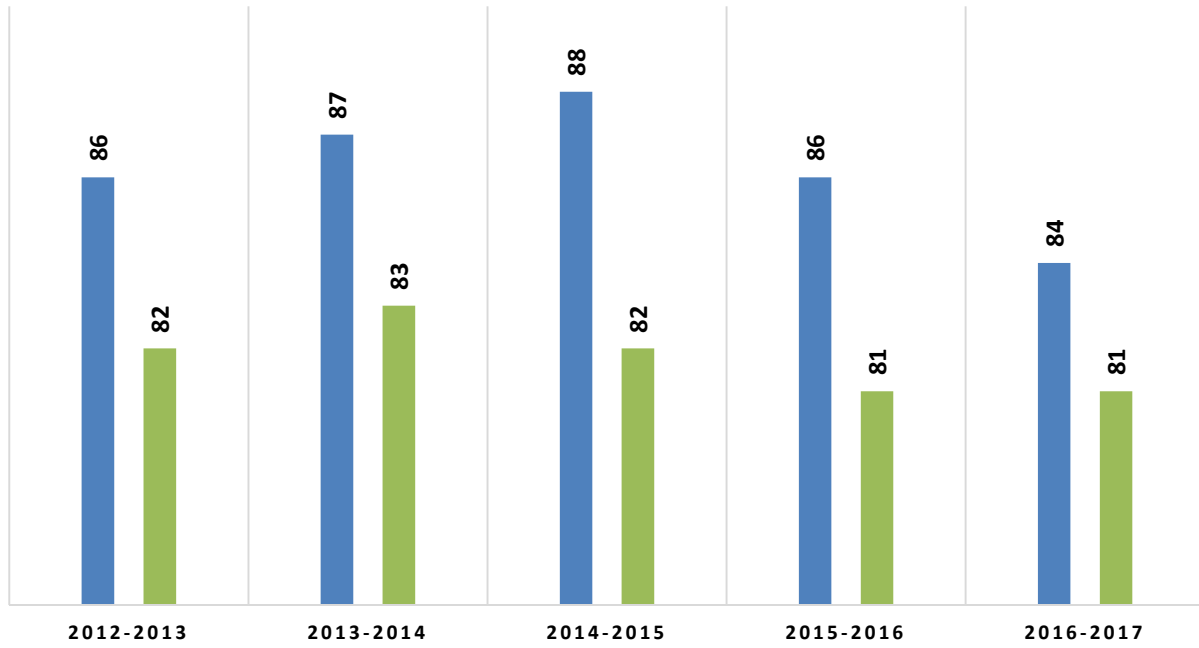
2016-2017	Absent (%)	Deferred (%)
NCDSB	1	8
Province	2	5

Five Year Trend for Fully Participating First-Time Eligible Students

	Percentage of Students Successful					Percentage of Students Not Successful				
	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
Years: 2013 – 2017	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)
NCDSB	86	87	88	86	84	14	13	12	14	16
Province	82	83	82	81	81	18	17	18	19	19
% Difference with Province	+4	+4	+6	+5	+3	-4	-4	-6	-5	-3

**ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST
FULLY PARTICIPATING FIRST-TIME ELIGIBLE
PERCENTAGE OF SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS**

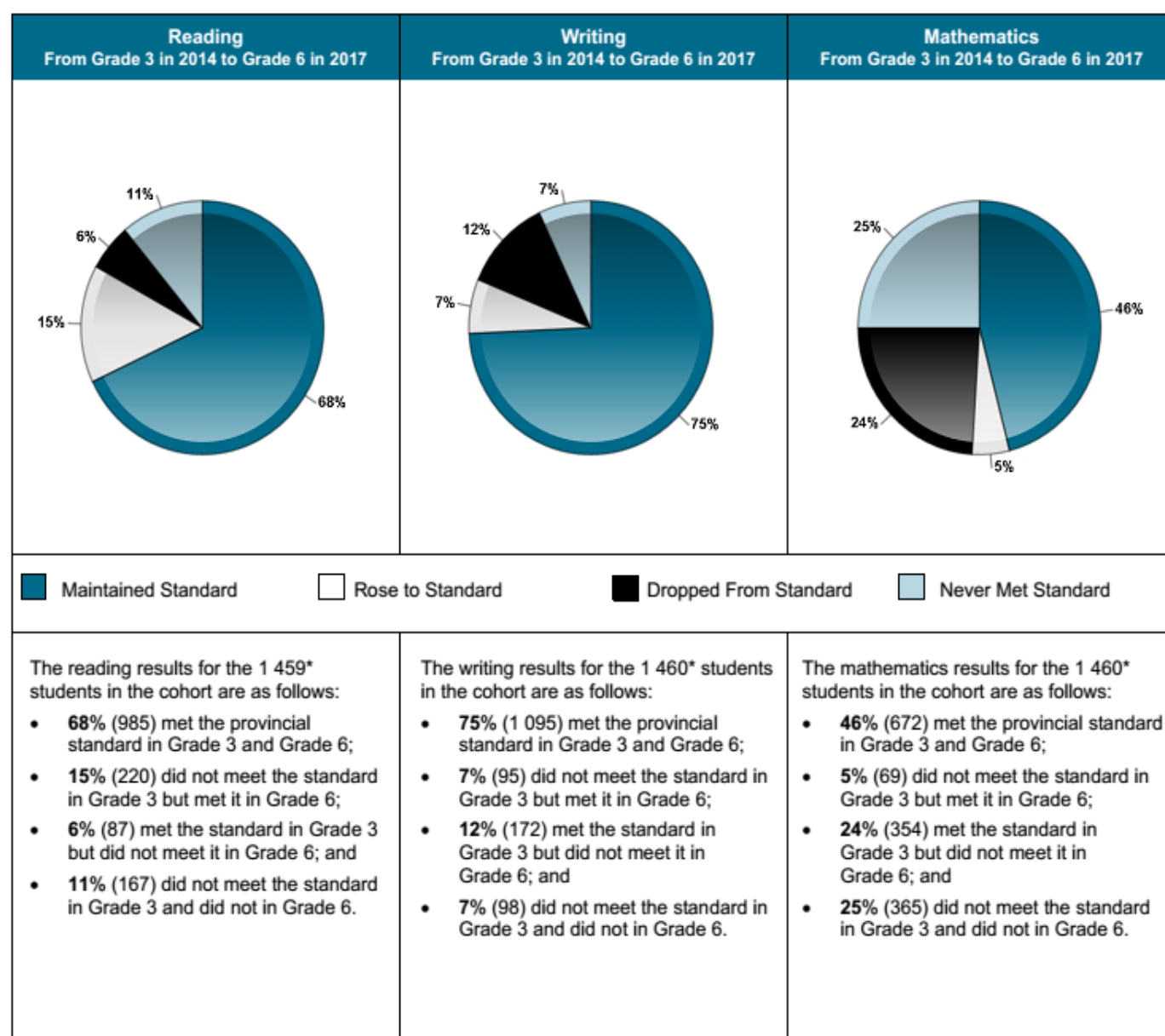
■ NCDSB ■ Province



Tracking Student Achievement in Relation to the Provincial Standard Primary (Grade 3) to Junior Division (Grade 6), 2013–2014 to 2016–2017

School Board: Niagara Catholic DSB (67156)

EQAO tracked the progress of students who wrote the primary-division assessment in 2014, when they were in Grade 3, and the junior-division assessment in 2017, when they were in Grade 6. There were 1 522 students at the time of the 2017 junior-division assessment. The pie charts below show how students performed on the 2017 assessments compared to their assessment results in 2014. The percentages are based on all tracked students in the cohort, including those who participated, those who were exempted and those who provided no work to be scored.

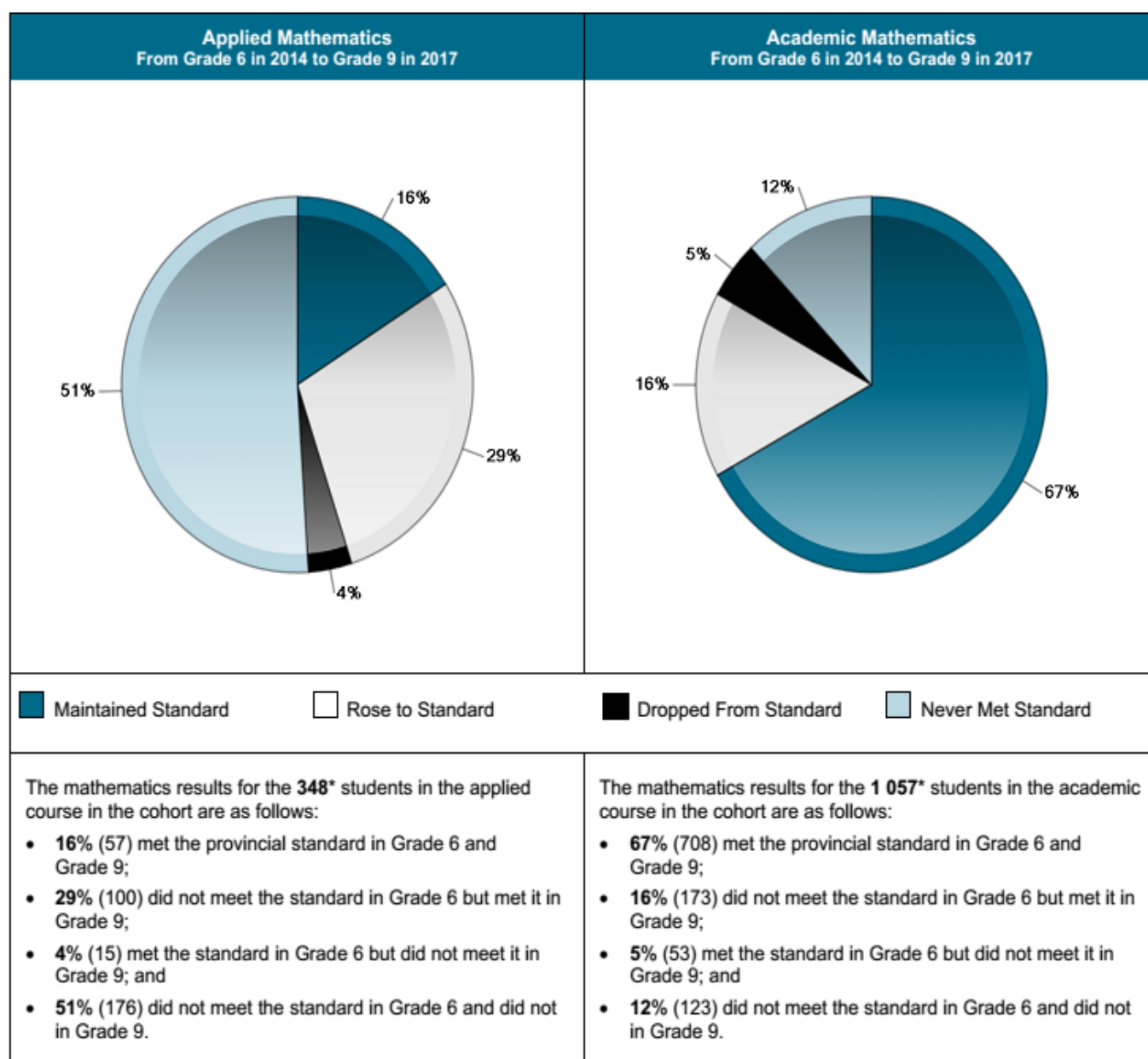


* Includes only students with validated data. Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

Tracking Student Achievement in Relation to the Provincial Standard Junior Division (Grade 6) in 2013–2014 to Grade 9 in 2016–2017, Mathematics

School Board: Niagara Catholic DSB (67156)

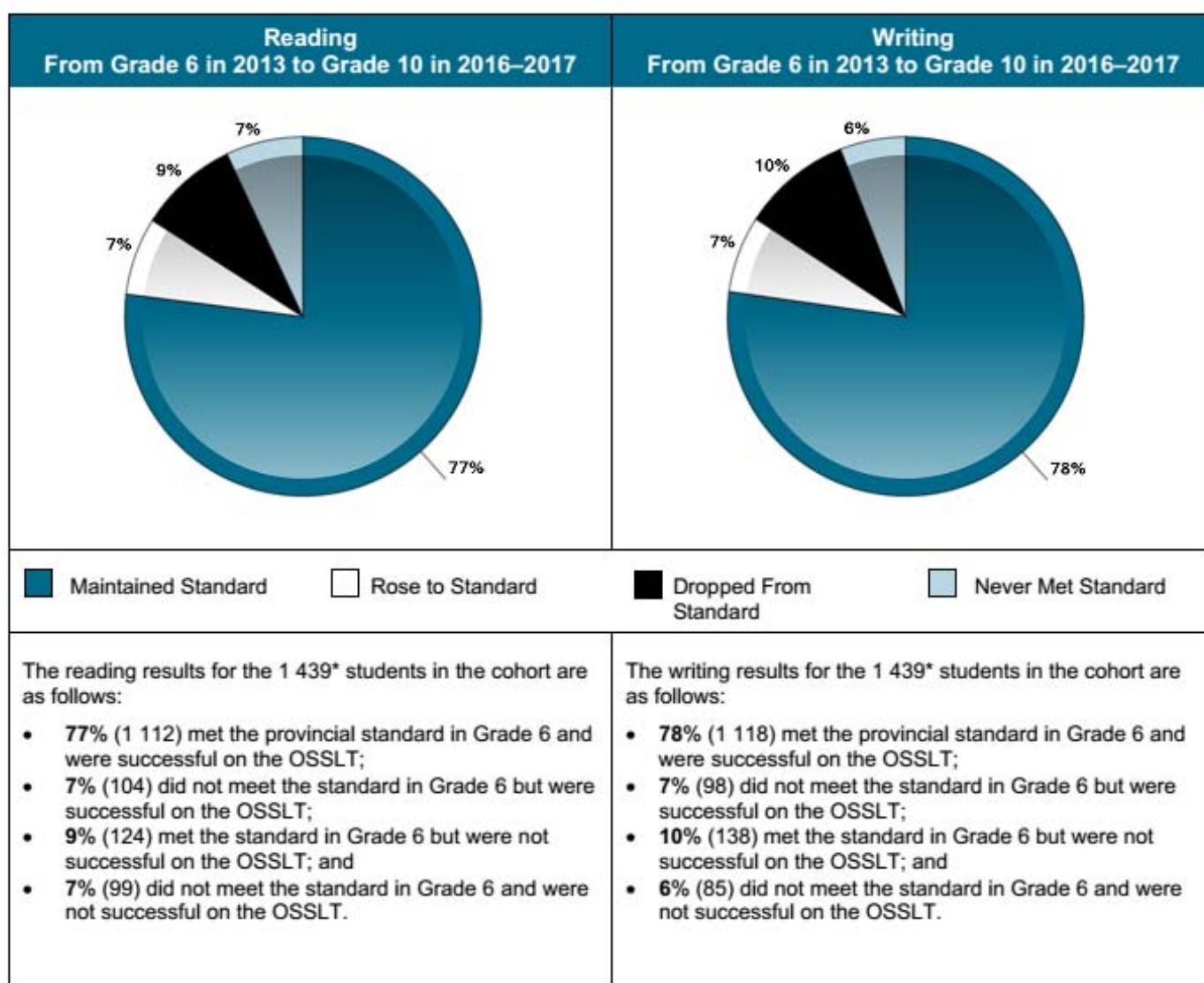
EQAO tracked the progress of students who wrote the junior-division assessment in 2014, when they were in Grade 6, and the mathematics assessment in 2017, when they were in Grade 9. There were **385** students enrolled in the Grade 9 applied course and **1 132** students enrolled in the Grade 9 academic course at the time of the 2017 assessment. The pie charts below show how students in the applied and academic mathematics courses performed on the 2017 assessments compared to their assessment results in 2014. The percentages are based on all tracked students in the cohort, including those who participated, those who were exempted and those who provided no work to be scored.



* Includes only students with validated data. Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

School Board: Niagara Catholic DSB (67156)

EQAO tracked the progress of students who wrote the junior-division assessment in 2013, when they were in Grade 6, and the OSSLT in the 2016–2017 school year, when they were in Grade 10. The pie charts below show how students performed on the 2016–2017 test compared to their Grade 6 assessment results in 2013. The percentages are based on the number of tracked students in the cohort who participated in the OSSLT and for whom EQAO has Grade 6 results (including those who participated, those who were exempted and those who provided no work to be scored in Grade 6).



* Includes only students with validated data. Percentages may not add up to 100, due to rounding.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
JUNE 19, 2017 LETTER FROM NIAGARA CHILDREN'S
CENTRE**



therapy and support to help kids shine
thérapie et soutien pour aider les enfants à briller

June 19, 2017

Mr. John Crocco
Director of Education
Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Rd
Welland, ON L3C 7C1

Dear Mr. ~~Crocco~~,
John

Thank you to the Niagara Catholic District School Board for your incredible support of *Kids Helping Kids* once again this year. In total, students and educators raised \$30,779 for Niagara Children's Centre. Over the last 19 years, an incredible \$739,000 has been donated to Centre!

Kids Helping Kids helps create an awareness and understanding of the good work taking place at the Centre each day and helps to build a community of inclusiveness. Last year we served over 3,300 children with more than 30,000 visits to the Centre. Please extend our sincere thanks to all who were involved in making *Kids Helping Kids* an amazing success year after year!

As one parent recently shared, "*The Centre means the world to us. They have been the light in a time of uncertainty and they continue to be that light. It gives us a sense of community when we feel alone.*"

Niagara Catholic District School Board's commitment to children of all abilities is reinforced through *Kids Helping Kids*. Your dedication to inclusivity and supporting those in need is helping to improve the lives of children and youth with physical, developmental or communicative delays right here in our community.

Our vision is 'Niagara's children and youth at their best' and with the caring and compassionate support from Niagara Catholic District School Board, we will be that much closer to achieving our goal!

Sincerely,

Oksana

Oksana Fisher
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for Niagara Catholic's support. We value this partnership and your Kids Helping Kids support allows us to serve Niagara's children and families better.

cc: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
JUNE 30, 2017 E-MAIL FROM TIM BENNER**

From: Info
Sent: June-30-17 12:24 PM
To: Marconi, Linda <linda.marconi@ncdsb.com>
Subject: Fw: Hate Crime

From: Tim Benner <tbenner2013@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Vance.Badawey.P9@parl.gc.ca; toks.weah@ontario.ca
Cc: Info
Subject: Hate Crime

Good Day All,

I would like to start out by thanking Mr. Vance Badawey- MP Niagara Centre, and Mr. Micheal Couteau- Minister of Children and Youth Services Responsible for Anti-Racism for your support in early 2017 after my residence was a target of racial crime and hatred, your support was much needed and very well received by my family. It could not have come at a better time. I would also like to let it be known that local support from the Niagara Catholic District School Board went above and well beyond my expectations. Never in my life did I expect a monetary donation from the Lakeshore Catholic High School staff and students. This donation went directly to the children involved and immediately picked up their morale which up until this point was spiraling downward very quickly, so for that to Mr. John Crocco-Director of Education and Secretary Treasurer, Mr. Glenn Gifford-Principal, and Mr. Andrew Boon-Vice Principal, they were all in constant phone contact with me offering all and any support that I might need, thank you very much!!! They helped transform and act of hatred into an act of great community support. These people acted exactly the way professional educators should act when they are in care and custody of your children, especially during times of crisis and need. They went above and beyond to support myself and my family, they helped support the local police department during

investigations and for this I will be forever grateful. We as parents hear how good the Catholic education system is good for families and students but until you truly live it you then realize what a great job these professionals do day in and day out, year after year, thank you, thank you, thank you. Outstanding job!!!

Best Regards,
Tim Benner

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
JULY 25, 2017 LETTER FROM ONTARIO ECOSCHOOLS**



July 25 2017

Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Road
Welland, Ontario
L3C 7C1

Attention: Mr. John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer

It is with great pleasure that we offer our congratulations to the Niagara Catholic District School Board for achieving 100% certification with Ontario EcoSchools for your eighth consecutive year. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Davies as Green Niagara Catholic Representative, you are demonstrating an outstanding commitment to improving sustainable practices. As the first board in Ontario to achieve 100% participation in the program, it is clear that you are deepening ecological literacy among all staff and students.

Thank you for your hard work and ongoing dedication to the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Bunce".

Lindsay Bunce
Ontario EcoSchools | Program Director



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – SEPTEMBER 12,
2017**

Spotlight on Niagara Catholic

Nurturing Souls & Building Minds

September 12, 2017

Committee of the Whole Takes to the Road to Niagara Launch Centre



Trustees and Senior Staff took to the road for the first Committee of the Whole Meeting of the 2017-2018 school year.

The September meeting took place at the Board's state-of-the-art technology training hub, the Niagara Launch Centre – Powered by Niagara Catholic District School Board, which is located inside the former Target store at the Seaway Mall.



The 12,000 square foot facility is home to a number of innovative new programs, including automotive service and repair and a variety of construction technologies. It came to life after many years of Niagara Catholic utilizing space in public locations in Welland, including the former Canadian Tire store on Niagara Street, and unoccupied storefronts in Seaway Mall. The Niagara Launch Centre is the culmination of these experiences, as well as consultation with students, staff, parents, the community, local industry and the Ministry of Education.

The Board was praised for its commitment to providing students with the most current, relevant and innovative career paths by those in the know, including Niagara Workforce Planning Board CEO Mario DeDivitas, Kevin Hart, National Sales Manager for In-House Solutions, a technology software provider, Steve Hett, the Ontario Technology Training Manager for Bell Canada, and Nick Ciccone, Training Director for the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA), Local 837. Mr. Ciccone also presented a \$10,000 cheque to Director of Education John Crocco and Board Chair Father Paul MacNeil to help fund the Launch Centre.

Following the presentation of the report to Committee of the Whole, trustees and senior staff were able to view the students in action, as they showed off their skills in their respective areas of study.

Trustees Approve Recommended Name of New St. Martin Catholic Elementary Chapel

On September 5, the St. Martin Catholic Elementary School community celebrated the opening of their long-awaited brand-new school. A week later, Niagara Catholic trustees recommended that the Board approve naming the new school's chapel after the school's namesake, St. Martin of Tours, during the Committee of the Whole Meeting. The name recommendation was endorsed by Bishop Bergie.

St. Martin of Tours was born in Sabaria (modern-day Hungary) in 316 to non-Christian parents, and was raised in Italy. During his mandatory military service, Martin encountered a beggar in France, shivering in the cold. With no money to offer, Martin took off his cloak, tore it in two and shared it with the beggar before going on his way. That night, he had a vision of Christ wearing his cloak, saying, "Martin, a mere catechumen (a person training to convert to Christianity), has clothed me."

Martin was so moved by the vision he resolved to be baptized. After completing his studies, Martin was baptized, began his ministry of preaching and was later made Bishop of Tours. Firmly rooted in his faith and a life devoted to the service of Christ, St. Martin of Tours is an excellent model and witness to the faith we share and the life of service we are called to by Christ.

Trustees will consider the motion during the September 26 Board Meeting.

Learn more about St. Martin of Tours [here](#).

2017 Summer Camp Program Hailed as a Success



Niagara Catholic's first-ever summer camp program drew 275 elementary students to six sites over five weeks this summer.

The 2017 summer camp program was an integrated program that consisted of the Summer Learning Program for students with high literacy and numeracy needs, and a traditional summer camp. Students participated in a variety of activities themed

around life skills, pathways planning, active living and general interests, all of which were infused with literacy and numeracy.



Modules in the 2017 summer camp program included **Home Sweet Home** (reading and following instructions, basic assembly, fixing and maintenance, budgeting, sewing and crafts); **Master Chef** (preparing nutritious and popular meals and snacks, with the emphasis on reading instructions, measuring/proportions and counting, as well as on the importance of using local produce, nutrition, health and wellness,

gardening and safe food handling); **Nuts and Bolts** (woodworking and tool basics, which allowed students to learn to read blueprints and diagrams to learn measurement, scale, angles and calculation, building hand-eye co-ordination as they created their own projects); **On the Move** (focusing on common and alternative modes of transportation and energy forces, as well as calculating distance, speed and time, fuel consumption and power); and **Robotics** (by building a robot through the VEX program). The camps took place at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School in Fort Erie, Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Grimsby, Saint Michael Catholic High School in Niagara Falls, Lakeshore Catholic High School in Port Colborne and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in St. Catharines.

Good News!

Have you seen the excellent coverage of the opening of St. Martin Catholic Elementary School? Or our first day of school video gallery of happy faces? If you haven't, be sure to check our [Good News](#) section of this website, and the In the News section, which is accessed through the main page.

Follow us!

To ensure you stay connected with Niagara Catholic news and events, please be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and check our website often for updates and breaking news. It's the best way to stay in the know.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2017**

OCTOBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Elementary/ Secondary PA Day	7
8	9 Thanksgiving Day	10 SAL Meeting CW Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Director's Inspiration Award Mass and Presentation	20	21
22	23	24 Policy Committee Board Meeting	25	26	27	28
29 Pilgrimage Sunday	30	31 Halloween				

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
OCSTA INFORMATION – SEPTEMBER 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2017**

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-september-1/

September 1, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

THE BAD WITH THE GOOD — While the provincial election won't officially begin until May, there is not an announcement made without a thought about how it will play on the campaign trail. On that front, internal polling has no doubt buoyed Liberal prospects as they are being told their recent policy announcements are gaining traction — even if their leader continues to languish at dismally low levels. While most public opinion polls have the PCs maintaining a lead over the Liberals, internal polls conducted for the governing party over the past nine months — albeit by the Gandalf Group and **David Herle** who is leading the Liberals' 2018 election campaign — indicate widespread popular support for increasing Ontario's minimum wage, implementing carbon pricing and even measures to provide rebates on hydro bills, a particularly contentious matter for the government. All of this while Premier **Kathleen Wynne**'s personal popularity sits at around 15%. With this information in hand, expect the Liberals to do all they can to make this election more about policy than personality. Wynne implied as much in a short video she posted to Twitter this week where she said her job is not to be popular, but is to build a more fair Ontario: "Whether people like me or not, I'm really glad that people think that free tuition for kids who live in low income families is a good idea. I'm really glad people think that having free medication for kids from zero to 25 is a good idea. I'm really glad people think that raising the minimum wage is a good idea. And that makes for a fairer Ontario."

WHAT NOMINATION ISSUES? — Wynne wasn't the only party leader to get some good polling news where trouble was thought to lay. According to a recent poll conducted by Forum Research, more than half of Ontarians say they are not aware of the issues that have been plaguing the Progressive Conservatives and Leader **Patrick Brown** when it comes to the nomination of candidates. Among the roughly 43% who say they are aware of the issues, a third say it has made their opinion of Brown worse — but it should also be noted that more than half of those folks identified as NDP and were unlikely to be voting for the PCs anyway. These figures make for an interesting study of the so-called political bubble, occupied by those who are actively engaged and/or attentive observers of the happenings at Queen's Park, on Parliament Hill or in their local city hall. Quite often, issues emerge that seem massively important within that bubble, but the reality is outside of the political bubble — where the vast majority of Ontario residents reside — they barely cause a ripple. PC Party insiders are hoping this poll is painting that exact picture. While committed Liberals and NDP harp on the nomination irregularities in some ridings, most Ontarians are not tuned in, and likely won't be until the campaign kicks into high gear next spring when it is hoped more pertinent policy issues will be occupying the stage. The Forum poll surveyed 981 Ontarians on August 23rd and 24th, with a margin of error of three per cent, 19 times out of 20.

NORTHERN REFLECTIONS — The chances of the Northern Ontario Party sending an MPP to Queen’s Park are as remote as, well, the northern reaches of the province. But that doesn’t mean the separatist party isn’t having an impact. It was founded with a mandate to create a new province out of Northern Ontario, but in the process has made strides to highlight the unique issues that face the north that perhaps are not being reflected in the highly urbanized Toronto power centre of government. And without question, with nine months to go until the election, the three major parties are jostling for the votes of Ontario’s northern residents:

- Wynne has been all over the north for much of the past couple of weeks. Her government recently announced the creation of two new ridings in the northernmost areas of Ontario, and she did a tour to highlight efforts to kick-start the infrastructure projects that will make the vast deposits of chromite in the area known as the Ring of Fire accessible.
- Brown brought his caucus retreat to Timmins last week to let voters in the area know the “North matters.” He wasn’t shy to point out that he has visited Northern Ontario 27 times since he became party leader in 2015. “Part of our tradition is every year we have a driving tour and we go through some of the worst snowstorms in some of the most dilapidated infrastructure, areas where there’s no cellphone reception,” he said. “It gives you a perception of some of the real challenges and why you have to put a northern lens on public policy being written at Queen’s Park.”
- The NDP have traditionally been the strongest in the region, and Leader **Andrea Horwath** isn’t going to easily cede any of that ground to her political rivals. Her most recent northern jaunt stopped in Kenora, Sioux Narrows and Thunder Bay where she was taking the government to task for staffing shortages in local hospitals, seniors care that doesn’t meet adequate standards and to state her support for development to the Ring of Fire — the right way: “I want to unlock the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity this project promises,” she said, noting any efforts must respect Indigenous nations in the area as partners. “Unlike Wynne and the Conservatives, I understand the urgency.”

All of this attention on the north and general political uncertainty highlighted in public opinion polling is making political observers believe the election in the north may be more competitive than we have seen in the past. With the Tories staging a surprise win in the recent Sault Ste. Marie by-election, it is expected to be a real three-way race.

C’EST MANIFIQUE — With more than 600,000 francophones living in Ontario — and two-thirds of those in the Greater Toronto Area — the Liberals are set to introduce legislation that will create the province’s first French-only university. Recommended by the French-language University Planning Board last month, the proposed new school was touted by Advanced Skills and Education Minister **Deb Matthews** as an entity that will be governed for and by francophones. It is also looking at a downtown Toronto location, which will be a point of contention raised by the NDP; MPP **France Gelin**, who has several times introduced a private member’s bill for a French university in Northern Ontario, immediately raised concerns about the pockets of French communities in places like North Bay and Sudbury remaining unserved. However, with more than 400,000 francophones in Toronto, a site in the provincial capital simply makes sense.

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

ELECTION FORD-CAST

If there is one thing at which the Ford family excels, it’s generating media attention. Former Toronto city councillor **Doug Ford** was partaking this week with the pre-announcement of a pending announcement that he will next week decide whether he will challenge Toronto Mayor **John Tory** in the municipal vote a little more than a year from now, or carry the Tory banner in Etobicoke North in June’s provincial vote. He will make the announcement Sept. 8 at the family’s annual Ford Fest gathering. “People are fed up,” Ford said. “They put their hands in their pocket and you’ve got the municipal government in there, you’ve got the provincial government in there and you’ve got the federal government in there...It’s all ‘tax, tax, tax’ and ‘spend, spend, spend.’” Speculation is now running rampant about

what that decision may be — but PC Party insiders say Ford will run provincially and that they are not only holding Etobicoke North open for him, but are also keeping adjacent ridings open for other candidates from the so-called Ford Nation. But the rumour mill is churning, with whispers that between now and the vote, Ford is expected to be a good soldier and support the party. But if Brown fails to unseat the unpopular Wynne, Ford is expected to make a quick strike to unseat him as leader and make a run for the post himself. Adding to the gossip is that Ford will not be alone in pushing for a quick change. It is doubtful another star candidate attracted by the Tories came on board to just be a cabinet minister or, in a worst-case scenario, backbench MPP in opposition. In that scenario, expect **Caroline Mulroney** to line up against Ford for the party leadership. Many insiders believe that race has already begun, even though Brown is still active and showing quite well — according to polls.

FOR THE RECORD

“I think it’s important because of the impact it’s having on my community. People are horrified, they’re traumatized, they’re worried about their children. We’re in a society where free speech is guaranteed and I’m very glad of that but putting out images that are so horrendous is not something that is responsible.”

- NDP MPP **Peter Tabuns**, who has joined with Toronto school board trustee **Jennifer Story** and city councillors **Paula Fletcher** and **Mary Fragedakis** in asking Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** to file an injunction to block the distribution of graphic anti-abortion images and literature in vogue with pro-life activist groups.

“I don’t believe his name should be removed from schools in Ontario.”

- Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, while acknowledging that Canada’s first Prime Minister was “far from perfect”, refuting a call from the elementary teachers union to pull **John A. Macdonald**’s name from schools that have been named after him.

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ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-september-8/

September 8, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

ROCK THE HOUSE – Technically it’s a legislative session, but everyone involved knows that when MPPs reassemble this coming Monday it will be about broad positioning far more than the minutiae of lawmaking. They will convene one more time before the provincial election in June 2018, but by next spring the parties will be in full campaign mode, so the period between now and December is the last real opportunity to use the Legislature as a springboard for policy stances. (This will intensify in November, when PC Leader **Patrick Brown**’s long-awaited policy conference takes place. Presumably he will emerge with the basis of a platform, which will then become central to his daily Legislature discourse.) Oh, there will be some legislative business, not the least of which will be processing the Liberals’ labour reform bill, which includes the contentious plan to hike the province’s minimum wage to \$15/hr. The bill will assuredly pass – after plenty more debate, much to the Liberals’ delight as they are confident they have the public on their side. But even that will be more fraught than earlier in the current mandate. With Toronto Centre MPP **Glen Murray** having left Queen’s Park and no plan to fill the vacant seat before the general election, the Liberal majority is down to just five. They have a caucus of 56, minus Speaker **Dave Levac**, leaving 55 voting members, against 50 from the Opposition benches.

BRAD NEWS – Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid** will be in his seat on Monday, but he won’t be looking to hang on to it next June. Duguid announced this week that he will not seek re-election, joining fellow Liberals Levac, **Monte Kwinter** and **Mario Sergio** as well as Tory **Julia Munro** on the path to retirement. As always in these situations, Duguid insisted his decision was not based on polls showing the Liberals headed to defeat, but was spurred more by the minor heart attack he suffered last year. “Like a good boxer ... you have to know when it’s time to go, personally,” he philosophized. “I’m not old, but I am old enough to know that the runway is shorter than it used to be – that now is the time to go and find another way to contribute.” Traditionally this kind of announcement triggers a cabinet shuffle, as an opportunity to raise the profile of backbenchers who *are* running again. But for now Duguid will stay put, as will the rest of the cabinet – at least until other incumbents confirm they’re on the way out.

COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION – However hostile the mood in the Legislature might be, it will be a welcome respite for most Liberals in the next few weeks, as they endure not one but two courtroom dramas with political ramifications. The cases are unrelated judicially but very much linked politically, as Liberal operatives defend themselves against accusations of wrongdoing. In Sudbury, proceedings are now underway to deal with allegations of bribery in the 2015 by-election – with Premier **Kathleen Wynne** slated to be a star witness for the defence – and next week will see the start of a criminal trial over alleged destruction of government documents related to gas plant closures in 2011. Not everyone is convinced that either or both trials will seriously damage the Liberals’ re-election

chances (see below). But the Opposition parties are gung-ho to amplify the relatively minor charges into the equivalent of political war crimes. As several Tories have put it in media interviews, this is “Liberal corruption on trial.”

“You have to put this all in context. The Tories are going through their own mini-crises with riding association battles and legal things going on and police being called in. It’s not just the Liberals, it’s happening to the Tories as well and we don’t know how this is going to play out in the campaign. The other thing is, how much of this has already been discounted? With [Sudbury MPP Glen] Thibeault, this was a cloud hanging over even the last byelection, but voters held their nose and they voted for Thibeault, they held their nose and voted for the side of government.”

- **Paul Seccaspina** of Oraclepoll Research.

POLL DANCE – Regular polling should give some indication as to whether the court cases are having any impact on public sentiments and voting intentions. According to the most recent baseline, a late-August survey by Forum Research found Brown’s Tories still holding a commanding lead, with 40% support among decided voters, well ahead of a statistical tie between the NDP at 27% and the Liberals at 25%. This result brought some joy to the NDP, whose supporters chortled on social media that it shows Liberal efforts to outflank them on the left (e.g., \$15 minimum wage) aren’t working.

SOUTHWESTERN UNION – As they watch judicial events unfold in Sudbury, it must gall the New Democrats to know that all of this started when they *won* the seat in 2014, only to have their MPP decide a few months later that the Queen’s Park lifestyle wasn’t for him, triggering the by-election that snowballed into the bribery saga. But as much as the NDP still sees Northern Ontario as fertile ground, they focused their attention on the other end of the province this week. Leader **Andrea Horwath** convened a three-day caucus retreat in Chatham-Kent – kicked off by a luncheon with about 100 local community leaders – to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. “We decided to come to southwestern Ontario to have this meeting, because we think that this area ... has got a great deal of potential,” Horwath enthused to the *Chatham Daily News*. “There’s a lot of great things going on here and we think that this particular region deserves a government that’s going to partner with you and share your vision.” Following the 2014 election the Liberals, despite having won a majority, targeted the Southwest (along with Niagara) as an area for improvement. Since then, their flagging popularity province-wide has somewhat broadened their focus, but the dozen or so ridings between London and Windsor figure to be crucial to each party’s success or failure in 2018.

THIS BETTER WORK – Premier Wynne took dead aim at traditional NDP support in her annual Labour Day message – just the latest salvo in her out-left-the-left strategy. Usually these statements are bland platitudes about the value of Ontario’s workers, but Wynne’s language was quite provocative. “This year, Labour Day feels especially meaningful and relevant. I have spent the summer traveling around our province, and what I am hearing is that people are worried. They don’t know what the future holds, only that it is uncertain,” Wynne posited, addressing the “too many people in Ontario who can’t get ahead, don’t feel secure in their job or can’t get a fair deal from their employer.” That last bit was a direct shot at business groups opposing the minimum wage hike – and, by extension, the Tories they tend to support. “There have always been loud and strong arguments for the rich and the well-connected,” Wynne continued, drawing a line between big business on one side and government on the other. “The arguments for those struggling to make ends meet or just too busy getting by often go unheard or unheeded. Government exists to seek out and hear those voices.”

FORD EXPEDITION – Today’s the day former Toronto Councillor **Doug Ford** is expected to announce his electoral plans, and by most accounts he will opt to run for mayor, setting up a rematch with current Toronto boss **John Tory**. Speculation has swirled for months that Ford would throw his hat into the provincial ring, and the Etobicoke North PC nomination has reportedly been kept on hold for him. Not only that, but he is featured on the Ontario PC Party

website, which touts “An Evening with Doug Ford” in Nepean on September 16, a fundraiser on behalf of MPP **Lisa MacLeod** (who, of course, can’t attend the event because of new fundraising rules). Nonetheless, rumours persist that PC Party brass made it clear to Ford they didn’t want him on their slate, because his brash style and right-wing views could hinder Brown’s kinder, gentler, more centrist thrust. Word is there was also distrust over Ford’s motivation, amid suggestions he was ready to pounce on a leadership bid should Brown falter in the election. Ford has denied that any such conversations took place, but there is talk that he is marshalling PC candidates throughout Etobicoke and other ridings, which would give him a core of support should the leadership scenario ever unfold.

FOR THE RECORD

“The public wants to know, are you managing your deficit? Are you going to balance the budget this year? Quite frankly, I don’t think the public is terribly hung up on accounting disagreements.”

- Treasury Board President **Liz Sandals**, after releasing public accounts showing last year’s deficit as \$991 million – a figure disputed by Auditor General **Bonnie Lysyk**, who used different calculations to peg the deficit at \$1.4 billion.
-

“I think that this is a very important move, that we recognize the importance of what are sometimes called ... global competencies to student learning in all areas. It’s important that we recognize that there’s more to life than the three Rs.”

- **Annie Kidder** of People for Education, welcoming a “refresh” of Ontario’s public school curriculum to focus on critical thinking, spurred in part by low math scores on standardized tests.
-

“It’s all the best farmland that’s been developed. Essentially it’s entombed forever under asphalt and cement.”

- **Keith Currie**, President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, supporting the province’s current public consultation on agriculture in the Greater Golden Horseshoe amidst ever-growing urban pressures.
-

“We go back to what his brother used to say: Be there for the taxpayer. Drain the swamp ... although I think that was another bushy-haired guy.”

- **Joe Reis**, a federal Conservative campaign organizer who has been actively working on behalf of **Doug Ford**, channelling the late **Rob Ford** – and U.S. President **Donald Trump** – in explaining why Doug has reportedly opted to run municipally. Reis also took a shot at Toronto Mayor **John Tory**, who Ford would be trying to unseat, sniping, “The only thing Tory about that man is his name.”

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

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September 15, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

An updated wall chart listing MPP responsibilities is now available. [Click here to download: MPP Chart](#)

THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, ETC. – Ontario’s lawmakers may have re-assembled for their fall legislative sitting on Monday, but law *enforcement* was a preoccupation, as judicial proceedings with political ramifications unfolded on multiple fronts:

- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** made history by testifying in open court – unprecedented for a sitting Premier – as she took the witness stand in the Sudbury bribery trial. Historic yes, but memorable not so much, as Wynne said exactly what everyone expected her to say: unshakably insisting that she had already determined **Glen Thibeault** was going to be the Liberal candidate in the 2015 by-election – and therefore wannabe nominee **Andrew Olivier** couldn’t have been offered a bribe to voluntarily step aside. She spent the entire four hours standing – in high heels no less, a feat described as symbolic by Postmedia columnist **Michele Mandel**, who wrote, “There was no way she was sitting in the hot seat.” Because this was a courtroom and not a public inquiry, there were no cameras at the hearing, but there was plenty of media on hand as Wynne made her way in and out of the courthouse, and the appearance will likely resonate in the months ahead. The outcome of the trial will have more immediate impact – a guilty verdict and the critics have a field day; acquittal and the whole issue goes pfffft – but by waiving her parliamentary privilege and agreeing to testify, Wynne took a chance that voters will ultimately approve of her resolve.
- Wynne may have been in court, but she herself was not on trial – a point tersely driven home by her lawyers in a letter to PC Leader **Patrick Brown** demanding that he stop referring to it that way. Last week, Tory MPP **Bill Walker** was forced to apologize for comments during a radio interview, and this week a similar statement from Brown – “I hope that the premier will give us answers. We’re not getting them in the Legislature. Maybe when she stands trial,” he was quoted as saying – is now on the Liberal legal radar. The letter calls for Brown to formally retract and apologize for the slight. All of which is reminiscent of a tactic Wynne used against Brown’s predecessor **Tim Hudak**. He and caucus colleague **Lisa MacLeod** were sued for libel over accusations that Wynne “oversaw and possibly ordered” the deletion of emails related to gas plant cancellations. That \$2 million suit was dropped after Wynne won the 2014 election, but it did put a chill into the Tories’ rhetoric in the meantime. So far Brown has shown no such inclination to back off, declaring, “her baseless lawsuit will be ignored.”
- The aforementioned email deletions are subject of another high-profile court case, involving the Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff to former Premier **Dalton McGuinty**. But it’s on hold at the moment amid legal

wrangling. Having two corruption cases simultaneously was never going to be good for the Liberals, but they had hoped to get them over and done with as quickly as possible. Now, the trial of **David Livingston** and **Laura Miller** will have to wait until at least next week to start hearing evidence. Court did convene long enough for Livingston and Miller to formally plead not guilty to charges of illegally destroying documents related to the 2011 gas plant cancellations, and for Livingston's lawyer to describe police notes as "cryptic, unusually sketchy, as if by instruction" – hence, the legal wrangling over Crown disclosure.

JOINT ACCOUNT – Coincidentally – or not at all, according the Opposition – the Liberals chose the eve of the court cases for a major announcement about provincial marijuana sales when cannabis is legalized federally next July. A trio of cabinet heavy hitters – but not, notably, the Premier – unveiled the plan, with Finance Minister **Charles Sousa**, Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** and Health Minister **Eric Hoskins** standing side by side to cover the fiscal, legal and health bases. Starting with 40 locations and expanding to 150 stores by 2020, the government will essentially replicate the LCBO model – albeit the 1950s model, with product hidden away, unlike the shiny modern liquor stores – to sell weed. Naqvi called it "a safe and sensible approach to legalization that will ensure we can keep our communities and roads safe, promote public health and harm reduction, and protect Ontario's young people." Not everyone agreed with this assessment. Currently-illegal private dispensaries will continue to be illegal – "If you operate one of these facilities, consider yourself on notice," Naqvi growled – which naturally displeased their owners. Canadian Federation of Independent Business President **Dan Kelly** also scoffed at the "public sector monopoly," arguing that "an above-ground, regulated private sector could stay much closer to customers' preferences and would guard against an underground industry." Politically, PC Leader **Patrick Brown** – careful not to sound like he's against legalizing marijuana – challenged the plan as half-baked, suggesting the Liberals just wanted an issue that would stir the...uh, pot. "[It was] a rushed announcement as a distraction technique," Brown sniped. "They don't want us talking about the Liberal corruption trials. They want us talking about some salacious issue."

SWEET LITTLE FIFTEEN – Speaking of issues the Liberals want people talking about, their proposed \$15/hour minimum wage continues to be a hot topic. The narrative didn't exactly go their way this week, however, when a report from the province's Financial Accountability Office deduced that the hike will cost at least 50,000 jobs because it is "both larger and more rapid than past experience, providing businesses with a greater incentive to reduce costs more aggressively." Critics vigorously seized on the report as independent validation of their position, but Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** wasn't conceding any ground. "People in Ontario support the notion that you work 35 or 40 hours a week ... you deserve to be able to pay rent, to buy food, put shoes on your kids' feet," Flynn asserted, adding, "The job-loss numbers are something that would be disputed by other economists." Notwithstanding the financial watchdog's analysis, the Liberals continue to see the issue playing in their favour, and indeed the other parties were treading carefully, attacking the LIBs' approach rather than the substance of the policy. Brown argued for slower implementation, positing, "What I'd like to see is just a level of reasonableness. Why does it always have to be the Premier's way or the highway?" NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** aimed to get credit for the idea, while blasting the Liberals for giving the FAO – not to mention the Tories – ammunition to criticize. "We think the \$15 minimum wage should be going ahead – that's why we announced it almost two years ago now – but there needs to be that work done," she fumed.

RUNNING STARTS – Provincial Tories came from far and wide to cheer on **Caroline Mulroney** as she was acclaimed as the party's candidate in York-Simcoe last weekend. The daughter of former Prime Minister **Brian Mulroney** is obviously seen as a new force for the PCs, leading to the unusually large turnout (for any kind of nomination meeting, let alone an acclamation) in Keswick. Brown took the opportunity to pitch his big picture message, crowing, "Caroline is a fantastic addition to our modern, inclusive and pragmatic Ontario PC team." Meanwhile, at another high-profile Conservative announcement, **Monte McNaughton** was the lone MPP on hand for the "Ford Fest" barbecue when **Doug Ford** confirmed he will be running for Mayor of Toronto next fall – and not, as had been previously speculated, as a provincial candidate. Many provincial Tories are heaving a sigh of relief that Ford will not be running on their ticket. There's little doubt Ford could have won Etobicoke North, but it is just as likely he would be a largely unmanageable new MPP that would be the source of problems for Brown from election

day on. But the provincial problems aren't completely resolved. Ford's rematch with current Mayor **John Tory** sets up a quandary within the PC camp, inasmuch as many provincial PCs are Tory supporters while many others are in Ford's corner. They'll all be compelled to mute their criticism – even in the midst of what will surely be a nasty battle – to show a united front for the provincial election that comes first.

GONE TOO SOON – Much sadness in Ottawa and at Queen's Park this week with the passing of Liberal MP **Arnold Chan** (Scarborough-Agincourt). Prior to winning a seat on Parliament Hill, Chan was well-liked throughout Queen's Park as an earnest, enthusiastic aide to cabinet minister **Michael Chan** and Premier McGuinty. He had been battling cancer for a couple of years but that did not deter him from continuing his duties as an MP and his passion for and respect of Parliament.

IN THE HOUSE

- The Sault Ste. Marie by-election seems like eons ago (actually it was June 1), but newly-minted PC MPP **Ross Romano** had to wait until this week to take his seat in the Legislature. As the fall session got underway, the first order of business was for Romano to be escorted into the Assembly. A few minutes later he was up for his first-ever Question Period, grilling the Premier about recent Ring of Fire announcements, asking if she'd admit they were "nothing more than Liberal photo ops to win over voter support in an election year?" She admitted no such thing of course, and welcomed Romano to the Legislature with a droll, "It's great to have you here, but I have to say that we probably need to offer you a technical briefing on the Ring of Fire file."
- Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** introduced Bill 152, the *Representation Statute Law Amendment Act*, to create the ridings of Kiiwetinoong, Mushkegowuk, Timmins, and Kenora-Rainy River – resulting in a total of four ridings in Ontario's Far North instead of the current two.
- Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid** introduced Bill 154, the *Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act*, to amend 40 statutes across six ministries to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses.

FOR THE RECORD

“Connor McDavid was in junior kindergarten the last time the unemployment rate was this low.”

- Economic Development Minister – and hockey fan – **Brad Duguid**, referencing the NHL star to crow about Ontario's unemployment rate falling to 5.7%, its lowest level in 16 years, thanks to 31,000 net new jobs in August.

“Realistically, it is the only way they can maintain the integrity of the product. A stand-alone building is the only way they can do it. They're going to have to fortify it; they're going to have to have a big enough storage area [that's] climate controlled; [and] it has to be maintained.”

- **Paul Sieger** of Paul's Para Fernalia in Orillia, recognizing that a government monopoly on marijuana sales is needed for quality control. While private (and currently illegal) dispensaries will obviously be hurt, he expects paraphernalia shops like his can thrive selling “vapourizers, water pipes, bongs, rolling papers – whatever people use.”


“You have to know when it's time to go. I've given it a lot of thought. Obviously, I love the job and you

can't ask for a more challenging opportunity as an individual. You never know who's walking in the door. You never know who is making the next phone call. To be on top of that is a permanent dance in the boxing ring."

- Retiring PC MPP **Julia Munro**, at the York-Simcoe nomination meeting to officially pass the torch to **Caroline Mulroney**.

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ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-september-22/

September 22, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

FARMA CARE – Prior to this week most MPPs likely couldn't find Walton, Ontario, on a map (it's about 30 kilometres east of Goderich in Huron County), but many of them were there this week for the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. Officially, it's North America's largest outdoor agricultural exhibition; unofficially it's the yearly opportunity for political parties to show how much they care about rural Ontario. It's such a big deal the Legislature recesses for a couple of days to enable large contingents from each caucus to make the trek, and the party leaders never pass up the opportunity to address the opening ceremonies. Alas, a couple of other annual traditions – and major photo ops – were thwarted by Mother Nature this year, when a downpour turned the fields into mud, nixing both the opening parade and the leaders getting on tractors in a contest to see who can plow the straightest furrow. As for the mood of the crowd, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** got a cool reception – which was an improvement over last year, when she was booed outright – while PC Leader **Patrick Brown** was, not surprisingly given his party's rural domination, given the warmest welcome.

THAT'S YOUR OPINION – PC support is still solid far beyond rural areas, according to the most recent Campaign Research survey, which reported 38% of voters province-wide backing the Tories. Unlike other polls, however, that level of support didn't translate into a big lead, with the Liberals only five points back at 33%, while the NDP trail at 23%. Digging a little deeper, the results do indicate a continuation of a couple of trends that are worrisome to respective party strategists, namely that Wynne's approval rating is still a dismal 19%, while fully half of the respondents still don't know enough about Brown to have an opinion one way or the other.

TRIAL BALLOONS – As the Sudbury bribery trial continues over alleged contravention of the *Elections Act*, another statute is now in play, with the Liberals citing the *Libel and Slander Act* in their threat of defamation action against Brown. Specifically, they are pointing to a provision allowing six weeks for a response, setting October 24 as the deadline for Brown to publicly retract his statement that Wynne herself is "on trial" before they proceed with the lawsuit. In the meantime, they will no doubt revel in Brown's discomfort – he repeated his stance that he will ignore the "baseless" lawsuit, but clearly doesn't want to say much more than that – as they try to turn the tables on a bribery trial that obviously makes *them* uncomfortable. Wynne doubled down this week, subtly likening Brown to U.S. President **Donald Trump** and allegations of a less than honest presidential campaign. "I deplore any behaviour that isn't based on truth," Wynne – who publicly supported **Hillary Clinton** against Trump – declared. "Let's just hope and pray that that's not the level of political debate that we're going to have here in Ontario or in Canada." If that linkage wasn't clear enough, Wynne made the direct connection, offering, "No matter who it is, whether it's the President or whether it's the Leader of the Opposition in Ontario, I don't think that behaviour belongs in politics."

There are lots of differing opinions without us descending into dishonesty and defamation.”

DRIVING FORCE – Motorists will be the subject of not one but two new pieces of legislation as the fall session kicks into gear. Transportation Minister **Steven Del Duca** served notice this week that bills are coming to toughen laws around drug-impaired driving – a necessity as recreational marijuana is legalized next year – and distracted driving – a necessity as cellphones continue to be on too many drivers’ laps. The latter legislation will also include increased penalties for drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians, Del Duca warned.

DiNOVO A NO-GO – Make it six current MPPs whose name won’t be on the ballot next June. **Cheri DiNovo** (Parkdale-High Park) became the first New Democrat MPP to say she’s had enough, joining four Liberals (**Brad Duguid, Dave Levac, Monte Kwinter** and **Mario Sergio**) and one Tory (**Julia Munro**) heading out to pasture. DiNovo had been rumoured to be considering retirement from Queen’s Park for a while, and this week she made it official. A United Church minister, she won’t wait until the election writ to bid adieu, announcing plans to return to her parish as of January 1. Presumably her seat will remain vacant until the general election, given that Wynne has opted against a by-election to fill the gap left by **Glen Murray**’s departure from Toronto Centre.

WHO WILL BE LEFT? – A month from now the NDP could be staring at another empty seat, as voting got underway this week in the federal NDP leadership campaign, with party members having until mid-October to cast their ballots. Which will mean a tense – but potentially exciting – few weeks for the provincial party. Current MPP **Jagmeet Singh** is considered a frontrunner for the federal NDP crown and, win or lose, the outcome will reverberate through the provincial ranks. If he wins he’ll have to resign his Bramalea-Gore-Malton seat, further depleting the NDP squad. If Singh comes up short, there’s the potentially awkward return to a provincial caucus he was trying to leave. On the other hand, NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** is hoping to get a boost from the buzz Singh’s leadership bid generated, and her party should also see a surge of invigorated volunteers in the run-up to the provincial vote.

RED ALERTS – With the provincial election just months away, any talk of Wynne stepping aside as Liberal Leader has subsided, which is fortuitous as a couple of her predecessors are taking turns in the spotlight:

- **Lyn McLeod**, who was party leader from 1992-96, received the 2017 Distinguished Service Award Ceremony from the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. Prior to the award ceremony, all three parties paid tribute to McLeod in the Legislature. “Lyn McLeod shattered a glass ceiling in this province: She became the first woman chosen to lead a major political party in Ontario,” Premier Wynne extolled. “I don’t think it is too much to say that she inspired a new generation of female politicians to put their names on a ballot and make a positive difference in public life. Lyn made it possible for me to stand here today as the first female Premier of Ontario. But to tell you the truth, I’ve always wished I could have been the second female Premier of Ontario, after her.”
- Former Premier **David Peterson** will be the guest speaker at the launch of a book about his speaking on Monday at Queen’s Park. *Without Walls or Barriers: The Speeches of Premier David Peterson* is a collection edited by journalist **Arthur Milnes** (a former speechwriter for Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**) and policy researcher **Ryan Zade**, with an introduction by TVO’s **Steve Paikin**. The tomes are \$30 apiece, but they won’t be on sale at Monday’s event.

IN THE HOUSE

- In a week abbreviated by the two-day break for the International Plowing Match, no new government legislation was introduced.

FOR THE RECORD

“These are two different parties, two different philosophies, two different constitutions, two different

ways of doing business. It's not like I was going to the NDP and asking them if they had that in the Liberal government."

- Sudbury Liberal MPP and Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, at the trial around allegations of bribery in the by-election that brought him to Queen's Park. Thibeault, who was a federal NDP MP, testified that he had plenty of questions before deciding to defect to the provincial Liberals, and that it was a meeting with the Premier at her home – not any specific promises – that ultimately made up his mind.
-

"I see this as a war by Patrick Brown on local party members. There's no other way to explain it. The people who did get their paperwork in early, they're not even local residents. They think they can come in at the last minute, and carpetbag it ... but I don't think these outsiders would have a chance of winning against a local candidate."

- **Jim Karahalios**, a local activist who had been seeking the provincial PC nomination in Cambridge, but dropped out amid suspicions the vote was being rigged in favour of a candidate being parachuted in by the central party. Party President **Rick Dykstra** called the allegations in Cambridge – the latest in a long list of ridings where the Tory nomination process has been questioned – “categorically false.”
-

"Patrick shares my vision for pragmatic, progressive conservatism. It's why I'm proud to support him in his mission to form a PC government in 2018. I'm asking you to support him, too."

- Former Prime Minister **Brian Mulroney**, known as a mentor to the PC leader – and whose daughter is running provincially for the Tories – stepping directly into the campaign with a letter urging supporters to donate.
-

"We have spent a lot of time teaching people that if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. You have to build techniques and strategies to reassure people that they aren't going to be let down and it isn't a scam."

- **Kwame McKenzie**, special advisor to the province's basic income pilot project, noting they have had challenges getting interest from qualified people to submit applications for what essentially amounts to \$1,400 per month, no strings attached.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
MARIAN EVENT – SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

To the Board of Trustees of Niagara Catholic
c/o Fr. Paul MacNeil, Chair

Dear Father Paul,

On Saturday, September 30th, 2017, a special Marian Event will be held to recognize the Diocese of St. Catharine's Year of the Rosary, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions. This family friendly event will be held at St. Alfred's Church, 272 Vine Street, St. Catharine's, and will begin at 8:30 am with mass celebrated by Bishop G. Bergie, followed by a Living Rosary celebration of the Joyful Mysteries. You are asked to share this information with your fellow Catholic School Trustees, promoting their attendance. A pdf file of the event poster has been attached to this email for easy sharing.

But perhaps more importantly, the organizing committee for the event cordially asks you to find two (2) representatives from Board and Senior Administration Council to participate in the Living Rosary. These volunteers will become one of the 'living beads' who leads a rosary prayer and places a flower before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Once you have identified these volunteers, please submit their names and contact information (phone number and email) to me by Tuesday, September 26th. If at all possible, your volunteers are asked to dress so to be identified with your organization.

It will be important for your volunteers to know that on the day of the event, before mass, they will need to report in at the Living Rosary table that will be set up in the vestibule of St. Alfred's Church where further instructions will be shared. During the Living Rosary, they will be seated in a designated area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for assistance and promotion efforts to honour Our Lady and pray for peace.

Terri Pauco,
Marian Event Organizing Committee
paucomom@gmail.com
905-374-8693



Diocese of St. Catharines

DIOCESAN MARIAN EVENT

YEAR OF THE ROSARY

PRAY FOR PEACE

100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions

Saturday September 30, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

St. Alfred Church

272 Vine Street

St. Catharines, Ontario

8:30 a.m. — Mass with Bishop Bergie

9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - A number of spiritual events
including

CELEBRATION OF A LIVING ROSARY

Parishioners, diocesan organizations
and Catholic School communities
from across the diocese will be involved

FREE ADMISSION / NO REGISTRATION
ALL ARE WELCOME